

Hadrian's Wall Networking Event

March 2021

Wall to Wall

The Collaboration Initiative between
Hadrian's Wall and the Great Wall of
China

Outline

- Background to Wall to Wall initiative
- Overview of the Great Wall
- Principal challenges facing the Great Wall
- Prospective future collaborative projects

Background

- Discussions began in 2016: Historic England (HE) and Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage (CACH)
- Facilitated by British Council, Beijing
- Formal agreement at 5th China-UK High Level People to People meeting December 2017
- Presided over by Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt and Vice Premier Mme. Liu
- Memorandum of Understanding between CACH and HE



Of the many collaborative agreements between the two governments which were signed at the meeting, Wall to Wall was highlighted in subsequent press briefings. The support at the national government level on both sides has greatly facilitated the development of the initiative.

Progress to Date

- 1st Wall to Wall Management Seminar, Newcastle, March 2018
- 2nd Wall to Wall Management Seminar, Jinshanling, Hebei Province, November 2019
- Publication of papers from both Seminars (soon to be available on-line)
- Identification and development of potential collaborative projects

Newcastle Seminar

- Hosted by Newcastle University over 3.5 days
- 23 presentations; 1 plenary discussion session
- Field visits to: Segedunum, Housteads, Cawfields, The Sill, Vindolanda, Chesters
- Multiple partner participation including colleagues from Scotland and Germany
- **Purpose:** to familiarise each other with our monuments and the management challenges they each face (managers of the two World Heritage Sites had not previously met each other)



Seminar delegates at Vindolanda: our 13 guests from the Great Wall together with UK delegates and our translators and interpreters recruited from Newcastle University's English-Chinese Translating and Interpreting Masters Degree course.

Seminar in China

- Hosted by Jinshanling Great Wall Management Office over 3.5 days
- 26 presentations; 1 plenary discussion session
- Field visits to: Jinshanling; Gubeikou and Jiankou
- Multiple Chinese partner participation; 12 UK delegates from Historic England; English Heritage Trust; Newcastle University; TWAM; Vindolanda Trust
- Presentations also again provided from colleagues from Scotland and Germany
- **Purpose:** to further develop understanding of each others monuments and the issues they face, AND to begin to identify specific opportunities for further collaboration

金山岭长城

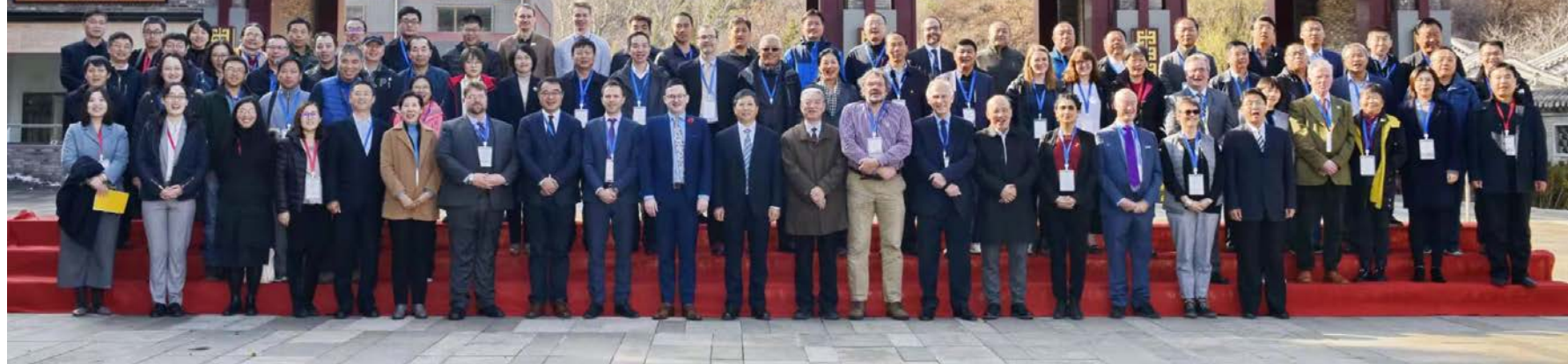
第二届双墙对话研讨会暨长城保护联盟第二届年会

入口 Entrance

出口 Exit

长城保护联盟
The Great Wall Protection Alliance

售票处
Ticket Office



Overview of the Great Wall

- Not one Wall, but several different Walls
- Different historical periods, different geographical locations, different materials
- Earliest Chu Great Wall (c.600 BCE) in the Spring and Autumn Period (700 – 475 BCE)
- Most recent Ming Great Wall (1368 – 1644)
- Most extensive Great Walls from Han Dynasty (220 BCE – 200 CE) and Ming Dynasty

Principal Periods of Construction

- Warring States Period (5th – 3rd centuries BC)
- Qin and Han Dynasties (3rd c. BCE – 3rd c. CE)
- Northern and Southern Dynasties (4th – 6th centuries)
- Jin Dynasty (12th – 13th centuries)
- Ming Dynasty (14th – 17th centuries)

Scale and Extent

- The Great Walls extend over 15 modern-day Provinces, each larger than any EU country
- They stretch from:
 - the agriculturally rich plains of central eastern China
 - To the pastoral steppe lands of north eastern China
 - Across the mountains and loess uplands of north central China
 - On towards north western China skirting the Gobi Desert

The Great Wall Resource Survey (2006 – 2012)

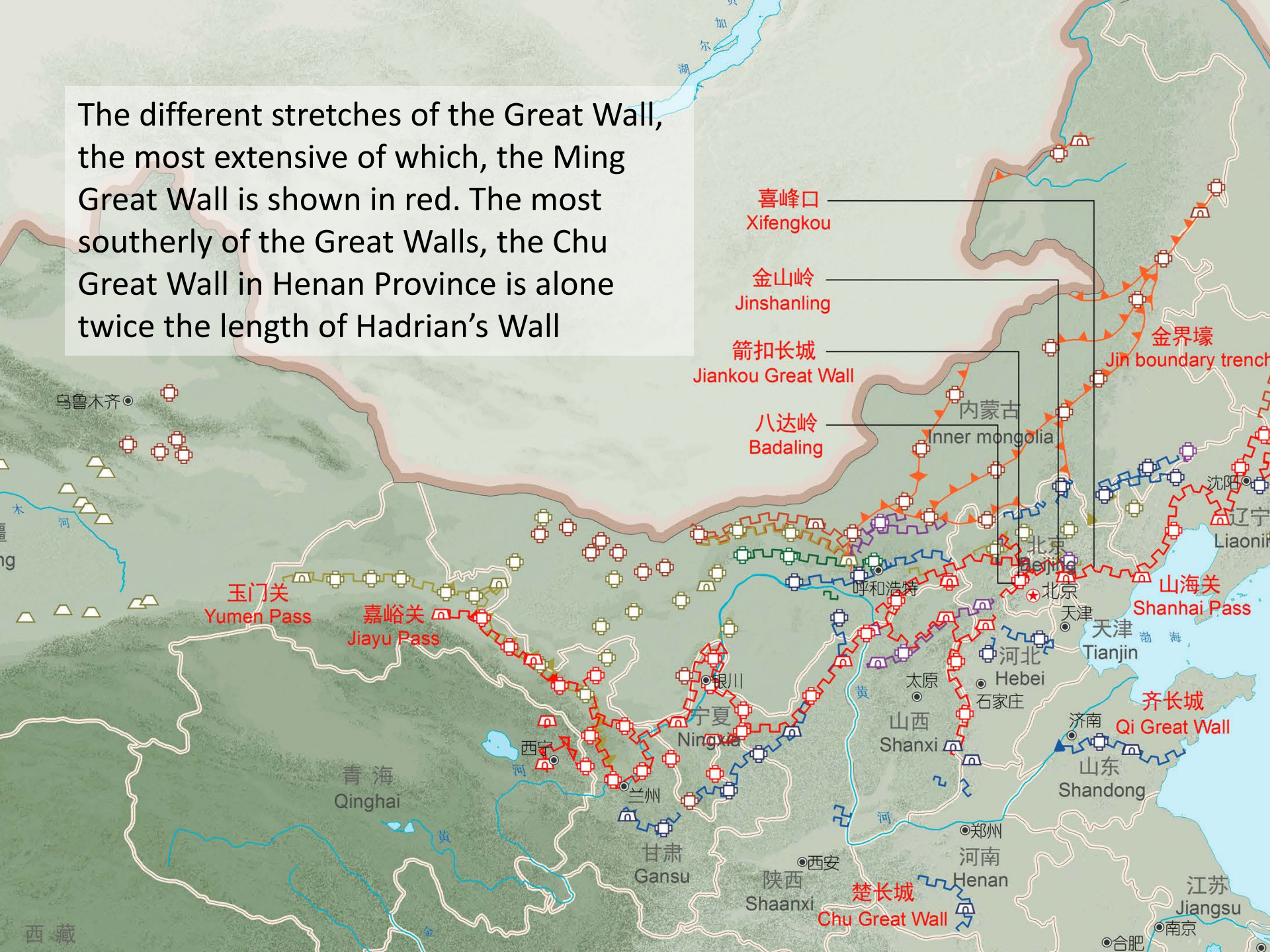
- Total surviving length of Great Wall remains 21,196.18km (made up of 11,815 sections)
- 29,510 associated structures and components
- Across 15 different modern-day Provinces
- 97 municipal local authority areas
- 404 county local authority areas; of which 120 classified as 'disadvantaged'

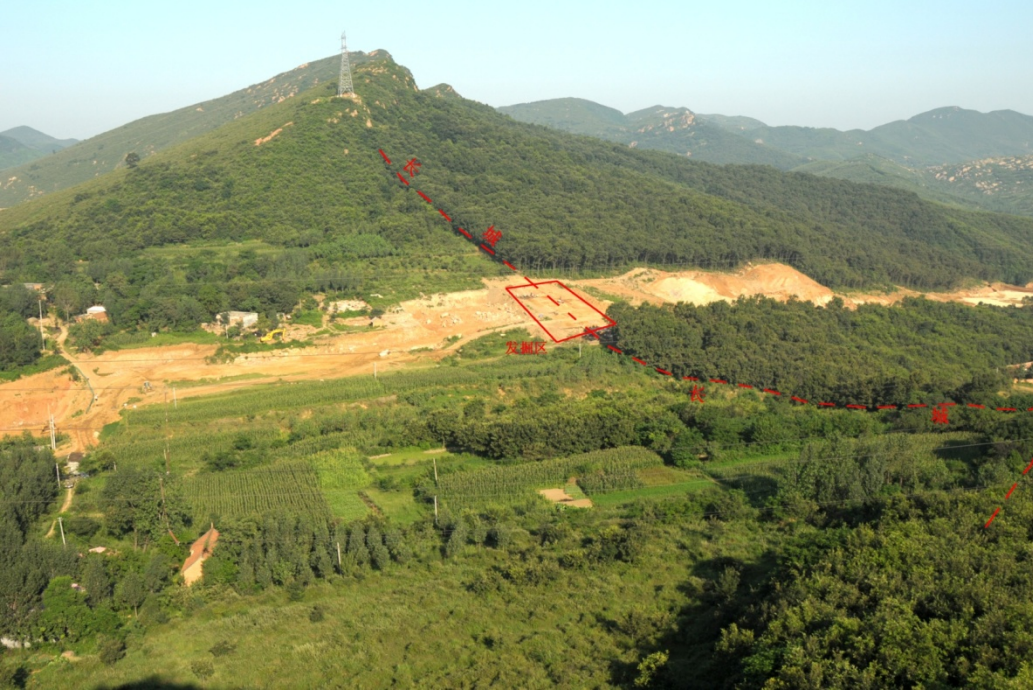
Co-ordinating it's management therefore represents an enormous practical and administrative challenge



To address these challenges the Great Wall Alliance was established in 2018, initially comprising 41 different bodies

The different stretches of the Great Wall, the most extensive of which, the Ming Great Wall is shown in red. The most southerly of the Great Walls, the Chu Great Wall in Henan Province is alone twice the length of Hadrian's Wall





The Chu Great Wall, the earliest of the Great Walls, little of which remains visible today





The Qi Great Wall, like the Chu Great Wall was built before the unification of China in 221 BCE

These Walls were built by different kingdoms or states to delineate their territories and protect them from their rivals.



Qi





The Qin Great Wall, was built after China's unification and was the first of the Great Walls built to protect the country from the incursions of nomadic tribes from the north.





The Jin Great Wall on the steppe lands of north eastern China, where stone was not locally available was built as a ditch and mound. It's purpose was to impede the cavalry of Genghis Khan. It failed.





The Ming Great Wall is the most familiar and recognisable of all the Great Walls, particularly that part of it which runs from the sea westward into the mountains north of Beijing, where it was primarily built of brick and stone.



Further west in the loess uplands of central northern China, and then further west along the edge of the Gobi Desert, the Ming Great Wall was built of earth (either rammed earth or adobe brick) being the only locally available materials.



Construction and Form

- Varied depending on local availability of materials
- Brick, stone, brick and stone or rammed earth
- Solid brick, stone or rammed earth or rammed earth core faced and capped with brick or stone
- Walls cut from hillsides; trench walls
- Many adaptations and repairs over time

Particular Features

- Walkway and battlements on top of Wall
- Fortified Passes
- Defence Towers
- Beacon Towers
- Forts and fortresses
- Horse Faces
- Other ancillary details

Different types of Walls (clockwise from top-right): earth walls, stone walls, brick walls, cut walls, trench walls.



Different types of Walls
(clockwise from top-right): stone
walls, brick walls, earth walls,
ditch and trench walls.





Some sections of earth walls were reinforced with courses of twigs or sticks of willow.





Some associated structures such as defence towers or beacon towers were built of adobe brick. These surviving structures are extremely vulnerable to deterioration.



A recently consolidated section of earth wall, with its parapet reinstated.



Defence Towers were also made of varying materials and had an enormous variety of form and design, some surmounted by sentry houses





Fortified Passes

Left: Jiayuguan at the westernmost point of the Ming Great Wall

Below: a fortified pass between two defence towers; to the rear can be seen the site of a fortress to garrison troops.



烽火台-类型-单体 Beacon Tower types-stand alone



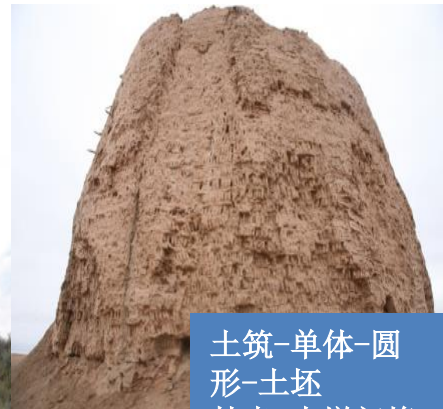
土筑-单体-方形-夯筑
山西-高家坡烽火台



土筑-单体-方形-土坯
甘肃-板桥墩烽火台



土筑-单体-圆形-夯筑
内蒙-腰榨2号烽火台



土筑-单体-圆形-土坯
甘肃-大墩门烽火台

土 Earth



石砌-单体-方形-包石
北京-密云4号烽火台



石砌-单体-方形-垒砌
山西-西虎儿界村烽火台



石砌-单体-圆形-包石
甘肃-板大口2号烽火台



石砌-单体-圆形-垒砌
天津-赤霞峪2号烽火台

石 Stone



包砖-单体-方形
北京-密云38号烽火台

方形 Square



包砖-单体-圆形
辽宁-江台北山烽火台

砖 Bricks

圆形 Circular



Other Features

Left: a partially excavated trench in front of the earth wall on the edge of the Gobi Desert; its faces are cobbled with small stones.

Below: two examples of 'horse faces' intended to impede cavalry attacks.





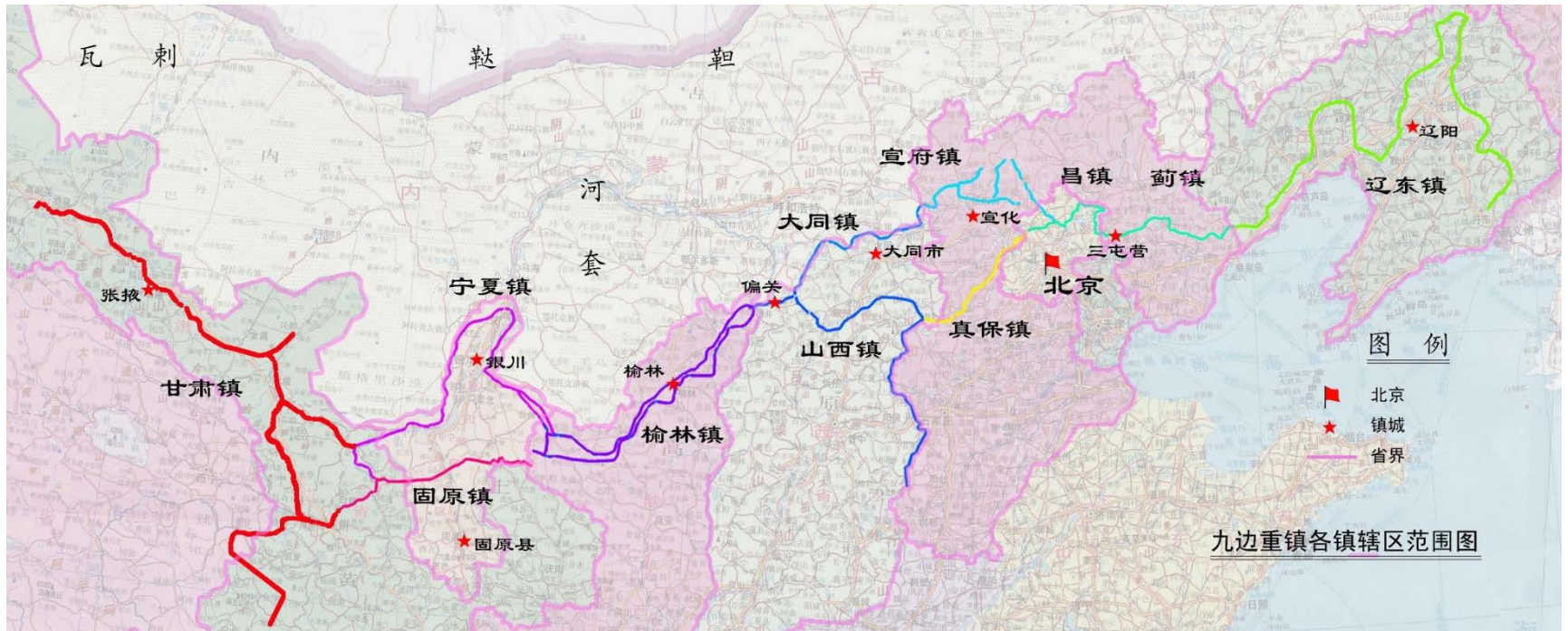
A few examples have been discovered of systems of pits dug in front of the Great Walls, called 'pin' pits, after the Chinese character they resemble (above). These bear a similarity to the pits found in front of Hadrian's Wall, such as those found in Byker (right).



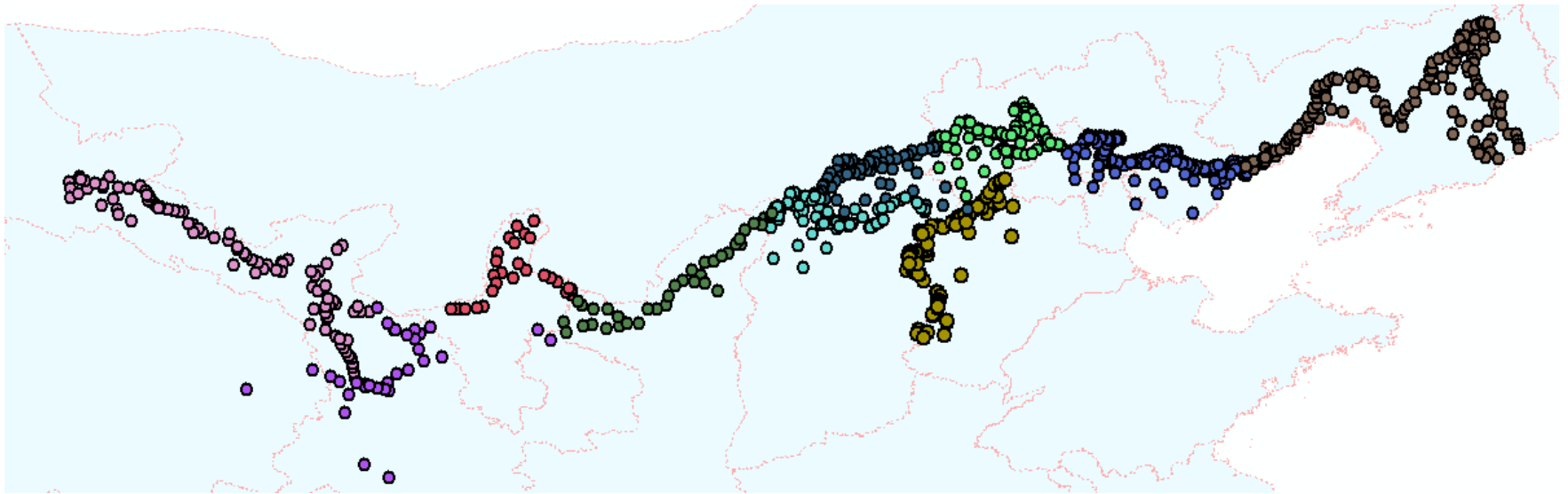
The Great Wall Resource Survey: Ming Great Wall

- Identified length: 8,851.8km (42% of total of all Great Walls)
- Sections 5,209 (44% of total)
- Structures 17,449 (60% of total)

So extensive was the Ming Great Wall that it was divided into nine military command regions.



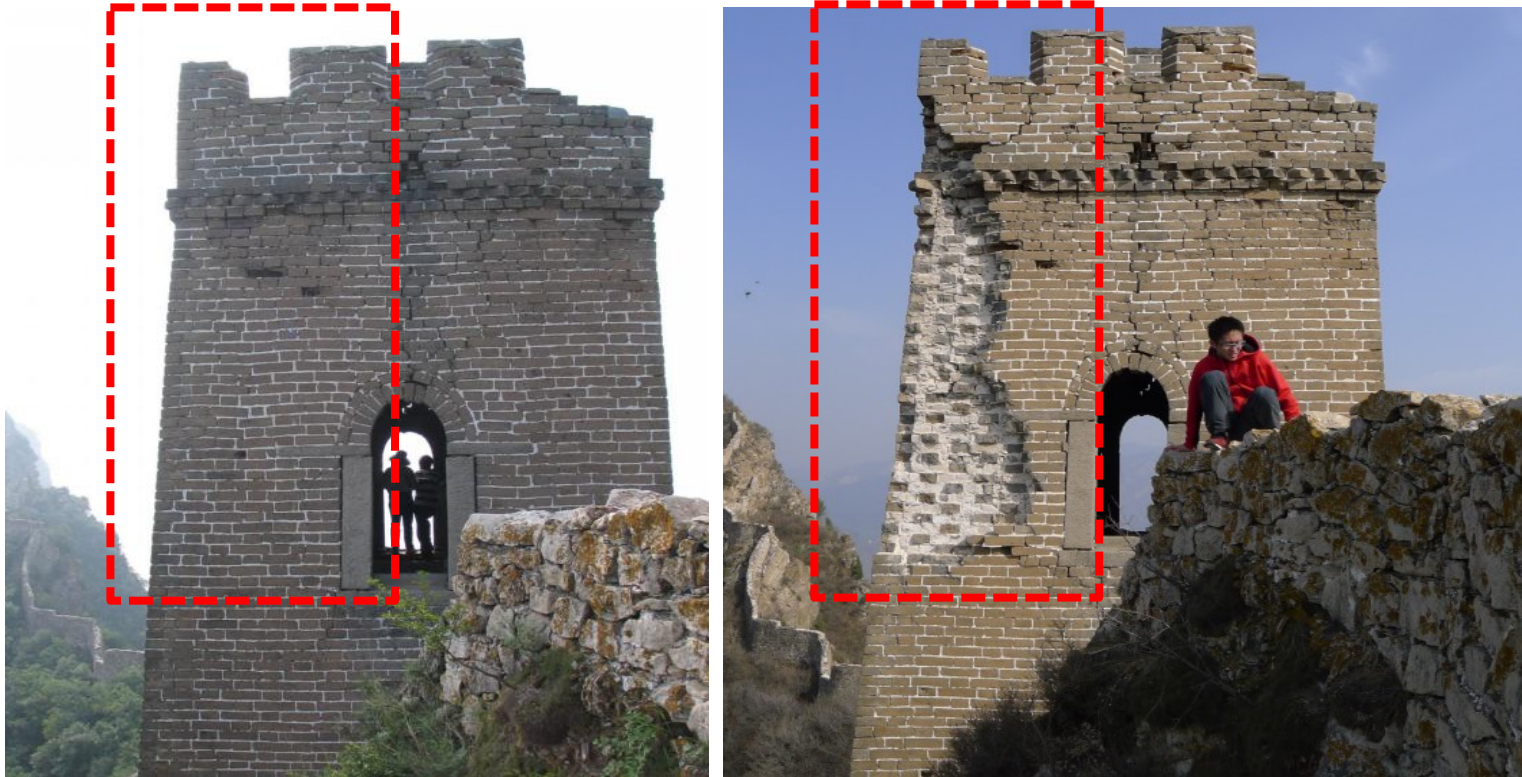
The Distribution of Forts and Fortresses along the Ming Great Wall



Principal Management Challenges

- Management co-ordination itself; integration of Tourism and Heritage management
- Conservation and Monitoring
- Developing Access
- Developing Public Engagement
- Utilisation of the Great Wall for economic and social regeneration

Conservation



An urgent and ongoing problem. The same defence tower photographed in 2007 (left) and 2012 (right)



Different forms of structural instability



Water penetration leads to rapid erosion of the earth core and can cause sudden and catastrophic collapse





In mountainous areas all materials for consolidation and conservation have to be transported by hand.



Before (left) and after (right) consolidation and stabilisation works





Before (left) and after (right) consolidation and stabilisation works



A lot of effort is put into public messaging about the importance of conservation



Improving Public Access



Much of the Great Wall is essentially inaccessible



The majority of it
is therefore
referred to as
'The Wild Wall'



It is also very vulnerable to destruction by visitors, and even consolidated, accessible sections are very, very dangerous.



But that does not stop
intrepid (or reckless) visitors!





The vast majority of visitors are concentrated on about six honeypot sites, creating major visitor management and conservation issues.

Public Engagement

- Major efforts in recent years to enhance public awareness and appreciation of the Great Wall, through
- Development and exploitation of on-line platforms, and
- Mobilisation of volunteering
- Both targeted primarily at engaging with schoolchildren and local communities

Public Engagement: Exploitation of on-line Platforms

- Led by the Tencent Foundation (the benevolent trust set up by Chinese tech giant the Tencent Corporation)
- Working in co-ordination with the Chinese Foundation for Cultural Heritage Conservation
- Emphasising the vulnerability of the Great Wall and the need to protect it
- Also provides a mechanism for fund-raising from individuals and corporations for conservation projects

Development of on-line cartoons

Using the character of The Hare (to represent China) to tell stories about the Great Wall in relation to significant years in Chinese history



The Great Wall Warriors

Kids are invited to 'adopt' one of the Warriors, who are the Protectors of the Great Wall, and therefore become champions of Great Wall protection themselves;

They follow the exploits and adventures of 'their' Warrior on-line;

Over 100m kids follow the Warriors each month



Guan Xiaopian



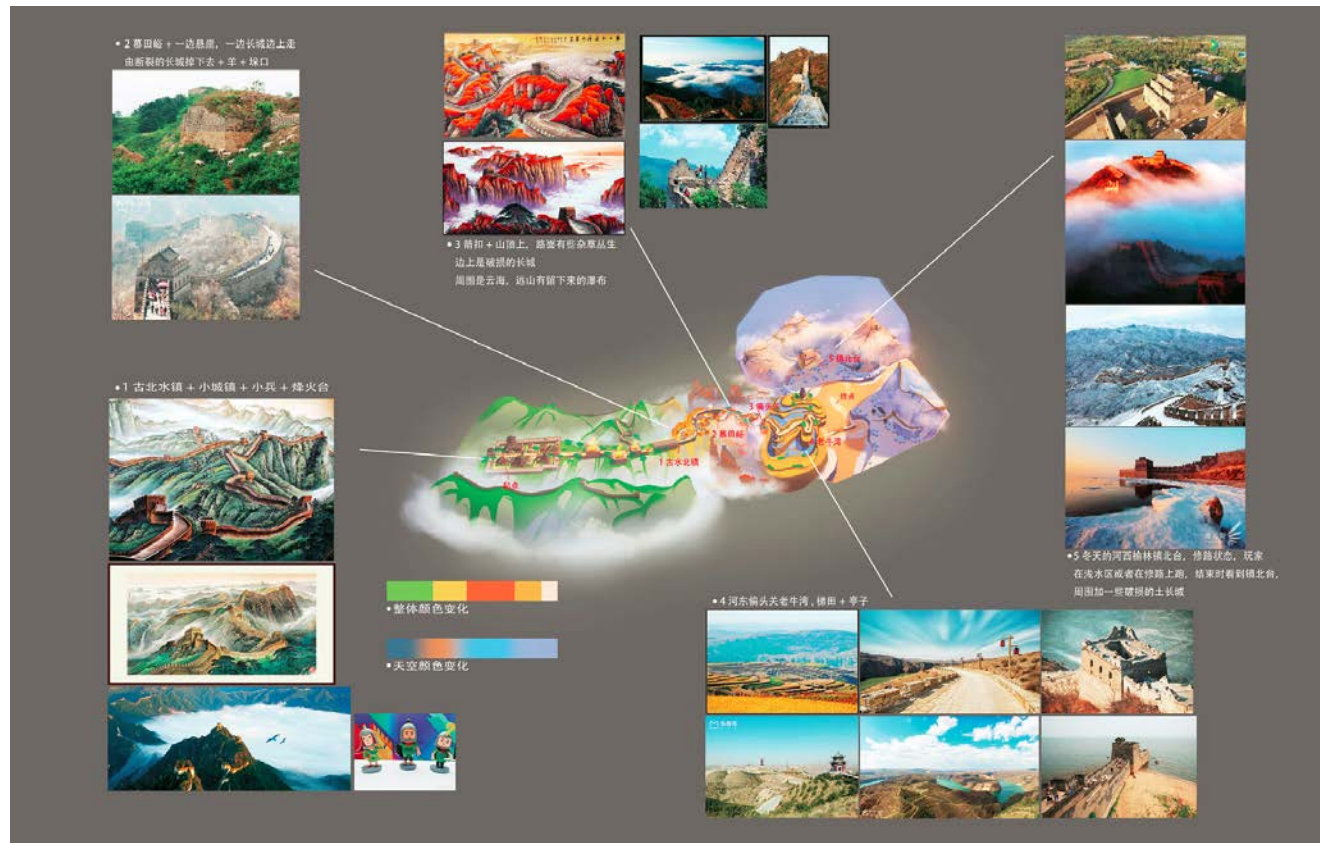
Guan Xiaoxiao



Guan Xiaoshan

Development of on-line Video Games

qq.Speedo is a motor racing game, in which kids speed along different sections of the Great Wall, learning about its features and history as they go



Development of Great Wall Merchandise

Promotes the Great Wall and raises funding for its conservation

Examples include: Beacon Tower tea-cups; Great Wall Warrior moneyboxes; T-shirts



Public Engagement: Mobilisation of Volunteers

- Voluntary organisations, like The Great Wall Station, promote volunteering to raise public appreciation of the Great Wall and support its protection
- Volunteer activities include:
 - Direct participation in conservation projects;
 - The development and delivery of school teaching modules about the Great Wall, starting at Year 2
 - Organising photography and other public competitions and exhibitions about the Great Wall

A working party of
the Great Wall
Station's
conservation
volunteers



Mr Zhang Jun, Head of the Great Wall Station, enthusing schoolchildren to learn about the Great Wall



Voluntary groups also organise and deliver field visits to the Great Wall for schoolchildren



Great Wall Patrollers and Guardians

Over 7,000 part-time Patrollers are employed along the Great Wall, each assigned a length of Wall to patrol (c.10km)

Most are local residents of remote rural communities

They receive nominal wages, essential and protective equipment and regular training



Liang Qingli: an Award-winning Great Wall Patroller



Great Wall Patroller Responsibilities



Patrollers provide advice to visitors, in terms of routes, conservation and safety (above) and mobilise local volunteers in Great Wall activities, such as litter-picking (right)



Great Wall Patroller Responsibilities

Liang Qingli also salvages artefacts previously removed by locals from the Great Wall (left) and uses them to teach local schoolchildren about the importance of respecting and caring for the monument

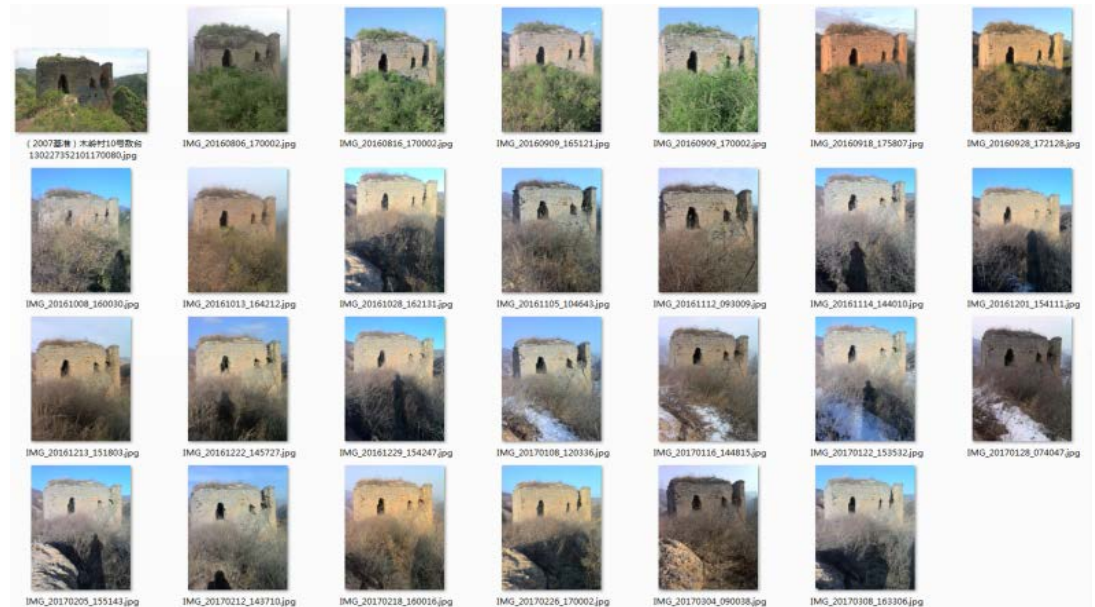


Great Wall Patroller Responsibilities: Monitoring

县域 Region	用户类别 User type	涉及长城点段数量 Number of involved sections	长城长度(千米) Length (km)	长城特色 Characteristics	数据采集周期 Frequency of data collection	批次 Number of batches	起止时间 Starting and ending date	数据量 (GB) Data volume (GB)	照片 (张) Number of pictures
迁西县 Qianxi County	长城保护员 Great Wall ranger	28	5.9	砖墙, 未开放段 Brick wall, not open to the public	3-5天/次 Every 3-5 days	249	2016年8月-2018年11月 Aug 2016 – Nov 2018	46.7	13,415

Great Wall Patrollers also assist with monitoring the Great Wall.

An extract from Liang Qingli's Great Wall monitoring records, including his fixed-point photographic monitoring



Regeneration

- 120 areas classified as disadvantaged
- Mainly remote, rural areas, suffering from a steady process of depopulation
- Economic deprivation; paucity of local services; erosion of local traditions and customs
- Great Wall National Cultural Parks as being established as vehicles of rural regeneration

Potential Future Collaborative Projects

- Exchange visits
 - Management & Technical
 - Schools
 - Volunteers
- Collaborative and comparative archaeological research projects
- Comparative exhibitions (staged in both countries)
 - Roman and Ancient Chinese arms and armour
 - Roman inscriptions and the inscribed bricks of the Great Wall

Opportunities / Benefits

- To increase the number of Chinese visitors to our sites, through:
 - Promotion and profile-raising of Hadrian's Wall and the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Sites in China
 - Development of improved visitor information tailored for Chinese visitors
- To be an exemplar in fulfilling the World Heritage Convention's core objective of promoting collaboration between countries in protecting our shared heritage for future generations, in the name of our common humanity



中华文明属世界

Chinese civilization belongs to the world

保护长城靠你我

and everyone has the responsibility to protect the Great Wall.

怀柔区文化和旅游局
雁栖镇人民政府