

Section II: Vulnerabilities within the settings of monuments and sites:  
understanding the threats and defining appropriate responses

Section II : Identifier la vulnérabilité du cadre des monuments et des sites – Menaces et outils de prévention

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## **“ NOT PUNCHING IT ' S WEIGHT ... ” IS THE PROTECTION OF HADRIAN ' S WALL , UK UNDER SERIOUS THREAT FROM PROPOSED NEW MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES?**

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### **Abstract**

The observation that Hadrian's Wall, a World Heritage Site in the north of England, was "not punching its weight" in economic terms was made with sincerity and concern by member of staff of England's North East Region Economic Development Agency (RDA). The comment was met with anger and incomprehension by the archaeological audience to which it was constructively addressed. Consultants appointed to investigate how the Site might contribute better to the Regional economy, and especially to economic regeneration, referred to the Site as a 'product' and were met with derision and thinly veiled contempt. Plans being drawn up by the RDA envisage some £56 million being invested along the Wall over the next ten years but also demand a significant restructuring of the management of the Wall. There is huge concern within the archaeological community as to the impact such investment and revised management might have on the archaeological monument.

This paper will review suggested changes to the management structure regarding Hadrian's Wall and the proposed investment and will question whether archaeological heritage management can exist in equilibrium with using the site as a vehicle for economic regeneration.