The Future of Research on Hadrian's Wall

A conference in celebration of 50 years of David Breeze & Brian Dobson's *Hadrian's Wall*

16th-17th December, 2026

Room D110, Dawson Building, Durham University

Attendance is free, but registration needed because spaces are limited. Please sign up here: The Future of Research on Hadrian's Wall: Conference Registration. Any questions can be directed to eleri.h.cousins@durham.ac.uk.

Day 1 (Dec 16th):

2:00-:2:30pm: Arrival

2:30-2:45 – Introductory remarks: Eleri Cousins

2:45-3:15 – Breeze and Dobson's *Hadrian's Wall*: A retrospective – Matt Symonds. 20-minute paper, with 10 minutes for questions

Session 1: Position paper: Envisioning borderlands: What comes next?

Chair: Eleri Cousins

3:15pm-3:40pm – Andy Gardner: Position paper

3:40-4:05pm – 2 10-minute respondents – Paul Kitching and Matt Symonds

4:05-4:35 – Chaired Discussion

17:00-19:30 – **Drinks reception** in celebration of David Breeze and 50 years of Breeze and Dobson's *Hadrian's Wall*. St Chad's College, Durham.

Day 2 (Dec 17th):

9am-9:30 Arrival

Session 2: Position paper: Integrating the frontier: Hadrian's Wall in Roman Britain and in the *longue durée*

Chair: David Petts

9:30-9:55: Eleri Cousins**:** position paper

9:55 -10:20 – 2 10-minute respondents – Martin Millett and Fraser Hunter

10:20-10:50 – Chaired discussion

Session 3: Themed Session: Human agency and society on the frontier

Chair: Barbara Birley

10:55am-11:20: Catherine Teitz: 'Seeing the settlement as a whole': Urbanism and the Hadrian's Wall frontier

11:20-11:45 Amy Baker: Making space: Fresh approaches to craft, material and social organisation on the northern frontier

11:45-12:10 Edwin Wood: Borderland Britannia: Life on the raggedy edge

12:10-12:30 – Chaired discussion/Q&A

12:30-13:30 Lunch break (lunch not provided)

Session 4: Themed session: Frontier economies: Trade, agriculture and resource exploitation

Chair: Frances McIntosh

13:30-13:55 – Don O'Meara: Feasts and famines: the environmental dataset for Hadrian's Wall

13:55-14:20 – Peter Guest: Feeding Hadrian's Wall: Supplying food animals to the Limes

14:20-14:45 – Eniko Hudak: In Romans We Trust? Frontier communities within a new multiscalar socioeconomic model for Roman Britain

14:45-15:05 – Chaired discussion/Q&A

15:05-15:35 Tea/Coffee

Session 5: Position paper: A Global Monument: The future of Hadrian's Wall in world and community heritage

Chair: Bill Griffiths

15:35-16:00 – Beccy Jones: Position Paper

16:00-16:25 – 2 10-minute respondents – Anna Walas and Rob Collins

16:25-16:55 – Chaired Discussion

This conference has been made possible through generous support from the Department of Archaeology and Heritage360, Durham University, a generous donation from Richard Beleson in honour of David Breeze and the memory of Brian Dobson, and administrative support from the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.