

## 4 Defining, assessing and improving heritage management systems

It can be beneficial to structure the monitoring process in the form of a 'monitoring plan' that is directly linked to sustaining values and, in the case of World Heritage, to the OUV in particular. The development of the plan can help to gain consensus on which indicators should be used to collect and analyse the data required to meet information needs (section 6 of the nomination format, OG Annex 5). Indicators are an integral part of monitoring. They should be developed to establish whether the desired outcomes (e.g. protecting the values of the cultural property) have been achieved effectively and efficiently by measuring outputs (see 4.4) that have been delivered. Indicators can also be used to observe existing or identify new trends.

### *Ongoing processes*

Continuity of monitoring practices can be as important as the quality of monitoring approaches, since data can help to track trends effectively when gathered and assessed systematically over a long period of time. As a result, monitoring programmes should ideally be financed by regular funding sources and not depend on one-off sources.

### CASE STUDY

#### **Long-term monitoring improving long-term management**

*Hadrian's Wall World Heritage site, the first component of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage property, crosses northern England from east to west for over 100 km. It has long been a favourite long-distance walk but until 2003 there was no formal footpath along much of its length. Proposals for such a path were formally put forward in 1986 and its creation as a National Trail was approved by the UK Government in 1994. For much of its length, the Trail is on or close to the archaeology of the wall and there was concern from archaeologists about the risk of erosion of Roman deposits, as well as concern from farmers about the impact of walkers on their livelihood. From the outset it has been the intention to keep as much as possible of the Trail as a path on grass and to minimize the lengths which have to be paved with a hard surface. It was therefore clear from early on in the process of its development by the former Countryside Commission that monitoring its impact would be key to its success and sustainable use.*



© Judith Herrmann

*The Hadrian's Wall National Trail at Cawfields (United Kingdom)*

*Once the line had been agreed, English Heritage's Hadrian's Wall office began to carry out fixed-point monitoring photography twice annually along the line of the National Trail. This provides an excellent visual record of the changing state of the Trail. At around the same time, the Countryside Commission's National Trail Officer began to record the number of walkers in the landscape through use of automatic counters on gates and stiles. Thus, by the time the Trail was formally opened in 2003 there was already a record of usage of its line and condition going back for several years, providing a baseline for assessment of the condition of the Trail in the future. Since then, fixed point photography and recording of numbers of walkers has continued. Alongside this, the Trail Officer, now based in the Hadrian's Wall Heritage Trust, the present coordinator of this part of the World Heritage property, has also collected data on temperatures, rainfall and soil moisture. The Trail is inspected annually and its condition is scored. Correlation of these records enables a clear understanding of the various processes which affect the condition of the Trail.*