

Stonehenge World Heritage Site Committee
Tuesday 23 April 2013
10.30am at Antrobus House, Amesbury

MINUTES

Present: Lady Elizabeth Gass (Chair), Beth Thomas (Stonehenge WHS Coordinator), Loraine Knowles (English Heritage - Stonehenge Director), Richard Crook (National Farmers Union), Ariane Crampton (Wiltshire Council), Patrick Cashman (RSPB), Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Wiltshire Council), Sarah Simmonds (Avebury WHS Officer), Christopher Young (English Heritage – Head of International Advice), Roger Fisher (Amesbury Town Council), Peter Bailey (Wilsford cum Lake/WHS Landowners), Jan Tomlin (National Trust), Simon Ramsden (English Heritage), Gaye Fairfield (Highways Agency), Lisa Holmes (English Heritage), Richard Osgood (Defence Infrastructure Organisation), David Dawson (WANHS/ Wiltshire Museum Director),

		ACTION
1.0	<p>Introductions and apologies Two new members attended the Committee meeting: Lisa Holmes, Community Projects Manager, Stonehenge Gaye Fairfield, Highways Agency</p> <p>Apologies: Dr Nick Snashall, National Trust Nigel Linge, DIO, who is standing down due to internal restructuring Tony Richardson, RSPB Philip Miles, Country Land & Business Association</p>	
2.0	<p>Agree minutes of last meeting & matters arising</p>	
2.1	The Minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting in November 2012 without any amendments.	
2.2	<p>Item 8. Following our last meeting, Lady Gass has sent a letter to Amanda Chadburn thanking her for all her commitment to the Stonehenge WHS.</p>	
3.0	<p>Revised Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value – Christopher Young</p> <p>The Statement of OUV (SOUV) is a definition of why a site is on the World Heritage List. The committee have been working on this document for some time. A Statement of Significance was completed in 2009. A draft SOUV was submitted in January 2011. The SOUV covers significance, criteria, integrity, size of the WHS, the level of threat, authenticity and management and protection. Over the past two years, UNESCO has been evaluating this and many others that were completed at the same time. In December 2012, we received minor comments back from UNESCO following evaluation by ICOMOS UK. We responded at the end of January 2013. If accepted they will be formally adopted at the next World Heritage Committee in June 2013.</p> <p>ACTION: CY to check with UNESCO to see if they are going forward to this summer's committee.</p>	CY
4.0	<p>UNESCO Periodic Report 2013 – Beth Thomas The Summary of the Periodic Report was circulated to all members before the meeting. The report corrects information provided by UNESCO in a pre-loaded form</p>	

	<p>and provides limited space for comments. The report covers both Stonehenge and Avebury together. If anyone has any comments or questions please contact Beth Thomas by 30 April 2013.</p> <p>After this date the form will be submitted to the UK Focal Point, when it will be reviewed by ICOMOS and then forwarded to UNESCO by 31 July 2013.</p>	ALL
5.0	<p>Governance Review – Beth Thomas</p> <p>The recommendations of the working group and the proposed terms of reference were circulated to members of the Committee before the meeting.</p> <p>BT updated the committee on the work of the Working Group since November. The group has met 3 times to go through the recommendations of the Egeria report and to answer the queries from both WHS Committees. The structure has been adapted from the Egeria model and the draft terms of reference have been revised.</p> <p>BT thanked the working group for their hard work and full participation in the process.</p> <p>There is still work to be done on reviewing the membership of the two committees, the role of the chair of the local steering committees and defining their role and in how an “annual forum” might best be arranged.</p> <p>There is also a great deal of discussion to be had between the key partners of the partnership panel in terms of future funding of the coordinators and hosting arrangements.</p> <p>There was also some discussion related to item 6.0 below regarding the timing of the implementation to fit in with the proposed joint management plan. Both local chairs and the independent chair are likely to want to be involved in its development. BT & SS to take this into account in final implementation with partners.</p> <p>Avebury Archaeological and Historical Group (AAHRG) are discussing the proposal to expand the group to include Stonehenge at a working group meeting in May. It is likely that they would ask that the new group to be called ‘Avebury and Stonehenge Avebury Historical Research Group’ to reflect the genesis and development of the group. If this proposal is accepted then new terms of reference will be produced by the AAHRG working group. This will meet the Egeria recommendation to have a joint “standing conference”.</p> <p>a) Do you agree in principle with the recommendations of the working group? Stonehenge WHS Committee members agreed the recommendations of the working group in general.</p> <p>b) Do you agree with the proposed next steps? Stonehenge WHS Committee members agreed in principle to the proposed next steps although the timetable may have to be flexible to respond to comments from partners in both parts of the WHS and to reflect other work in the WHS such as the proposed joint Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Management Plan.</p> <p>A Membership Review needs to be undertaken and terms of reference for local steering committee chairs are still to be discussed/decided.</p> <p>c) Do you have any other comments?</p>	

	<p>WHS Committee members were asked to make all final comments to BT by 8 May 2013.</p> <p>ACTION: ALL to respond with further comments on working group proposals by 8 May 2013.</p> <p>BT and SS to issue revised timetable for next steps in light of comments above and to reflect work on Management Plan</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>BT/SS</p>
6.0	<p>Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan – Beth Thomas</p> <p>BT tabled a table of contents and a proposed timetable for implementation. Stonehenge WHS Management Plan is not due until 2015. Avebury WHS Management Plan is due 2013.</p> <p>Recent discussions regarding the governance review and increased joint work across both parts of the WHS has resulted in a desire amongst key partners to have one WHS Management Plan for both Stonehenge & Avebury. As part of the review and update of the Avebury WHS Management Plan the Project Board set up for the process have agreed the benefits and the proposed outline structure and timetable for a joint Stonehenge & Avebury plan prepared by the WHSSO. The Avebury Steering Committee will discuss the recommendation on 24 April 2013.</p> <p>The benefits of a joint Management Plan would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering a more coordinated approach to management for a serial WHS with a single SOUV as advised by UNESCO • Strengthening the identity of the WHS to assist in raising awareness, understanding and support from partners, other organisations and the wider public • Providing a succinct and coherent point of reference for organisations dealing with both Stonehenge and Avebury such as Wiltshire Council and the National Trust; aligning policies where appropriate and removing repetition • Reflecting recently produced effective joint WHS documents: WHS Condition Survey; WHS Research Framework and WHS Woodland Strategy • Providing a single document with an overarching element that would assist the WHS Partnership Panel and single coordination unit working across the WHS as proposed in the Governance Review • Making the best use of limited plan making resources <p>This will mean a slowing down of the process for Avebury which is already underway and an acceleration of the Stonehenge element of the plan. The proposed contents table should allow for local issues to be clear whilst reflecting the commonality of the issues affecting both parts of the WHS. It is anticipated that since there was a wide consultation and thorough review of the Stonehenge Management Plan in 2008 that this revision should be a shorter process than last time but SWHSC will look for the support of partners to participate in professional consultation groups and stakeholder meetings.</p> <p>The Committee was generally supportive of this proposal which makes sense in light of the governance review and the wish to develop a more joined up approach to both parts of the WHS and in the current economic climate.</p>	

	ACTION: BT has to plan a timetable for review of current management plan, small focus groups and wider consultation meetings which also reflects governance review developments.	BT
7.0	<p>World Heritage Site Coordinator's update – Beth Thomas <u>See written update</u></p> <p>BT drew committee members attention to two items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The next edition of "Megalith" which was produced last year for Stonehenge will be published again this June/July for both Stonehenge and Avebury. It will cover activity by partners April 2012 – March 2013. ACTION: ALL Copy ideas should be with BT by 10 May 2013. 2. SWHSC and the AWHSO have been working on a joint Stonehenge and Avebury WHS website. This has been funded by the South West WHS group and English Heritage. The domain name will be www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org It is not yet live but members will be informed once it is. BT circulated some visuals of how the website will link. It will act as a portal to the work of the partners in both parts of the WHS. BT welcomed suggestions from partners for web-links/contents. 	ALL
8.0	<p>Update on Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project – Loraine Knowles</p> <p>LK gave a verbal report of the new visitor centre and associated works which are progressing well. The stopping up of the A344 is due to commence 24 June 2013, after Solstice. This will require a compound in the existing visitor car park.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the taking up of the road and re-seeding the old road bed will take approximately 6 months.</p> <p>The visitor centre building is progressing well with the roof taking shape. It is good to see that the roof line fits well into the landscape as planned.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the site will be handed over to EH for fit-out on 1st October. Familiarisation visits for key groups are planned in November.</p> <p>A General Manager and Solstice Manager are currently being recruited.</p> <p>Lisa Holmes, Community Projects Manager for English Heritage at Stonehenge reported on the community open days for the new visitor centre on 11th May and 6th July 2013. These are available to Wiltshire residents and must be pre-booked 0870 333 0604. PLEASE NOTE THAT BOTH OPEN DAYS ARE NOW FULLY BOOKED!</p> <p>LH also noted that she is looking for volunteers for key members of the community to act as "Community Ambassadors" to keep members of the local community up to date on activities at Stonehenge and within the WHS. Please contact Lisa if you wish to know more about this scheme. Lisa.holmes@english-heritage.org</p> <p>LH also informed the committee of the Neolithic Houses project which is currently taking place at Old Sarum. Around 60 volunteers have been involved with the construction of these which use archaeological evidence from the Riverside Project at Durrington Walls. There have been several events for schools run by Katherine Snell, the Education Coordinator for Stonehenge and each Saturday in April 60 people from the local community have been involved in community workshops.</p> <p>The Neolithic Houses are available for viewing by the general public over the May bank holiday weekends (Sunday 5th – Monday 6th, Saturday 25th –</p>	

	<p>Monday 27th May).</p> <p>After this the houses will be taken down and new ones built at Stonehenge in 2014.</p> <p>RF suggested that LH might make a presentation to the Area Board about the work going on to involve the local community. LH would be interested in doing this and will liaise with RF.</p>	LH/RF
9.0	<p>English Heritage update – Simon Ramsden <u>See written update</u></p> <p>SR drew the Committee’s attention to the restructure of the National Planning and Conservation Department (NPCD) of EH which is now complete. The EH staff now responsible for the WHS are: Simon Ramsden, Principal Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas Phil McMahon, Inspector of Ancient Monuments. Both are based in the EH Bristol office.</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities have changed within the department and there is now an Heritage at Risk team which will be led by Ruth Garner who starts in May 2013 and previously worked for Natural England.</p>	
10.0	<p>National Trust update <u>See written update</u></p> <p>JT noted that much of the time since the last meeting has been taken with enhancing the landscape in partnership with EH in preparation for the new visitor centre. In particular a great deal of work has been done to clear the southern half of Fargo Wood.</p> <p>Some work has been undertaken at Durrington Walls to clear scrub and NT has been working with EH on the landscape interpretation scheme.</p> <p>PB asked about the directional finger posts on the footpaths, some of which have missing fingers. BT said that these were the responsibility of the Wiltshire Council Rights of Way Team. ACTION: PB to forward details to BT and she will pass them on to the appropriate Officer.</p>	PB/BT
11.0	<p>Wiltshire Council update <u>See written update</u></p> <p>AC drew the committee’s attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Examination in Public of the Wiltshire Core Strategy which is being held in Trowbridge Civic Centre and begins on 7th May. Details are available on the Wiltshire Council website. There is a link in the electronic version of the Wiltshire Council update. • The Wiltshire Council Archaeological Service is carrying out monitoring visits to the new visitor centre site and both roundabouts at Airmans Corner and Longbarrow Crossroads. • Historic Landscape Characterisation project is currently underway and funded by English Heritage. It is currently looking at both parts of the WHS. Most work is completed and will be available soon. The whole project for the County runs until 2015. 	
12.0	<p>Natural England Update <u>See written update</u></p> <p>SP noted that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two schemes for HLS in progress and a third one in preparation. • NE are working with the two WHS coordinators on the development of an interactive tool to help develop future schemes within the WHS to protect 	

	<p>the most sensitive archaeology of the WHS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP Review – is ongoing and a great deal of work has been done to evaluate the effectiveness of the current schemes. The uncertainty means that some farmers in some areas are waiting to see what the options are before signing up to any new scheme. The report contains web links to the information on progress. • National Character Areas – the one covering Stonehenge will be available soon for comment <p>ACTION: BT to circulate details once it is available.</p> <p>PC commented that the revised management plan should include actions on grassland both recognising the huge gains but also that more work can be done. He drew the Committee's attention to the Futurescapes programme of the RSPB which seeks to link the chalk land between the Cranborne Chase AONB and the North Wessex Downs AONB.</p>	BT
13.0	<p>Highways Agency Update - Gaye Fairfield representing Richard Ormerod. <u>See written Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is expected that Longbarrow Crossroad will be complete by 6 June and the Airmans Cross roundabout by 16 June 2013 • Usual traffic plan will be in force for Summer Solstice. • Due to safety concerns following the failure of the Traffic Regulation Order on the byways in 2011, the Highways Agency is to apply for a no right turn order from A303 onto byway 12. However, this process will take at least 6 months and could take considerably more if it is opposed or challenged. <p>Countess Road Roundabout. Following correspondence from the WHS Committee after the November meeting Highways Agency have done some work on the lights and found some of the sensors to be faulty. These have now been repaired and this should improve traffic flows.</p> <p>RF & RC raised the issue of the request made by Amesbury TC for a yellow box junction around Countess roundabout. It is understood that the new 40 mile an hour speed restriction now in place should make this more possible. They both feel that despite the changes made since November that traffic flows were not satisfactory. Roger Fisher agreed to collate data on traffic flows and forward to Richard Ormerod as appropriate.</p> <p>ACTION: RF will contact Richard Ormerod with details of issues as they arise.</p> <p>Feedback from Gaye Fairfield HA following WHS Committee 23 April 2013: At the recent WHS meeting comments were made about the provision of yellow boxes on the A303 Countess roundabout. I have now had the opportunity to discuss the matter with my colleagues and am in a position to respond, please pass the following onto members of the committee.</p> <p>The decision to use yellow box junction markings depends on a number of criteria being met and is taken on a case by case basis. The fact that they are used at other roundabouts on the A303 has no bearing on their suitability or otherwise at the Countess Roundabout. They are unlikely to improve traffic flow through this roundabout and could in fact reduce its capacity as they create gaps (and hence delays) and reduce available queuing space. A study is currently being undertaken for a proposed development in Amesbury which is investigating its traffic impact on this section of the A303, including the Countess Roundabout. It would be</p>	RF

	<p>prudent to wait until this study is complete and to review the operation of this roundabout in the light of the study's findings. Please keep me informed if there are continuing issues with this roundabout.</p> <p>A303 There was some discussion about the recently reported news item concerning dualling the A303 at Stonehenge. There is currently no scheme in development and Devon, Somerset & Wiltshire Councils have only prepared an economic benefit analysis at this stage. Further work would need support from the Department of Transport. The buildings/transport infrastructure programme is expected to be considered as part of the general Spending Review which starts in June 201</p>	
14.0	<p>RSPB Update <u>See written update</u> Autumn/winter is a quiet time for the RSPB. PC circulated a new leaflet called <i>Wiltshire's Chalk Country</i> which seeks to show how special this area of semi-natural chalkland is and the benefits to flora and fauna in the area.</p> <p>As mentioned at item 12.0 above the RSPB would welcome the opportunity to work with partners to raise awareness of this area and would wish to discuss this as part of the revision of the management plan. BT said that she would include an environmental group in the management plan review process.</p> <p>PC also reported on the joint wildlife leaflet which is being co-funded by National Trust and RSPB. This will be available for the summer season of 2014.</p> <p>PC was asked about the Great Bustard population. RSPB are investigating the possibility of bringing Spanish Bustards to Britain rather than Russian birds as an experiment. Russian birds are migratory, and some of our Salisbury Plain birds migrate to France and although most return there is a risk that they are lost during migration. The Spanish birds are less likely to migrate.</p> <p>The numbers are increasing but the most critical phase for the young birds is the first winter. Amended 13 May 13</p>	
15.0 15.1	<p>Other partner updates <u>Amesbury Town Council – Roger Fisher</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election taking place in May. • RF has briefed Amesbury TC re the progress on the Governance Review • Amesbury TC is interested in the community projects at Stonehenge. • Amesbury TC has been in correspondence with Highways Agency over A303/Countess Roundabout issues. 	
15.2	<p>MoD – Richard Osgood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As noted at item 1.0 above Nigel Linge would no longer be attending and RO will now be the only point of contact for the WHS with DIO/MoD. • As announced by Philip Hammond, Minister of Defence, troops are being withdrawn from Germany, with the expected end date of 2020. This is resulting in a re-arrangement of HM Forces in the UK with Wiltshire be earmarked for £800m investment in infrastructure and around 4,000 additional troops. This will lead to development pressure which may well affect the WHS. The MoD Concordat and the Management Plan will guide decisions and the MoD is in discussions with EH and Wiltshire Council. • There is a desire to re-invigorate the Environmental Steering Group which involves both EH and WC to ensure that the MoD is aware of the WHS and the implications. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julian Richards continues to work on the 'Layers of Larkhill' project which has resulted in clearance of scrub on barrows near the Fargo Ammunition Store and building of Neolithic house in the grounds of the Larkhill Primary School. • Operation Nightingale at Barrow Clump last year received widespread coverage including an edition of Time Team. Scheduled monument Consent has been received to return this year from 24 June to 26 July. There will be public open day on 20 July. • There has been a travelling exhibition on the project including some finds which is currently at Wiltshire Museum, Devizes. • One soldier involved in the project is now an archaeologist working for Wessex Archaeology • RO has been involved in the Minor Boundary Review. • MoD is involved in Maj. Hewetson memorial project and RO is exploring a request for public access to a second Maj. Hewetson memorial in a field just South of the Packway. • RO noted that there could be a link from the Stonehenge & Avebury WHS website to the MoD briefing and access information. <p>ACTION: BT to get the web-link from RO and let the web-developers know.</p>	BT
16.0 16.1	<p>Information exchange and AOB</p> <p><u>ICOMOS UK representative.</u></p> <p>It was noted that no representative from ICOMOS had attended for some time. CY noted that they simply didn't have enough staff to cover all 28 UK sites. However, they are trying to encourage members of ICOMOS to attend their local WHS.</p>	
16.2	<p><u>National Trust Trailer</u></p> <p>JT noted that the NT had purchased a 12' trailer for the Wiltshire Countryside Team. This will be staffed by NT Rangers and allow them to talk to visitors about their work in the landscape and other sites in the Wiltshire/Dorset area.</p>	
16.3	<p><u>Local Residents Pass</u></p> <p>RC asked where local residents' passes were available from. They are available from Amesbury Library. Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Walkers Map</p>	
16.4	<p><u>Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Walkers Map</u></p> <p>BT drew attention to the copy of the map which she had brought to the meeting. Feedback is required by 30 April 2013.</p>	
17.0	<p><u>Dates of next meetings</u></p> <p><u>WHS Committee</u></p> <p>Tuesday 23 July – Please keep this date in your diary. This meeting may be cancelled and depends on progress on the governance review. It will be confirmed at a later date.</p> <p>Tuesday 19 November – Please keep this date in your diary.</p> <p><u>Advisory Forum</u></p> <p>4 October 2013 - <i>Post meeting note: NB This date is not possible due to works at the new visitor centre. BT will contact members ASAP to arrange alternative arrangements.</i></p>	