



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Stonehenge, Avebury
and Associated Sites
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1986

ASAHRG
10.30 AM Friday, 8th June 2018
Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Chippenham

Minutes

Present

Eleanor Salkeld
Jude Currivan
Jonathan Last
Bruce Eagles
Matt Leivers
Dave Sabin
Rachel Foster
Liz Falconer

Martyn Barber
Gill Swanton (Chair)
Mark Bowden
Brian Edwards
Colin Shell
Kerry Donaldson
Ros Cleal
Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger

Kate Fielden
Alistair Barclay
Katy Whitaker
Nick Baxter
Sian Williams
Liesbeth Theunissen
Briony Clifton
Helen Miah

Apologies

David Roberts
David Dawson
Martin Papworth
Julie Scott-Jackson
Steve Marshall
Dan Miles

Richard Osgood
Ian Barnes
Andrew David
Nick Snashall
Olaf Byer
Amanda Chadburn

Heather Sebire
Chris Moore
Paul Cripps
Jim Gunta
Sarah Simmonds

1. Introductions

Jonathan Last introduced Liesbeth Theunissen from the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands visiting Historic England for a couple of months to find out more about the work they undertake.

All present introduced themselves
No new member suggestions

2. Minutes and Matters arising

- Under Item 5 formally record ASARGH concern that Publication of Research Reports is problematic.

- Add 'website' after Scientific Committee bottom of page 3
- Under Item 8 reword MPK comment

Action HM update and recirculate

3. WHS Archaeological Archives: management and disposal protocol (CS)

Stonehenge Environs Archive Disposal Report from Salisbury Museum work undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. The need was identified to reduce volume of boxes requiring storage. This material was accessioned and therefore the Museums Association Best Practice Guidelines should have been the guiding document. The statement that the archive hadn't been used appears to be untrue as the archive had been used for a PhD study.

CS suggests that ASARGH create a Protocol for Disposal of Archives relating to the WHS and that this be incorporated into future WHS Management Plan and passed by the Museums Association Ethics Committee for comment.

MPK explained that she took the word of AG in good faith.

Question over Wessex involvement, they were doing the work they were contracted to undertake.

Do we know how and where the scrapers were disposed of?

AG agreed with MPK that communication about all of this was not well managed.

Discussion re what is good practice in Museums and that Salisbury is an accredited museum with designated archaeology collections.

RF This work needs to be seen in the context of the national picture, 'Seeing the Light of Day' website has much useful information

RC – repackaging collections is often more effective in rationalizing storage than disposal.

Action

All to consider and send comments to CS (copied to HM) CS will then collate and draft a Protocol as suggested above.

4. Monitoring of the Research Framework

Not able to be discussed

Action SS to ask Dan Miles for an update and invite to next meeting.

5. Current archaeological & historical research

- a. Virtual Technologies in Heritage Research – Virtual Avebury – Liz Falconer (Bournemouth University)

The Virtual Avebury project is a AHRC/EPSRC funded project to develop and evaluate a fully immersive simulation of Avebury Stone Circle circa 2300 BCE. The project is a partnership between Bournemouth University, National Trust, Daden Ltd (virtual reality developers) and Satsymph (sound developers). A simulation of Virtual Avebury is open for public engagement and feedback at The Barn Museum, Avebury on dates in June, July and August. Full details of the project and the dates for public engagement can be found on the project website at <https://tinyurl.com/virtual-avebury>.

Members of ASARGH are encouraged to get involved.

- b. The use of sarsen stone in Britain. An archaeological and ethno-historical approach to an ancient industry

Katy Whitaker (University of Reading) gave a short presentation about her PhD research on sarsen stone. The project looks at the role of the stone and is particularly focused on the problem of distinguishing between sarsen extraction and working of different periods. Unlike many stone types used in prehistory, sarsen has been used continuously for some 4,500 years. More recent uses, in particular the C19/C20 sarsen cutting industry, has impacted on the prehistoric archaeological landscape and availability of the stone. Yet this has not been investigated in detail. The project is the first to examine this and also considers the significance of sarsen in its many roles, including C18 and present-day designed landscapes.

- Thesis will be published in stages on the web.
- Data sets produced will be available via the university.



- Working with Tom about how to link to the HER.

c. A303

MPK update on the A303 Evaluation work – Wessex are actively implementing the programme. The Western Portal is being evaluated at the moment. Long Barrow north and south now completed. Lots of tree throws found.

AB 15 June deadline for report on Eastern Portal to ACOM

End of July Evaluation Report on Long Barrow north and south

End of August Rolleston Corner

Western Portal still to be finalized.

6. Review of current opportunities for dissemination of research including recent and forthcoming publications

- Bruce Eagles book 'From Roman Civitas to Anglo-Saxon Shire. Topographical Studies on the Formation of Wessex' to be published by Oxbow Books July 2018. Includes research on Avebury (pre-publication offer see Oxbow Books website)
- AB Wessex A344 closure work due for publication
- KF article in World Heritage Watch 2018 article on A303 – please note the article was missing the first two lines.

Issue – need to find a way of documenting/listing/bibliography all of the research activity in one place. RF/GS can this be linked to Research Framework?

Action

All to send information on current and recent research to HM to add to Research Framework as appendix

7. Other research opportunities (i.e. development-led archaeology, utilities)

- County Archaeology Update



Continued work at Larkhill
Keeping eye on pre application mixed developments at Boscombe Down

Martin Brown started at Wiltshire Council in April replaced Clare King as Assistant County Archaeologist

8. Review of monitoring (e.g. Condition Surveys, Management Plan)

Monitoring condition work being undertaken and counters on the Ridgeway National Trail linked to evidence building for possible changes to the TRO on the Ridgeway.

9. Representative's report from/to WHS Steering Committees and Partnership Panel

CS feedback regarding possible move to Trust for the WHSCU there could be changes required to the management and committee structure if this moves forwards.

CS Byway 11 and 12 issues raised by landowners and partners are working hard to seek a resolution.

CS represented ASARGH at meeting with UNESCO ICOMOS re A303 and focused on the archaeology and impact.

MPK the UNESCO ICOMOS Report is now with national Heritage bodies for factual corrections but is expected to be published soon

Action HM will circulate link to the mission report when it is published.

GS Henry Oliver (Director of the North Wessex Downs AONB) is the new chair of the Avebury WHS Committee

CS Partnership Panel not met but work is focused on the development of the Trust

10. Opportunities for site/exhibition/archive visits in 2018

- Update on Stonehenge Chubb Centenary Cricket and Cake Day – Sunday 8th July 2018

BE thanked all for help in funding the event especially Wessex Archaeology and Wiltshire Life.

Have the feel of a 'village fete'

Probably a knock out competition

EH ice cream van

Schools involved

Lunchtime entertainment, folk singers, silver band.

Displays WHSCU, Wiltshire Museum, Mental Health

Appeal on BBC has hopefully unearthed a photo of Mary Chubb

Photo shoot 13th June 6.45am

- RC Living with Monuments digging 23 July to 11 August in Butlers Field
- RC new graphic panels in Barn Gallery at Avebury and Exhibition on Women in Archaeology.
- MPK series of archaeology walks

Avebury SS & HM

Iron Age Hill Forts – Tom and Rachel

Roundwell Down and Olivers Fort – MPK and MB

See poster attached

11. Revolving Meeting Chairs/Convenors

Nominations for chairs for this group still open, please send to SS

12. AOB

CS status and profile for ASARGH now that it has formal recognition?

KF Westminster Hall debate this week – link is on WHSCU Twitter feed and Facebook



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GS Wayfaring on AONB

BE fundraising dinner for Blickmead 22nd June tickets £60

GS Open Farm Sunday 10th June Temple Farm 11.00 – 4.00

13. Date and venue of next meeting

Friday 12th October