



Avebury World Heritage Site Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday 18th October 2018 2– 4 PM

Wiltshire Museum, Devizes

Minutes

1. Present:

Colin Shell (CS)	ASARGH
Richard Broadhead (RBr)	Wiltshire Council
Nick Snashall (NS)	National Trust
Henry Oliver (HO Chair)	NWD AONB
Sarah Nichols (SN)	Fyfield and West Overton Parish Council
Rachel Foster (RF)	Wiltshire Council
Stephen Stacey (SSt)	Avebury Parish Council
Robin Butler (RBU)	Avebury Farmers
Sarah Wright (SW)	Ridgeway National Trail
Kate Fielden (KF)	Avebury Society
Gill Swanton (GS)	Avebury Environs Forum
Bill Buxton (BB)	Winterbourne Monkton & Berwick Bassett Parish Council
Sarah Simmonds (SSi)	Council
Helen Miah (HM Minutes)	WHS Coordination Unit
	WHS Coordination Unit

Apologies:

David Andrews	VisitWiltshire
Jan Tomlin	National Trust
Ian Barnes	National Trust
Jane Davies	Wiltshire Council
Steph Payne	Natural England
David Dawson	Wiltshire Museum

		Action
2.	Agree minutes of last meeting & matters arising Minutes – agreed	HM
3.	Ridgeway National Trail – surface protection plans RBr presentation copy attached We are in a process: Gather evidence Prepare Report for Cabinet Member	

	<p>Public Consultation Report for Cabinet Member, analysis of evidence Further consultation if necessary Cabinet Member could decide to involve full Cabinet</p> <p>SW presentation copy attached</p> <p>Following a lengthy and thorough discussion where all partners agreed that this work is complex and challenging and requires input and support from a range of partners, the following actions were agreed.</p> <p>Actions SW and Mike Crook are leading on this work and will agree the structure of Reports and associated Appendices. HM to lead for the WHSCU. HM organise further meeting of Surface Repair Group CS and Mike Crook to meet to discuss evidence gathered to date and any further requirements All deadline for all evidence/reports end of November – this includes evidence identified as necessary at the last meeting of the Surface Repair Group in September such as the full Archaeological Report</p>	<p>SW/MC</p> <p>HM CS/MC All</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>World Heritage Site Trust update</p> <p>HLF Resilient Heritage Grant application has been successful! SS reported that the HLF is providing £55,000 and partners including NT, EH, HE, NWD AONB, Avebury WHS Charity and Avebury Parish Council a further £13,000. In-kind support to the value of £27,000 has also been agreed by partners.</p> <p>Trust Transition Project will now move forwards, including appointment of Transition Project Manager, to maintain and develop the WHS Partnership and extend the added value that the WHSCU can bring. Project Board is already established. Opportunities to consult widely with all partners will continue to happen throughout the process as will a review of how WHS governance can work most effectively once the new Trust is created. Maintaining current levels of engagement and participation will be important.</p>	<p>SS</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Avebury WHS Transport Strategy</p> <p>Progress with schemes: Two community exhibitions held at Avebury and Kennet Valley Hall which generated considerable debate and some further understanding of the issues around damage to the West Kennet Avenue. It is recognised that there will never be complete agreement on the closure of the B4003 but that a decision will need to be taken.</p> <p>Avebury Transport Group have met with WC Highways and agreed a series of actions to move some of the actions forwards.</p> <p>SSt is meeting with the other WH Parish Council Chairs to see if further progress can be made.</p>	

	<p>5.1. <u>B4003</u></p> <p>There was considerable debate about what can be done to prevent further damage to the archaeology of the Avenue in the verges along the B4003.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>SSi set up/reconvene Avebury Transport Strategy Implementation Group to meet and agree actions to bring to the next Committee meeting.</p> <p>5.2. <u>Avebury World Heritage Site Directional Signage</u></p> <p>Draft framework waiting on input from all partners before Group is reconvened to agree next practical steps.</p>	SSi
6.	<p>A303 Legacy work</p> <p>Legacy Workshop held by Highway England 4th October. SSi and Alistair Sommerlad presented at this workshop focusing on delivery of the WHS Management Plan. A number of partners were also present. It is anticipated there will be further opportunities to engage with this work as the programme develops.</p> <p>SSi has been working directly with Highways England who have agreed to fund the WHS Sustainable Transport Strategy, Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Sustainable Landscape Access Strategy. She is now working to ensure that the WHSCU leads on the development of these activities.</p> <p>There was a discussion about whether any legacy funding could be made available at Avebury. It was felt that funding to support delivery of the Avebury Transport Strategy would be beneficial and appropriate.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Avebury Steering Committee to write to HE to ask for Legacy funding to be directed at Avebury for delivery of Transport Strategy actions.</p>	HO
7.	<p>Great West Way</p> <p>Is gathering pace. The AONB and the WHS are now ambassadors. Travel Trade directory launched. A Rough Guide is being commissioned. A public transport pass is being developed that will cover all train and bus routes from Paddington to Bath and also north south bus routes for foreign tourists. Bookable itineraries being developed.</p> <p>Actions</p> <p>Avebury Steering Committee to write to VW to make them aware that GWW branding and additional brown tourist signs will need to be avoided in the WHS</p>	HO
8.	WHS Management Plan Mid-Point Review	

	<p>SS has met with all the partners and organisations leading on Actions. Great opportunity to look at what has been achieved, what hasn't and how to progress in areas that have been more difficult to progress. A great deal of progress has been made with around 20% of actions complete and 50% in progress. C. 25% of actions are ongoing and 5% remain to be actioned. Where progress has been difficult, issues are mostly around diminishing resources/staffing in many cases due to demands of responding to the A303 major infrastructure project at Stonehenge. As yet unknown challenges related to Brexit. Opportunities including Legacy and WHS Trust development.</p> <p>Actions SSi/HM Complete the Action Plan Review spreadsheet, can provide a copy for any partners who want.</p>	SSi/HM
9.	<p>World Heritage Site Coordination Unit Update</p> <p>See attached Update Report</p>	
10.	<p>Reports from Partners on implementation of WHS Management Plan and related projects</p> <p>10.1. National Trust – Jan Tomlin is making good progress and hoping to return to work end of Dec. Eva Stuetzenberger is Acting General Manager and Nick Snashall is leading on WHS issues. Virtual Avebury – applying for phase 2 funding to look at how this could be seen as a model for other heritage sites. Wiltshire Walking Challenge now launched</p> <p>Action NS send HM info re walking challenge to circulate to all</p> <p>10.2. Wiltshire Council – working on A303 both inside and outside the WHS, have agreed a solution for Salisbury Museum storage but not for Wiltshire Museum, Devizes yet.</p> <p>10.3. North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan is out for consultation until 23rd November online. Lots of uncertainties still about future of stewardship agreements. Looking to develop a farmers' cluster in W Oxfordshire along the Ridgeway using the Ridgeway as an eco -corridor. 3 new members of staff.</p> <p>Action HO send HM weblink for drone footage that covers Avebury to Basildon Park</p>	<p>NS/HM</p> <p>HO/HM</p>
11.	<p>Parish Council and Farmers' Group Updates</p> <p>11.1 BB New Inn going to reopen as a B&B</p>	

	<p>11.2 GS Open Farm Sunday huge success. Next year on 9th June 2019</p> <p>11.3 RB serious badger problem on Windmill Hill. NT, Historic England and Natural England are aware and doing what they can to manage, no clear/easy solution.</p> <p>11.4 SSt working hard on transport issues</p>	
12.	<p>Report from the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Panel</p> <p>Not met in the interim. Meeting on 20th November.</p>	
13.	<p>Report from Avebury & Stonehenge Archaeological and Historical Research Group</p> <p>Have received the following presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Technologies in Heritage Research – Virtual Avebury – Liz Falconer (Bournemouth University) • The use of Sarsen Stone in Britain. An archaeological and ethno-historical approach to an ancient industry - Katy Whitaker (University of Reading) • Living with Monuments Project: fieldwork at Butler's Field, Avebury, and Knoll Down, Summer 2018 – Josh Pollard (University of Southampton) and Ben Chan • Ongoing evaluations on the A303 - Chris Moore (AECOM) and Matt Leivers (Wessex Archaeology) • Preliminary Results and Implications of the Stonehenge Landscape EMI Project, 2016-2018 - Paul Garwood (University of Birmingham) <p>Managing the Research Framework – Dan Miles leading on this work and looking at how it can be kept up to date</p> <p>CS – developing a protocol for disposals for ASAHRG to adopt that will focus on Museum Association good practice and be annex to the Management Plan. This will also cover non- accessioned and private collections</p> <p>NS – note that the NT as an organisation is an Accredited Museum</p>	
14.	<p>Information exchange and AOB</p> <p>Action HO/SSi Send a card to Jan T</p>	HO/SSi
15.	<p>Dates of next meetings tbc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2019 <p>Action</p>	HO/HM

	<p>HO to send HM availability for April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday, 24th October 2019	
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