

Stonehenge an Avebury World Heritage Site Steering Committees Joint Meeting

Wednesday, 19th November 2014

10.30 AM – 1.00 PM

Lecture Hall, Wiltshire Museum, Devizes

MINUTES

Present: Roger Fisher (Amesbury PC/Chair of Stonehenge WHS Committee), Andrew Williamson (Avebury PC/Chair of Avebury WHS Committee), Alistair Sommerlad (Chair of the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Panel), Sarah Simmonds (Avebury WHS Officer), Beth Thomas (Stonehenge WHS Coordinator), Jan Tomlin (NT General Manager Wiltshire countywide), Richard Osgood (Senior Archaeologist, DIO), Henry Oliver (Director, North Wessex Downs AONB), Stephanie Payne (Land Advisor, Natural England), Robin Butler (Avebury Famers), Melanie Pomeroy Kellinger (County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council), Martin Northmore Ball (Fyfield and West Overton PC), Laura Gosling (Senior Transport Planner, Wiltshire Council), Pete Salvin (Transport Planner, Atkins), Kate Fielden (CPRE/Avebury Society), Bill Buxton Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton PC), David Andrews (VisitWiltshire), Cllr. Fred Westmoreland (Wiltshire Council/Amesbury Area Board), Richard Ormerod (Growth and Improvement Team), Richard C. Crook (Farmer, NFU, Amesbury TC), Philip Miles (CLA), Carol Slater (Shrewton PC)

		ACTION
1.0	<p>Introductions and apologies</p> <p>Roger Fisher (Chair Stonehenge WHS Committee) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first joint Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Steering Committees meeting.</p> <p>Laura Gosling and Pete Salvin have been invited to report on the Avebury WHS Transport Strategy</p> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrick Cashman – RSPB Ariane Crampton – Wiltshire Council Ed Halford – Highways Agency Nick Snashall – National Trust Gill Swanton – Avebury Environs Group/ASAHRG Kate Davies – English Heritage Andrew Shuttleworth – Winterbourne Stoke PC Cllr Jemima Milton – Wiltshire Council <p>Those attending introduced themselves.</p>	
2.0	<p>Avebury WHS Transport Strategy</p> <p>Laura Gosling, Senior Transport Planner, Wiltshire Council and Pete Salvin from Atkins introduced the final draft Avebury WHS Transport Strategy. This has been developed in close cooperation with the task and finish group made up of representatives of the Avebury WHS Steering Committee with Wiltshire Council's Highways consultant Atkins.</p>	

The project was funded by Wiltshire Council and North Wessex Downs AONB. The task and finish group was set up to steer the project for the WHS Steering Committee.

The WHS Transport Strategy is a report outlining the aspirations for the Avebury WHS based on the objectives agreed by the Steering Committee and refined by the task and finish group. It provides a holistic plan for future works. All major schemes will have to go through a detailed design process and the usual statutory procedures including wider public consultation. Funds will also need to be identified.

The key elements are Design Principles for the Avebury WHS which might in future be also applied in the Stonehenge WHS. This will need to be considered by the Stonehenge WHS Steering Committee. These Principles will guide any intervention within the WHS to ensure it protect and enhances the WHS's special characteristics. In addition there are a number of proposed schemes for the issues identified in the consultation process and the issues and objectives agreed by the Steering Committee in April 2013 following the review of the Avebury WHS Management Plan 2005.

The comments sent in by members of the WHS Committee following the circulation of the draft Strategy will all be included in the final report. The following points will be addressed in alternative ways:

(1) Sanctuary

- (a) Narrow A4 to provide a safer crossing point. The topography of this site (brow of hill) means there are a number of constraints
- (b) Footpaths in this area don't link well to other parts of the site. Extending the footpath to the Bell where it could link with other RoW would be an expensive and intrusive scheme because of the ground works required. The footpath network connectivity work will be taken forward as part of the Landscape Access Strategy include in WHS Management Plan 2015 (Policy 4c/Action 83). The establishment of permissive paths away from the carriageway should be considered.
- (c) 'Gateway' to WHS – the position signage west of the exact boundary is designed to affect driver behaviour and make them aware of possible pedestrians.
- (d) The works recommended on the A4 have been packaged together into one programme. This makes the works higher risk on deliverability due to the combined cost but Atkins believe that the schemes would have added benefits if delivered together.

Comments from the Committee included:

- (a) Andrew Williamson thanked the team for the hard work involved on developing these schemes. The schemes meet the aspirations of the Avebury Traffic Plan and other partners and were fully supported by the task and finish group. However, there is concern that the main A4 schemes (because they have been bundled together as one scheme) seem to be at risk of not being achieved at all. They are currently described in the text as one single scheme and the accompanying diagram shows the scheme as a large red circle. AW

	<p>felt it was a matter of presentation and if the schemes were split it would make it easier to find the required funding and the schemes will be more likely to be delivered. This split should also be reflected within the elements at different locations along the A4. It should be clarified that the smaller components e.g. lay-bys/bicycle parking could be delivered independently as funding becomes available. This should also be reflected in the pricing accompanying each project. Atkins maintained that the key holistic benefits will require all schemes to be implemented. They will however look at representing the schemes to ensure their value and relevance to the objectives is highlighted but they are presented as more deliverable.</p> <p>(b) <i>Could a 50 mph speed limit be implemented along the A4?</i> Atkins responded that a speed limit would not necessarily make substantial improvements and would require a good deal of signage/roadside clutter. It is believed that the interventions outlined would have more impact on driver behaviour and speed than a new speed limit.</p> <p>(c) <i>Some concern over the cost when there are other areas that are more dangerous than the Sanctuary.</i> It was noted that the scheme were not undertaken on the grounds of road safety and accident statistics but in order to meet the objectives of the Strategy based on those agreed by the Steering Committee in April 2013 following the review of the Management Plan 2005. The key objective in relationship to this scheme is to encourage better movement around the WHS, improved access, enjoyment and understanding.</p> <p>(d) <i>Some concern over signage on the approach to Overton Hill.</i> These could spoil views of Overton Hill. The exact position will be reviewed during development of the scheme to provide minimum intrusion but still influence driver behaviour.</p> <p>(e) <i>Closure of the B4003 was not popular with all members of the Avebury Society. The proposed scheme will best meet the objectives of the Transport Strategy but</i> Atkins noted that all schemes are subject to the normal public consultation and detailed design before they can be implemented. Wider views will be sought at this stage.</p> <p>(f) <i>WHS Gateway sign.</i> Would prefer this was at the marked boundary.</p> <p>Next steps – It was agreed that changes outlined above would be made as discussed and that the AW and RF would see the final document to sign off the changes on behalf of the Steering Committee. The Strategy will be presented to the Community Area Board. Opportunities for funding will then begin to be sought as appropriate. Community consultation will be undertaken as appropriate.</p>	
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Update on A303</p> <p>Alistair Sommerlad updated the meeting with progress so far on renewed proposals to a solution to the congestion on the A303 at Stonehenge and elsewhere on the route from Amesbury to Honiton/Taunton. We are awaiting an announcement at the Autumn Statement on 3 December. Key routes nationally were identified as bottlenecks to economic growth across England and A303/A338/A30 was one of those routes. Dft/HA set up a reference group for the SW Strategic Route and a number of studies have been undertaken. Several routes have been looked at and a</p>	

	<p>number of factors considered: economics, environment, heritage and natural environment. A bored tunnel has been identified as one of the options. No specific engineering solution has been identified. Kate Fielden commented that at the last meeting of the A303/A30/A358 Corridor Feasibility Study, that the recommendation was to consider a tunnel length of at least 2.9km. Recommendations have been made to the DfT and HM Treasury. The benefits to the SW and UK will be measured against the other routes identified in England.</p> <p>There have been a number of positive statements from the PM/DPM and Danny Alexander but until an announcement is made nothing has been agreed.</p> <p>The Partnership Panel is confident that there will be a commitment to fix the route to the SW and have agreed their position as “ We welcome a solution to the problem of the A303 that safeguards the WHS and its OUV”. Funds will at this stage be committed to develop the programme further which key stakeholders will be participating in.</p> <p>Comments from the committee included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Concern was raised over the impact on traffic from the MoD developments. It was noted that transport assessments have been done to assess the effect of the new housing. (b) Was the recent work on traffic in the Stonehenge area undertaken by Atkins for Wiltshire Council? Atkins noted that the work there was of a different nature to the WHS Transport Strategy. (c) Concern about the length of tunnel and impact on the WHS and that key partners may have mis-read the ICOMOS HIA document. (d) It was noted that members of the Avebury WHS were interested in future schemes for the A303. Any loss of WHS status would be damaging for Avebury. The Government should clear any A303 projects with ICOMOS and UNESCO to ensure that the WHS status is protected. <p>Richard Ormerod noted that the Autumn Statement was just the beginning of the process and that a feasibility study for the dualling of the whole length of the A303/A338/A30 is due to report shortly. Planning permission as a Development Consent Order, almost certainly involving Environmental Impact Assessment and a Public Examination, will be required before any works commence. The programme will be a phased work plan, to manage the disruption that will be caused by such a large and lengthy programme of works.</p>	
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Consultation Draft</p> <p>Sarah Simmonds led this item. She thanked those partners who had helped in the drafting of the Plan and provided comments during its development. The process began in 2012 with a review of the Avebury 2005 Management Plan which included a wider stakeholder workshop, professional focus groups, drop-in sessions and web questionnaires. Stonehenge underwent a similar review in 2013 after the decision to produce a joint Management Plan for the WHS.</p> <p>In July 2014 the Aims, policies and actions were signed off by both Steering Committees.</p> <p>The whole document was copy edited during October following drafting by</p>	

	<p>the Coordination Unit with assistance from members of the Management Plan Project Board.</p> <p>The strategic direction should have been set following agreement of the aims, policies and actions in July but this is the opportunity to raise any major issues of balance, omission and other key areas for change that will need to be agreed at this meeting. Committee members should send small corrections in detail by Wednesday 26 November. No further comments could be accepted to the text for the public consultation draft after this date.</p> <p>The 12-week public consultation will be launched in the w/c 8 December. Following the close of the public consultation comments will be considered and a report provided to the Management Plan Project Board. The Steering Committees will be asked to review the proposed changes before agreeing the final WHS Management Plan for publication. The launch is planned in May.</p>	
4.1	<u>Comments from Steering Committees</u>	
4.1.1	<p><i>How have landowners and tenants of the WHS been consulted?</i> RESPONSE: Landowners and tenants have been invited to stakeholder workshops. There is an action (Policy 3f/Action 54) to develop and improve relationships with farmers. ACTION: The WHS Coordination Unit agreed to arrange meetings with farmers and landowners in Avebury and Stonehenge during the public consultation process.</p>	WHSCU
4.1.2	<p><i>Need to add an equal opportunities statement at 1.7</i> RESPONSE: The following text has been added: <i>1.7 Equal Opportunities</i></p> <p>The World Heritage Site has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) ensure that in its actions and policies these have a due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited under this Act; (ii) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; (iii) foster good relationships between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. <p>The Management Principles set out in section 15.2 enshrine the way that the WHS will work to foster good relationships between partners and work with the local community. In addition, all partners have a responsibility to comply with the Equality Act as it applies to their organisation.</p>	
4.1.3	<p><i>2.7.4 – delete reference to Michael Dames publication.</i> RESPONSE: Text amended as follows: 2.7.4 Similar speculation takes place at Avebury. Although as yet no compelling evidence has ...The English Heritage-led conservation project of 2007 points to a monument built up over several generations with each</p>	

	phase having a meaning to the society who added it: an extended 'Big Society' project. ¹ Alternative, or what might be termed new age, theories abound.-	
4.1.4	<p>5.9.2 – need to include more detail on the support provided to the WHSCU by Wiltshire Council in terms of hosting and related overhead costs.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Text inserted: WHS Coordination Unit funding</p> <p>5.9.3 The WHS Coordination Unit was formed in March 2014 and is hosted by the Archaeology Service of Wiltshire Council at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. Wiltshire Council provides accommodation, administrative support and day to day management support.</p>	
4.1.5	<p>Roads – these are required as part of a living landscape and cannot be removed entirely. It is important to reduce the impact – check tone.</p> <p>RESPONSE: This is reflected in section 11.1.1</p>	
4.1.6	<p>Planning Policy 7.0 – UNESCO WH Convention should be mentioned in this section</p> <p>RESPONSE: Text amended: 7.1.1 Details of UNESCO's policy and guidance which constitutes the international framework for the management of the WHS can be found in Section 4.1. The UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972) represents the first layer of protection for all World Heritage Sites in the UK.</p>	
4.1.7	<p>9.2.4 It was agreed that the impact is the key: physical, character of the area and residents. Should make it clear that the Tourism Strategy will look at how to achieve "wise growth".</p> <p>ACTION: David Andrews will send information on "wise growth" which looks at developing growth but in a wise way.</p> <p>9.2.5 – what does growth mean? Visitor numbers or spend? Emphasise this that any related increase in visitors would need to be at low season and not have negative impacts on the WHS.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Text amended as follows:</p> <p>Wise Growth</p> <p>9.2.5 The tourism sector use the term "wise growth" which recognises that any growth should take into account the need to protect those aspects of our cultural and natural heritage which draw visitors from both within the UK and from overseas. Wise growth within the WHS would focus on increasing revenue rather than visitor numbers.</p> <p>9.2.5 There is a need to balance the wider economic and employment benefits of tourism with its impact on the WHS. Adverse impacts on both the WHS and the local community should be avoided. A balanced WHS Sustainable Tourism Strategy should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Protecting and</u> enhancing the quality of the historic environment • Enhancing the quality of the visitor experience • Managing the number and timing of visits • Monitoring the impact on the community amenity • Providing a net benefit to the local community and economy • Exploring ways that the profits of tourism could benefit conservation and interpretation 	DA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the sustainability of archaeological collections from the WHS • Collaborating with, and complementing, rather than competing with, other attractions in the region • Ensuring maximum and coordinated use of public transport to get to and from the WHS • Ensuring adequate transport infrastructure to assist the tourist trade and tour operators in accessing the WHS and the wider area • Encouraging private tour companies and guides to provide sustainable tourism experiences • Appropriate and sustainable regeneration opportunities • Skills development and apprenticeship opportunities across the wide range of sectors involved in the management of the WHS from tourism and leisure to heritage and nature conservation (Policy 4b/Action 78) • Improving access for walking, cycling, horse riding and activity holidays • Securing appropriate low impact accommodation • Developing a managed events programme throughout the year and across the WHS. • <p>In addition changes made to the VisitWiltshire introduction</p> <p>VisitWiltshire</p> <p>9.1.8 VisitWiltshire is the Destination Marketing and Management Organisation for Wiltshire ... Customer Relations Management, digital marketing, social media and other trade and press activity. <u><i>The draft Destination Management and Development Plan² produced by Visit Wiltshire in 2014 reflects the aims, policies and actions of the WHS Management Plan including the development of a WHS Tourism Strategy in partnership with the WHS. It recognises the importance of the WHS to the visitor economy of Wiltshire but also notes that “the WHS has to strike a balance between meeting the needs of visitors, the environment and community interests”.</i></u></p>	
<p>4.1.8</p>	<p>8.4.11 – farmers will need sufficient economic incentives through stewardship payments to ensure grassland reversion schemes are extended</p> <p>RESPONSE:</p> <p>Text amended:</p> <p>8.4.13 In the WHS there is a track record for the extension of permanent wildlife rich grassland to deliver multiple benefits including nature conservation, amenity, archaeological conservation and landscape benefits. There is however a real risk that farmers and landowners will be reluctant to renew agreements unless incentives are adequate to make economic sense. The WHS Coordination Unit will continue to advocate at a national level for the historic environment and the special case of the WHS as well as the need for adequate incentives for farmers. (Policy 3f/Action 52)</p>	
<p>4.1.9</p>	<p>9.3.25 & 3.2.16 - Drapes – not just local community that don’t like the drapes. Don’t want to see more of these if possible. A review of their efficacy suitability against other methods of erosion control should be considered. There was a suggestion that access could be denied but this requires a balance between access and conservation and in particular the free access which is so valued at Avebury. AW expressed concern that the drapes were a response to historic visitor damage and suggested that further damage should be avoided rather than installing further drapes.</p> <p>RESPONSE:</p> <p>Text does not refer to “local community” but “stakeholders”. No change made to Action 76:</p> <p>Add words “Carry out informal review to consider whether equally effective and</p>	

² <http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/partners-and-advertising/tourism-strategy>

	safe yet less visually intrusive alternatives to the “drapes” are available to prevent erosion on henge banks <u>whilst allowing access.</u> ”	
4.1.10	<p>9.3.16 – add quote from Which? Article to demonstrate the special qualities of Avebury</p> <p>RESPONSE: Text Amended</p> <p>9.3.16 Avebury was voted the second best World Heritage Site experience by <i>Which?</i> Travel magazine in January 2013 citing “the quiet, bucolic setting, the lack of crowds and the ability to wander freely” and “ In very few places in the world are monuments of such importance left alone to gently integrate with the landscape.”</p>	
4.1.11	<p>9.2.1 & 9.2.5 – protection is important</p> <p>RESPONSE: Text amended as follows: Sustainable tourism</p> <p>9.2.1 The word ‘sustainable’ is used in a number of contexts. In this context, the UNESCO definition of sustainable tourism as ‘tourism that respects both local people and the traveller, cultural heritage and the environment’³ or the United Nations World Tourism Organisation’s definition: ‘<i>tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities</i>’⁴ seem the most appropriate. The ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Charter (1999)⁵ provides useful guidance on the management of tourism at places of heritage significance in a sustainable manner It advises “tourism promotion programmes should protect and enhance Natural and Cultural Heritage characteristics.”⁶</p> <p>9.2.5 Protecting has been added to first bullet point so now reads: <u>Protecting and</u> enhancing the quality of the historic environment (see 4.1.7 above)</p>	
4.1.12	<p>Section 8.0 - Farmers and conservation issues. The farming community are essential delivery partners. It isn’t possible to meet before the public consultation process starts but as per the note at 4.1.1 above, WHSCU have committed to providing an opportunity for farmers to hear about the MP during the consultation process.</p> <p>It was noted that the Partnership Panel had raised the possibility of asking Amanda Chadburn now with the Rural Advice Team to talk to WHS partners. Dawn Enright, Historic Environment Adviser for Natural England would also be able to provide useful background information on the national context. It was proposed that a meeting should be held in January 2015 when more information on the Countryside Stewardship schemes should be available. The NWDAONB would also like to be involved in the Avebury meeting. This may be too soon as details of the schemes may not be available in January. A separate meeting later in the year may be more appropriate. To be reviewed.</p> <p>See related comment above 4.1.8</p>	WHSCU
4.1.13	<p>9.3.35 / 10.1.10 – some from the home countries of the UK do not use English as their first language and this should be recognised.</p> <p>Text amended as follows:</p>	

³ http://www.unesco.org/education/tlsf/mods/theme_c/mod16.html

⁴ <http://sdt.unwto.org/content/about-us-5>

⁵ www.international.icomos.org/charters/tourism_e.pdf

⁶ ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Charter (1999 Principle 6)

	<p>Visitors from overseas 9.3.35 Finally, as a World Heritage Site, Stonehenge and Avebury perhaps have to be particularly aware of the <u>needs of visitors to the site whose first language is not English</u>. Information needs to be available and proactively marketed to target markets on web sites for visitors from overseas planning their visit and then at site itself in terms of interpretation and other facilities. A review of what information is available in key languages needs to be undertaken and action taken to fill any gaps that are identified. (Policy 4a/Action 75)</p> <p>Needs of non-English speakers 10.1.10 As a World Heritage Site it is essential that <u>the needs of visitors whose first language is not English</u> are considered when developing interpretation provision in both parts of the WHS, and that both digital and on-site information is provided in a range of appropriate languages. (Policy 5a/Action 96)</p>	
4.1.14	<p>11.0 – no mention of aircraft – microlights etc (particularly at weekends) these should be minimised –sentence should be added regarding overflying RESPONSE: TEXT ADDED AS FOLLOWS: Aircraft and setting 8.3.17 The setting of the WHS includes all aspects of the environment in which the attributes of OUV can be experienced. Low flying by aircraft represents an intrusion in the setting and detracts from the WHS Vision of rural and tranquil environment for the WHS. The WHS Coordination Unit should look for opportunities to work with civilian and military partners to avoid over flying the WHS.</p>	
4.1.15	<p>Light pollution – this should be included as part of the review of the impact of the Visitor Centre at Stonehenge. The roundabouts at Stonehenge considered an issue by some. Add a mention of light pollution. RESPONSE: Text amended as follows: 8.3.15 Continuing developments in the science of environmental archaeology means A WHS Landscape Strategy should consider new developments such as the new visitor centre at Stonehenge and its impact and whether any additional screening or other works might be appropriate. <u>This study should consider whether light pollution is an issue and if so how it can be addressed.</u> (Policy 3c/Action 35) As our understanding of the historic landscape increases new challenges will emerge in relation to its management. (Policy 3c/Action 32)</p>	
4.1.16	<p>12.0 – Policy 7a – should refer to encouraging “non- invasive” . Need to ensure that Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Research Framework and MP do not contradict each other. In text include that project design should include non-invasive work in advance of any proposed excavations RESPONSE: Text Amended as follows: 12.2.9 Following the process set out in SARF prior to undertaking research will also help to encourage sustainable research. <u>Project design should demonstrate appropriate use of non-invasive techniques before any planned excavations.</u> A project design should be submitted to the National Trust for research on their land and to English Heritage if it involves a scheduled monument. ASHRG should be involved early in the process in an advisory role.</p>	

	Please also refer to the text at 12.2.7 & 12.2.8 for more detail	
4.1.17	<p>Principle 6 – Can it be more succinct? Text Amended as follows:</p> <p>Principle 6: The Management Plan will support <i>sustainable development</i>; seeking to integrate conservation with responsible use within acceptable limits, to allow economic development and improved quality of life where it does not have a negative impact on the WHS and its attributes of OUV.</p>	
4.1.18	<p>Appendices – do we need them all? Appendix J – ICOMOS Charter has been removed Appendix M – List of issues has been removed</p>	
4.1.19	<p>Cover of the MP – should be from the two steering committees and the logos of key partners. Names of the authors include on the inside page RESPONSE: Suggestions Noted</p>	
5.0	<p>Report from WHS Partnership Panel Alistair Sommerlad noted that the last meeting held in October at the Salisbury Museum concentrated on :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport (A303 and Avebury WHS Transport Strategy) • Local Authority World Heritage Forum – moving to World Heritage UK • MOD rebasing programme • Royal Artillery proposed Military Experience museum at Larkhill • Arts events in helping to promote the WHS and interpreting the landscape through Chalke Valley History Festival and the Salisbury Festival which is increasingly spreading its programme over other parts of Wiltshire • Management Plan 2015 	
6.0	<p>ASAHRG Report Colin Shell noted that ASAHRG met in September at the Salisbury Museum. The following items were on the agenda: Stonehenge and Avebury Research Framework WHS Management Plan: Research Section Presentations from commercial company on work undertaken at near the East Kennet long barrow for an HLS application Update on the Between the Monuments project at Avebury Vince Gaffney (University of Bradford) Hidden Landscapes project. This featured recently on TV. It is clear that there is a vast amount of data that still needs to be analysed and more information will be available in 12 – 18 months time.</p>	
7.0	<p>Partner Updates Verbal reports received from:</p>	
7.1	<p>Avebury PC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on World Heritage fund for Avebury as a pilot for a bigger project to cover both parts of the WHS. Looking at setting up a charitable trust to raise small amounts of money to fund projects related to the Management Plan actions. Plans include supporting the Between the Monuments Project in 2015. • Flood prevention works have been taking place • Have been examining charity runs/walks and their impact on the 	

	<p>WHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avebury Day in September went very well with over 1000 people attending. Sarah Simmonds represented the WHS with a stand on the day. • Summer solstice went well 	
7.2	<p><u>Amesbury TC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the History Centre is progressing with money now received from the developer. Working with Cllr Westmoreland and others to look at how the money should be spent. • Blick Mead – work took place at this archaeological site for 2 weeks in October. Further information will be announced in due course. • Neighbourhood Plan for Amesbury is in early stages and will take around 2 years to complete. Stonehenge WHS Coordinator is on steering group. • Looking at new shop and TIC in Amesbury. 	
7.3	<p><u>RSPB</u></p> <p>Written update received in the absence of Patrick Cashman. Highlights include the extension of the stone curlew plots at Normanton Down and the success of the joint wildlife leaflet with the National Trust.</p>	
7.4	<p><u>North Wessex Downs AONB</u></p> <p>Henry Oliver noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NWDAONB has highlighted the opportunities given by the historic environment in the NWDAONB area which includes Avebury. Awaiting final details of the new Countryside Stewardship schemes. • Ridgeway National Trails is in the process of splitting into 2 separate groups. The Ridgeway Partnership is the group that will be responsible for the Avebury part of the Ridgeway. The shadow board met for the first time on 3 November and expects to take over fully in April 2015. The partnership includes representatives from Natural England, WHS and National Trust. The Partnership will have a broader remit and look at wider opportunities along the Ridgeway corridor. • The NWDAONB has been finalising its own Management Plan 2014-2019. Once adopted locally it will be forwarded to the Secretary of State by the local authority. • A new Chair is required for the NWDAONB. Contact HO if you would like to know more about this role. <p>HO was asked about the status of the Great Stones Way. HO responded that no public funding was given to this project but there is publicity for it and way markers have been seen along the route.</p>	
7.5	<p><u>MoD/DIO</u></p> <p>Richard Osgood noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerable amount of time has been spent on the MoD rebasing project including geo-physical survey work (outside of the WHS boundary) which will be included in the planning application. • The Digging War Horse project has been taking place this autumn at Durrington Down Farm on the site of the WWI Horse Isolation Hospital. The project has included some geophysics, test pits excavated by Julian Richards with the help of school children, wounded soldiers from Tedworth House, trainee soldiers and volunteers. A successful open day was held. 	

7.6	<p><u>Natural England</u></p> <p>Stephanie Payne noted that: NELMS target statements are still available for consultation on the Local Nature Partnership website. Contact Stephanie Payne if you want to know more.</p> <p>Working on HLS application at East Kennet</p> <p>Hare coursing has been a particular issue at Stonehenge and one landowner in particular has been looking at trenching to prevent access from 4x4 vehicles but is mindful of the possible archaeological damage. Discussions are ongoing.</p>	
7.7	<p><u>Fyfield and West Overton PC</u></p> <p>PC have objected to the scheme at Manor Farm housing development at West Overton.</p>	
7.8	<p><u>Avebury Society</u></p> <p>Have written to UNESCO with concerns regarding the proposals for the A303</p>	
7.9	<p><u>CPRE</u></p> <p>CPRE is a member of the Stonehenge Alliance which has written to UNESCO with concerns and now has a 38 degrees petition asking for a 4.5km tunnel for the A303. There is also a Stonehenge Alliance Facebook page.</p> <p>Stonehenge Alliance has copied its correspondence to UNESCO with the Secretary of State for Transport.</p>	
7.10	<p><u>VisitWiltshire</u></p> <p>David Andrews reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been a good year for tourism in Wiltshire. • There has been a lot of interest in Wiltshire and the WHS at national and international level and with group travel organisers. • VisitWiltshire has produced an <u>Accommodation Supply and Demand Study</u> which lists gaps in the types of accommodation provision and opportunities for growth. Site availability is a barrier to this further growth. • A <u>Wiltshire Brand Positioning and Destination Management and Development Plan</u> have been launched. Funding was provided by the LEP. 	
7.11	<p><u>Highways Agency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any proposals for developments of the A303 will take some time until completion and so the HA will continue to keep the A303 under review. • Resurfacing works are due east of Countess Road in January and works to renew signage are also due to be undertaken. 	
7.12	<p><u>Wiltshire Museum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The museum has seen a doubling of visitor numbers since the opening of the Gold at the Time of Stonehenge exhibition opened • An archaeological conference will be held on Saturday 18 April 2015 at the Corn Exchange. This is also World Heritage Day. A number of good speakers are lined up. 	
7.13	<p><u>English Heritage</u></p> <p>Phil McMahon reported that a good deal of his time has been taken up with work related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A303 proposals, • advice to the Royal Artillery Museum team, 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoD housing developments • Avebury WHS Transport Strategy • Trying to progress the proposed works for the West Kennet long barrow 	
7.14	<p><u>Shrewton PC</u></p> <p>Carole Slater reported that: Shrewton PC has been working on its Neighbourhood Plan for sometime and a second draft is expected Spring 2015. They have been working in particular on footpaths from Shrewton to the new Visitor Centre and circular walks around the village.</p>	
8.0	Information exchange and AOB	
8.1	<p><u>Question raised on the empty shop in the High Street Avebury</u></p> <p>NT confirmed that this building is in need of renovation. The property existing budget is not sufficient to cover the estimated repairs and so the team have applied to central funds for the work. Awaiting a decision on this. The National Trust confirmed that is intended to keep this as a mixed use property.</p>	
8.2	<p><u>Boundary signs to Avebury</u></p> <p>These are looking very tired now. What are the plans? SS noted that there is an action in the 2015 MP (Policy 5e/Action 125) to deal with this. It is intended to seek their replacement early in the implementation of the new Plan.</p>	
8.3	<p>Carole Slater congratulated Beth and Sarah on the very impressive draft Plan and thanked them for all their hard work on preparing it. The Committee seconded this.</p>	
9.0	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The two Chairs of the Steering Committees have indicated that they wish to have separate meetings to agree the final copy of the WHS Management Plan after the public consultation process.</p> <p>To provide some flexibility in the production programme of the Management Plan the committee were asked to pencil in TWO dates in their diary in April 2015.</p> <p>AVEBURY: Friday 10 April and Monday 13 April 2015 STONEHENGE: Thursday 9 April and Wednesday 16 April 2015</p> <p>The Coordination Unit will inform the Committee members of the confirmed date as soon as is practically possible.</p>	