

Stonehenge World Heritage Site Committee Meeting

Thursday 17th March 2016

Antrobus House, Amesbury

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Roger Fisher (Chair/Amesbury Town Council), Grant Lock (ICOMOS UK), John Mills (Durrington TC), Carole Slater (Shrewton PC), Andrew Shuttleworth (Winterbourne Stoke PC), Richard Osgood (MoD), Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (County Archaeologist), Philip Miles (CLA), Richard Crook (NFU/Amesbury TC), Nick Snashall (NT), Jan Tomlin (NT), Patrick Cashman (RSPB), Cllr Fred Westmoreland (Community Area Board/Wiltshire Council), Norman Parker (Amesbury Society), Cllr Ian West (Community Area Board/Wiltshire Council), Kate Davies (English Heritage), David Dawson (Wiltshire Museum), Phil McMahon (Historic England), Colin Shell (ASAHRG), Stephanie Payne (Natural England)

1.0	Introductions and apologies Apologies received from: Rachel Sandy (Highways England) and David Andrews (VisitWiltshire)	
2.0	Agree minutes of last meeting & matters arising Minutes of the last meeting on 24 September were accepted with the amendment requested by Cllr Shuttleworth of Winterbourne Stoke PC at 9d. No matters arising	
3.0	Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan	
3.1	Endorsing the Plan Endorsement now received from majority of key partners. Outstanding endorsements from Ministry of Defence Awaiting a response from VisitWiltshire GL offered to help if ICOMOS UK endorsement is required. Winterbourne Stoke PC and Shrewton PC have not endorsed the Management Plan at the current time but are keen to maintain their engagement with the WHS Committee. Winterbourne Stoke require evidence of effective monitoring of the WHS before they can endorse the Management Plan.	
3.2	WHS Coordination Unit Action Plan A table was circulated in advance of the WHS Coordination Unit action plan for 2016/17. This fulfils Action 171 of the Management Plan. The annual action plan is for the Coordination Unit as a whole and forms part of BT and SS's job plan for the year ahead. Although BT and SS were taking a lead on these actions, success in meeting the plan relied on the cooperation of the lead and key partners for each action.	
3.3	Stonehenge WHS Committee priority actions RF and BT had prepared a list of actions for the Stonehenge WHS Committee to focus on based on the Action Plan within the Management Plan.	

	<p>Action 2 Most members of the committee have already endorsed the Plan and those remaining are on track for later this year.</p> <p>Action 36 This action is held over from the previous Management Plan and will involve Wiltshire Council, the National Trust and English Heritage looking at the options for improved management of the Site including litter control. ACTION: BT will be in touch to arrange an initial meeting with the relevant parties including Durrington TC and Amesbury PC after Easter to begin looking at this issue.</p> <p>Action 98 The initial review of the 2010 Stonehenge Interpretation Learning and Participation Strategy has taken place. The 2010 Plan focused on the Stonehenge Environmental Improvement Project. New actions are still to be developed and will look at the wider WHS.</p> <p>CS noted a meeting for teachers to find out about teaching prehistory in London which was very popular. ACTION: CS to provide BT the details so that she could investigate further.</p> <p>Action 118 The intention was to look at ways of developing a digital version of the very successful Avebury Resident's Pack. Work on this has not yet started.</p> <p>Action 143 Members of the committee were generally in favour of looking at downgrading byways 11 & 12 to bridleways. There are issues of damage to fields and fences from hare coursers as well as damage to archaeology and littering along the byway. There was a fatality in December 2014 at byway 11. Amesbury TC, RSPB and landowners have contacted Wiltshire Council requesting the byways to be downgraded. At a recent meeting of farmers in the WHS there was general agreement that the byways should be downgraded. PC noted that the RSPB were concerned about the damage to fences, potentially livestock escaping onto the A303 and disturbance to wildlife. Removing vehicle access would reduce these threats. Cllr West noted that the current uncertainty surrounding the A303 and what the final solution will be means that, for some, taking action now will be too soon as the effect of any solution to congestion on the A303 should be seen before making a final decision. The new A303 arrangements may remove the necessity. Cllr Shuttleworth was also not in favour of downgrading the byways.</p> <p>Action 148 There is currently a review of bus services within Wiltshire Council. The Committee agreed that a bus service linking Shrewton-Stonehenge - Larkhill-Amesbury would be of benefit to staff working at the centre, the new</p>	<p>BT</p> <p>CS</p>
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	<p>rebased military families and residents. This would reduce the need for staff parking spaces at Stonehenge.</p> <p>CS noted that there was a “Connect” bus service in Avebury which enabled people to connect to the 49 bus service to and from Swindon to Devizes and Trowbridge. There is a “Connect2” service serving the Bourne and Avon Valleys at the present time.</p> <p>http://www.wiltshirecommunitytransport.org.uk/passengers/local-community-transport-schemes/tidworth/community-minibus-mpv-schemes/689-community-transport-south-wiltshire-avon-bourne-valley-community-bus-connect-2-wiltshire-service</p> <p>Action: BT was asked to respond to the Wiltshire Council bus review on behalf of the WHS Committee noting the need identified above.</p> <p>In addition, BT was asked to add Action 176 to the list of priorities. This action is “Revise the WHS monitoring indicators to ensure they encompass all relevant impacts on the WHS and its attributes of OUV. Ensure the WHS partners put them in place.” (see also Action 28) This would meet Cllr Shuttleworth’s concerns that the WHS Committee does not monitor the work of the WHS satisfactorily.</p> <p>The priorities were accepted with the addition of Action 176 to the list.</p>	<p>BT</p> <p>BT</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>World Heritage Site Coordination Unit update</p> <p>A written report was submitted in advance to the Committee. The report was a brief summary of the work of the WHS Coordination Unit. BT highlighted in particular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the publication of a new WHS leaflet, copies of which were available at the meeting. • <i>Megalith</i> 2016 is beginning to be prepared. Please pass on any information for articles to BT after Easter. • 30th anniversary events and 30th anniversary conference taking place on 19 & 20 November. 	
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Reports from Partners on implementing the plan</p>	
<p>5.1</p>	<p>Natural England- Stephanie Payne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England have endorsed the Management Plan (Action 2) • Natural England met with WHS Coordination Unit to look at how the Management Plan actions might be implemented. There are many areas that link with the Natural England area plan • Natural England continues ongoing management of stewardship schemes in the area to protect archaeology and enhance bio-diversity • Natural England is currently working with a landowner whose existing scheme comes to an end this summer to explore options under the new stewardship scheme. Historic England and others will be consulted as usual. • Working on advice for metal detecting (Action 21) • Internal discussions have been held regarding developing a burrowing animal strategy (Action 16). Next step is to hold a meeting with relevant partners to discuss the scope of the project. The project is likely to consider a survey of territories and case studies. At the recent farmers meeting those that attended indicated that they were 	

	<p>interested in being involved and carrying out monitoring. Some training might be required for this to ensure consistency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England hopes to look further at measures to improve wildlife in the next financial year. <p>Cllr West asked about badger damage at the Winterbourne Stoke long barrow. This barrow is in private ownership. SP replied that the strategy should help to identify suitable methods of protecting archaeological features without leading to damage on other features.</p> <p>Cllr Shuttleworth noted that meshing did not always stop rabbits. SP replied that this is the kind of issue that will be considered.</p>	
<p>5.2</p>	<p>Wiltshire Council – Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Council have recently endorsed the Plan (Action 2) • The HLC project for Wiltshire is near completion with the draft report being finalised following peer review. There will be a launch in May for key stakeholders. Part of the project involved case studies of the WHS. Tom Sunley who managed the project could give a presentation at a future WHS committee meeting. All the information will be available on-line when complete. • An internal meeting has been held to consider Durrington Walls/Woodhenge. (Action 36) • The Arts Symposium was held in November 2015. (Action 122) • Work has been progressing on the development of the gateway signs for Avebury and Stonehenge. Avebury the existing signs will be replaced. At Stonehenge signs are proposed for Stonehenge Inn roundabout, Woodford Valley, Stonehenge Road West Amesbury and on Fargo Road. Money is required for the production and installation of the Stonehenge signs. The cost of the Avebury signs will be met fully by the Highways Department. (Action 125) 	
<p>5.3</p>	<p>MoD – Richard Osgood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management Plan has not yet been endorsed but is currently being considered by the appropriate team within MoD. • Geophysical survey was undertaken at Robin Hood’s Ball. • Environmental surveys related to the redundant sewage infrastructure on the Cursus has been completed and it is intended to remove the spill way chambers and pipelines in the next financial year, subject to the necessary permissions. (Action 43) • Quinquennial review of the scheduled monuments on the Salisbury Plain Training Area was recently completed and the results will be available in due course. • There has been a great deal of archaeological field work related to the army rebasing project development in Larkhill and Bulford. This has been showing very interesting results which will be announced in due course. • DIO is working with Historic England and others to consider the most appropriate solution for the lighting on a new roundabout on the Packway to access the new housing area.(Action 11) • DIO is currently engaging with RAM Ltd over the location of the proposed Salisbury Plain Heritage Centre 	

	CS noted expressed concern over the proximity of the proposed officers' quarters close to the Knighton Down long barrow. PM replied that there has been a good deal of engagement with the DIO team responsible for the project to mitigate any potential impact on this important archaeological feature which is mentioned in the nomination document for the WHS.	
5.4	Country Landowners Association – Philip Miles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLA has not yet endorsed the Plan. PM is chasing. 	
5.5	NFU – Richard Crook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC noted that the recent farmers' meeting was a success 	
5.6	English Heritage Trust– Kate Davies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 2 - plan has been endorsed by English Heritage Trust • Action 19 & 22 – Conservation statements are being reviewed and the conservation statement for Stonehenge is nearly complete. Stone carvings and the stones are regularly recorded and monitored • Action 38 – Conservation work at the West Kennet Long Barrow in Avebury was completed shortly before Christmas and the works are now bedding in. • Actions 90 & 91 – EHT is currently reviewing with all partners the organisation of the open access observances and in particular the summer solstice. The aim is stem the upward trend in attendances and to improve behaviour in order to protect the WHS. These proposals are currently out to consultation. Conclusions will be announced in due course. • Action 127 – EHT has been working with the Unit and NT on the design and location of a WHS plaque • EHT has been working with the Unit to badge events for the WHS 30th anniversary. <p>CLlr Shuttleworth noted that there had been positive engagement recently with EHT which was appreciated by the parish council.</p>	
5.7	National Trust – Nick Snashall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NT were involved in the review of the SILPS 2010 • NT involved in the WHS Arts Framework • NT met with Historic England and the Unit to discuss the scoping of the WHS Setting Study • NT has been working with the Historic England Heritage at Risk Officer to carry out works in the NT estate including King Barrow Ridge. • Hidden Landscape project will be carrying out some targeted work in various points in the landscape to calibrate some of their previous work in advance of publishing their results next year. • NT has a busy events programme with 25 events this year. Many of these are badged as 30th anniversary events. In particular the NT will be launching their WHS Walking Challenge on 18 April (World Heritage Day) which has been sponsored by Cotswold Outdoors • EH and NT have worked together to hold 3 training sessions for the popular Stones and Bones Discovery Visit managed by EH. • Rangers are monitoring and undertaking improvement works at Durrington and in the wooded area close to Winterbourne Stoke long barrow. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At Durrington Walls in the first 2 weeks of August some targeted excavations will take place. This is a joint project between the Hidden Landscapes and Stonehenge Riverside Projects to ground truth the recent geophysical findings. The Stonehenge WHS committee will be invited to see these excavations and there will also be NT volunteers on hand throughout the excavation period to answer questions from the public. <p>CS asked if a “live feed” had been considered to reduce the impact from visitors to the site. NS replied that this has not been arranged but the NT could explore this option. However, as with the recent Avebury Avenue excavations it was intended to have a very active social media presence using the twitter and Facebook accounts and the FragmentNTs blog posted by the NT.</p>	
<p>5.8</p>	<p>Wiltshire Museum – David Dawson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WANHS has endorsed the Management Plan (Action 2) A number of events have been badged as 30th anniversary events Wiltshire Museum, The Salisbury Museum and Dorset County Museum have all been involved in an exhibition at the Mamuz Museum in Mistelbach, Austria. This is to showcase the findings of the recent Hidden Landscape project. http://www.mamuz.at/en/the-museum Action 156 - There are currently discussions with Wiltshire Council regarding a solution to the county wide storage issue for museums. Currently just one archaeological contractor is storing 26m³ and there is more and more being found each year as part of the work carried out by developers and projects like Operation Nightingale. 	
<p>5.9</p>	<p>Historic England – Phil McMahon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic England has endorsed the Management Plan (Action 2) HE has met with the Coordination Unit to discuss the scope of the Setting Study which is seen as a priority action due to the development pressures in the area (Action 15) The Development management team has been working together with a number of other stakeholders on the MoD rebasing project. HE has been working on the emerging plans for the Salisbury Plain Heritage Centre. HE has been working with MoD on the redundant sewage structures and hopes that further work can be undertaken in the future to reduce the impact of the current sewage arrangements on the WHS. (Actions 43/44) HE continues to work with Wiltshire Council, English Heritage and the National Trust and Highways England on the optioneering for the A303 project(Action 133) HE presented to ASHRG on the recent archaeological field work south of the A303. The full results will be available May 2016. HE has been involved in the discussions regarding excavations at Durrington Walls planned for later this year and additional Hidden Landscape investigations with results expected in 2017. Heritage at Risk Officer has been working with partners to look at damage caused by burrowing animals, vegetation and visitor erosion. 	

<p>5.10</p>	<p>RSPB – Patrick Cashman Action 2 – RSPB have endorsed the Management Plan</p> <p><u>Management Plan Policy 3g + h, Action 52</u> Floristic enhancements Landowner, Rachel Hosier, has undertaken floristic enhancements of the grasslands in the nature reserve in the autumn of 2015. Carried out under a Natural England Environmental Stewardship agreement wildflower seed brush harvested from flower-rich areas of Salisbury Plain was sown into the developing chalk grasslands.</p> <p>Managing for biodiversity After several sets of electric fencing chargers had been misappropriated the electric fencing of barrows to maintain a tussocky sward for invertebrates has been found unsustainable. In consultation with Historic England a new 460m fence-line has been erected outside the Scheduled Ancient Monument areas to compartmentalize the main area of barrows from the rest of the reserve. This was funded as part of the HLF “Save Our Magnificent Meadows” project, and will facilitate a lighter grazing regime over this area which will be compatible to the interests of the rare invertebrates, chalk grassland butterflies and to provide an insect rich foraging ground for lapwing and stone-curlew.</p> <p><u>Management Plan Policy 4a, Action 73</u> Access & Interpretation The RSPB is hosting guided walk for the Wiltshire Archaeology and Natural History Society on the afternoon of 17th March 2016 on its Normanton Down nature reserve with archaeologist, Dr. David Field, to explore this key part of the Normanton Down barrow group.</p>	
<p>5.11</p>	<p>ICOMOS UK – Grant Lock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GL said that he is available as a point of contact between the WHS and ICOMOS UK 	
<p>5.12</p>	<p>Amesbury Society/Amesbury History Centre – Norman Parker The two groups continue to work together to keep the History Centre open and work towards a permanent solution to the premises. They are developing a timeline of 11,000 years of history in Amesbury. The potential of the History Centre is enormous for the future. NP said that the History Centre would appreciate referrals from Stonehenge Visitor Centre. The Centre is open Tues – Saturday 11am – 4pm.</p>	
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Parish and Town Council Updates</p>	
<p>6.1</p>	<p>Durrington TC – John Mills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durrington TC has endorsed the Management Plan (Action 2) • It has been involved in discussions with the Coordination Unit regarding the gateway signage. (Action 125) 	
<p>6.2</p>	<p>Amesbury Town Council – Roger Fisher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amesbury TC has endorsed the Management Plan (Action 2) • New signage is being installed to sign post a walk from Amesbury town centre across the A303 at the Countess Road underpass, along the A345 and along bridleways to the King Barrow Ridge. This avoids the difficult walk along the A303 and across the road at Stonehenge 	

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6.3	Shrewton PC Nothing further to add to previous comments	
6.4	Winterbourne Stoke PC Nothing further to add to previous comments	
7.0	<p>Report from the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last partnership panel was held in December 2015 • English Heritage Trust (represented by Kate Davies) was welcomed to the group and reflected the restructure of English Heritage to form the English Heritage Trust and Historic England • The following partnership priority items were discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WHS Plaques ○ WHS leaflet ○ Boundary signs ○ Anniversary programme ○ The role of the Coordination Unit ○ Funding of the WHS Setting Study ○ Development of a WHS Trust <p>The Trust is aimed at providing a vehicle for funds to implement projects in the Management Plan. The idea developed from the visit to the Jurassic Coast WHS last summer and a Trust for the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS was suggested at the Avebury WHS Committee. Sarah Simmonds is currently looking at options and will report back to the next meeting of the Partnership Panel.</p> <p>After discussion the WHS Committee agreed that options for developing a WHS Trust which would provide opportunities for membership and major fundraising opportunities should be explored</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting of the Partnership Panel is April 2016 	
8.0	<p>Report from Avebury & Stonehenge Archaeological and Historical Research Group</p> <p>The Setting Study for the WHS is a priority action for ASAHRG At the most recent meeting presentations were received from: Jim Leary on the recent digs at Marden an important site between Stonehenge and Avebury Geophysical work at Robin Hoods Ball The work undertaken by Historic England south of the A303</p> <p>There was a recent article in Antiquity regarding the dating of bluestones at Stonehenge which may bring them to around 3,500BC a little earlier than previously thought.</p> <p>CS noted that some radio carbon dating on the body found at Winterbourne Stoke long barrow and currently on display at the Stonehenge Visitor Centre may be around 3,300BC and would be one of the first individual burials in a long barrow. The short flint staff found with him may indicate a high status burial.</p>	

	<p>ASAHRG has not endorsed the Management Plan as this is not appropriate for an un-constituted group and is not required.</p>	
9.0	Information exchange and AOB	
9.1	<p>Litter in the World Heritage Site (Cllr John Mills – Durrington TC) Cllr Mills had asked for a response to an email sent to him by a local resident commenting on the amount of litter within the WHS particularly along Stonehenge Road and the byways around Stonehenge.</p> <p>Cllr Mills also asked the questions: What are the benefits of WHS membership? How much does it cost? What would happen if we were no longer a WHS?</p> <p>Wiltshire Council has a responsibility to collect litter on the highways and byways in the County. Highways England has passed on responsibility for litter picking on the A303 which is a major source of litter in the area to Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>Litter bins at the lay-bys might help to reduce littering but a service level agreement is required between Highways England and Wiltshire Council for this is required.</p> <p>Human resources have been cut from 4 to 1 person as of 1 April 2016. This means that work is generally done on a reactive way and response can take up to 6 weeks.</p> <p>The National Trust confirmed that a considerable amount of staff and volunteer time is taken up with collecting litter which is both unattractive and dangerous to livestock; much of this comes from the A303. The Trust recently installed bollards on the lay-by at Winterbourne Stoke long barrow because of the amount of fly-tipping taking place there.</p> <p>English Heritage confirmed that staff regularly collect litter around the visitor centre and additional car parking staff are contracted over the busy summer months who help to collect litter. Professional cleaning company assist at solstice to add to the staff clean up.</p> <p>There is littering and fly-tipping taking place on the byways and the triangle between the A303 and Stonehenge Road is problematic.</p> <p>PM noted that litter is a widespread issue across the County and committee members agreed that littering is also an issue around Avebury.</p> <p>Cllr West said he had discussed this issue with staff at Highways England at the recent consultation session held in Amesbury.</p> <p>DD noted that removal of access to vehicles from the byways might help to reduce littering/fly-tipping.</p> <p>Suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressing Wiltshire Council to reach service level agreement with Highways England over litter bins on A303 lay-bys • Bins with WHS logo could be considered to remind visitors that they are in a WHS. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage at all lay-bys asking people to respect the WHS by not littering and taking rubbish home. <p>ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BT to contact Nick Cowen Rights of Way Officer for South Wiltshire to discuss litter on the byways and possible solutions. • BT to contact Wiltshire Council following the Avebury WHS Committee meeting in April regarding the resource available which is not sufficient for a World Heritage Site and ask them to respond before our next meeting. • BT to ask SS to add to the WHS Partnership Panel agenda as this is an issue affecting both parts of the WHS. 	<p>BT</p> <p>BT</p> <p>BT</p>
9.2	<p>Combining dates of Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Steering committee meetings (Jan Tomlin)</p> <p>JT noted that a number of partners attend both the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Steering Committee meetings and it might be useful, particularly for those who have to travel some distance to hold the meetings on the same day. One would meet in the morning and the other in the afternoon. A joint lunch could be held so that the committee members could mingle and discuss common issues and get to know each other better.</p> <p>This would probably mean alternate meetings in the Stonehenge area and Avebury area so more local representatives might have to travel once or twice a year to the other side of the County and funding would need to be agreed to cover the costs of catering.</p> <p>JT asked the committee to consider the decision and let BT know if committee members had any thoughts on the matter. A decision could be made at the next Meeting of the Committee. It would also need to be considered by the Avebury WHS committee in April 2016.</p> <p>ACTION:</p> <p>BT to add to the next agenda for decision</p>	<p>BT</p>
9.3	<p>Postponement of next special exhibition planned for Stonehenge Visitor Centre (Norman Parker)</p> <p>NP expressed disappointment that the proposed exhibition on early aviation had been cancelled. A number of local groups and individuals had contributed to the plans and there was a fear in the community that this had been wasted. KD confirmed that the exhibition had been postponed not cancelled. This was due to budgetary constraints and the intention was to host this exhibition in due course once funding was secured so all the hard work, which was much appreciated by the team at English Heritage, would not be wasted.</p>	
9.4	<p>Cllr Shuttleworth noted that this was the first time that he had seen evidence of monitoring (9.1) by the Committee and he was very encouraged by this.</p>	
10.0	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Thursday 29 September 10.30am Antrobus House, Amesbury</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Avebury WHS Steering Committee meeting will be held in the same venue in the afternoon</p>	