

Stonehenge World Heritage Site Committee Meeting

Thursday 29th September 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), Clare King (Assistant County Archaeologist), Philip Miles (CLA), Nick Snashall (NT), Jan Tomlin (NT), Cllr Fred Westmoreland (Community Area Board/Wiltshire Council), Norman Parker (Amesbury Society), Cllr Ian West (Community Area Board/Wiltshire Council), Kate Davies (English Heritage), Jennifer Davies (English Heritage), Phil McMahon (Historic England), Colin Shell (ASAHRG), Sarah Simmonds (WHSCU), Patrick Cashman (RSPB), Nick Bruce-White (RSPB)

<p>1.0</p>	<p>Introductions and apologies Apologies received from: Rachel Sandy (Highways England), Richard Osgood (MoD), Richard Crook (NFU/Amesbury TC), Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (County Archaeologist), Stephanie Payne (Natural England), David Dawson (Wiltshire Museum), David Andrews (VisitWiltshire), Georgina Clampitt-Dix (Wiltshire Council) Introductions: Nick Bruce-White, the RSPB SW Regional Director, is attending to familiarise himself with the WHS</p>	
<p>2.0</p>	<p>Agree minutes of last meeting & matters arising Minutes of the last meeting in March were accepted.</p>	
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan: Stonehenge Committee Priority Actions</p>	
<p>3.1</p>	<p>Action 36 Woodhenge and Durrington Walls RF reported that members of the community had offered to help with scrub clearing and other work. He will be speaking to Leo Wirtz the RoW Officer from Wiltshire Council to arrange this. Durrington Town Council has offered to help on a voluntary basis.</p>	
<p>3.2</p>	<p>Action 143 Monitor byways open to all traffic and seek appropriate traffic management interventions RF reported that Amesbury Town Council had written to the Wiltshire Council to request the closure of Byway 12 to motorised vehicles. There had been no response as yet. SS reported that the Avebury WHS Steering Committee were considering sending a letter to request a permanent year road Traffic Regulation Order on the Ridgway National Trail; a byway open to all traffic in the Avebury part of the World Heritage Site on grounds of damage to archaeology. It is already closed to motorised vehicles during the winter months. PM added that traffic on the byway had a negative impact on OUV affecting the setting of the monuments. This had been particularly marked most</p>	<p>All to monitor byways in the WHS and report back to the Committee</p>

	<p>recently with the large number of camper vans parked on the byway at Autumn Equinox. Vehicles could also damage buried archaeology. Hare coursers have been using the byway to gain access to fields. They cut fences and put livestock and wildlife at risk. 23 incursions were recorded at Solstice this year.</p> <p>There is also a serious safety issue with traffic turning onto the A303. An Italian tourist pulling out of the byway to turn right on the A303 was hit by a tanker.</p> <p>Cllr. West would object the closure of the byway to motorised vehicles. He suggested that it might be acceptable in 2020 if the tunnel has been built. This is not the view of the Amesbury Area Board but a personal opinion.</p> <p>AS said that Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council objected to the idea of closure on the grounds of loss of an historic right of access. It links to a larger network of rights of way south of Salisbury. He suggested the byway be screened to diminish impact on OUV. Cllr. Westmorland said that the fact that is an historic right of way was not an argument for continuing motorised vehicle use. AS suggested it was a problem with behaviours rather than the BOAT itself.</p> <p>SS suggested that stakeholders continue to monitor the situation and gather evidence to support any request made.</p>	
<p>3.3</p>	<p>Action 148 Improve bus links</p> <p>RF reported that improvements are being made. The X5 now goes to Woodhenge. Salisbury Reds need to remark the bus stops here.</p> <p>CS reported that the Connect bus services has been discontinued. The X5 can help to link Stonehenge to Avebury if visitors can pick it up from Salisbury and change at Marlborough. From Marlborough the bus to Calne passes through Avebury. This link should be promoted via Connecting Wiltshire. SS will talk to the Transport Planner Laura Gosling at Wiltshire Council. Not only visitors but residents too will benefit from this cross county services.</p> <p>KD reported that EH will help to facilitate improved links where possible and has spoken to Alex Chutter the new Operations Manager at Salisbury Reds.</p> <p>Cllr. West suggested the bus from Devizes to Salisbury should loop up via Stonehenge. Employees at the visitor centre need to be able to get to work from Shrewton. CS thought army rebasing would bring new demands and opportunities for improved services.</p>	<p>SS to contact Salisbury Reds</p> <p>SS to talk to LG regarding X5 link</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>A303 Update</p> <p>Highways England (HiE) sent the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are coming to the end of the route identification stage, in which we are currently assessing various tunnel routes through the WHS and surface routes to the south of the WHS to establish how they perform against various Transport, Economic, Cultural Heritage and 	

	<p>Environment criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological investigations are currently taking place within the WHS to determine the optimum location for the tunnel portals • By the end of December 16, we will have concluded on which route(s) shall be taken forward to a non-statutory public consultation exercise in Jan/Feb 17 • There will be second ICOMOS visit in January 17 during which they will consider the route identification work done to date along with the results of the archaeological investigations • The results of the non-statutory consultation, along with further detailed assessment will then be used to finalise the choice of the Preferred Route, which is programmed to be announced in mid-2017 • The Preferred Route will then be developed further with a view to publishing it for formal pre Development Consent Order consultation in the autumn of 2017 ahead of the formal DCO application in mid-2018. <p>SS added that they were exploring with HiE organising an extraordinary meeting for the WHS committees to discuss the consultation in January 2017.</p>	
5.0	World Heritage Site Plaque and Boundary Signs	
5.1	<p>World Heritage Site Plaque</p> <p>SS reported that the World Heritage Site plaque marking the inscription of Stonehenge and Avebury was under preparation. The plaque is required by UNESCO at all WHSs. It will be installed by EH on the visitor centre during the Children’s Takeover Day in November. Members of the Committee will be invited. The design options were shown to the group. There will be a plaque at both Stonehenge and Avebury. Funding is from EH, the NT and the Avebury WHS Charity. This will complete action 127 of the WHS Management Plan.</p>	SS to finalise with HE and NT
5.2	<p>WHS Boundary Signs</p> <p>The boundary signs will be located on the road as you enter the WHS landscape in line with action 125 of the Management Plan. The position has been agreed with Highways at both Avebury and Stonehenge and with representatives of the local community. Durrington are still considering the sign. SS circulated the design which is very close to the ones that are currently in place on the A303. Funding at Avebury is from Wiltshire Council for replacement signs. At Stonehenge Historic England (HE) are funding the signs.</p> <p>Cllr. Westmorland advises that important archaeology outside the WHS and remains from different periods should not be neglected. SS added that the forthcoming Setting Study would emphasise the importance of archaeology beyond the boundary of the WHS. CK added that important 20th century military archaeology found during the rebasing project just outside the WHS would be recorded and interpreted where possible. PC added that the importance of the natural environment and its links to the cultural is</p>	SS to finalise with Wiltshire Council Highways

	also recognised through various projects including work on the chalk grassland landscape.	
6.0	<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. SS highlighted in particular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the publication of <i>Megalith</i> 2016 • work with Google Institute and UCL on the WHS in 30 Objects • 30th anniversary events and work on 30th anniversary conference taking place on 19 & 20 November. SS advised that tickets were selling very fast. There will be a reception on the evening 19th in Devizes Town Hall that members of the Committee are invited to attend • Work on designing a new structure for the WHS Coordination Unit and new job roles as well as recruitment of an officer to support the her role of WHS Partnership Manager • SS paid tribute to Beth Thomas for her hard work for the WHS. BT has moved on to new challenges. She thanked partners including EH and the NT for their work with her on the plaque and boundary signs 	SS to send invite to 30th Anniversary reception
7.0	Reports from Partners on implementing the plan	
7.1	<p>Natural England- Stephanie Payne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawn Enright, NE historic environment specialist, has been working with HE/ WHS team on the WHS conference. NE chair Andrew Sells will attend and DE and SP are working on a poster for the conference. • Wiltshire Chalk Grassland Partnership Meeting- NE held a meeting with biodiversity partners (WWT, AONB, BC, RSPB etc.) on 19th September to discuss the potential to explore HLF and other potential funding bids. The areas will include WHS and there is an opportunity to build in heritage / cultural multi –objective benefits as well as wildlife benefits. Looking initially to do further work on GI mapping habitats , historic features and running ecological network model for areas not previously covered by previous projects- this will include the WHS. Trying to secure GI specialist time for this internally or using student placements. Any ideas on GI help appreciated or student courses to approach. The map groundtruthed will then enable us to highlight opportunities for protecting archaeology and linking and improving connectivity between habitats, and produce chalk grassland strategy. • SP has been working with the owners/ agent on a new CS application at Lake Farm to replace the HLS agreement which expires at the end of October. Agreement will include continued management of flower rich grassland reverted to protect and enhance setting of SM. Reversion has been very successful and plans are to add additional wildflower species in the future. Funding will also help fund monument protection of several SM (erosion repairs, scrub management) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work with land managers, NT, RSPB and HE on sward enhancement and scrub/ tree works under existing HLS agreements 	
7.2	<p>Wiltshire Council – Clare King</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service has been closely involved with work on army rebasing. 170 Mid-Saxon graves were found at Bulford as well as Neolithic pits and place deposits. At Larkhill there is probably another henge as well as a rare and significant WWI practice battlefield with tunnels and unexploded ordinance. In addition a segmented ditch has been found that could be part of a causewayed enclosure • The sewage system for Larkhill is being looked at. Easements are being stripped and this work is being monitored. PM added that the aim is to remove the infrastructure from the WHS • The Archaeology Service has dealt with the provision of advice on over 200 Countryside Stewardship applications across Wiltshire including some within the WHS • Planners are working on an initial review of Housing Site Allocation which should be announced in January 2017. These sites should not affect the WHS. • An early review of the Wiltshire Core Strategy will begin next year. The WHS Coordination Unit will be consulted on this review • Preliminary advice on WHS Setting Study from the Landscape Officers has been provided • The Countryside team has attended a meeting to discuss Durrington Walls and Stonehenge • Highways has been working on the new WHS boundary signs • They have also been working with Highways England as statutory consultees on a solution for the A303 	
7.3	<p>English Heritage Trust– Kate Davies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KD has prepared a detailed table monitoring work on the WHS Management Plan actions for SS • A root and branch proactive review of arrangements for Solstice was carried out with Wiltshire Council and the Police in 2016. There was wide consultation with the Druid and pagan community. Numbers as well as risks and trends were taken into account. After careful consideration the decision was to put in place an alcohol ban and car parking charges. The aim was to encourage behaviour change and create a more respectful ethos • The Solstice went well and was safe and peaceful with no damage to the monument. There were c. 12,000 attendees. The weather was poor and Euro 2016 was on television which may have kept numbers lower. There was no adverse impact on the landscape and no increase in numbers at Avebury. Winter Solstice is being planned. Boggy fields are a challenge and it is important to ensure no damage is done to the delicate ground in and around the Stones particularly 	

	<p>in the wet weather. It is important to work closely with the Druid and pagan community to achieve this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A competition is being held to mark the 30th Anniversary of the WHS. Winners will get the opportunity to see the site from above in a tethered hot air balloon • EH continues to support local museums by raising their profile as part of a visit to Stonehenge. This appeared in a recent New York Times article • EH makes information available to visitors in 10 different languages at Stonehenge 	
7.4	<p>National Trust – Nick Snashall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JT reported that a further area of land at Countess Farm tenanted by Hugh Morrison was being reverted to pasture. Fences are being put up for livestock control • There was a lot of community and family interest and involvement over the summer at the dig at Durrington Walls. • BBC Country File did a piece on the Stonehenge landscape which featured, in addition to the NT, KD's team and Hugh Morrison • The WHS Walking Challenge has had over 500 walkers sign up. There are 8 walks suggested covering 50 KMs in both the Stonehenge and Avebury landscapes. This has proved so popular it will be continued next year • The NT is working with other WHS partners to improve the Durrington Walls and Woodhenge area. The bin base has been removed 	
7.5	<p>Historic England – Phil McMahon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM has been involved in providing advice on the A303 and preparations with DCMs for the forthcoming ICOMOS/UNESCO visit • PM has also been advising the MoD of relevant aspects of the army rebasing project at Bulford • HE is working on reports on phase 1 of the archaeological research south of the A303. This work will bring this part of the WHS up to the level of research and knowledge in the north. HE will give a presentation on this work to ASHRG at their meeting in the winter 	
7.6	<p>RSPB – Patrick Cashman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC reported that the RSPB had worked with WANHS to host a visit to Normanton Down Reserve. David Field guided the walk. There are 2 pairs of Stone Curlew which each have 2 fledglings. There are around 40 lapwings with a minimum of 12 chicks. This is excellent for a small reserve • There are a few female bustards on the southern fringes of the Salisbury Plain. There are some juvenile males which may be a step towards sustainability • The RSPB are discussing organising a possible walk in partnership with the NT 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. West reported that a RSPB interpretation board had been defaced on Normanton Down 	
8.0	Parish and Town Council Updates	
8.1	Durrington TC – John Mills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing further to add to previous comments 	
8.2	Amesbury Town Council – Roger Fisher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Amesbury History Centre will be going forward as a planning application in 2017 • Section 106 money related to the Kings Gate development will be used on projects to enhance people’s perception of the area. People will be encouraged to go out into the landscape. This is closely aligned with the aims of the WHS Management Plan • Richard Crook is doing well after his recent knee operation 	
8.3	Shrewton PC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing further to add to previous comments 	
8.4	Winterbourne Stoke PC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to see a monitoring structure in place before endorsing the Management Plan. They are working with KD at EH and the NT 	
9.0	Report from the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last partnership panel was held in Bath which provided the opportunity for an interesting comparison of approaches to managing a WHS in a different context. This included their approach to establishing a WHS trust • The 30th Anniversary events and conference programme were discussed • An update on the A303 was provided • The next meeting of the WHSPP is 6th October 	
10.0	Report from Avebury & Stonehenge Archaeological and Historical Research Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASARHG is a very active and well supported group • CS reported on a summary presentation on the Durrington excavation. Neither theory held before the dig was completely correct. The excavation revealed that loose chalk had been used to backfill holes giving the ambiguous readings. • The World Heritage Site Research Framework will be launched at the 30th Anniversary Conference in November • Brian Edwards has requested short biographical contributions on local figures from history who were involved with research in the WHS 	
11.0	Information exchange and AOB	
11.1	A303 Philp Miles asked what the alternatives for the road were. He referenced Kate Fielden’s letter in the Times. Phil McMahon responded that there is	

	no route put forward as yet but the non-statutory consultation will take place in January. The documentation will need to demonstrate how the preferred options at that point were arrived at. All the previously proposed schemes have been on the table for review	
11.2	Camping on Byway 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RSPB will be reporting camping on the byway to Simon Rowe at Wiltshire Council 	
11.3	EH Representation on WHSPP and Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KD will continue to attend the WHSPP and Jennifer Davies, the new Operational Manager, will attend the Committee on behalf of EH 	
11.4	Space for WHSCU in the WHS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JT reported that she will be providing office space for SS to drop in and work in the WHS whenever she feels it would be useful to be on site. This will be at Stonehenge Cottages and the Estate Office at Avebury. The group welcomed this generous and very useful offer 	
11.5	Amesbury History Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SS suggested that it would be good to include room for some interpretation of the World Heritage Site in the plans for the new History Centre at Amesbury. This would help to meet action in the Management Plan. CK added that there is a medieval ditch in the area that will need to be considered. 	
12.0	Date of next meeting Tuesday, 25 th April 2017	