



**Avebury and Stonehenge World Heritage Site
Archaeological and Historical Research Group
Draft Notes of Meeting 26th September 2014**

Present: Martyn Barber (Chair), Brian Edwards, Sarah Simmonds, Colin Shell, Dan Miles, Beth Thomas, David Sabin, Kerry Donaldson, Jim Gunter, Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Kate Fielden, Paul Cripps, Gill Swanton, Nick Baxter, Ros Cleal, Steve Marshall, Mark Bowen, Bruce Eagles, Jonathan Last, Heather Sebire, Andrew David, David Dawson, Susan Greaney, Emily Banfield, Nikki Cook, Nicola Hembrey

1. Apologies and Introductions

Nick Snashall, Matt Leivers, Andrew Powell, Rachel Foster, Abby George, Josh Pollard, Rachel Foster, Jude Currivan, Julie Scott Jackson, Ian Barnes, Phil McMahon, Dave Field, Sian Williams, Martin Papworth, Simon Crutchley, David Roberts.

Two new members were welcomed: Emily Banfield and Michele Drisse. They were nominated and seconded by Ros Cleal and Nick Snashall.

2. Minutes and matters arising

2.1 Minutes

The minutes were approved.

2.2 Matters Arising

MPK requested the geophysics report mentioned at 4.2 and 4.4 from JG and CS for the HER.

Action: JG and CS to send geophysics report to MPK

3. Monitoring of the Resource Agenda

3.1 Update on WHS Research Framework

3.1.1. DM reported on behalf of Wessex Archaeology who were unable to attend the meeting. The last meeting of the project board for SARF was on 19th September. The Research Agenda and Strategy are both with peer reviewer and will be returned in mid-October. The final draft will be circulated to ASAHRG prior to editing. The project should be completed by the end of the financial year.

3.1.2 Although substantial progress has been made the exact date of publication has not yet been finalised so it will be difficult to commit to a launch at the April conference or a joint launch with the WHS Management Plan in May 2015.

3.1.3 The approach to printing will reflect emerging EH policy. There will be a shorter print run of 200- 300 copies of the framework and it will be available for print on demand.

3.1.4 Images are being collected by Matt Leivers to illustrate SARF.

Action: All to supply images as relevant with copyright and minimum 300 ppi.

DM to check on plans for improved mapping to be included in SARF

4. Current archaeological & historical research

4.1 A geophysical survey of a bowl barrow 200m east of East Kennet long barrow - Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin, Archaeological Surveys Ltd.

4.1.1 KD presented results from recent work at East Kennet long barrow carried out as part of an HLS scheme funded by Natural England.

4.1.2 A geophysical survey was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd over the site of a scheduled *bowl barrow, 200m east of East Kennett long barrow forming part of a barrow cemetery* (Monument No: 1014036 (SM 28103)) under the Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme, which aims to protect the underlying archaeology within the field through grassland reversion. The site lies immediately east of the East Kennett long barrow.

4.1.3 The detailed magnetometer survey was carried out over the entire 11.2ha field. The results show the location of the scheduled round barrow in the form of a 30m ring ditch with some indication of the internal mound. A resistivity survey indicates that the mound appears to have been truncated, most notably on the northern and eastern edges, and this is reflected in the magnetometry data.

4.1.4 The location of the two further ring ditches, recorded from aerial photographs either side of the scheduled barrow, have also been confirmed, as well as a fourth, previously unrecorded ring ditch at the north west corner of the field. A number of linear ditches and two discrete circular anomalies situated in the vicinity of the round barrows have also been located.

4.1.5 In the southern part of the site, two linear ditches appear to extend towards the south eastern end of the East Kennett long barrow and an association is possible. Situated in the south eastern corner of the survey area is a rectangular enclosure which may relate to an unrecorded medieval sheep fold.

Action: MPK to check the status of the HLS scheme in place with Stephanie Payne at NE. Check if there is provision for fieldwalking.

4.2 The Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes Project (2010 -2014) – Vince Gaffney

4.2.1 VG gave a presentation providing a comprehensive overview of the extent, breadth and importance of the extensive data produced by the Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes Project. Challenges remain for analysing and interpreting the thousands of features identified.

4.2.2 The Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes Project brought together experts in non-invasive geophysical prospection and remote sensing, and specialists in British prehistory and landscape archaeology in order to carry out a survey of the landscape around Stonehenge. This project aimed to address gaps in knowledge and understanding of the Stonehenge landscape by conducting a geophysical and remote sensing survey at an extensive scale and high resolution. Beginning in July 2010, the fieldwork took about 120 days spread over four years. The technologies applied included multiple motorized magnetometers, ground-penetrating radar arrays, electromagnetic induction sensors, earth resistance surveys and terrestrial 3D laser scanners.

4.2.3 The survey and visualization capabilities of the team has been made possible only because of the expertise and combined resources of the project partners, the Digital Humanities Hub and Department of Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology at the University of Birmingham; the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection & Virtual Archaeology (LBI Arch Pro) in Vienna and its European partners; the Division of Archaeological, Geographical and Environmental Sciences at the University of Bradford; the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of St Andrews; and the Soil Spatial Inventory Techniques Research Group at the University of Ghent.

4.2.4 The results of the survey project have been used to create a highly detailed archaeological map of the ‘invisible’ landscape of Stonehenge, providing the basis for a full interpretative synthesis of all existing remote sensing and geophysical data from the study area. For the first time, it should be possible to create total digital models of the Stonehenge landscape at a true ‘landscape scale’ that will not only transcend the immediate surrounds of individual monuments within the study area but will also tie them together within a near-seamless map of sub-surface and surface archaeological features and structures.

4.2.5 The project, which concluded during 2014, is now in the processing and interpretative phase which will take at least a year to analyse the terabytes of data generated through survey. Following this the project team will publish the results as an atlas of the Stonehenge landscape.

4.3 West Kennet Avenue Occupation site, 2014 season – Josh Pollard

4.3.1 JP sent a presentation to be shown that summarised outcomes from the 2014 season at the West Kennet Avenue occupation site. The presentation is attached as a PDF. JP will be able to answer questions at the next meeting of ASAHRG in January. Alternatively questions could be emailed to JP directly.

5. Review of Current Opportunities for Dissemination of Research including recent/forthcoming publications

No current opportunities reported.

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

6.1 West Kennet Long Barrow Repair

HS reported that smaller roof lights are planned to replace the existing glass blocks. EH will be meeting the NT to discuss this in the near future. The original copies of the West Kennet excavation photographs, a useful resource, may be in Edinburgh. Julian Richards has already tied Edinburgh. RC and BE may have some relevant copies they can send to HS.

6.2 Army Rebasing Larkhill

The potential for the overall area has been considered. Each individual site within the area will now be treated on its own merits with appropriate assessment, evaluation and mitigation.

6.3 Rolleston Grain Store

Following evaluation a watching brief has been advised as a condition for Rolleston Grain Store which is near some unscheduled barrows due to the potential for burials.

7. Review of monitoring (e.g. need for condition surveys, Management Plan actions)

7.1 Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan update

SS thanked those members of the group who have contributed to the drafting of the Management Plan during the extensive informal consultation period. Some members of ASAHRG have already sent in comments on the Research section circulated before the meeting. SS asked for any further comments from the group and requested that minor modifications/corrections be forwarded to her by the end of September. There were no significant modifications proposed by the group who congratulated SS and BT on their hard work in producing a very well developed draft. The Steering Committees will sign off the draft in November and it will go out

to public consultation of twelve weeks from the beginning of December. The planned launch date is May 2015.

8. Representative's report and review of content of report to WHS Steering Committees and Partnership Panel

8.1 Reports from WHS Steering Committees/Partnership Panel

- The Steering Committees in July focussed on agreeing and signing off the aims, policies and actions in the Wold Heritage Site Management Plan.
- The Partnership Panel reviewed the aims, policies and actions and agreed that partners' would support solutions the A303 that protected the WHS and its OUV.

8.2 Reports to the WHS Steering Committees/Partnership Panel

- Projects reported at this meeting: Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes and West Kennet Avenue occupation site
- Progress on SARF

9. Opportunities for site/exhibition/archive visits in 2015

- Invite Richard Osgood to speak to the group on the Digging Warhorse project.

10. AOB

10.1 A303 Solution

KF reported that the Highways Agency and Department for Transport were considering a tunnel between 2.5 and 2.9 km and a northern by-pass as potential solutions. She added that the Hidden Landscape findings underline the sensitivity of the wider landscape which a solution should take into account. A preferred solution will be provided for the government in October. A 4.5 km is not being considered. MPK added that work was being done to review the options by EH and the NT. This takes into account the SOUV adopted by UNESCO in 2013. KF suggested that compromise should be avoided and support for a longer tunnel voiced.

10.2 Sarsen Project

SM reported on the Sarsen Project. This is a community project led by archaeologists and geologists. It will assess all sarsens including those used in construction. It uses non-destructive methodologies and asks for online and email reporting. It also provides access to the original project from the 1980's. SM will be talking at Swindon Museum and Art Gallery on 26th September on Avebury's Waterscape.

10.3 Neolithic Axe Head East Kennet

JL reported that NC had found a Neolithic axe head near East Kennet long barrow.

11. Date and venue of next meeting

10.30 AM on Friday, 16th January, 2014 in Wiltshire Museum, Devizes