

**Avebury and Stonehenge World Heritage Site
Archaeological and Historical Research Group
Notes of Meeting 30th September, 2016**

Present: Martyn Barber, Heather Sebire, Clare King, Dan Miles, David Dawson, Sarah Simmonds, Kate Fielden, Brian Edwards, Colin Shell, Gill Swanton (Chair), Amanda Chadburn, Nick Baxter, Kerry Donaldson, Sian Williams, Jude Currivan, Bob Clarke, Matt Leivers

1. Apologies and Introductions

Apologies: Ros Cleal, Katy Whitaker, Rachel Foster, Josh Pollard, Steve Marshall, Andrew David, Richard Osgood, Emily Bamfield, Phil McMahon, Jim Gunter, Tim Darvill, Melanie Pomeroy Kellinger, Jonathan Last, Ian Barnes, Nick Snashall, David Field, Bruce Eagles, Clive Ruggles

Review of Membership: SS will circulate a request for those whose interest in the WHS is no longer current and who may not wish to remain a member of the group to let her know. If you do not contact SS, you will remain a member of ASAHRG.

2. Minutes and matters arising

2.1 Minutes

The minutes were approved with minor amendments.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 Action 2.2.1: BE reported that a deadline for contributions to the Biographical Dictionary will be set after the WHS Conference.

2.2.2 Action 2.2.5: GS offered to assist AC in putting out a request for feedback from farmers on the Countryside Stewardship Schemes in the WHS.

3. Monitoring of the Resource Agenda

3.1 Update on WHS Research Framework

ML provided an update on progress on SARF.

All three volumes of the Research Framework are now finished. They were typeset and circulated to the project group and have now been illustrated. Following copy editing they will be ready to launch at the WHS Conference on 19th November. ML thanked everyone for their contributions to the achievement and especially Steve Marshall and Tara as well as David Field and the team at HE for their efforts in the final stages of the project. Summaries will be available in French and German.

Historic England has just agreed the publication grant and the Resource Assessment for Avebury and the Agenda and Strategy will be sent to the printer in early October.

The Stonehenge Update to the original substantial Stonehenge Research Framework produced by Tim Darvill will be available as a PDF on the WHS website.

ACTION: SS to put the Framework on the WHS website to coincide with its launch at the conference in November.

4. Current archaeological & historical research

4.1 Bulford and Larkhill Service Family Accommodation: Archaeology (The story as we know it so far) - Clare King

The Service Family accommodation (SFA) developments at Larkhill and Bulford have produced a wide range of significant remains. This presentation covered the more significant ones. At Bulford, the most significant findings which relate to the OUV of the WHS are the remains of two penannular 'hengés', which are enclosed by later ring ditches. The 'hengés' have been dated to the Neolithic period. There are also dozens of Neolithic pits on the site, which contain placed deposits including antler and core tools such as axes. The excavations also revealed over 150 mid-Saxon burials on the site. Initial geophysical survey had revealed the ring ditches, but the 'hengés' and the Saxon burials were identified during trenched evaluation. The 'hengés' will be preserved in situ within the open space assigned to the development.

Larkhill has also revealed significant remains. A ring ditch with associated external postholes was found at the south-eastern corner of the site, close to Durrington Walls. A large prehistoric enclosure, with associated roundhouses has also been excavated, along with a First World War practice battlefield, complete with Allied and German lines. Most exciting, however, has been the discovery of part of a likely new Causewayed Enclosure on the western side of the site.

Excavations at both sites are ongoing and the story is still unfolding.

4.2 White Hill Ditched Enclosure North Farm, West Overton - Colin Shell

CS reported on an enclosure originally identified from digital satellite images. It appears to be on top of a prehistoric field system and contain possible pits. It may be an Iron Age enclosure that contains a possible ring ditch.

AC commented that there were a lot of similar features around the WHS. DM added that there were similar ones in the Pewsey Vale. CK mentioned that the one at Druid's Lodge is also very similar.

A study to look into any recurring patterns around similar features where an Iron Age enclosure appears close to or enclosing an earlier feature could be valuable. DM suggested possible fieldwalking of the area. AC reported that there is a list of the

Iron Age enclosures in her and Mark Corney's chapter of the 2001 Avebury Research Agenda. MB added that these features which appear to deliberately incorporate ring ditches are also present in clay areas.

ACTION: CS to send the georeference data to CK

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

5.1 Stonehenge and Avebury 30th Anniversary Conference 19th November

SS reported that tickets for the WHS 30th Anniversary Conference had very nearly sold out. She thanked those members of the group who had agreed to speak and those who were helping to organise the event which looks set to be a fascinating day.

5.2 Wiltshire Archaeology Conference

DM reported that this will take place on 1st April, 2017.

5.3 Old Dairy, London Road, Amesbury

An article will appear in the next WAM on findings at the Old Dairy near the boundary of the WHS. These include 3 round barrows and a hengiform structure. A garage site nearby has permission for development which may offer further opportunities for discoveries.

5.4 Eastern Infrastructure Project

A report is due to appear in the near future in WAM.

5.5 Middle Ridgeway

BE reports that this book by Eric Jones Anna Dillon was published at the beginning of September by Wessex Books. It offers wonderful illustrations of the chalk landscape along the Ridgeway and in the Avebury part of the WHS.

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

6.1 County Archaeology update

6.1.1 Army Rebasing: Larkhill and Bulford

CK reported that work continues. The County Archaeologist is consulted on all development in the area.

6.1.2 Geophysics in Avebury

KD reported that she and DS were undertaking a small survey in the area related to a development.

6.1.3 Archaeological Storage in the South West

DD reported that £45,000 had been granted from the Arts Council to look at archaeological storage in the SW. It will assist in developing a strategy which will include identifying ways to secure developer contributions. A consultant is sought. The brief for the work is on the Wiltshire Museum website. The closing date for applications is 10th October.

DD confirmed that the Museum would be working with Wiltshire Council and other partners to look at raising money to move to the Assizes Courts in Devizes; £7 to 8 million will be required to achieve this.

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

7.1 Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan

In addition to the WHS Conference Work and Research Framework work continues with partners on the research related actions set out in the Management Plan. The WHSCU continues to explore the opportunity for creative PhDs (155) through links with Bath Spa University and others. ASHRG continues to encourage completion and dissemination of unpublished past research (154).

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

8.1 Reports from WHS Partnership Panel/Steering Committees

- CS reported that the WHSPP met in Bath in July. In addition to normal business this allowed the Panel to explore examples of alternative approaches to management and funding strategies for another UK WHS.
- ICOMOS/UNESCO will visit again in January/February 2017 to review the options for the A303 scheme put forward as part of the non-statutory consultation
- Avebury WHS Steering Committee has sent a letter to Wiltshire Council requesting a year-round TRO on the Ridgeway to protect archaeology. Stonehenge WHS Committee is still concerned about the management of by-way 11 and 12 and the impacts of vehicular access
- Work on the Setting Study will move forward once there is sufficient resource for the WHSCU following the recruitment of an additional officer
- Highways England is undertaking evaluations in the southern part of the WHS whose results will be available to inform the preferred options for the scheme to be put forward for forthcoming round of non-statutory consultation. Geophysics forms part of this work. HE will present at the next meeting of ASHRG. The County Archaeology Service is monitoring evaluation work being undertaken by HE. All environmental considerations

including the natural environment will be reviewed as part of the assessment of options.

8.2 Report to the WHS Steering Committees/Partnership Panel

- Next meeting of ASHRG occurs before the news WHS Committee and Panel meetings. Report to be finalised then.

9. Opportunities for site/exhibition/archive visits in 2016/17

- Bulford and Larkhill may be a possibility although unexploded ordinance could be a constraint

ACTION: ML to advise of possibilities to visit

10. AOB

10.1 Excavations at Blick mead

BE reported that these would begin on Monday 2nd October.

10.2 Transformers at Stonehenge

HS reported that Michael Bay's Transformers 5 was being filmed in the WHS at the weekend on both EH and NT land. This is being very carefully monitored to avoid any harm. There will be no artificial smoke. A replica Stonehenge monument located in the Wily Valley will be used.

10.3 Geophysical Surveys at Avebury

Tim Darvill and Fritz Lüth are undertaking geophysical surveys at Avebury. They are currently completing their survey work.

ACTION: SS to invite TD to present results at a forthcoming meeting

10.4 Human Henge

This project lead by Tim Darvill on archaeology, human health and creativity is now underway at Stonehenge.

10.5 Endangered Archaeology of the Near East and Africa

A talk by Bob Bewley at Alton Barnes on 3rd November. Tickets £8 from Kate Fielden.

10.6 Virtual Avebury

BE reported that the [Virtual Avebury](#) project produced to assist with heritage education will be going live shortly. The work was carried out by UWE and the Extra Mural Studies Dept at Cambridge.

10.7 WHS Plaques and Boundary Signs

SS reported that these will be in place shortly at both Stonehenge and Avebury. SS thanked EH, the NT and Wiltshire Council for their work in helping to achieve this.

10.8 Twice-crossed River Report

CS reported that this report on CAU's on-going Barleycroft Farm/Over investigations will be published by Oxbow in October.

11. Date and venue of next meeting

10.30 AM on Friday, 27th January in the Education Room, Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Chippenham