

# MEGALITH



Stonehenge World Heritage Site Newsletter JUNE 2012



## Introduction

Stonehenge and Avebury became a World Heritage Site (WHS) in 1986 for their outstanding prehistoric monuments from the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. Stonehenge (3,000 – 1,600BC) is the most famous and sophisticated stone circle in the world, aligned on the solstice sunrise and sunset.

The surrounding landscape contains many other prehistoric monuments, such as the Avenue, the Cursus, Woodhenge and Durrington Walls. Like Stonehenge, their exact function remains unknown. Also significant is the exceptional concentration of burial mounds (over 350 in the World Heritage Site).

The Avebury part of the World Heritage Site, about 30km north, includes an immense stone circle, avenues, long barrows and other outstanding prehistoric monuments such as Silbury Hill. The finds from excavations at Stonehenge and Avebury can be seen at the museums in Salisbury, Devizes and Avebury.

The Stonehenge World Heritage Site covers 2,600 hectares (6,500 acres) of chalk downland and arable fields in Wiltshire. It includes part of Amesbury and Larkhill, and the villages of West Amesbury, Normanton, Wilsford and Lake in the Woodford Valley.

## Welcome

Welcome to this Stonehenge World Heritage Site (WHS) Newsletter 2011-12. We hope that you will find it interesting and informative. We aim to give you a flavour of the many things happening in and around the World Heritage Site. If you have any questions or queries as a result of this newsletter please contact us by email on [stonehengewhs@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:stonehengewhs@english-heritage.org.uk) or by telephone on 01722 343 848. We'd love to hear from you!

*The Stonehenge WHS Team*

Ownership and management are shared between English Heritage, the National Trust, the Ministry of Defence, the RSPB, Wiltshire Council, farmers and house-holders. Many others are also actively involved and work in partnership at Stonehenge, including Natural England, the Highways Agency, Amesbury Town Council and the Parish Councils. The Stonehenge World Heritage Site Coordinator oversees and helps to implement the Management Plan.

## Beth Thomas

*New World Heritage Site Coordinator for Stonehenge*

**Beth Thomas started as the Coordinator for Stonehenge WHS in September 2011. Beth replaced Isabelle Bedu who was the Coordinator from 2001 to 2010.**

Beth is familiar with the landscape of the Stonehenge WHS as she started work for English Heritage in 2003 when she took up the role as the Head of Visitor Operations for Dorset and Wiltshire. During that time Beth was responsible for Old Sarum and Old Wardour Castles in Wiltshire as well as a number of un-staffed sites such as the Dovecote at Netheravon and Ludgershall Castle. From 2009 to 2011 Beth worked in the West Midlands, based at Kenilworth Castle. Beth is very pleased to be back in the beautiful county of Wiltshire. The role of the Stonehenge WHS Coordinator is to implement the Stonehenge WHS Management Plan working with the large number of partners who have responsibility within the WHS.

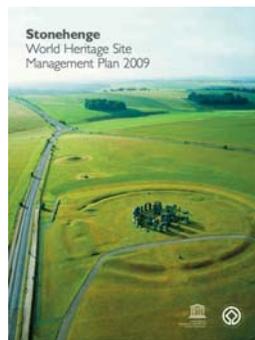
The Management Plan is the action plan for the WHS and a requirement for all World Heritage sites. The last plan was revised in 2009 and is available from the English Heritage website at

<http://www.englishheritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/stonehenge/world-heritage-site/managing-stonehenge/>.



Stonehenge World Heritage Site

Beth also works closely with her counterpart, Sarah Simmonds, in the Avebury part of the WHS on joint initiatives that affect both Stonehenge and Avebury.





## 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention



Organised jointly by the National Trust, English Heritage and Wiltshire Council we celebrated World Heritage Day in the year of the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention with a fascinating tour of both parts of the World Heritage Site.

Starting in Avebury, Sarah Simmonds the Avebury WHS Officer, gave an introduction to what World Heritage means and how the area has benefited from its World Heritage status. Dr Ros Cleal, Curator, then gave us a guided tour around the Alexander Keiller Museum, one of the few museums in the country to be displaying objects in the place that they were found. Dr Nick Snashall of the National Trust then took the party on a wet and windy tour of the Avebury Henge.

After a rejuvenating lunch provided by the Circle Café we set off by bus to Stonehenge to explore the Stone Circle, Woodhenge and Durrington Walls to return to Avebury. Despite the torrential downpours those on the tour, including some international visitors, all finished the day feeling that they had a really special day and appreciated much better the many aspects which make the Stonehenge & Avebury WHS so fascinating!

## Timeline

**1972** The World Heritage Convention was adopted by UNESCO

**1984** The UK adopts the World Heritage Convention

**1986** Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site was inscribed onto the World Heritage List along with six other sites across the UK including St Kilda, the Giant's Causeway and Durham Cathedral and Castle.

**1992** Avebury WHS produces the first WHS Management Plan in the UK

**2000** Stonehenge WHS produces its first Management Plan

**2007** UNESCO adds “the fifth C” – Community to its strategic objectives, highlighting the important role that communities play in preserving World Heritage.

**2009** Stonehenge WHS produces a revised Management Plan

**2011** Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site celebrates its 25th anniversary.

**2012** 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention – 936 properties have been inscribed and 188 nations have adopted the Convention.



## 2012 UNESCO youth summit

The young people had to respond to the question “Who are we and what does our World Heritage Site mean to us?”

## Youth Summit 2012 Greenwich World Heritage Site

All Wiltshire Schools were given the opportunity to compete for a place for 5 youngsters to attend the 2012 UNESCO Youth Summit at Greenwich this June. Greenwich is to be the equestrian venue for the London 2012 Olympic Games so it's an exciting time to be there! The young people had to respond to the question “Who are we and what does our World Heritage Site mean to us?” with a digital scrapbook. The winning teams were from Sheldon School and South Wiltshire Grammar School and they will be attending the Youth Summit to meet other young people from the 20 of the UK's 25 World Heritage Sites. If you want to see the winning submissions check out

<http://swgsstonehengeunesco2012.weebly.com>  
[www.weloveavebury.co.uk](http://www.weloveavebury.co.uk)

Photo: © National Maritime Museum



## RSPB Normanton Down Nature Reserve

A major part of the Normanton Down barrow cemetery lies within the RSPB's nature reserve, where the aim is to maintain a safe haven for the shy and elusive stone-curlew and restore flower rich grassland to the downland.

Just before the birds were back from the wintering quarters in North Africa, a new warden for the Society's Wiltshire reserves, Keeley Spate, was appointed to keep a track on their activities. The first birds were in fact spotted by the farm's owner Rachel Hosier on 18th March 2011, when over 100 over-wintering golden plover were still present. The stone-curlews stayed on to nest and produced two chicks, and 2011 was a memorable year as a record number of 70 pre-migratory stone-curlews roosted in the autumn. Lapwing also had a good year with nine pairs and nineteen chicks counted of which 7 fledged. Many other downland birds breed on the site, including yellowhammer, corn bunting, skylark and grey partridge. The ancient flora of the barrows continues to colonise the newly created grassland and this process was hastened in 2011 by sowing wildflower seeds harvested from Salisbury Plain and RSPB Winterbourne Downs onto a further 3 hectares.

Photo: © Keeley Spate RSPB



Stone curlews at Normanton Down

A record number of 70 pre-migratory stone-curlews roosted in the autumn of 2011.

## Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Joint Projects - Condition Survey, Woodland Strategy, Burrowing Animals Survey and Research Framework

Over the past year a number of projects have been undertaken in order to assess the condition of the World Heritage Site and look at how best to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS.

These include a **Condition Survey** which assessed the condition of all archaeological sites in both parts of the WHS carried out by Wessex Archaeology in 2010/11 and funded by English Heritage. They looked at impacts on monuments such as ploughing, woody growth, burrowing animals, vehicle damage and erosion by visitors.

This information will be used to update English Heritage's "Heritage at Risk" record and also by Natural England when considering Stewardship schemes for landowners. English Heritage, the National Trust, Ministry of Defence, Natural England will be working over the next few years to prioritise the monuments most at risk and work on strategies to reduce the risk in the future.

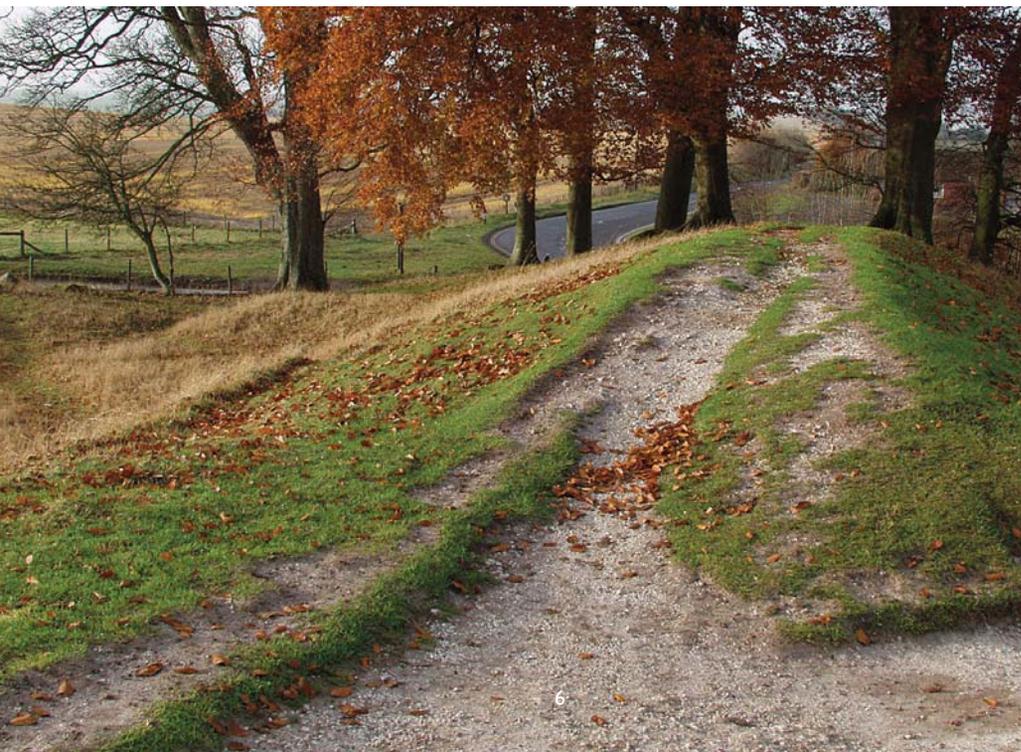


Photo: © English Heritage



## A Woodland Strategy has also been developed, led by the National Trust and funded by Natural England.

The strategy makes recommendations on how woodland should be managed across the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS and we hope it will assist landowners when making decisions about managing woodland in the future.

### Burrowing Animals Survey

The survey was undertaken by Natural England to help us gain an understanding of what damage animals such as moles, rabbits and badgers are doing to our ancient monuments. Burrowing activity can cause irreparable damage to the archaeology in the ground and mean that our ability to understand the past is jeopardised.

National Trust staff and others were trained on how to recognise the tell tale signs of damage and monuments were surveyed to see where the animals were living in the WHS and assess the potential damage.

### Research Framework

English Heritage has commissioned Wessex Archaeology to undertake a review of the research that has been undertaken in both parts of the WHS and then to work with experts across the country to outline what the questions are that still remain.

This work is due for completion at the end of 2012. There are already separate Research Frameworks for both Avebury and Stonehenge but this is the first time that one Framework will have been put together. There are so many aspects to life in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages which we are only just beginning to discover and understand.

Burrowing activity can cause irreparable damage to the archaeology in the ground and mean that our ability to understand the past is jeopardised.

## Stonehenge landscape: chronological conundrum

**The last episode of fieldwork for the Stonehenge WHS Landscape Project was a series of visits to sites on Boreland Farm in February. This included an examination of the Lake Barrows and their crucial relationships with major linear ditches which are such a feature of this part of the WHS.**

Having been kindly conducted on to the site by Mr Max Hosier, the landowner, we made a beeline for barrows 45b and 46. A previous survey had concluded in 1979 that these barrows were later than the contiguous linear earthwork and this seemed to conform to the excavation evidence which suggested that the supposed 'North Kite' enclosure (of which this linear forms one side) was of early Bronze Age date.

We had doubts, however, both about the dating and about the existence of the 'North Kite' – is it really an enclosure or a fortuitous survival of linear earthworks that have been ploughed out elsewhere?

The relationship between the barrows and the linear earthwork indeed proved difficult to read but careful examination suggested to us that the sequence should be reversed – the bank of the linear runs across the ditch of barrow 46 on its south side and the linear ditch cuts the perimeter of disc barrow 45b. This is the sequence that we would expect – early Bronze Age barrows, later Bronze Age linear ditch – but we have to explain the evidence recovered from excavation.

This consists of pottery and flint artefacts; the crucial items are a small number of refitting flint flakes and a sherd of Beaker lying on the old ground surface below the bank, found in 1983. Despite the excavator's opinion that these dated the earthwork, they clearly pre-date the linear itself and can now be considered to relate to earlier prehistoric activity on this part of the down.

**Mark Bowden, Dave Field and Sharon Soutar**

Wilsford Barrows 47 and 48 in the Lake Group

Photo: © Mark Bowden, English Heritage



## Olympics 2012 - Stonehenge in the News!

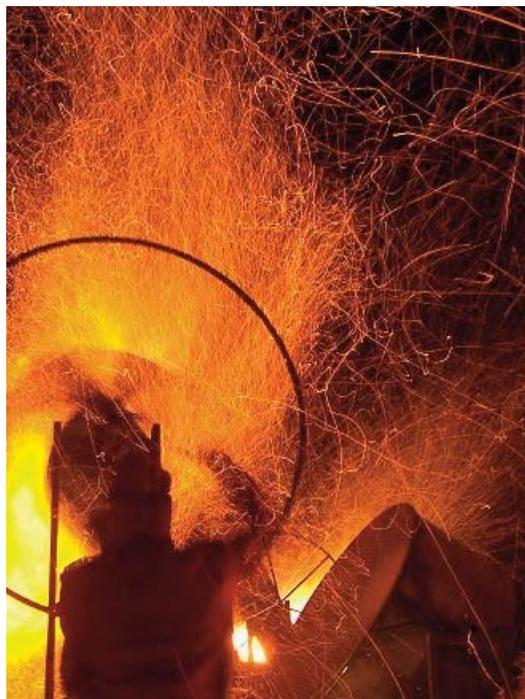
A number of important British landmarks are hosting the Olympic Torch as it travels the country and Stonehenge is no exception. In addition, Salisbury International Arts Festival, as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad programme, have engaged Compagnie Carabosse from France who will be installing a Fire Garden at Stonehenge from 10 – 12 July 2012. Carabosse have staged their striking installations across Europe. Each event is unique to its specific location, and here they will create a remarkable moment in the historic Wiltshire landscape. Tickets for this MUST be purchased in advance and are available at

[www.salisburyfestival.co.uk](http://www.salisburyfestival.co.uk)

The Fire Garden isn't the only mention of Stonehenge as part of the Cultural Olympiad. Many of you may have seen Jeremy Deller's "Sacrilege" in the news – this Turner prize-winning artist has created a replica Stonehenge in the form of a bouncy castle as an interactive art installation. It is due to "pop up" across the nation.

For further details about the London 2012 Festival events please see the website

<http://festival.london2012.com>



Carabosse at Thabor de Renne July 2007

Courtesy of the artist © Photo:Angela Catlin



Jeremy Deller's 'Sacrilege' at Glasgow International Festival

## Education in the World Heritage Site

The English Heritage education team have worked with the National Trust local communities and schools to develop 'Stonehenge Explorer' backpacks to help families and schools explore the wider landscape of Stonehenge.



The pack contains information and objects linking to the Cursus Barrows, the Stonehenge monument and the woodland and chalk downland. We have found

that the packs give visitors the confidence to explore beyond the monument itself.

Many of our UK education visitors to Stonehenge are studying travel and tourism, and to support their study we have created a new online resource called Stonehenge Heritage Management.

The resource is available online at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/education/resources/stonehenge/> and is packed with information about how the site is managed, conservation issues and links to the plans for the new visitor centre.

When we consulted with education audiences about what would support their visit to Stonehenge, many were very keen to show their students a film before the visit to set the site in context. We have been working with students from Wiltshire College studying new media, film production and cinematography to develop a film for schools visiting Stonehenge and the first draft version will be reviewed this summer.

Our education volunteers at Stonehenge are really enhancing the quality of the experience of visiting schools through the welcome they provide groups and their involvement in leading and supporting the Discovery Visit programme. We are receiving excellent feedback from both UK and overseas schools on the welcome provided by our volunteers.

We continue to work with our partners in education and outreach via the Stonehenge Learning Outreach and Co-ordination Group which is comprised of the National Trust, English Heritage, Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum and Wiltshire Heritage Museum. Our partnership work includes teacher training, sharing volunteer opportunities and working together on workshops for youth and community workers.



## Get Involved!

### - Volunteering in the WHS

A large number of people are connected to the work of the WHS through volunteering with the partners of the WHS Management Plan. The range is huge from stewarding rooms or working in the collections stores in the museums to scrub bashing in the landscape or welcoming school groups visiting Stonehenge and its landscape.

A volunteer social event was held at the Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum in February 2012 for volunteers from the partner organisations. They heard an update on the new Stonehenge visitor centre and enjoyed finding out what they do for each other's organisations. We are very grateful to the Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum for hosting the event and allowing us "back stage" to explore their stores and the fascinating collection of books they have in their library. We hope to plan future similar events.

Find out more about volunteering at

[www.englishheritage.org.uk/caring/get-involved/volunteering/](http://www.englishheritage.org.uk/caring/get-involved/volunteering/)

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/)

[www.rspb.org.uk/volunteering/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/volunteering/)

[www.salisburymuseum.org.uk/support-us/volunteer/](http://www.salisburymuseum.org.uk/support-us/volunteer/)

<http://www.wiltshireheritage.org.uk/services/index.php?Action=9>

Photo © R Butler (Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum)



A volunteer social event was held at the Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum in February 2012 for volunteers from the partner organisations.



# Stonehenge Landscape

Large parts of the Stonehenge WHS particularly north of the A303, are open to all, free of charge 365 days a year. It's a wonderful place for the family to get some fresh air and exercise and explore history and wildlife in an amazing place. There are resources available to help you enjoy this fascinating landscape on the National Trust website

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stonehenge-landscape/> where you can find downloadable route planners and further information.

Both the National Trust and English Heritage run tours and events in the Landscape - check out their websites for details!



**Stonehenge Landscape, 3 Stonehenge Cottages, King Barrow, Avebury, Wiltshire, SPA TDD**

**TRAIL**  
**Walking**

**GRADE**  
**Easy**

**DISTANCE**  
**3.5 miles (5.6km)**

**TME**  
**Around 2 hours**

**OS MAP**  
**Landranger 184; Explorer 130**

**Contact**  
01246 343700  
stonehenge@nationaltrust.org.uk

**Facilities**  
Toilets  
Refreshments  
Visitor centre  
Stonehenge car park (English Heritage)



nationaltrust.org.uk/wales

## A King's view

This walk explores chalk downland at the heart of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site. From Bronze Age burial mounds to ancient ceremonial pathways, the landscape surrounding Britain's most famous prehistoric monument is full of intriguing archaeology. There's also a fantastic array of wildlife to look out for all year round. This route includes four sites, but there are alternative routes which only use accessible gates. Please email us for more details.

### Terrain

This circular trail follows hard tracks and gently sloping downs. Surfaces can be uneven, with potholes or long tussocky grass. Dogs welcome on a lead and under control, as sheep and cattle graze the fields and there are ground-nesting birds.

### Things to see



#### Stonehenge

The famous Stone Circle is just one part of a complex ceremonial landscape on Salisbury Plain. This developed over the course of 2,000 years, during the Neolithic and the Bronze Age - starting more than 5,000 years ago.



#### Grassland restoration

We're restoring the chalk grassland around Stonehenge after many years of intensive farming. As you walk along King Barrow Ridge keep an eye out for colourful wildflower displays in summer, rare street butterflies such as the Marbled White (pictured). Sheep and cattle grazing helps to keep the grasslands rich in wildlife.



#### King Barrow Ridge

Many of the oldest barrows in the Stonehenge World Heritage Site stand along King Barrow Ridge. A line of 200-year-old beech trees make impressive viewing all year. Keep an eye out for Great Spotted and Green woodpeckers.



Photo: © National Trust

## Youth work in the WHS

In October 2011, a group of youth workers from Wiltshire took part in a workshop to find out how they can get young people more involved with Wiltshire's heritage. In the meeting, hosted by the Army Welfare Service at Larkhill, they heard about projects run by a range of organisations, including the National Trust, English Heritage, Wiltshire Heritage Museum and Wiltshire Youth Arts Partnership. After lunch, and braving hail and rain, they walked to Stonehenge, led by Lucy Evershed of the National Trust. During the day, ideas were sparked and partnerships were formed between the participants and the heritage workers.

A workshop to find out how to get young people more involved with Wiltshire's heritage.

More sessions will be held in the near future. If you work with young people in Wiltshire and would like to come along, contact Kath Graham at English Heritage on 0117 975 0732.



Photo: Kath Graham © English Heritage



Photo: David Field © English Heritage

The archaeological investigation team surveying earthworks at Stonehenge

## Latest Stonehenge research by English Heritage

Various teams across English Heritage have been carrying out new research relating to Stonehenge and its surrounding landscape, in preparation for the visitor centre exhibition. Our landscape archaeologists have been surveying and investigating all of the monuments and barrow cemeteries in the WHS. A new laser survey of Stonehenge was carried out in May 2011, and this is currently being carefully studied to see what new information it can tell us about the way the stones were dressed and for details of carvings and graffiti.

Geophysical survey and new analysis of aerial photography has also taken place. And our scientists have been helping to pull together all kinds of information about prehistoric plants, animals and people's lifestyles, all of which will be fed into our new reconstructions of life at the time of Stonehenge.

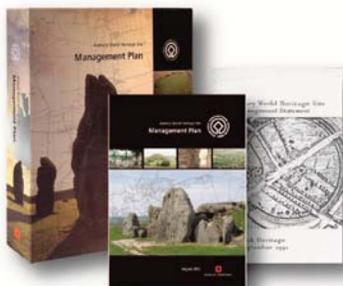
The new exhibition and interpretation scheme will present the very latest knowledge about Stonehenge and its surrounding monuments, so that our visitors are fully equipped to understand and enjoy this unique prehistoric landscape.

**Susan Greaney**  
Senior Properties Historian, English Heritage

## Avebury

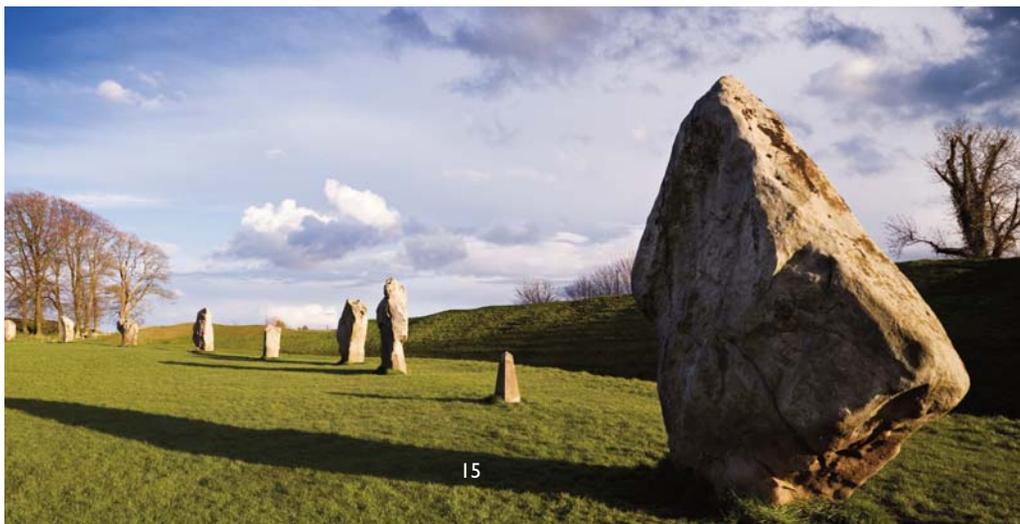
### Avebury World Heritage Site Management Plan Review and Update

In 1992 a brief Management Statement was put together by English Heritage outlining a coordinated approach to protecting and managing Avebury World Heritage Site. The first comprehensive WHS Management Plan based on extensive research, detailed studies and public consultation was published in 1998. The Stonehenge Management Plan was produced soon after in 2000.



The Avebury Plan was last updated in 2005 and it is now time to review and update the Plan once again. The new Plan will need to reflect progress on objectives in the 2005 Plan, emerging opportunities and challenges and changes in the management context. Evaluation of progress is now complete. The next step in the process will involve extensive engagement with WHS stakeholders including partner organisations and the local community whose experience, expertise and knowledge will help shape the updated Management Plan. Formal consultation on the draft Management Plan will take place in 2013.

For further information contact the Avebury World Heritage Site Officer Sarah Simmonds:  
sarah.simmonds@wiltshire.gov.uk  
tel: 01225 718470





## Governance Review

**There has been no wholesale review of the management of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site since the 1990s when the first steering groups were set up.** A lot has changed since then in a number of areas and in particular the introduction of the unitary authority, Wiltshire Council and a General Manager for the National Trust for Wiltshire covering both parts of the WHS. The steering groups of both parts of the WHS agreed to undertake a review of how the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS is governed and managed. This was undertaken from January – March this year by Egeria Heritage Consultancy who are very experienced in this area. Their conclusions are currently being considered by the steering groups and key partners of both Stonehenge and Avebury and it is likely that any necessary changes will take place in 2014.

### Further contacts

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)  
[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/artsheritageandlibraries/museumhistoryheritage/worldheritagesite.htm](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/artsheritageandlibraries/museumhistoryheritage/worldheritagesite.htm)  
<http://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/worldwonders/stonehenge/>



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



**Stonehenge, Avebury  
and Associated Sites**  
inscribed on the World  
Heritage List in 1986



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Working in partnership with

**Wiltshire Council**  
Where everybody matters



a million  
voices for  
nature



**National  
Trust**



Published by English Heritage 2012  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/stonehenge](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/stonehenge)

Compiled by Beth Thomas

Designed by Michael Goddard /[designia@mac.com](mailto:designia@mac.com)