



Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site

Management Plan Summary 2015



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



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

Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site Vision

The Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site is universally important for its unique and dense concentration of outstanding prehistoric monuments and sites which together form a landscape without parallel. We will work together to care for and safeguard this special area and provide a tranquil, rural and ecologically diverse setting for it and its archaeology. This will allow present and future generations to explore and enjoy the monuments and their landscape setting more fully. We will also ensure that the special qualities of the World Heritage Site are presented, interpreted and enhanced where appropriate, so that visitors, the local community and the whole world can better understand and value the extraordinary achievements of the prehistoric people who left us this rich legacy. We will realise the cultural, scientific and educational potential of the World Heritage Site as well as its social and economic benefits for the community.



Avebury Stone Circle

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Stonehenge in summer

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I World Heritage Sites



Stonehenge and Avebury were inscribed as a single World Heritage Site in 1986 for their outstanding prehistoric monuments

World Heritage Sites are natural and cultural sites of Outstanding Universal Value to all humanity. They represent the common heritage of humankind. Governments pledge to identify, protect, present and transmit them for this and future generations by signing the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. The prestigious label is given by UNESCO, following nomination by national governments, to sites that meet the strict international criteria. Every year, after rigorous scrutiny of applications, new sites are inscribed on the World Heritage List. In 2014, there were 1,007 World Heritage Sites.

The Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites became a cultural World Heritage Site in 1986. The two parts of the World Heritage Site are located some 40km apart in Wiltshire. The two landscapes are focused respectively on the great stone circles at Stonehenge and Avebury.



Arable farming in the WHS below the Ridgeway, Avebury

The Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site is internationally important for its complexes of outstanding prehistoric monuments. Stonehenge is the most architecturally sophisticated prehistoric stone circle in the world, while Avebury is the largest. Together, with interrelated monuments, and their associated landscapes, they demonstrate Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial and mortuary practices resulting from around 2,000 years of continuous use and monument building between c 3,700 and 1,600 BC. As such they represent a unique embodiment of our collective heritage.

The Stonehenge part of the World Heritage Site (WHS) covers c 2,600 hectares or 26 square kilometres and comprises one of the richest concentrations of early prehistoric monuments in the world. Avebury covers a similar area focused on the great Henge and Stone Circles and including Silbury Hill, the largest prehistoric man-made mound in Europe. Other key monuments include Windmill Hill and the West Kennet Long Barrow

Stonehenge and Avebury are both popular tourist destinations with around 1,250,000 visitors a year at Stonehenge and approximately 300,000 at Avebury.

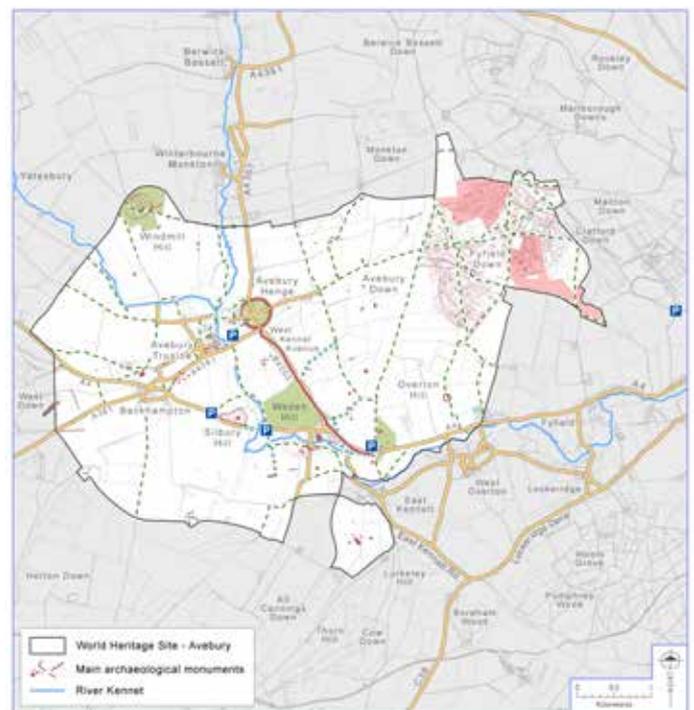
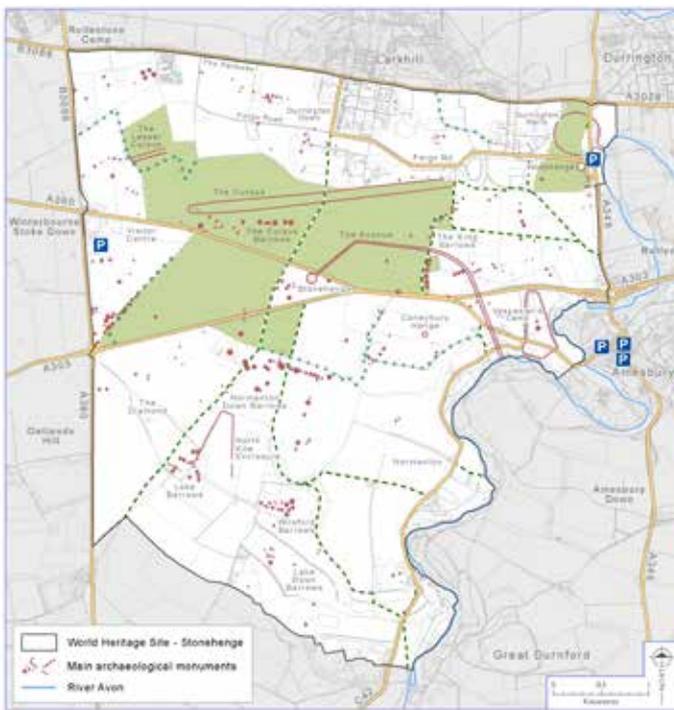
The WHS is also a place where people live and work and much of it is farmed. Managing the various activities and interests to protect and enhance the World Heritage Site and maintain its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is a complex and challenging task.

Ownership and management of the Site is shared between English Heritage, the National Trust, Historic England, the Ministry of Defence, Natural England, the RSPB, private landowners, farmers and householders. The Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan sets out the overall strategy for achieving the correct balance between conservation, access, the interests of the local community and the sustainable use of the Site, whether for recreation and tourism, or agriculture. The overarching aim of the strategy is to protect the Site to maintain its OUV as agreed by UNESCO while providing access and interpretation for visitors and local people, and allowing its continued use for sustainable agriculture and tourism.



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The Avebury Henge and Stone Circles (c 2,600–1,800 BC), the huge bank and ditch 1.3km in circumference encircles the largest prehistoric stone circle in the world



Both Stonehenge and Avebury cover landscapes of c 26,000 hectares or 26 square kilometres respectively. Much of the WHS landscape can be explored on foot.

2 The purpose of the Management Plan

The purpose of the Management Plan is to protect and sustain the OUV of the WHS for this and future generations. The Plan also takes into account other interests such as access, interpretation, nature conservation, farming, education, research and the needs of the local community.

Within the UK, Management Plans provide the overarching strategy for the management of the WHS. They are a material consideration in planning decisions and provide an advisory framework for guiding management initiatives. Management Plans are endorsed by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and referred to UNESCO.

3 Assessment of the Avebury and Stonehenge Management Plans

The previous Management Plans for both Avebury (2005) and Stonehenge (2009) have played a central role in the way the two parts of the WHS has been managed. They have been used to inform planning decisions, education and interpretation projects, funding applications and work programmes. A great deal has been achieved in both parts of the WHS under the overarching framework set out by the Management Plans. This has been achieved in many

cases due to the excellent partnership working in and around the WHS. The majority of the objectives and actions from the Avebury and Stonehenge Plans are either complete or ongoing. Many of the outstanding actions have been brought forward into the new joint Management Plan.



Pupils from Sheldon School, Chippenham at the 2012 UNESCO Youth Summit held in Maritime Greenwich WHS

© Victoria Minors



Avenue to Learning Project, Avebury

© Sarah Simmonds



James O Davies © DPI 63152, Historic England

Stonehenge Visitor Centre

A major achievement has been the development of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the WHS which was approved by UNESCO in 2013. Other joint projects have included: the 2012 WHS Condition Survey; WHS Climate Change Risk Assessment; a joint website; *Megalith* the WHS Newsletter; a walkers' map of the WHS; the establishment of the Avebury and Stonehenge Archaeological and Historical Research Group; the Stonehenge and Avebury Research Framework; and local schools' participation in UK WHS Youth Summits in 2009 and 2012.

Notable achievements at Avebury include: the production of the *Avebury WHS Residents' Pack* in 2008; the stabilisation of Silbury Hill; an extension of the WHS boundary in 2008; and improvements to the setting of Overton Hill and the Sanctuary at the gateway to the WHS following an undergrounding of overhead cables by Scottish and Southern Electric in partnership with local farmers, the National Trust and English Heritage in 2010. Important research has been undertaken at Avebury during this period extending our understanding of the WHS. The Avebury WHS Transport Strategy was completed in 2015.

At Stonehenge, the closure of the A344 (promised by the UK government at the time of inscription on the WHS List in 1986), the opening of the Visitor Centre at Airman's Corner and related programmes such as the new landscape interpretation scheme and education programme are perhaps the major achievements since 2009. Alongside this there have been numerous research programmes which have helped us to deepen our understanding of the landscape around Stonehenge and an increase in land reverted to grassland which protects the sites and monuments in the WHS and provides a better setting for them.

4 The new joint Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan

In 2013 the Stonehenge and Avebury Steering Committees agreed that a joint Stonehenge and Avebury Management Plan would be prepared. Previously Stonehenge and Avebury had separate plans. The new Plan has been developed following a review of the previous Plans overseen by their respective Steering Committees and wider consultation with WHS partners and stakeholders. This involved several workshops and smaller professional focus groups and landowner and farmer meetings.

During the twelve-week period of formal public consultation around 80 responses were received. In addition approximately 140 people visited a series of drop-in sessions in local libraries to discuss the Management Plan. This meets the aspiration of both UNESCO and the UK Government that WHS management plans should be developed through a participative process and wherever possible based on consensus. The Management Plan was subsequently revised and signed off by the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Steering Committees in April 2015.

The Plan establishes an overall vision for the long-term future of the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS and sets out aims, policies and actions for the positive management of the WHS in partnership with landowners, farmers, relevant agencies and organisations and the local community.

The Plan is organised into four parts, with supporting information including appendices and maps: Part 1: The Management Plan and the significance of the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS which includes a description of its

Outstanding Universal Value and other values as well as the policy and management context and an assessment of the 2005/2009 Plans; Part 2: Key management issues affecting the WHS and opportunities; Part 3: Aims and policies; Part 4: Implementing the Plan which includes a table of aims, policies and actions setting out priorities, lead and key partners and outputs/success measures.

5 Key management issues

The Plan identifies 61 management issues agreed by WHS partners and stakeholders and discusses them in detail. These formed the basis for the development of the aims and policies for the management of the WHS as well as the 178 related actions set out in the complete Plan.

The issues fall into eight main themes: planning and policy; boundaries of the WHS; conservation; visitor management and sustainable tourism; interpretation, learning and community engagement; roads and traffic; research; management, liaison and monitoring.

The most significant issues affecting the WHS are:

- Sustaining the OUV of the WHS for present and future generations
- Providing adequate protection of the WHS and its setting through the planning system
- Continuing reversion to grassland and ensuring renewal of existing agreements
- Improving the condition of monuments under threat from burrowing animals, scrub and tree cover
- Enhancing the ecological value of the area
- Reducing the adverse impact of roads on the WHS, its attributes of OUV and ability to explore the landscape
- Monitoring the impacts of tourism and managing this sustainably
- Improved interpretation of the WHS particularly the outlying monuments and the landscape as whole
- Encouraging sustainable research and education
- Funding and resourcing the coordination of the WHS and implementation of the Management Plan

This joint Plan addresses in more depth than previous Plans the issues of:

- Realising the economic benefits of sustainable tourism
- Engaging more fully with the local community
- Working more closely with the creative sector

6 The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

In order to manage the WHS, it is essential to understand its significance and why it is important. The following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value explains why the WHS is important and what needs to be protected and enhanced. It was prepared by the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Steering Committees and was approved in 2013 by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee following its submission by DCMS on behalf of the UK Government.

The Attributes of Outstanding Universal Value of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site

1. Stonehenge itself as a globally famous and iconic monument.
2. The physical remains of the Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary and ceremonial monuments and associated sites.
3. The siting of Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary and ceremonial sites and monuments in the landscape.
4. The design of Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary and ceremonial sites and monuments in relation to the skies and astronomy.
5. The siting of Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary and ceremonial sites and monuments in relation to each other.
6. The disposition, physical remains and settings of the key Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary, ceremonial and other monuments and sites of the period, which together form a landscape without parallel.
7. The influence of the remains of Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary and ceremonial monuments and their landscape settings on architects, artists, historians, archaeologists and others.

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value 2013

The World Heritage property Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites is internationally important for its complexes of outstanding prehistoric monuments. Stonehenge is the most architecturally sophisticated prehistoric stone circle in the world, while Avebury is the largest. Together with interrelated monuments, and their associated landscapes, they demonstrate Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial and mortuary practices resulting from around 2,000 years of continuous use and monument building between circa 3,700 and 1,600 BC. As such they represent a unique embodiment of our collective heritage. The World Heritage property comprises two areas of Chalkland in southern Britain within which complexes of Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial and funerary monuments and associated sites were built. Each area contains a focal stone circle and henge and many other major monuments. At Stonehenge these include the Avenue, the Cursuses, Durrington Walls, Woodhenge, and the densest concentration of burial mounds in Britain. At Avebury they include Windmill Hill, the West Kennet Long Barrow, the Sanctuary, Silbury Hill, the West Kennet and Beckhampton Avenues, the West Kennet Palisaded Enclosures, and important barrows.

Stonehenge is one of the most impressive prehistoric megalithic monuments in the world on account of the sheer size of its megaliths, the sophistication of its concentric plan and architectural design, the shaping of the stones - uniquely using both Wiltshire Sarsen sandstone and Pembroke Bluestone - and the precision with which it was built.

At Avebury, the massive Henge, containing the largest prehistoric stone circle in the world, and Silbury Hill, the largest prehistoric mound in Europe, demonstrate the

outstanding engineering skills which were used to create masterpieces of earthen and megalithic architecture.

There is an exceptional survival of prehistoric monuments and sites within the World Heritage property including settlements, burial grounds, and large constructions of earth and stone. Today, together with their settings, they form landscapes without parallel. These complexes would have been of major significance to those who created them, as is apparent by the huge investment of time and effort they represent. They provide an insight into the mortuary and ceremonial practices of the period, and are evidence of prehistoric technology, architecture and astronomy. The careful siting of monuments in relation to the landscape helps us to further understand the Neolithic and Bronze Age.

Criterion (i): *The monuments of the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites demonstrate outstanding creative and technological achievements in prehistoric times.*

Stonehenge is the most architecturally sophisticated prehistoric stone circle in the world. It is unrivalled in its design and unique engineering, featuring huge horizontal stone lintels capping the outer circle and the trilithons, locked together by carefully shaped joints. It is distinguished by the unique use of two different kinds of stones (Bluestones and Sarsens), their size (the largest weighing over 40 t) and the distance they were transported (up to 240 km). The sheer scale of some of the surrounding monuments is also remarkable: the Stonehenge Cursus and the Avenue are both about 3 km long, while Durrington Walls is the largest known henge in Britain, around 500 m in diameter, demonstrating the ability of prehistoric peoples to conceive, design and construct features of great size and complexity.



Stonehenge at twilight



Avebury Stone Circle

Avebury prehistoric stone circle is the largest in the world. The encircling henge consists of a huge bank and ditch 1.3 km in circumference, within which 180 local, unshaped standing stones formed the large outer and two smaller inner circles. Leading from two of its four entrances, the West Kennet and Beckhampton Avenues of parallel standing stones still connect it with other monuments in the landscape. Another outstanding monument, Silbury Hill, is the largest prehistoric mound in Europe. Built around 2,400 BC, it stands 39.5 m high and comprises half a million tonnes of chalk. The purpose of this imposing, skilfully engineered monument remains obscure.

Criterion (ii): *The World Heritage property provides an outstanding illustration of the evolution of monument construction and of the continual use and shaping of the landscape over more than 2,000 years, from the early Neolithic to the Bronze Age. The monuments and landscape have had an unwavering influence on architects, artists, historians and archaeologists, and still retain a huge potential for future research.*

The megalithic and earthen monuments of the World Heritage property demonstrate the shaping of the landscape through monument building for around 2,000 years from circa 3,700 BC, reflecting the importance and wide influence of both areas.

Since the 12th century when Stonehenge was considered one of the wonders of the world by the chroniclers Henry de Huntington and Geoffrey de Monmouth, the Stonehenge and Avebury Sites have excited curiosity and been the subject of study and speculation. Since early investigations by John Aubrey (1626–1697), Inigo Jones (1573–1652), and William Stukeley (1687–1765), they have had an unwavering influence on architects, archaeologists, artists and historians. The two parts of the World Heritage property provide an excellent

opportunity for further research. Today, the property has spiritual associations for some.

Criterion (iii): *The complexes of monuments at Stonehenge and Avebury provide an exceptional insight into the funerary and ceremonial practices in Britain in the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Together with their settings and associated sites, they form landscapes without parallel.*

The design, position and interrelationship of the monuments and sites are evidence of a wealthy and highly organised prehistoric society able to impose its concepts on the environment. An outstanding example is the alignment of the Stonehenge Avenue (probably a processional route) and Stonehenge stone circle on the axis of the midsummer sunrise and midwinter sunset, indicating their ceremonial and astronomical character. At Avebury the length and size of some of the features such as the West Kennet Avenue, which connects the Henge to the Sanctuary over 2 km away, are further evidence of this. A profound insight into the changing mortuary culture of the periods is provided by the use of Stonehenge as a cremation cemetery, by the West Kennet Long Barrow, the largest known Neolithic stone-chambered collective tomb in southern England, and by the hundreds of other burial sites illustrating evolving funerary rites.

The full Statement of Significance including the statements of authenticity and integrity and the recognised protection and management requirements can be found online at www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org

Adopted 37th Session of the World Heritage Committee June 2013 (Decision 37 COM 8E)

7 Priorities for 2015–2021

The ongoing and overarching priority of the Management Plan is to encourage the sustainable management of the WHS in order to sustain its Outstanding Universal Value, balancing its needs with those of the farming community, nature conservation, access, landowners and the local community.

The priorities of the 2015–2021 Management Plan are to:

1. Protect buried archaeology from ploughing and enhance the setting of sites and monuments by maintaining and extending permanent wildlife-rich grassland and managing woodland and scrub
2. Protect monuments from damage by burrowing animals
3. Reduce the dominance and negative impact of roads and traffic and ensure any A303 improvements support this
4. Improve the interpretation and enhance the visitor experience of the wider landscape
5. Ensure any development is consistent with the protection and, where appropriate, enhancement of the monuments and their settings and the wider WHS landscape and its setting
6. Spread the economic benefits related to the WHS to the community and wider county
7. Encourage local community engagement with the WHS
8. Encourage sustainable archaeological research and education to improve and communicate the understanding of the WHS.



© Beth Thomas

Between the Monuments excavation, Avebury 2013

8 Aims and Policies

The aims set out the broad areas in which we will work to achieve the Vision while the policies set out the course of action and appropriate approach. The aims and to a large extent, the policies, will have a long-term relevance for achieving the Vision. We do not expect to achieve them completely within this Plan period. The actions set out in the complete Management Plan are specific areas of work within the control of the partners that they aim to achieve in the short to medium term.

PLANNING AND POLICY

Aim 1: *The Management Plan will be endorsed by those bodies and individuals responsible for its implementation as the framework for long-term detailed decision-making on the protection and enhancement of the WHS and the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Its aims and policies should be incorporated in relevant planning guidance and policies.*

Policy 1a – Government departments, agencies and other statutory bodies responsible for making and implementing national policies and for undertaking activities that may impact on the WHS and its environs should recognise the importance of the WHS and its need for special treatment and a unified approach to sustain its OUV

Policy 1b – Set within the framework provided by the Management Plan, relevant stakeholders should implement existing policy and guidance and where necessary develop policies and written guidance at a national and local level for the improved management and conservation of the WHS. These policies should ensure the maintenance of its OUV by protecting the physical fabric, character, appearance, setting and views into and out of the WHS. Relevant Management Plan policies should be incorporated within the Core Strategy and other relevant development plan documents within the Local Plan and additional WHS planning guidance produced

Policy 1c – Ensure any other plans or strategies produced locally such as Neighbourhood Plans and the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan contain policies that support the protection of the WHS and its setting and the maintenance of its OUV

Policy 1d – Development which would impact adversely on the WHS, its setting and its attributes of OUV should not be permitted

Policy 1e – Minimise light pollution to avoid adverse impacts on the WHS, its setting and its attributes of OUV

Policy 1f – Any additional tourist facilities and attractions must contribute to the understanding and enjoyment of the WHS and its attributes of OUV as well as ensuring visitor dispersal and the positive management of visitor pressures



Development in the setting of the WHS – Solstice Park

© Beth Thomas

BOUNDARIES OF THE WHS

Aim 2: *The WHS boundary should ensure the integrity of the WHS is maintained and enhanced by including significant archaeological features and interrelationships that reflect the attributes of the OUV.*

Policy 2a – Propose to UNESCO a minor modification of the boundary at Stonehenge to enhance the integrity of the WHS

Policy 2b – Put in place appropriate additional guidance to ensure that development within the setting of the WHS protects and enhances the Site and its attributes of OUV

CONSERVATION

Aim 3: *Sustain the OUV of the WHS through the conservation and enhancement of the Site and its attributes of OUV.*

Policy 3a – Manage the WHS to protect the physical remains which contribute to its attributes of OUV and improve their condition

Policy 3b – Review regularly the condition and vulnerability of all archaeological sites and monuments throughout the WHS to guide management actions and future priorities

Policy 3c – Maintain and enhance the setting of monuments and sites in the landscape and their interrelationships and astronomical alignments with



Stone-curlew chicks

© Keeley Spate RSPB

particular attention given to achieving an appropriate landscape setting for the monuments and the WHS itself

Policy 3d – Improve the WHS landscape by the removal, redesign or screening of existing intrusive structures such as power lines, fences and unsightly buildings where opportunities arise

Policy 3e – Conserve and/or make more visible buried, degraded or obscured archaeological features within the WHS without detracting from their intrinsic form and character

Policy 3f – Encourage land management activities and measures to maximise the protection of archaeological monuments and sites as well as their settings, and the setting of the WHS itself

Policy 3g – Maintain, enhance and extend existing areas of permanent grassland where appropriate

Policy 3h – Explore and develop synergies between the historic and natural environment to benefit the WHS and the maintenance of its OUV. Maintain and enhance the overall nature conservation value of the WHS, in particular: maintain, enhance and extend the existing areas of floristically rich chalk downland turf; enhance the biodiversity of permanent grassland to extend the area of species-rich grassland and provide habitat for birds, invertebrates, bats and other wildlife. Seek opportunities for the expansion of chalk grassland where consistent with protecting the WHS to sustain its OUV and relevant biodiversity targets. Extend and seek new links with relevant conservation bodies, programmes and initiatives

Policy 3i – Sustain and enhance the attributes of OUV through woodland management while taking into account the WHS's ecological and landscape values

Policy 3j – Produce risk management strategies; keep under review and implement as necessary

VISITOR MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Aim 4: *Optimise physical and intellectual access to the WHS for a range of visitors and realise its social and economic benefits while at the same time protecting the WHS and its attributes of OUV.*

Policy 4a – Management of visitors to the WHS should be exemplary and follow relevant national and international guidance on sustainable tourism

Policy 4b – Spread the economic benefits from tourism related to the WHS throughout the wider community

Policy 4c – Encourage access and circulation to key archaeological sites within the wider WHS landscape. Maintain appropriate arrangements for managed open access on foot within the WHS (taking into account archaeological, ecological and community sensitivities) to increase public awareness and enjoyment

Policy 4d – Manage special access at Stonehenge for significant occasions including solstices, and for stone circle access outside opening hours for small groups and all open access at Avebury to avoid harm to the WHS and its attributes of OUV

INTERPRETATION, LEARNING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Aim 5: *Improve the interpretation of the WHS to increase understanding and enjoyment of its special characteristics and maximise its educational potential. Engage the local community in the stewardship and management of the WHS.*



Launch of the Avebury WHS Residents' Pack 2008

© Brian Edwards

Policy 5a – Improve the interpretation both on and off site to enhance enjoyment and appreciation of the WHS

Policy 5b – Develop learning opportunities offered by the WHS both on and off site

Policy 5c – Promote community involvement in the WHS to increase a sense of ownership

Policy 5d – Artists and the creative sector will offer new and inspiring ways for communities and a wider range of visitors to engage with and learn about the OUV of the WHS and the wide range of artistic responses to it both past and present

Policy 5e – Present a unified Stonehenge and Avebury WHS identity and message

Policy 5f – Explore and deliver opportunities to meet the wider objectives of UNESCO and the UK Government



Valley of the Stones, Fyfield Down

© Steve Marshall

ROADS AND TRAFFIC

Aim 6: Reduce significantly the negative impacts of roads and traffic on the WHS and its attributes of OUV and increase sustainable access to the WHS.

Policy 6a – Identify and implement measures to reduce the negative impacts of roads, traffic and parking on the WHS and to improve road safety and the ease and confidence with which residents and visitors can explore the WHS

Policy 6b – Manage vehicular access to byways within the WHS to avoid damage to archaeology, improve safety and encourage exploration of the landscape on foot whilst maintaining access for emergency, operational and farm vehicles and landowners

Policy 6c – Take measures through sustainable transport planning to encourage access to the WHS other than by car



© National Trust/John Miller

Traffic on the A303 at Stonehenge

RESEARCH

Aim 7: Encourage and promote sustainable research to improve understanding of the archaeological, historic and environmental value of the WHS necessary for its appropriate management. Maximise the public benefit of this research.

Policy 7a – Encourage sustainable archaeological research of the highest quality in the WHS, informed by the WHS Research Framework

Policy 7b – Improve information management and public access to data sets and provide adequate facilities for archives and storage of finds

Policy 7c – Maximise dissemination, interpretation, education and public engagement related to research

Policy 7d – Undertake other types of research, such as the assessment of biodiversity, as appropriate

MANAGEMENT, LIAISON AND MONITORING

Aim 8: Provide adequate management systems and resources for the conservation and monitoring of the WHS.

Policy 8a – Implement the Management Plan and liaise with partners to maintain and enhance the present partnership approach

Policy 8b - Seek adequate funding for the coordination of the WHS and the implementation of the Management Plan

Policy 8c - Ensure regular monitoring of the WHS

9 Implementation of the Management Plan

The Management Plan includes the wide range of actions that need to be undertaken to deliver the aims and policies. The Management Plan is a dynamic document and these actions may be adapted in response to changes in the management context over the lifetime of the Plan. Each year an action plan will be developed which will outline the actions to be delivered over the coming year by the relevant partners.

Delivery of the Plan is not the responsibility of one single organisation but a joint responsibility and commitment shared by all the partners involved in the management of the WHS from individual landowners to national agencies. The range and numbers of partners involved in the management of the WHS mean that coordinated partnership working is essential for achieving successful outcomes for the WHS and the communities living and working in and around it. There has been an excellent track record of organisations and community groups working well together in both parts of the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS and it is anticipated that this will continue.

The Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Panel and the Stonehenge and Avebury Steering Committees play an essential role in encouraging, guiding, overseeing and monitoring progress as well as reviewing and updating the Management Plan. The WHS Coordination Unit plays a pivotal role in facilitating, coordinating and enabling implementation of the WHS Management Plan.

Facts and figures

ARCHAEOLOGY

Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments

Stonehenge

- Stonehenge (c 3,000–1,600 BC)
 - First Stonehenge – circular bank and ditch (c 3,000 BC).
 - The Stones arrive (c 2,500 BC)
 - The bluestones rearranged (c 2,200 BC)
 - The tallest sarsen stone is 7.3m high and weighs over 40 tonnes. It is one of the 5 sarsen trilithons. The sarsen circle was originally composed of 30 uprights (each weighing about 25 tonnes) capped by horizontal lintels (c 7 tonnes). The bluestones, weighing up to 4 tonnes each, came from the Preseli Hills in Wales, c 240km away
- Other key monuments at Stonehenge include the Stonehenge Avenue (c 2,500–1,700 BC and 2.5km long), the Cursus (c 3,600–3,400 BC and 2.7km long), Woodhenge (c 2,300 BC), and Durrington Walls (c 2,500 BC).

Avebury

- The Avebury Henge and Stone Circles (c 2,600–1,800 BC)
 - The Henge consists of a huge bank and ditch c 1.3km in circumference. The Stone Circle is the largest in the world and this and the two smaller inner circles were made up of 180 local, unshaped sarsen stones
- Silbury Hill (c 2,425–2,300 BC)
 - Silbury Hill is the largest prehistoric mound in Europe. It stands at c 39.5m tall and comprises around half a million tonnes of chalk
- Other key monuments at Avebury include the West Kennet Long Barrow (c 3,650BC), Windmill Hill (c 3,650–3,350 BC) West Kennet Avenue (c 2,600–1,800 BC), the Sanctuary (2,500–2,000BC).
- The WHS contains around 600 prehistoric burial mounds: c 350 at Stonehenge and c 250 at Avebury. These include 10 Neolithic long barrows at Stonehenge and 6 at Avebury including West Kennet and East Kennet Long Barrows, the rest are Bronze Age barrows. Key barrow cemeteries include Normanton Down, King Barrows, Cursus Barrows, Winterbourne Stoke, Wilsford and Lake Barrows at Stonehenge and Overton Hill, Avebury Down, Waden Hill, Fox Covert, Hemp Knoll and Beckhampton Penning at Avebury.
- Altogether, the Stonehenge part of the WHS includes more than 700 known archaeological features (including find spots), of which 415 are protected by scheduling within 175 scheduled areas. At Avebury there are around 450 known archaeological

features (exclusive of find scatters). 200 of these are protected by scheduling within 74 scheduled areas.

SIZE AND OWNERSHIP OF THE WHS

- The Stonehenge and Avebury WHS covers c 52 square kilometres (5,200ha – 12,849 acres). Both the Stonehenge and Avebury landscapes each cover c 26 square kilometres. Ownership and management of the WHS is shared between English Heritage, the National Trust, Historic England, the Ministry of Defence, Natural England, the RSPB, landowners, farmers and householders in Amesbury, Larkhill and the Woodford Valley, Avebury, Avebury Trusloe, Beckhampton, West Kennett, West Overton and Winterbourne Monkton.
- There are 3 Guardianship Monuments at Stonehenge: Stonehenge, Woodhenge and parts of Durrington Walls which are owned by the state and managed by English Heritage.
- At Avebury the only area in state ownership is the Sanctuary which is managed by the National Trust. At Avebury there are 6 properties in state guardianship: Avebury Henge and Stone Circles; Windmill Hill; West Kennet Long Barrow; Silbury Hill; the Sanctuary; West Kennet Avenue. Their management is undertaken by the National Trust as part of a Local Management Agreement (LMA) with English Heritage.
- A large part of the landscape surrounding Stonehenge is owned by the National Trust (827ha, around 32% of the Stonehenge part of the WHS). The National Trust owns 647ha at Avebury, around 25% of the Avebury part of the WHS, which includes many of the major monuments such as the Henge and Windmill Hill.

GRASSLAND REVERSION

- In the Stonehenge part of the WHS, there are 5 Higher Level Stewardship Agreements in 2015. Over 640ha of arable land (c 25% of its area) have been signed up for grassland reversion. 102ha of grassland are managed extensively to protect underlying archaeology and benefit the landscape and wildlife and 319ha are cultivated at reduced depth to protect archaeology. Around 40% of the Stonehenge part of the WHS is in environmental stewardship schemes helping to protect and/or enhance the setting of c 500 historic features.
- In the Avebury part of the WHS there are 10 Higher Level Stewardship Agreements in 2015. There are over 101ha of reverted grassland. 482ha of grassland is managed extensively to protect underlying archaeology and benefit the landscape and wildlife and 455ha are cultivated at reduced depth cultivation to protect archaeology. Around

40% of the Avebury part of the WHS is in environmental stewardship schemes helping to protect and/or enhance the setting of c 300 historic features.

- Grassland reversion together with specific management options under environmental stewardship schemes as well as related capital items designed to protect and enhance the WHS represent a financial commitment from Defra of approximately £2 million over the lifetime of the agreements.

WHS VISITORS AND FACILITIES

Stonehenge

- 1,250,000 visitors to Stonehenge in 2013/14 (excluding the Solstice and including free education visits and stone circle access).
- About 55% are from overseas, 30% are part of a group and 5% are education visitors. More than 70% of the education visitors are from overseas.
- Summer Solstice: Approximately 36,000 people attended in June 2014.
- Existing visitor facilities completed in December 2013. (Visitor Centre with an education room; permanent and temporary exhibition space; shop, café and car park)
- Access inside the stone circle was stopped in 1978 because of vandalism and erosion due to increasing visitor numbers. Carefully managed stone circle access can be booked with English Heritage at certain times.

Avebury

- Around 300,000 visitors to Avebury in 2013/14 (open access nature of the site makes it difficult to accurately reflect numbers)
- About 10% are from overseas, 22% are part of a group and 8% are education visitors.
- Summer Solstice: c 2, 000 visitors in June 2014.
- Visitor facilities include the Alexander Keiller Museum and Barn Gallery managed by the National Trust. There is also an education room, shop and café. The car park is owned and managed by the National Trust. There are 3 pubs that serve food within the WHS and 2 other shops in Avebury one of which is run by the community. Bed and breakfast accommodation is also available.
- Access to the major monuments is largely open at Avebury except when areas are closed for conservation purposes or on private land without permissive access. There is no access to Silbury Hill for conservation and safety reasons.

Facts and figures compiled by the WHS Coordination Unit, February 2015

To view the Plan online go to:

www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org

For further information on the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site:

www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org

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Printed copies can be purchased from Historic England
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Produced by Sarah Simmonds and Beth Thomas

Designed by Anthony Cohen Design

Printed by ESP Colour Ltd

Front Cover

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The Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site is globally important for its unique and dense concentration of outstanding prehistoric monuments and sites, which together form a landscape without parallel. The World Heritage Site Management Plan provides a framework and long-term strategy for the protection of the World Heritage Site for present and future generations. The primary aim of the Plan is to protect the Site's Outstanding Universal Value, taking into account other interests such as farming, nature conservation, tourism, research, education and the local community.