

Stonehenge World Heritage Site Committee

Meeting on Thursday 19th April 2018

14.00 – 16.00

Wiltshire Museum, Devizes

Minutes

Present:

Roger Fisher (RF) (Chair)	Amesbury TC
Sarah Simmonds (SS)	Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Manager
Kathi Sharp (KS)	Durrington PC
Colin Shell (CS)	ASAHRG
Stephanie Payne (SP)	Natural England
Jan Tomalin (JT)	National Trust
Jennifer Davies (JD)	English Heritage
Richard C Crook (RC)	NFU
Phil Sheldrake (PS)	RSPB
Ron Lock (RL)	Shrewton PC
Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (MPK)	Wiltshire Council
Helen Miah (HM) (Notes)	Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Officer

Apologies:

Nick Snashall	National Trust
Mike Wilmott	Wiltshire Council
Phil McMahon	Historic England
Ian Barnes	National Trust
Hugh Morrison	WHS Farmers' Representative
Andy Shuttleworth	Winterbourne Stoke PC
Fred Westmoreland	Wiltshire Council

<p>1. Introductions and apologies</p> <p>Apologies noted above</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>2. Agree minutes of last meeting & matters arising</p> <p>Minutes agreed with minor amend: Item 4.0 last bullet point write to Wiltshire Council not Highways England Item 10.0 will be raised at next ASARGH to discuss update on protocol for disposal of archives within the WHS</p>	<p>HM update and circulate</p>
<p>3. WHS Committee Chair Review</p> <p>For information:</p>	

<p>Andrew Williamson has decided to step down as Chair of Avebury Steering Committee after a number of years. Many thanks go to AW for his hard work. Henry Oliver is now Chair for Avebury.</p> <p>RF will continue as Chair for this Committee.</p>	
<p>4. A303 Scheme Consultation</p> <p>JT – A summary of the National Trust position is that it broadly welcomes the proposals by Highways England for the A303 in the Stonehenge half of the WHS that are currently being consulted on subject to a number of points including: the incorporation of a 200m grass-covered canopy at the western end, steep sided cuttings and a sensitively-located and designed green bridge to reduce the impact of traffic and the road in the west. In addition, they seek the withdrawal of the proposal for a new linking Byway Open to All Traffic between Byways 11 & 12.</p> <p>DD – concern about chalk extracted from tunnel being ‘dumped’ on Parsonage Down.</p> <p>MPK – Wiltshire Council have picked this up as a possible issue for archaeology and commented in detail</p> <p>PS – the scheme does present opportunities for enhanced biodiversity</p> <p>PS - RSPB – commented and broadly welcome except need to safeguard wildlife value of southern areas of WHS. Want to look at visitor access strategy in partnership with other WH partners.</p> <p>SS – suggest a working group is required to take this forward</p> <p>CS – important to recognise that desired access for wildlife and archaeology might not be the same</p> <p>Shrewton PC – broadly supportive, concerned about traffic management during construction phase. Hoping there would be improved access straight from the village into the WHS for non-motorised vehicles.</p> <p>SS – WH Management Plan provides clear legacy plan/actions included improved links to be included in an access strategy</p> <p>MPK – Wiltshire Council comprehensive response covering all aspects of Corporate Plan. In principle supporting subject to a number of issues being addressed and further assessments being undertaken especially the environmental and heritage impact assessments. MPK re archaeology wants to see the results of all the ongoing investigations before reaching a conclusion. Full Council response available from Tuesday.</p> <p>WHS Farmers meeting – concerned predominantly about byways and unmanaged access.</p>	
<p>5. World Heritage Site Coordination Unit Update</p> <p><u>World Heritage Site Trust update</u> See summary circulated</p>	

<p>Still working on HLF Resilient Fund application contingent on getting in-kind support from partner organisations. Funding will enable the design of a sustainable and resilient WHS Trust and will look at issues such as branding, fundraising, governance and other key functions.</p> <p><u>World Heritage Day and Communication</u> HM summarised partners' involvement in World Heritage Day which had been a positive event, engaging all partners and actively promoting the aims of the Management Plan around community engagement. SALOG will review the overarching approach and all partners have been sent an Evaluation Report to complete. The event provided an opportunity to develop the WHS social media platforms including Facebook and Instagram. <u>Megalith 2018</u> – request for articles for Megalith to be sent to HM by end of June <u>Desmond Dog's Blog</u> – HM working with VisitWiltshire #timeforwiltshire to promote the WHS and disseminate key messages in a fun and engaging way. 7 blogs over next 7 months will each feature a different attribute of OUV. Any partners wanting to get relevant messages out please contact HM</p>	
<p>6. Reports from Partners on implementation of WHS Management Plan and related projects</p> <p><i>SS reminded all we are almost midway through the Management Plan period, good time to review, reflect, refocus. She will be arranging meeting with all partners to review progress and future priorities. These will be reflected in the master spreadsheet covering all Management Plan actions.</i></p> <p><u>National Trust (JT)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Day 18 April - Walk with an Archaeologist Stonehenge Landscape (led by Nick Snashall). • King Barrow Coneybury - Refencing works have taken place. • Cursus Barrows - Refencing is about to take place to remove the fences from the Scheduled area of the barrows. • Byway 12 - Serious concerns about increased “camping” on Byway near Stonehenge. Damage being done to NT land and woods. Presence extremely detrimental. Urge Wiltshire Council to act by using their powers to clear the encampment. <p>Following discussion, it was agreed to send letter from this Committee to Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>Shrewton PC will also write as will Amesbury</p> <p><u>Post mtg update from MPK</u></p>	<p>JD to send SS detailed info.</p> <p>RL</p> <p>RF</p>

Richard Broadhead and colleagues are aware of the situation and are working on a solution with Wiltshire Council Legal Department. Simon Rowe and Sarah Marshal are working on this with a view to finding a permanent solution to the issue. All queries and correspondence about this issue should be directed to Simon Rowe.

RSPB (PS)

Normanton Down – adding additional species of vegetation to increase biodiversity is proving successful.

English Heritage (JD) – difficult weather issues but Stonehenge 100 Events and Celebrations now in train. Website now in 11 languages. Heather Sebire in post as Stonehenge Curator.

Historic England (PM)

See note attached

Natural England (SP)

Some funding to do badger survey in a part of the WHS this summer including more about their territory and use of landscape. Working on River Avon (Site Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area Conservation (SAC)) public engagement project to look at why the river is important and links to Stonehenge. Mapping habitats for mobile species across the wider landscapes – Parsonage Down, Salisbury Plain and Porton Down - to increase connectivity. This will be a partnership approach including local farmers.

Wiltshire Council (MPK)

Ongoing work in partnership, GIS, burrowing animals, footpath repairs, responding to A303 and planning applications. New member of staff Martin Brown, replacing Clare King as Assistant County Archaeologist covering south of the county including Stonehenge area.

Action

SS/HM will update the action plan

SS to arrange meeting to review mid-point progress

7. WHS Farmers Updates

Annual WHS Farmers Meeting – presentation from Highways England, issue re proposal to move A303 proposed development at Rolleston Crossroads into the WHS where impact appears to be less. Challenges continue with byways open to traffic, hare coursing and dogs worrying sheep.

- All the farming community represented ask Highways England, Wiltshire Council and the heritage bodies to grasp the nettle and put in place a TRO on

<p>Byways 11 and 12. This should, in their opinion form part of DCO. It is unacceptable to spend billions putting A303 into a tunnel and neglect to deal with misuse and traffic on these byways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock worrying is a growing problem nationally and within the WHS, the core of which is native grassland managed by grazing livestock. As well as the obvious direct impacts, indirect impact such as disease is a big issue which is likely to worsen if unchecked. Dogs can also have a negative impact on wildlife, particularly ground nesting birds. Serious concerns have been raised by those farming to the south of the A303. They are acutely aware of the likely increase in footfall post tunnel, especially with dogs. <p>Important to give a consistent message to the public across the WHS from each partner, this includes websites and maps of all partners' land holdings and where possible third parties. Walkers often show us web pages suggesting dog walking routes across grazed fields.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolleston Crossroads, recommend exploration of alternative design to minimise the impact of this proposed new junction. 	
<p>8. Parish/Town Council Updates</p> <p><u>Amesbury</u> (RF) Queensway footbridge due to be replaced. MOD plans for Boscombe Down RL questioned whether these were going forward.</p> <p><u>Shrewton</u> (RL) July 8th Chubb Centenary Day match planned with local team versus archaeologists and heritage professionals</p> <p><u>Durrington</u> (KS) Durrington Walls car park poles have been replaced, are they permanent? Will they prevent wild camping? Action MPK to follow up</p>	MPK
<p>9. Report from the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Panel</p> <p>RF - Discussed new WHS Trust and A303 Consultation, see WHSCU update</p>	
<p>10. Report from Avebury & Stonehenge Archaeological and Historical Research Group</p> <p>Living with Monuments update – may be a further dig in the summer CS - Concern raised re disposal of archives at Salisbury Museum, should there be an ASARGH policy on this/should they be a consultee?</p>	

DD - Wiltshire Museum was involved in the review prior to disposal of fieldwalking finds	
<p>11. Information exchange and AOB</p> <p>CS Southern fence at Woodhenge goes across the monument. Can NT look at this? Action JT follow up</p> <p>RC - do we know what will happen to all the flint that is dug up from the tunnel? MPK reported that this was not a concern archaeologically</p>	JT
<p>12. Date of next meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, 18th October 2018 • Thursday, 11th April 2019 	