

Stonehenge World Heritage Site Committee

Tuesday 22 July 2014

10.30am at Antrobus House, Amesbury

MINUTES

Present: Roger Fisher (Chairman), Beth Thomas (Secretariat), Norman Parker (Amesbury Society/History Centre), Colin Shell (ASAHRG), Philip Miles (CLA), Cllr Fred Westmoreland (Amesbury CAB), John Mills (Durrington TC), Ed Halford (Highways Agency), Richard Ormerod (Highways Agency), Richard Crook (NFU), Jan Tomlin (NT), Carole Slater (Shrewton PC), Peter Bailey (Wilsford cum Lake PC), Ariane Crampton (Wiltshire Council), David Dawson (WANHS), Andy Shuttleworth (Winterbourne Stoke PC), Tony Richardson (RSPB)

		ACTION
1.0	Introductions and apologies	
1.1	<p>Roger Fisher welcomed committee members to his first meeting as Chairman of the Stonehenge WHS Committee.</p> <p>He began by circulating a copy of the <u>terms of reference</u> that had been drawn up by the working group made up of representatives of both Stonehenge and Avebury WHS committees which considered the recommendations of the Governance Review of 2012.</p> <p>The terms of reference set out the roles and responsibilities of the Stonehenge WHS Committee in relation to the WHS Partnership Panel and are attached to these minutes. RF asked that all members of the committee note the terms of reference to aid future working.</p>	
1.2	Apologies received from: Richard Osgood, Kate Davies, Phil McMahon, Henry Owen-Jones, Nick Snashall, Stephanie Payne, Patrick Cashman, Adrian Green, Alistair Sommerlad, Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger,	
2.0	Minutes of last meeting & matters arising	
2.1	Actions from last meeting:	
2.1.1	<u>Item 3.1</u> BT to circulate a full list of members. This action complete.	
2.2.2	<u>Item 6.0</u> BT to circulate proposed draft boundary review and paper submitted to <u>Committee July 2013</u> . This action is complete.	
2.2.3	<u>Item 7.0</u> BT asked to re-circulate the designer's CGI images of the completed Visitor Centre. This action is complete	
2.2.4	<u>Item 10.0</u> AC & FW to investigate criticism that a number of planning permissions for the new visitor centre have not been fulfilled. - FW has spoken to the Planning Team at Wiltshire Council regarding the planning conditions for the Stonehenge VC. The Planning Team noted that planning conditions are substantially completed. They are aware that the permissive path from Stonehenge Bottom to byway 12 is not yet complete but this work is in progress. FW noted that he believed that the land train had not been signed	

	<p>off by the planning team but the planning team did not feel that this was a planning matter.</p> <p>AS believed that failure to complete these conditions were a reputational risk to EH.</p> <p>AS was asked to take up any specific issues with Adam Madge Development Control Team Leader – South for Wiltshire Council adam.madge@wiltshire.gov.uk</p> <p>See footnote below from AS regarding planning information¹ Planning application number: S/2009/1527</p>	
2.2.5	<p><u>Item 12.4</u> <u>BT to contact the Highways Agency re incomplete diversion signs from Longbarrow Crossroads.</u> – BT did pass on this comment to the HA. This comment has been noted by the HA.</p>	
2.2.6	<p><u>Item 14.0</u> <u>BT to pass on NP’s details to Martyn Barber.</u> – BT has passed on NP’s contact details to Martyn Barber of English Heritage.</p>	
2.2.7	<p><u>Item 17.2</u> <u>KD to investigate how Amesbury is featured at the Visitor Centre.</u> - BT sent a letter to RC noting how Amesbury is featured in the visitor centre at Stonehenge. This letter was subsequently read to the Amesbury Town Council meeting.</p> <p>NB items from the Edmund Antrobus collection will be used in the temporary exhibition taking place at Stonehenge from November 2014 which is to be entitled: “Soldiers at Stonehenge – Salisbury Plain and the journey to the First World War”.</p>	
2.2.8	<p><u>Item 17.5</u> <u>KD and NS to discuss what could be done to raise awareness of dog walkers to control dogs more effectively.</u></p> <p>JT noted that this issue has been discussed during the regular EH/NT liaison meetings and is ongoing. NT Rangers keep a look out for dogs that are not in control.</p>	
2.2.9	<p>Minutes of 18 March 2014 were agreed without any further amendments.</p>	
3.0	<p>Report from Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Partnership Panel (WHSP)</p> <p>Alistair Sommerlad was unable to attend the meeting. BT noted from the minutes of the Partnership Panel the following decisions:</p>	
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WHSP agreed that 200 copies of the Management Plan should be printed and 1500 summaries. EH and Wiltshire Council agreed to share the cost of the production as well as provide in kind contribution. NT was unable to commit but may be able to contribute some in-kind contribution. 	
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of current live issues were discussed including the A303 and the army rebasing programme. 	
3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS had asked that partners assist in raising the profile of the whole WHS by including the words “Stonehenge and Avebury WHS” and the WHS logo as a minimum on all printed literature etc for properties or 	

¹ 1) The Wiltshire Council website that holds the entire archive of planning documents, reports and public input pertaining to the planning process (S/2009/1527) for the new visitor’s centre can be found at:

<http://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/UniDoc/Document/Search/DSA.499657>

2) The specific document that lists the Planning Conditions for the visitors’ centre is:

<http://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/UniDoc/Document/File/Uy8yMDA5LzE1MjcsNTc5Nzg=>

In case the link fails, the document is entitled simply “Decision.”

<p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>events within the WHS. This will provide a consistent and unified message. Partners agreed to do this as literature was reviewed/ reprinted and discussions are ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AS has met with representatives of the Chalke Valley History Festival and the Salisbury International Festival to try and encourage inclusion of the WHS into their programmes. The WHSPP broadly agreed to this subject to clarifying parameters and details. Next meeting is 10 October 2014. 	
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p>	<p>Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims Policies and Actions (APA) BT introduced this with some background on how the APA were developed and the way that the table was set out. The document contains information on background and context. The APA have been seen by a large number of people including the Stakeholder Workshop which was held o 20 May in Amesbury. The Project Board met on 17 July to review the APA and is broadly content with them now. The detail of lead partner, key partner, dates etc can be altered but we are keen at this point to find out if there are any actions which are problematic to partner organisations. Please contact BT by 5th August with any comments or questions. Next steps <ol style="list-style-type: none"> BT and Sarah Simmonds will be spending the next 6-8 weeks writing the more detailed text and putting the different elements. The aim is to avoid duplication where possible and produce a streamlined and usable document. Meetings with individual partners including Wiltshire Council, English Heritage and the National Trust will be held to ensure that they are happy with content. If your organisation would like to hold a meeting with BT/SS please let BT know ASAP. These meetings will help to shape the final document and ensure we have a realistic and workable Management Plan for the next 5-6 years. The Project Board next meet on 1 October and the WHSPP on 10 October. Following those meetings the final version will be produced and copy edited and it is planned to hold a joint meeting with members of both the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Committees to approve the final version in mid-November before it goes out to public consultation for 12 weeks from end of November/early December. It has been agreed that we will follow the Wiltshire Council public consultation process. The Plan should be launched in late Spring with the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Research Framework. <p>If you have any queries please contact BT. AS asked if the APA could be presented as a Gant chart which would update automatically as actions are started, delayed or completed. The WHS Coordination Unit has not considered this. The projects are not all inter-related and each project could have a Gant chart or similar to manage the specific project. The actions will be agreed annually. FW asked whether “risk” is reflected in the document. Risk is not in the text at present but this is something that could be considered and each project would have to consider any associated risks with their action as part of the project development.</p> 	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p>World Heritage Site Coordinator’s update BT circulated a written update in advance of the meeting and drew the</p>	

<p>t 5.2</p>	<p>Committee's attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change risk assessment for the WHS published in March 2014 on the WHS website. • Production of Megalith 2014 – if members of the Committee would like further hard copies please contact BT. Ideas for next year's edition welcome. • Website visit number and growth of Twitter account • Volunteer event at Barrow Clump near Figcheldean hosted by Wessex Archaeology • BT attended the Salisbury Festival Close event 24 May and the Salisbury Museum Open Day on 12 July for the WHS. <p>Pedestrian Counters</p> <p>BT presented a paper on the pedestrian counters in advance of the meeting and a location map will be circulated with the minutes. Data is gradually being collected by our excellent volunteer Trevor. EH/NT/WHS are meeting on 24 July to discuss how we can better present and use the available data for best effect for the WHS. It shows trends over time in particular.</p> <p>JT asked about weather data being overlaid onto this data. BT said that this has been mentioned but no action taken as yet. AS noted that there are a number of local weather stations where this data could be provided. BT will raise at meeting on 24 July.</p> <p>EH asked about connecting data to activity on A303 and the visitor centre. The pedestrian counters currently are all north of the A344 so not directly linked to activity on A303 but this could be considered in the future. Data is collected in 30 minute intervals so further detailed study could be undertaken to see how the busy times at the VC impact on the wider landscape if required.</p> <p>BT noted that the data is available to any partner who would like to make use of it.</p>	
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Update on Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project</p> <p>Kate Davies was unable to attend the meeting but had sent in a written update.</p> <p>In response to a query at the meeting it was confirmed that both EH and NT members receive free parking in the car park.</p> <p>RF noted that the Stonehenge Solstice planning meeting are considering the Winter Solstice already and particularly the parking arrangements and access for emergency vehicles. Numbers are growing for the winter solstice and spring and autumn equinox and this is causing concern.</p>	
<p>7.0</p>	<p>English Heritage update</p> <p>Update on actions circulated before the meeting. BT drew the Committees attention to the updates on the EH Stonehenge website with education and interpretation material. The increase in educational visitor numbers since the opening of the VC.</p> <p>Phil McMahon, Inspector of Ancient Monuments has been busy with discussions regarding the army rebasing programme and the ongoing work surrounding proposals for improvements to the A303.</p> <p>FW was pleased to see the increase in educational visitors and reinforced why the Visitor Centre was required.</p>	
<p>8.0</p>	<p>National Trust update</p> <p>An update from the NT had been circulated before the meeting. JT highlighted that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tree felling works were complete at the east end of the Cursus and monuments are now much more visible as a result. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation panels are being installed at the Cursus barrows and the cuckoo stone shortly and “omega signs” have been installed. There are now over 70 gates in the landscape to aid movement around the Stonehenge Landscape. However, people tend to follow established tracks and this could lead to problems. The NT is monitoring this and will take action as required. • NT and EH meet regularly and work closely together in managing visitors across the Landscape. • JT noted that events are more difficult to manage due to parking arrangements and it is likely that EH and NT will work more closely together to deliver events and tours etc. • NT is also involved in the A303 proposals. • Amy Jenes (Rural Surveyor) is on a 4 month secondment. • Chris Jones has moved to a new NT post in Devon and Catherine Broadbent has taken over his role as Visitor Experience Officer. <p>RF commented that in a recent survey of Larkhill residents, access to open countryside was one of the greatest benefits to living there.</p>	
9.0	<p>Wiltshire Council update An update had been circulated before the meeting. AC noted that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Core Strategy was moving forward and it was hoped that it could be adopted this Autumn • The County Archaeology Service had been involved in works related to ongoing works at Stonehenge VC and the planning issues of the army rebasing programme. • The County Archaeology Service has been involved in the developing Stonehenge and Avebury Research Framework and chaired the first 2 meetings of ASHRG. 	
10.0	<p>Natural England Update No update received. BT noted that she had recently attended a workshop related to the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS). https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-agricultural-policy-introduction-to-the-new-cap-schemes The new schemes will focus on the Water Framework Directive, Climate Change and Biodiversity 2020. There are elements to protect the historic environment and the WHS Coordination Unit is working with other partners to get the most for the WHS.</p>	
11.0	<p>Highways Agency Update Ed Halford noted the following: (a) <u>Summer Solstice</u> went very well with good feedback. RF supported this and said that in particular the crossing at Stonehenge Cottages was particularly useful. BT said that the social media message from a number of partners involved in solstice planning to use public transport was very clear. (b) <u>A303 Study</u> – now in Stage 2 with options being considered and the Stonehenge section is seen as a high priority. The Secretary of State for Transport visited recently to see the issues for himself. There is a technical group which key partners including EH are involved in. TR asked if they were using information from previous schemes and this was confirmed. The study is reviewing previous evidence from the last scheme developments as well as reviewing what has changed such as the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value which was approved by UNESCO in 2013. (c) <u>Longbarrow Crossroads</u> – EH noted the issue of the diversionary route</p>	

	<p>signage problem raised at the March 2014 meeting. Markings have been changed and it will be monitored. A Stage 4 safety audit will be carried out in due course.</p> <p>(d) <u>Countess Road Roundabout</u> – The traffic management system has been reviewed and improved. It is linked to the traffic moving West so if the road is at capacity it cannot accommodate traffic flows. The HA will monitor and make changes as appropriate. The suggestion of a yellow box junction has been noted for future consideration. It was noted, however, that driver behaviour is often a cause of congestion and without enforcement a yellow box junction may not necessarily be any more effective.</p> <p>AS noted that his blog has described the phenomenon a Soliton wave and is noted in the footnote below².</p> <p>CS asked about why the installation of traffic lights was not considered for the Longbarrow roundabout. This might allow better traffic flow, particularly for travellers on the A360. CS also said that it would be helpful to encourage motorists to “merge in turn” as poor driver behaviour could worsen congestion. Road markings to create a single exit and avoid merge conflict might improve congestion at the Longbarrow roundabout.</p>	
12.0	<p>RSPB Update</p> <p>Report circulated in advance of the meeting. Tony Richardson, noted that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lease on the RSPB reserve at Normanton Down has been renewed and for a larger area. • This year there have been sightings of Stone Curlews and Common Curlews. The barn which was burnt down last year with the loss of a Little Owl nest has been rebuilt and the Little Owls have returned. • The RSPB/NT joint wildlife leaflet is now available on line and at the Stonehenge VC. http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stonehenge-landscape/wildlife/ 	
13.	<p>Report from Avebury & Stonehenge Archaeological and Historical Research Group</p> <p>ASAHRG last met on 23 May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are assisting with the development of the Stonehenge and Avebury Archaeological Research Framework. It is hoped to launch it at the same time as the Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Management Plan. • The Between the Monuments excavation in Avebury along the West Kennet Avenue has just started and continues until 8 August. This is the second year of excavation. There is evidence of early Neolithic life predating the many monuments in the area. It also seems to include an area that has not been ploughed and contains material undisturbed since just after the end of the Ice Age. • ASAHRG is concerned about damage to archaeological remains on byways by vehicles. • Southern Scottish Electric will be under-grounding overhead cables at Avebury which will improve the setting of the WHS. 	
14.0	Other partner updates	
14.1	<u>Community Area Board</u>	

² The blog posts that explain why there are jams on the westbound and eastbound A303 near Stonehenge, even when the volume of traffic is low can be found here:

<http://bypasswinterbournestoke.blogspot.co.uk/2014/04/the-stonehenge-effect-why-not-all.html>

With an update showing the effect over the May Bank Holiday here:

<http://bypasswinterbournestoke.blogspot.co.uk/2014/05/the-measure-of-misery-4-5-solitons.html>

	<p>FW noted that the discussions around the A303 are taking a good deal of time. The CAB had a very useful presentation from Wiltshire Council on the traffic flow study undertaken in March. Another study takes place at the beginning of August.</p> <p>ACTION: BT to try and locate presentation for Committee members.</p>	
14.2	<p><u>Amesbury Society</u></p> <p>Amesbury Society has been going for 35 years. They hold a series of talks in the winter. There has been a 20% increase in membership this year. They are working with Amesbury Town Council to manage the Amesbury History Centre. It is currently open 5 days a week. There are around 300-400 visitors per month. Mostly visitors not residents. Interior has been redisplayed. The formal agreement between the Society and Amesbury TC is still be finalised.</p> <p>NP also reminded the committee of the presence of the Aviation Centre in the George Hotel.</p> <p>There are some excavations planned for September/October at Blick Mead but details are not confirmed.</p>	
14.3	<p><u>Wiltshire Museum & Salisbury Museum</u></p> <p>David Dawson noted on behalf of both museums that the 3 elements for the interpretation of Stonehenge are now complete with the opening of the new galleries at the Wiltshire Museum in October 2013 and the Wessex Gallery at the Salisbury Museum on 12 July 2014 together with the new visitor centre at Stonehenge.</p> <p>The Wiltshire Museum has seen a three-fold increase in paying visitors. Talks are ongoing with English Heritage on how it can encourage visitors to Stonehenge to go onto visit the Salisbury and Wiltshire Museums as part of a longer visit to the county.</p> <p>The storage facilities of both Salisbury and Wiltshire Museums have been full for some time. There will be nowhere to store any finds resulting from projects such as the army rebasing projects.</p>	
14.4	<p><u>MoD</u></p> <p>No report but BT noted that the Digging War Horse Project at the site of a former WWI horse hospital on Fargo Road was due to start as part of Operation Nightingale in September/October this year. Further details available as they are announced.</p>	
15.	<p>Parish and Town Council Updates</p> <p><u>Amesbury Town Council</u></p> <p>The Amesbury History Centre is to produce plans for a new building partially funded by developer's Section 106 Agreement. The details still need to be agreed.</p> <p>Larkhill is included in Durrington Town Council but Amesbury TC takes part in the Community Partnership at Larkhill. This is a successful partnership which works well.</p>	
	<p><u>Durrington Town Council</u></p> <p>1. The Army Re-basing Consultation has reached an excellent conclusion, and it is understood that all stakeholders have expressed satisfaction. It shows what can be achieved when everyone works together.</p> <p>2. A number of visitors to the Visitor Centre have expressed mild dissatisfaction in the apparent lack of secure parking facilities for bicycles. The current system seems to require them to left in the main car park, where it is felt that they may be vulnerable to theft. Additionally any luggage has to be unshipped from the bike and carried round the Visitor Centre - not ideal if you are on a touring holiday. The feeling is that if bikes could be parked within sight the Visitor Centre they would be more secure (see footnote 1).</p>	

	BT said she would raise this issue with KD.	
	<u>Shrewton Parish Council</u> Traffic is still causing an issue for the village. STAG continues its campaign. Some residents are developing a history trail in the village. Work on the Neighbourhood Plan continues.	
	<u>Wilsford cum Lake</u> PB wanted to add to the positive feedback about the management of Solstice in June. There had been no impact on the southern part of the WHS.	
	<u>Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council</u> There are a number of issues connected with traffic, etc that are exercising the Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council and local residents. . 1) We were thankful that the Solstice had passed off without any major traffic problems. 2) We believed that EH were imposing conditions that were out with the 1921 agreement. Local residents not wishing to make use of the Visitors Centre facilities, nor using the land train, or the car parks should be able to wander in to visit the stones at will, subject to presenting their pass to the EH staff in attendance at the entrance to the field. This will be raised at the Amesbury Area Board as it has implications for many residents in the area. 3) We are concerned that driving a horse and carriage, or driving an invalid carriage on the former A344 is not possible at the present time. 4) We have asked Wiltshire Council to provide appropriate signage for the western end of the former A344, indicating that it is an open highway. 5) We are concerned about the use of buses to ferry visitors to the stones for safety reasons. 6) Wiltshire's Cycling Strategy (http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/ltp3-cycling-strategy.pdf) fails to mention the availability of the A344 as an ideal link to the west from Byway 12 north, which links to the nationally important cycle route NCN 45 and via Byway 12 south to other byways leading to Woodford, Berwick St James, Winterbourne Stoke and other national routes. The WHS should be included in the Cycling Strategy.	
16.0	Information exchange and AOB	
16.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Lady Gass</u> - RF read out a letter of thanks that he will send from the Committee to Lady Gass thanking her for all her work for the Stonehenge WHS over many years. The Committee agreed that the letter should be sent. 	
16.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Lorraine Knowles</u> – Lorraine Knowles received an OBE for services to heritage in the Queen's Birthday Honours and attended an investiture on 18 July in Windsor. She retires at the end of July. ACTION: BT to draft letter of congratulation from the committee. 	BT
16.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Metal detecting</u> – NP said that he is working on locating the site of the Lorraine/Wilson crash in 1912. He wondered what the protocol was. BT confirmed that he needed the permission of the landowner. Metal detecting on Scheduled Monument, National Trust land and in some cases where land is in receipt of Natural England/Defra payments. It is good practice to discuss with the Portable Antiquities Scheme Officer and the County Archaeologist. CS noted that NP needs to consider what he will do if he finds other objects such as Roman coinage etc. 	

	ACTION: BT will provide NP with contacts.	BT
17.0	Date of next meeting Wednesday 19 November was pencilled as the date of the Joint Stonehenge and Avebury Steering Committee to approve Draft Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan. Date, time and venue to be confirmed.	