

**Traffic and Visitor Management Group Meeting Note  
5<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**1. Attendees:**

Jan Tomlin (NT - Chair)  
 Steve Colwill (Wiltshire Police)  
 Martin Cook (Wiltshire Highways)  
 Tim Davis (Wiltshire Council)  
 Eleanor Eaton (NT)  
 Laura Gosling (Wiltshire Council)  
 Stuart Maughan (EH)  
 Sarah Simmonds (WHSO)  
 Andrew Williamson (APC)  
 David Vaughan (Wiltshire Council)

**Apologies:**

Cllr Jemima Milton (Wiltshire Council)  
 Robin Butler (WHS Farmers)  
 Judy Farthing (Avebury Society)

Item		Decision/ Action
2.	<p><b>Actions from last meeting:</b></p> <p><b>Triangle of grass, Avebury High Street</b>            MC reported that due to a reorganisation, no progress is likely in the short term on the introduction of stone setts in this area.</p> <p><b>Sign for Community Shop</b>            JT reported that the village had not yet provided any wording for the amended fingerpost in the High Street, but that a refresh of signage was underway, and this would be included in that exercise.</p> <p><b>Guardianship panels</b>            SS reported that EH had considered including other logos on the guardianship panels. The panels are however EH and NT management panels and space is limited.</p> <p><b>Great Stones Way Project</b>            SS has sent on the notes from the discussion at the last TVM meeting to the Friends of the Ridgeway (FoR) highlighting the TVM's concerns. An environmental impact study is under preparation by the FoR.</p> <p><b>Avebury TIC</b>            SS reported that the Avebury TIC has now closed.</p> <p><b>Trailblaze</b>            SS reported that TrailBlaze have agreed to start their runs from Barbary Castle to avoid.</p>	<p><b>JT to talk to Michelle Lomas re wording</b></p> <p><b>Tourist information provision to be considered in Avebury WHS Management Plan Review</b></p>
3.	<p><b>WHS Traffic and Design Project Update</b></p>	<p><b>All TVM members to send comments</b></p>

	<p>TD reported that a Project Brief document had been distributed to all TVM members, and invited all TVM members to give their comments before the brief is finalised.</p> <p>TD advised that the traffic and public realm issues identified in the WHS management plan 2005 will be covered in this project. The process will also include a review of issues and objectives that have evolved since its publication. The outcomes will be included in the forthcoming update of the Management Plan.</p> <p>The meeting discussed the proposed approach to consultation. AW advised that the Parish Council would like to be involved, and that they are currently looking at widening representation in the APC to cover not just residents but employers/employees and arts networks, etc. AW suggested a two stage consultation process, whereby a note could be sent to the APC seeking first responses at the beginning of the project, with a full consultation exercise once plans had been identified.</p> <p>The meeting discussed how traffic problems might be addressed. SC/MC emphasised the need to go through the Local Area Boards.</p>	<p><b>on brief to TD by end of October</b></p> <p><b>AW to send note to parish council outlining the project TD to write statement outlining how consultation will be undertaken</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>WHS Road Maintenance Protocol</b></p> <p>SS distributed a protocol agreed with Wiltshire Council and Mouchel regarding both planned maintenance roadwork and road closures which might lead to congestion in the WHS. Prior information on this will be sent to identified partners including EH, NT, and the Archaeology Service. This will help with concerns over contractors not being fully briefed about the specific constraints which apply to the WHS.</p> <p>MC suggested that Swindon Council might also be asked to sign up to this protocol.</p> <p>The meeting agreed that such a protocol would be helpful, but MC raised concerns that emergency works for utilities or to deal with immediate hazards could not wait for advance notice to be given.</p>	<p><b>It was agreed that wording should be included in the protocol document which describes what constitutes emergencies.</b></p> <p><b>SS to approach Swindon Council</b></p> <p><b>JT to give SS exact wording under rules for emergency works to Scheduled Ancient Monuments</b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Vans and Camping at the Start of the Ridgeway</b></p> <p>AW reported that the PC/ NT had been working on solutions in the medium term, including working with Wiltshire Council to</p>	<p><b>Avebury Parish Council to meet</b></p>

	<p>establish the existing track as a Right of Way so that it might be formalised in law and policed properly.</p> <p>In the short term NT and police have been talking to campers in an effort to reduce and eventually clear the track of vehicles. NT are looking into setting up a fence to give more security to the tenant's water supply.</p> <p>The gate across the track will also be padlocked from 1<sup>st</sup> October for the winter, which will reduce the area where camping is currently a problem. An 18 month experimental traffic order was discussed as a measure to investigate the effects of closing the track in the medium term.</p> <p>SS reported that Richard Broadhead had suggested convening a group to pursue solutions to managing the area.</p> <p>It was noted that some displacement of campers into the rest of the WHS might be expected, particularly at Summer Solstice, and reopening the track just for this time of year might be agreed in order to reduce pressure on the village.</p>	<p><b>NT property surveyor to continue work on establishing a RoW on existing track</b></p> <p><b>It was agreed that a group meeting should be held with APC/ NT, Richard Broadhead, National Trails and local policing team to discuss further actions</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>BBC Treasure House Project</b></p> <p>EE outlined NT's plans so far for the opening of the Manor House. The house would be opening following the screening of the first of the series of programmes about the transformation, but a date has not yet been finalised. The house will be open from mid-November to 19<sup>th</sup> December, and then from February half-term to Christmas 2012. A significant increase in visitors is expected. The NT are reviewing signage in order to help orientate visitors.</p> <p>SS requested that WHS objectives and messages are considered and the WHS common visual language work. JT underlined that at this stage the review was a fast one limited to way marking visitors and not a complete review. EE confirmed that the WHS wording would be retained.</p> <p>AW raised concerns that there might be a problem with motorists who cannot get into the Manor House. JT advised that NT &amp; the BBC are working on this at the moment in order to give visitors a clear message before they leave home.</p> <p>SS and SM advised Beth Thomas would be a valuable source of advice in managing visitor spikes that are associated with TV programmes.</p> <p>AW advised that there may be plans to bring the Olympic Torch to Avebury in 2012. This may bring some extra visitors to the site.</p>	

7.	<p><b>NT update on visitor management issues</b></p> <p>EE advised that during the review of existing signage, the notice board on the path from the car park to the village has become available, and offered this to APC for parish news.</p>	<p><b>AW to discuss with NT</b></p>
8.	<p><b>EH update on visitor management issues</b></p> <p>SM advised that EH is going through a major Governance Review and TVM will be advised once the outcomes are known.</p> <p>SM advised that the Guardianship panels are nearing completion, and distributed the final drafts of the panels.</p>	<p><b>All to send any necessary corrections to SM by 21st October</b></p>
9	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p><b>WHS Management Plan Review:</b> SS advised that she will be presenting the project plan for the review to the Steering Committee in November. The Traffic Strategy work and related engagement and consultation will represent part of the Management Plan Review.</p> <p><b>Olympic Wiltshire:</b> SS advised that Team Wiltshire are looking for information about any events which are planned to coincide with the Olympics.</p> <p><b>Works to Hunters' Long Barrow</b> DV advised that under the Monument Management Scheme, a three year project of works will be starting on Hunter's Barrow near the Wagon &amp; Horses pub to stop damage by badgers.</p>	
10	<p><b>Review of Report to Steering Committee – Jan Tomlin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EH Governance Review</li> <li>• Actions to manage the Ridgeway of campers</li> <li>• TVM are happy with progress on the WHS Traffic and Design Project</li> </ul>	<p><b>JT to provide update to WHS steering committee</b></p>
11.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012</p>	<p><b>SS to confirm</b></p>