

Stonehenge World Heritage Site Committee

Meeting on 13 March 2012
10.30am at Antrobus House, Amesbury

MINUTES

Present: Lady Elizabeth Gass (Chair), Beth Thomas (Stonehenge WHS Coordinator), Amanda Chadburn (English Heritage – Stonehenge Curatorial Unit), Loraine Knowles (English Heritage - Stonehenge Director), Richard Crook (National Farmers Union), Clare King (County Archaeology Service), Philip Miles (Country Land & Business Association), Richard Osgood (Defence Infrastructure Organisation), Nick Snashall (National Trust), Roger Fisher (Amesbury Town Council), Rifleman Bowyer (Operation Nightingale – observer only)

Apologies: Peter Bailey (Wilsford cum Lake/WHS Landowners), Peter Carson (English Heritage - Head of Stonehenge), Patrick Cashman (RSPB), Georgina Clampitt-Dix (Wiltshire Council), Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Wiltshire Council), Christopher Young (English Heritage – Head of International Advice), Peter Wray (Highways Agency), Jan Tomlin (National Trust), Dave Healing (Durrington Parish Council), Paul Blaker (DCMS), Stephanie Payne (Natural England), Nigel Linge (Defence Infrastructure Organisation)

1.	Introductions and apologies As above	
2.	Agree minutes of last meeting Agreed with one amendment – item 10 - A344 works will take place after Long Barrow improvements are complete.	
3.	Matters Arising No matters arising	
4.	<p>World Heritage Site Coordinator's update <u>See action plan update attached</u></p> <p>(i) Periodic Reporting - This will be taking place across Europe in 2012 – 13. These reports take place every 6 years and are a report to UNESCO on the condition of the monument, its management and future threats or risks. The bulk of the work will be from July 2012. There must be one point of contact with UNESCO for each WHS and BT will be taking the lead for Stonehenge and Avebury but working closely with Sarah Simmonds in Avebury. The answers will need to reflect the position in both Avebury and Stonehenge. Most questions are of a routine nature but there will be some questions where referral to the committee may be appropriate. These can be discussed in more detail at our July meeting.</p> <p>(ii) WHS Newsletter - Lady Gass was concerned that concentrating on e-publications might exclude those people who do not have ready access to the internet and that there is still a place for printed publications. ACTION: BT to investigate any possible links with publications going out such as the update published by Amesbury Town Council and other partners in order to keep costs low.</p> <p>(iii) RF noted that the board at Durrington/Woodhenge was still missing</p>	BT

	<p>ACTION: CK & BT to report again to Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>(iv) AC re. Condition Survey – EH did agree to circulate data sets to relevant partners.</p> <p>ACTION: BT to ask Wessex Archaeology to send a CD to MOD and Natural England</p>	<p>CK/BT</p> <p>BT</p>
5.	<p>English Heritage update from Amanda Chadburn <u>See action plan update attached</u> Majority of work undertaken by EH has been on Stonehenge Project.</p> <p>(i) The Condition Survey – very useful and will help us to prioritise our work within the WHS.</p> <p>(ii) Fire Garden (10 – 12 July 2012) (Salisbury International Arts Festival) – AC wanted to update the committee on this forthcoming event. Trials are taking place on 13 March to assess what potential impact the equipment used will have on the monument. EH will ensure that there is no damage to the monument. There are a number of logistical issues to work through. The WHS committee recognises that this event would be of interest but has some concerns regarding the impact it could have on the Stones and Landscape. ACTION: AC to pass this on to relevant parties within EH.</p> <p>(iii) Recent scientific investigations - Some work has been undertaken to review Carbon 14 dates for Stonehenge. This may lead to some changes to the detail of the development of Stonehenge. This will be fed into the new Stonehenge Guidebook and interpretation at the new visitor centre.</p>	<p>AC</p>
6.	<p>Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project – verbal update from Loraine Knowles</p> <p>(i) Final approval of full business case was received from DCMS on 29 February. Contract has been awarded to preferred construction company. There are a number of pre-commencement planning conditions which need to be discharged and final permissions from Heritage Lottery Fund.</p> <p>(ii) There have been discussions with Wiltshire Council regarding the operational issues raised by the TRO decision. This will involve some signage, gates and changes to the width of A344 in order to prevent access from byway 12 onto the regulated A344.</p> <p>(iii) Temporary pedestrian and cycle route will be required while the A344 route is re-seeded. EH in discussion with NT.</p> <p>(iv) There will be a temporary exhibition on Stonehenge entitled “Stonehenge: Monumental Journey” at Wellington Arch, Hyde Park Corner, London from 2 May – 24 June 2012. There will be loans from the two Wiltshire Museums included. ACTION: BT will circulate information in due course.</p> <p>(v) Airman’s Corner – work on boreholes was halted and a second borehole is to be drilled as first hole was not yielding sufficient volume of water. If there is not sufficient volume then the means of heating and cooling the building will need to be reviewed.</p> <p>(vi) Lady Gass asked when would be an appropriate time for the WHS Committee to visit the site. LK suggested September 2012 when there</p>	<p>BT</p>

	<p>should be visible works.</p> <p>(vii) RF enquired about the Airman's Cross Memorial (pre-commencement condition) – this will be removed. Royal Engineers will clean it before being re-located within the visitor centre site. The anniversary of the crash is coming up - any commemoration will take place at Larkhill rather than at the memorial site itself.</p> <p>(viii) PM asked about the budget – LK stated that the total cost remains at £27m.</p> <p>(ix) LK noted that the contractor will have a community liaison person on the team.</p>	
7.	<p>National Trust update from Nick Snashall <u>See action plan update attached</u></p>	
8.	<p>Wiltshire Council update from Clare King <u>See action plan update attached</u></p> <p>(i) Core Strategy - CK to ask MPK to let the committee know if there are any areas of the Core Strategy that the committee should pay particular attention to. ACTION: BT to circulate Core Strategy 59 with minutes.</p> <p>(ii) Wiltshire Council was involved in monitoring the archaeological recording of the bore-hole area at Airman's Corner – no significant archaeology found.</p> <p>Lady Gass asked about the Woodhenge/Durrington Walls area and whether there were any proposed improvements. Previous proposals have not resulted in any actions due to concerns of neighbours. The Committee are concerned about the lack of progress in this area of the WHS and would like this issue to be re-visited in light of developments proposed for this area in the Management Plan and the Interpretation Learning Strategy. ACTION: CK to discuss with Wiltshire Council (MPK & Leo Wirtz).</p> <p>(iii) Historic Landscape Character Assessment – AC asked the new officer to discuss the WHS area with her. ACTION: CK to send final project definition to AC and Rachel Foster.</p>	<p>BT</p> <p>CK</p> <p>CK</p>
9.	<p>Natural England Update No report at meeting due to sickness but a report attached with minutes. In the absence of a report BT commented that</p> <p>(i) Both BT and Sarah Simmonds represented the WHS at a meeting held in January by NE together with colleagues working at a national level within EH. It was a very positive meeting with Natural England demonstrating that they did wish to assist where they can to protect the historic environment through ELS and HLS schemes.</p> <p>(ii) Both Sarah Simmonds and BT have also been invited to the NE (Wiltshire) Team Meeting at Avebury on 15 March to help us to understand better how ELS and HLS works.</p> <p>(iii) BT understands that the Chairs of NE and EH have agreed to meet at Stonehenge although there are no further details at present.</p>	
10.	<p>Highways Agency Update – written report from Peter Wray</p>	

	<p>(i) The A303 resurfacing has gone well and is due to be completed on schedule within the next week or so.</p> <p>(ii) The WHS signs should be going up any time now and hopefully one is already in place, with the other to follow. [<i>Confirmed that one sign is in position just west of long barrow roundabout on the east-bound carriageway</i>]</p> <p>(iii) There is on-going discussion between the contractors concerning the Airman's Corner scheme, which has been pushed back to September, but we are still looking to start works on Longbarrow late summer.</p> <p>(iv) HA's contractors are considering possible measures to stop right turning movements at Byway 12.</p> <p>RF raised the issue about the untidiness of the Countess Road roundabout still.</p> <p>ACTION: BT to pass comments onto PW.</p>	BT
11.	<p>RSPB Update – written update from Patrick Cashman See action plan update attached.</p> <p>Committee asked for an update on the Great Bustard works at the next meeting.</p>	PC
12.	Other partner updates	
12.1	<p>Avebury Management Plan update – verbal update from Amanda Chadburn Two year programme planned. There are some issues which are common to Stonehenge. Sarah Simmonds will be looking at some issues which may have some impact on Stonehenge eg “Attributes” which are common to both parts of the WHS. Should these be joint or shared with differences highlighted? There will be an opportunity to be involved in the future.</p>	
12.2	<p>Amesbury Town Council – verbal update from Roger Fisher The Melor Hall in Amesbury has been purchased by the Town Council and the intention is to put a museum in the building. This will be part of a Section 106 agreement with Bloor Homes.</p>	
12.3	<p>MOD – verbal update from Richard Osgood</p> <p>(i) Improvements at the Cursus - The MoD Environmental Officer still posted to Afghanistan so unable to progress the review of the Cursus sewage works.</p> <p>(ii) South of Packway – condition surveys undertaken by team working as part of Operation Nightingale – barrows.</p> <p>(iii) Stonehenge can be seen from Robin Hood's Ball.</p> <p>(iv) “Layers of Larkhill” - Army Welfare Service funding project led by Julian Richards looking at the history within the base. Expected to start in May.</p> <p>(v) MoD have received Scheduled Monument Consent to do some work on a Saxon burial ground and Bronze Age Round Barrow at Barrow Clump outside the WHS. Work carried out by Operation Nightingale.</p>	
13.	<p>Governance Review – verbal update on progress from Beth Thomas We have received a draft report and met with Adrian Babbidge and Rosemary Elwes of Egeria Heritage Consultancy to ask for some amendments and corrections. Adrian and Rosemary are very grateful for</p>	

	<p>the cooperation that they received from both parts of the WHS which made their job much easier than it might be. They were very pleased with the number of responses to the questionnaire. A number of common themes emerged from their discussions with committee members and these are reflected in the report. The final report will be submitted by the end of this month. Dissemination of the report is difficult to a certain degree because the timings of the two halves of the WHS committee meetings are not in sync. However, Adrian and Rosemary have offered to present their findings to a meeting of both parts of the WHS. BT suggested that this could be after Easter in late April. However, the Committee felt that they did not wish to add to the burden of meetings and would rather consider the report at an existing committee meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: BT to contact Egeria Heritage Consultancy to invite them to the meeting in July (and Avebury in May) BT to circulate the final draft report when available to all committee members.</p> <p>Should the recommendations be accepted negotiations between partners will be necessary and so it is not anticipated that the structure will change much before 2014.</p>	<p>BT</p> <p>BT</p>
14.	Information exchange and AOB	
14.1	Great Stones Way – report attached to minutes.	
14.2	<p>Archaeological excavations/research</p> <p>Further Geophysical results are being undertaken on NT land north of A303. The work last year is still being reviewed but they have found some potential new archaeological sites on NT land.</p> <p>It was noted that a presentation of results would be of interest to the Committee.</p>	<p>BT</p>
14.3	Salisbury and S Wilts – have planning permission but still awaiting news from HLF regarding funding.	
15.	<p>Dates of next meetings confirmed</p> <p>WHS Committee - 24 July 2012</p> <p>Advisory Forum – 25 September 2012 (incl. visit to Normanton Down RSPB Reserve)</p> <p>WHS Site Committee - 20 November 2012</p>	