

Stonehenge World Heritage Site Committee

Meeting on 22 November 2011
10.30am at Antrobus House, Amesbury
MINUTES

Present: Lady Elizabeth Gass (Chair), Beth Thomas (SWHS Coordinator), Amanda Chadburn (English Heritage), Philip Miles (Country Land and Business Association), Richard Crook (National Farmers Union), Roger Fisher (Amesbury Town Council), Stephanie Payne (Natural England), Peter Wray (Highways Agency), Patrick Cashman (RSPB), Georgina Clampitt-Dix (Wiltshire Council), Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Wiltshire Council), Loraine Knowles (English Heritage), Peter Carson (English Heritage), Chris Gingell (National Trust), Richard Osgood (MoD), Nigel Linge (MoD), Peter Bailey, Christopher Young (English Heritage)

Apologies: Nicola Andrews (National Trust), Dave Batchelor (English Heritage), Paul Blaker (DCMS), Tim Champion (University of Southampton), Dave Healing (Durrington Parish Council), Tony Richardson (RSPB), Jan Tomlin (National Trust), Alastair Cunningham (Wiltshire Council)

	Action
<p>1. Introductions and apologies Chair welcomed new members to the Committee – Peter Wray, Nigel Linge and Beth Thomas as Coordinator As above</p>	
<p>2. Agree minutes of last meeting Minutes agreed with one correction: Item 2: Henge Hopper it was David Dawson not Roger Fisher who reported on this item.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising All matters covered in the agenda below</p>	
<p>4. World Heritage Site Coordinator's update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan update – circulated with minutes • WHS Condition Survey – This is in draft form and should be finalised by end of 2011. • Membership contacts – BT asked that all members of the committee could complete a contact details form as not all her records seemed to be up to date. In addition it would be very useful to have a named deputy. This means that there is some continuity. • World Heritage Day 2012 - EG suggested celebration of HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. • Great Stones Way - PB – concern about route of walk at Durnford crossing the Avon. NL – MoD has concerns about use of MoD car parks as may interfere with training. Salisbury has under-used park and ride facilities. <p>ACTION: BT to ensure that SWHS partners are involved in Environmental Impact Assessment and ensure that the consultant is aware of key people to contact.</p>	BT

5.	<p>English Heritage update – Amanda Chadburn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Plan update (attached to minutes) WHS Historic Environment Research Framework <p>Funded by English Heritage and managed by Wessex Archaeology and will replace the current frameworks for Avebury and Stonehenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision of Avebury Management Plan <p>Being revised over a 2 year period starting in 2012 by Sarah Simmonds WHS Officer for Avebury. Governance Review may inform the new Avebury Management Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No plans for any excavations at Stonehenge planned for 2012. However, there are lots of results coming from previous excavations. University of Sheffield has updates on their website. http://www.shef.ac.uk/archaeology/research/stonehenge Over the last summer there have been 2 Geophysical surveys of the land around Stonehenge. One led by the University of Birmingham, the other by University of Bournemouth. 	
6.	<p>Update on Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project – Loraine Knowles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report attached to minutes Airman’s Memorial will be taken by Royal Engineers for conservation and returned later to its new location. 	
7.	<p>National Trust update – Chris Gingell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report attached to minutes. Chris Gingell announced he was retiring on 20 December 2011. EG thanked him for all his hard work in the past and wished him well for the future. RF asked about the re-instatement of the route of the undergrounding project at Countess Farm. CG assured RF that more work was to be undertaken and the ground will be re-instated after works were complete. The route should be improved for walkers. 	
8.	<p>Wiltshire Council update – Georgina Clampitt Dix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report attached to minutes Emerging <u>Wiltshire Core Strategy</u> and <u>South Wiltshire Core Strategy</u> - Housing numbers have been reviewed and the Planning Inspector’s report has been received. It is proposed to adopt this Strategy. The South Wiltshire Core Strategy does not place much weight on the WHS but the Wiltshire Core Strategy places more emphasis on this. The consultation ends in April 2012 and should be adopted by end of 2012. <u>Traffic Regulation Orders</u> – the Planning Inspector’s report has been received. He has recommended that the TRO be accepted in part only i.e. the part relating to the A344 only and not on Byways 11 & 12. A final decision will be made in due course by Wiltshire Council. The report is on the Wiltshire Council web-site. Members are referred to paragraphs 7.19 & 7.63 -64 of the Inspector’s Report. A map would be useful – website address: http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/stonehengecoredocuments.htm <p>ACTION: BT to circulate link to the map on Wiltshire Council inquiry page.</p>	BT
9.	<p>Natural England Update – Stephanie Payne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report attached to minutes Action 64 – ACTION: AC suggested SP discuss with Emma Carver Head of Interpretation for Stonehenge. 	SP
10.	<p>Highways Agency Update – Peter Wray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>A303 Whisper Surface</u> – The whole length of the A303 from Countess Roundabout to the start of the dual c/w at Berwick Down is due to be resurfaced with low noise black top early next year. Work is programmed to start end January 2012 and be completed by end March. This will involve a series of overnight closures, with diversion routes to be clearly advertised. Advantage will be taken of 	

	<p>the traffic management in place to erect the agreed WHS gateway signs. PC asked that he be informed if work is planned for day time so that he can inform coach companies etc.</p> <p>ACTION: PW to keep PC informed of any change to proposed night time works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Improvement to Long Barrow roundabout</u> - Work on this capacity improvement scheme is programmed to start in September 2012, after the Olympics. The £3m scheme involves relocating the existing roundabout 15m further south-west. The layout provides for an additional circulating lane and 3 lane entries on both the A303 westbound and A360 southbound approaches. This will enable the junction to cope with the increased traffic flows resulting from the A344 closure. Completion date - early 2013. The stopping up works to the A344 will take place after the Long Barrow roundabout work is completed. • <u>Countess Road scheme</u> – The improved junction is operating well. A Stage 4 Road Safety Audit will be carried out next spring [one year after opening] to enable a before and after comparison of accident rates to be undertaken. <p>RF asked about the spring bulbs that were previously planted on the roundabout and verges and RF also concerned about upkeep of roundabout.</p> <p>ACTION: PW to pass this information and RF's concerns on to the appropriate team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stonehenge WHS Gateway signs - this had not yet been installed. <p>ACTION: PW to chase for information within HA</p>	<p>PW</p> <p>PW</p> <p>PW</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>RSPB Update – Patrick Cashman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report attached to minutes • Funding for Wildlife leaflet for the WHS with NT – applied to HLF as part of national project and Nat Eng for a nature improvement area for Wiltshire. RSPB and NT have had successful meeting to work up a leaflet for summer 2012. • Best time to visit as a WHS group would be August – to early Oct as they gather pre-migration. • There has been a demand to visit the archaeology as well as the wildlife of the reserve and visits planned Autumn 2013. 	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Other partner updates:</p> <p>Amesbury Town Council – Roger Fisher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A Regeneration Committee</u> has been formed and works with English Heritage at Stonehenge as well as focussing on projects for economic improvements • <u>Melor Hall</u> – Amesbury TC propose to purchase this building and demolish and re-build to build a museum, information centre and town council office. Purchase is underway but more funding will be required. The TC are working with building contractor's on this. • The <u>Amesbury Archer</u> site will be marked with a blue plaque. <p>Defence Estates/MoD – Richard Osgood/Nigel Linge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Improvements at the Cursus</u> re redundant sewage works. Still ongoing. Hope to remove the surface pipe-work etc in due course. • There is a <u>rehabilitation programme</u> “Operation Nightingale”, working with Wessex Archaeology for soldiers wounded or suffering from PTS to assist with archaeology which is working very well and with successful outcomes. • AC concerned about the condition of trees north of the Cursus which may also be on northern bank of Cursus. The issue will be difficult to solve. <p>ACTION: NL agreed to review this with his Environmental team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoD has been doing some works on <u>Rights of Way</u> work in the Training Area – better way-marking, improving tracks and byways. NI suggested that the arisings from the A344 works could be used for RoW in local area. <p>ACTION: LK agreed to mention to the successful contractor.</p>	<p>NL</p> <p>LK</p>

<p>13.</p>	<p>Governance Review – Amanda Chadburn</p> <p>It has been previously agreed that a review of the governance of both parts of the WHS is necessary. It has not been reviewed for 20 years or so and there are external changes such as unitary authority for Wiltshire and management of both parts of the WHS area for the NT by one General Manager.</p> <p>In addition, UNESCO recommends that there is one management system for WHS with multiple areas.</p> <p>There have been some delays in this process due to funding restrictions. However, English Heritage is now in a position to employ an independent consultant to review both parts of the WHS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the committees; • the make up of the committees; • the decision making roles and advisory bodies; • the Coordinator and WHS Officers job roles; • funding of the WHS governance • and resources both direct and indirect, • reviewing why some actions haven't been implemented and why. <p>This review will be taking place within 2011/12 with a draft completed in February for completion by end of March 2012. The report will then go to the Steering Groups of both Avebury and Stonehenge for consideration and implementation as appropriate. It is intended to have tender agreed before the end of 2011.</p> <p>The Committee will be informed of the successful contractor by BT and members should expect contact from them in January.</p>	
<p>14.</p>	<p>CONFIRMED MEETING DATES FOR 2012</p> <p><i>WHS Committee – Tuesday 13 March 2012</i></p> <p><i>WHS Committee – Tuesday 24 July 2012</i></p> <p><i>WHS Advisory Forum – Tuesday 25 September 2012</i></p> <p><i>WHS Site Committee – Tuesday 20 November 2012</i></p>	
<p>15.</p>	<p>Information exchange and AOB</p> <p>No further items</p>	