

MEGALITH

Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site Newsletter



JULY 2015

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MEGALITH

Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site Newsletter JULY 2015



Welcome

Welcome to the fourth edition of *Megalith*, the newsletter of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage (WHS). It provides a snapshot of the work carried out in both parts of the WHS over the past year and looks forward to forthcoming events.

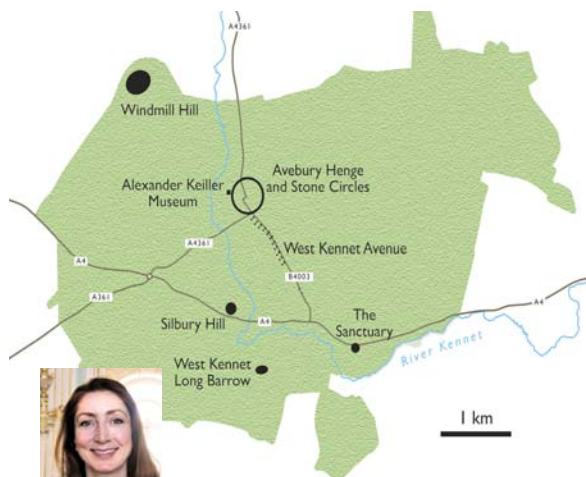
The World Heritage Site is managed by a wide range of partners from Wiltshire Council, English Heritage, Historic England, North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the National Trust to parish and town councils and individual landowners.

If you want to find out more about the work of the WHS why not take a look at our website www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org or follow us on Twitter @StoneAveWHS.

We hope that you enjoy this edition of *Megalith*. Please contact us if you want to know more.



Beth Thomas
Stonehenge WHS Coordinator



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Maps © English Heritage

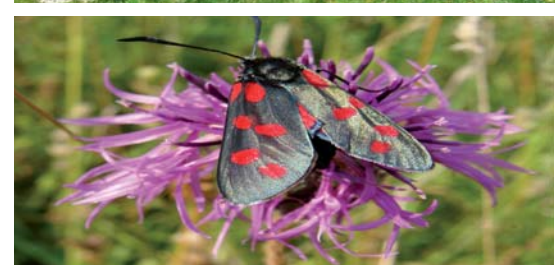
Naturally cultural, culturally natural

UNESCO has four categories of World Heritage Site: cultural, natural, cultural landscape and mixed. The Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site is inscribed as a cultural site but managing the "landscape without parallel", as Stonehenge and Avebury is described by UNESCO, inevitably means that conservation of the natural environment is key to the protection of the hundreds of archaeological features in the landscape.

The WHS Coordination Unit work closely with a number of partners usually more associated with the natural environment than the historic. In this edition of *Megalith* we feature a number of projects focusing on the wildlife and landscape of the WHS. These include: the RSPB's "Magnificent Meadows" project at Normanton Down; the bird survey carried out in 2014; the habitat survey undertaken by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust for the WHS in 2014; and information on developments at Fyfield Down in Avebury.

This edition of *Megalith* covers a wide range of subjects and introduces the new Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan 2015, the first joint Management Plan for the WHS.

We do hope that you enjoy reading this year's edition of *Megalith*. Please contact us if you require any further information about any of the projects mentioned.



Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site Management Plan 2015

The first joint Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan was launched on 18 May 2015. The purpose of the Management Plan is to protect and sustain the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site for this and future generations. The Plan also takes into account other interests such as access, interpretation, nature conservation, farming education, research and the needs of the local community.

Within the UK, Management Plans provide the overarching strategy for the management of the WHS. They are a material consideration in planning decisions and provide an advisory framework for guiding management initiatives. Management Plans are endorsed by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and referred to UNESCO.

The Plan establishes an overall vision for the long term future of the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS and sets out aims, policies and actions for the positive management of the WHS in partnership with landowners, farmers, relevant agencies and organisations in the local community.

The Plan is organised into four parts with supporting information in the form of appendices and maps:

Part One: The Management Plan and the significance of the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS includes a description of its Outstanding Universal Value and other values as well as the policy and management context and an assessment of the 2005/2009 Management Plans;

Part Two: Key management issues and opportunities;

Part Three: Aims and policies;

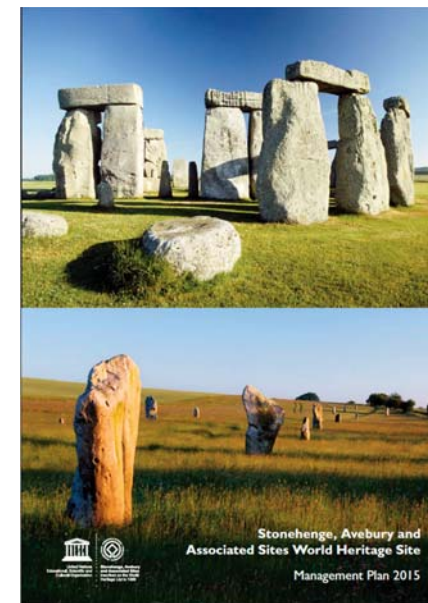
Part Four: Implementing the Plan. this includes a table of aims, policies and actions setting out priorities, lead and key partners and outputs/success measures.

The Plan identifies 61 management issues agreed by WHS partners and stakeholders and discusses them in detail. These formed the basis for the development of the aims and policies for the management of the WHS as well as the 178 related actions set out in the Plan.

The issues fall into eight main themes: planning and policy; boundaries of the WHS; conservation; visitor management and sustainable tourism; interpretation, learning and community engagement; roads and traffic; research; management, liaison and monitoring.

The most significant issues affecting the WHS are:

- Sustaining the OUV of the WHS for present and future generations
- Providing adequate protection of the WHS and its setting through the planning system
- Continuing reversion to grassland and ensuring renewal of existing agreements
- Improving the condition of the monuments under threat from burrowing animals, scrub and tree cover.
- Enhancing the ecological value of the area
- Reducing the adverse impact of roads on the WHS, its attributes of OUV and ability to explore the landscape
- Monitoring the impacts of tourism and managing this sustainably
- Improved interpretation of the WHS particularly the outlying monuments and the landscape as a whole
- Encouraging sustainable research and education
- Funding and resourcing the coordination of the WHS and implementation of the Management Plan



The Plan was developed in consultation with a wide range of partner organisations and individuals through a wide ranging public consultation process. We look forward to implementing the Plan over the next six years with the help of those partners.

The full plan and a summary can be downloaded at www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org/management-of-whs/stonehenge-and-avebury-whs-management-plan-2015/

Avebury WHS Transport Strategy

The Avebury WHS Transport Strategy is now complete. This is the first such document produced for a UK World Heritage Site and represents an innovative blueprint for best practice in an internationally protected landscape. The Strategy provides a holistic approach to managing the impacts of roads and traffic in the World Heritage Site and maximising the ease and enjoyment with which visitors and local people can explore this magnificent World Heritage landscape.

The Transport Strategy addresses the challenges related to the management of roads and traffic in the Avebury part of the World Heritage Site. These challenges include direct damage to monuments and their setting as well as impacts on the experience of visitors and the day to day lives of the local community. The Strategy proposes a series of recommended schemes to overcome these challenges while maintaining an efficient transport network and access for local people and visitors. It also provides a set of Design Principles to ensure that any proposed changes related to highways within the World Heritage Site are sensitive to its unique characteristics.

WHS partners have worked alongside the Council's consultants Atkins to produce this document which was signed off by the Avebury World Heritage Site Committee in December 2014.



These partners include the North Wessex Downs AONB who jointly funded the Strategy with Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Police, English Heritage, the National Trust and Wiltshire Council Highways, Archaeology Service and conservation officer. Avebury Parish Council has helped to shape the World Heritage Site Transport Strategy as members of the task and finish group and through their Avebury Parish Traffic Plan which has fed into its recommendations.

The next steps will be to review the recommendations and draw up detailed schemes. These will need to go through a process of public consultation to help ensure that we satisfy the need to protect and enhance the WHS while meeting the needs of visitors and the local community.

You can find the Avebury WHS Transport Strategy online at www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org/avebury-whs-transport-strategy/

Volunteering in the World Heritage Site



Phil Andrews explaining the excavation at Barrow Clump to volunteers

Many of the partners working in the WHS offer volunteering opportunities in a wide range of activities from working outdoors to conservation work, and from assisting with education work to room stewarding.

The WHS works with its partners through a group called the Stonehenge and Avebury Learning and Outreach Group (SALOG for short!). The WHS Coordination Unit has helped to facilitate recruitment events and also social activities, known as Volunteers Together, for the hundreds of volunteers who help out.

Recent events have included a trip to the Barrow Clump excavation near Figheldean in July last year and a sneak preview of the Wish You Were Here exhibition at the Stonehenge Visitor Centre in April 2015. The latter event was attended by volunteers who work with the National Trust at Avebury some of whom had not visited the new Visitor Centre before.

Volunteers enjoy the opportunity to hear about the latest news from WHS partners, meet new people and swap experiences. If you think that you might like to learn a new skill or meet new people why not take a look at the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS website to find out more about what our partners have to offer?

Community Digs Deep to Help Archaeologists Dig Deeper at Avebury

Stonehenge & Avebury World Heritage Site aficionados will know that for the past two summers a team of us have been excavating on a prehistoric site next to the West Kennet Avenue at Avebury.

The dig is part of Between the Monuments, a collaborative research project with funds, expertise and support coming from the Universities of Southampton and Leicester, the National Trust and Allen Environmental Archaeology. We're exploring the Avebury landscape to discover what people were doing and where they were living at the time monuments like West Kennet long barrow and Avebury henge and stone circles were being built and used.

Archaeological fieldwork and the many months of work and specialist study that follow aren't cheap and when we finished last year's dig we weren't certain we would be able to fund another year of excavation. That's when the local community stepped in and offered to raise the additional funds to ensure we could dig for a final year on the West Kennet Avenue occupation site first discovered by Alexander Keiller in 1934. So with the help of a host of fantastically generous local organisations and individuals we're going to be back digging this year (every day except Fridays) between Monday 20 July and Friday 7 August.

You can catch up with last year's discoveries and get daily updates from the trenches when we're digging on our FragmeNTs blog <http://ntarchaeostonehengeaveburywhs.wordpress.com/blog/> or follow our progress during the dig on our Twitter feed @AveburyNT #AveburyDig. Better still come and take a look for yourselves. We'll be running daily dig tours starting from the Barn Gallery of the Alexander Keiller Museum in the Old Farmyard at Avebury, and our team of volunteers will be down on the dig site to share our latest discoveries with you.

And finally a heartfelt thank you to everyone (the list is long, but you know who you are...) who has given their time, energy and cash to ensure we have the opportunity to write another chapter in Avebury's astonishing story.

Nick Snashall, National Trust



Between the Monuments Excavation 2014 © National Trust

Photo © Nick Snashall



Five thousand year old Fengate Ware pottery from last year's dig © National Trust

Photo © Mike Robinson



Ben and Robin Butler at the Longstones Panel in Avebury Trusloe

Farming in the WHS

Our habitat survey last year calculated that around 75% of the WHS is in intensive agriculture and so farming and farmers are key to the management of the WHS. Since 2002 Natural England, English Heritage (now Historic England) and the WHS Coordinators have worked together to improve the protection of the monuments of the World Heritage Site by returning arable land to pasture. Around 242 hectares have been returned to grassland under successive agri-environmental schemes and this is now providing calcareous grassland which is improving the bio-diversity of the WHS.

We went to visit father and son, Robin and Ben Butler who farm in the western portion of the Avebury WHS. Robin's grandfather moved from Hampshire and bought the farm with the help of his brothers in 1936. Robin has recently handed over the business to his son who is the fourth generation of Butlers to be farming in Avebury.

The Butlers are very passionate about the conservation of the environment and they have cover for tree sparrows, corn bunting and grey partridge, all key farmland bird species. They also allow margins for ground nesting birds such as skylarks. Working in partnership with Natural England and the WHS Coordination Unit, an attractive information panel was installed last year at the Longstones in Avebury Trusloe.



This area has been removed from cultivation to protect the very sensitive archaeology in the area.

Robin and Ben are keen to share what they do with others through initiatives such as the Marlborough Downs Nature Improvement Area and Open Farm Sunday which takes place on the first Sunday in June each year.

There are problems for them, many of them common to farmers across the WHS and beyond. These include dogs chasing and attacking sheep which can lead to aborted lambs and lost animals and also the parasite *Neospora* which is carried in dog faeces and can lead to infertility and lost fetuses in cows. If you are walking your dog in the countryside, particularly on arable land, please pick up after your dog. All farmers would also ask that you follow the Countryside Code by: leaving gates and property as you find them; following paths unless wider access is available; leaving no trace of your visit; taking your litter home and keeping dogs under effective control.

The Butlers are proud of the important work that they do in producing food in a responsible way with consideration for both the natural and historic environment.



Vale of Pewsey Archaeological Research Project: the Bit In-between

The Vale of Pewsey project is a collaborative project between the University of Reading, Historic England (formerly English Heritage) and Wiltshire Museum, Devizes. The project is partly funded by an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) grant and will support the University of Reading's Archaeology Field School. It aims to understand the role of the Vale of Pewsey landscape throughout time (from prehistory to the post-medieval period), and go some way to linking the Stonehenge landscape to the south with the Avebury landscape to the north.

During the course of the excavations the project will investigate a Neolithic building surface previously exposed during earlier excavations in 2010.

A suite of palaeoenvironmental investigations along the River Avon will also provide important information on past hydrology and the environment of the area. The Vale of Pewsey represents a gap in our knowledge and this project will retrieve substantial and highly significant data, firmly placing this landscape within its surrounding WHS context. At the same time, the project will counterbalance the traditional chalk based 'Wessex models' for prehistory by looking at the low-lying sandy valley landscape in-between. Fieldwork in the Vale will be undertaken during June and July this year.

For more information
<https://www.reading.ac.uk/field-school/>



New Publications for 2015

Historic England's new book *The Stonehenge Landscape* has come out of the Stonehenge (WHS) Landscape project, the aim of which was to ensure that there was a full, up-to-date record and understanding of all upstanding archaeological monuments within the WHS. This is the first time that the earthworks and surrounding monuments have been surveyed by archaeologists to modern standards. The research led to the identification of previously unknown sites and, perhaps more importantly, the re-interpretation of known sites, including Stonehenge itself. The book focuses on all prehistoric and historic periods including the later history of the landscape. The later history includes medieval remains, the influence of the Arts and Crafts Movement and the role of the Stonehenge Landscape in early Aviation History.

Historic England is delighted to offer readers of Megalith 20% discount and free post and packing (in UK only) on *The Stonehenge Landscape* by Mark Bowden, Sharon Soutar, Martyn Barber and David Field. (rrp £30). Please telephone 01235 465577 or email

direct.orders@marston.co.uk and quote reference number 72207220150005 to take advantage of this offer and get your copy for £24. Offer expires 31st December 2015.



Wildlife Around Stonehenge

An attractive leaflet was produced in 2014 by the RSPB in partnership with the National Trust Stonehenge Landscape Team. The aim of the leaflet is to help visitors to the WHS to explore the amazing wildlife around Stonehenge. It provides information on the different kinds of habitat and the wildlife found in each one. The leaflet can be downloaded in advance of your visit from the National Trust website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stonehenge-landscape/wildlife/.



Saxons at the Wiltshire Museum

The Wiltshire Museum in Devizes is home to many of the archaeological finds from the WHS. It opened its prehistoric galleries in October 2013 and no visit to the WHS would be complete without a trip to see the Gold From the Time of Stonehenge exhibition.

Photo © David Dawson



The Wiltshire Museum is home to much more than just its prehistoric collections. It has opened a new Gallery to tell the story of the making of the Kingdom of Wessex.

The story is brought to life by photographs of the Wulfheodenas re-enactor group who have been inspired by the finds from local cemeteries near Pewsey and at Figheldean. They have used these finds to re-create the weapons, jewellery and costumes worn by Pagan Saxons who lived in about AD 550. One of the re-enactors is Mark Routledge,

who is now Learning and Outreach Assistant at the Museum. He is using his in depth knowledge of the Saxon period to develop a teachers pack to help schools make the best use of the gallery and to develop a range of outreach sessions for schools.

The gallery features the gold jewellery buried with a lady, thought to be an Abbess, who was buried on Roundway Down, close to Devizes. Her body was laid on a wooden bed, and she wore gold jewellery, including a pair of pins, linked by a chain with a roundel at the centre that bears a Christian cross.

The story continues with King Alfred and his fight back against Viking invaders and the displays feature a new discovery – a Viking gold ring that may have been lost as the Viking army fled back to Chippenham after their defeat at the Battle of Edington.

The gallery was designed by Chris Hudson, and funded by Arts Council England, celebrating this nationally important Designated Museum.

A chance to hold the past in your hand - handle a maul or handle 'em all!

In Spring 2015 visitors to Stonehenge had a chance to meet English Heritage's Museum Partners and discover and touch ancient artefacts found in the landscape around the monument over past centuries. These handling sessions, run by Wiltshire Museum and The Salisbury Museum, offered a unique opportunity for visitors of all ages to learn about and get hands on with these incredible objects which help to put Stonehenge into context.

The museums brought along a range of objects representing the wealth of Stonehenge finds in their collections - including mauls used for shaping the stones and picks that were used for digging the ditches at the monument. Visitors were able to handle replicas of gold jewellery and bronze daggers, as well as real prehistoric stone and flint tools.

The handling sessions enabled us to tell a fascinating story of Stonehenge - being able to touch some of the actual tools and objects associated with Stonehenge was a chance not to be missed. These sessions brought the past to life at Stonehenge in a totally hands on way.

Photo © Anwen James



Photo © Anwen James



Find out more about the museums
<http://www.salisburymuseum.org.uk>
<http://www.wiltshireremuseum.org.uk/>

A303



Photo © National Trust / John Miller

On 1st December 2014 the Government announced an intention to dual the A303 from Amesbury to Berwick Down, with a twin bored tunnel of at least 1.8 miles (2.9km) within the WHS. This is part of a number of proposed improvements to the A303/A30/A358 corridor and one of several projects in the National Infrastructure Programme to tackle some of the long standing bottlenecks on the strategic road network and aid Britain's economic recovery.

As the project team look at various options they will need to consider a number of issues. These will include the impact on the natural environment and the local community and economy as well as the significance of the World Heritage Site.

The evaluation of the impact on the WHS will look at how schemes affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS which includes its many archaeological features and their settings. This will include features discovered by the Hidden Landscapes Project which have appeared on television recently.

The project will also evaluate the impact of any proposed scheme on archaeology from other periods which may be unrelated to the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS such as Roman, Medieval or even more recent military archaeology.

The announcement on 1st December 2014 was a financial commitment but the necessary planning permissions still need to be obtained through a Development Consent Order. Highways England (the new name for the Highways Agency) will have to consult widely. Further announcements will be made as the project progresses. It is hoped that work will start work by April 2020 but in the meantime Highways England are committed to monitoring the performance of the A303 and look for ways to improve its operational efficiency and safety.

UNESCO, the organisation that both inscribes and monitors World Heritage Sites, made an announcement on 19 May 2015 regarding this scheme as many individuals and groups have contacted them.



Photo © Historic England

UNESCO announced:
"Over the last several months, the World Heritage Centre has received numerous messages from citizens and NGOs expressing their concern regarding the A303 tunnel project, located within the boundaries of the World Heritage property "Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites", and the adverse impact it may have on the landscape, archaeological remains, and hydrogeology and ecology of the site.

It should be noted that the competent authorities of the State Party of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Convention (ICOMOS, ICCROM, IUCN) and the World Heritage Centre are fully informed of the concerns raised by the citizens' campaign. The project is being very seriously considered by all parties

and is being monitored according to the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*."

30th Anniversary of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site 1986 – 2016



Photo © Historic England

To find out more about UNESCO and World Heritage please see
<http://whc.unesco.org/>

To find out more about World Heritage in the UK please see
<http://worldheritageuk.org>

In November 1986 the UNESCO World Heritage Committee inscribed the first seven sites from the UK on the World Heritage Site List. Those sites were: Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd; Durham Castle and Cathedral; Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast; Ironbridge Gorge; St Kilda; Studley Royal Park including the Ruins of Fountains Abbey and Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites.

The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention) was ratified in 1972. Since then 191 State Parties have signed up to the Convention with the UK ratifying it in 1984. In 1985 nomination documents were prepared by the UK Government for submission to the World Heritage Committee and the first seven Sites were officially accepted in November 1986. Since then a further 21 UK Sites have been added including three Sites in Overseas Territories.

Stonehenge and Avebury WHS is currently planning to celebrate our 30th anniversary next year. At Stonehenge and Avebury we plan to work with our partners to hold a number of events including talks, tours and a conference in November 2016. More details will be posted on our website as they are confirmed.

Alexander Keiller Museum, Avebury

The Museum was founded in 1938 by Alexander Keiller, who excavated in and around Avebury in the 1920s and 1930s. The original building housing the Museum was bought by the National Trust in 1943 and almost immediately placed in the care of the state under a Guardianship agreement (under which the National Trust retained the ownership of the building). The collections were given to the nation in 1966 by the widow of Alexander Keiller. Since 1994 the Museum has been managed by the National Trust under a 25 year Local Management & Loan Agreement with English Heritage. Its staffing is provided by the National Trust.

The Alexander Keiller Museum is made up of two parts: the Stable Gallery which houses Alexander Keiller's collection and the Barn Gallery which has an interactive exhibition featuring not only more information on the prehistoric history of Avebury but more modern history and information on Alexander Keiller's colourful life including his car!

You can follow the Museum and other aspects of the work of the National Trust at Avebury on their blog *FragmentNTs* or on Twitter @AveburyNT



Photo © Ros Cleal National Trust



Photo © David Hall

Avenue Photo © Historic England



Photo © Robert Allbright

News from the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is the third largest AONB in the country and includes vast dramatic chalk downlands, nationally significant chalk grassland, wooded plateau, arable lands and valleys all rich in biodiversity and cultural heritage. The Avebury World Heritage Site is one of the jewels in its crown.

If you'd like to know more, the local AONB Partnership will be pleased to come and talk to local groups about what makes the area special and what the designation means for the people who live and work here. The talk covers the geology and then looks at the influence that people have had on the landscape and the special habitats that the area provides for wildlife.

A short film is currently being produced to showcase all that the area has to offer and will be available from the end of June 2015.

For more information contact
rosesomerset@northwessexdowns.org.uk.

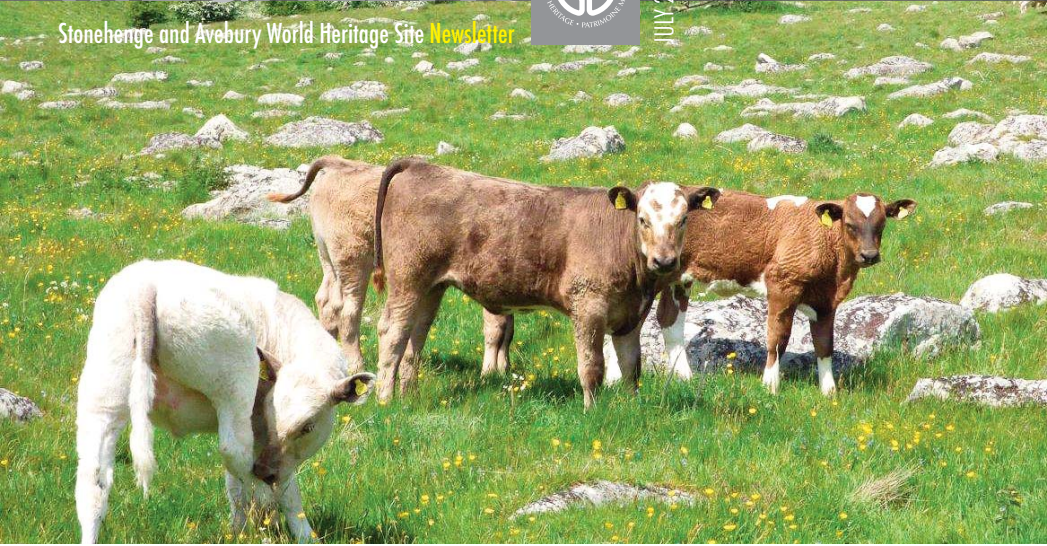


Photo © Ben Cooke Natural England

Fyfield Down National Nature Reserve Update

Ben Cooke North Wiltshire Reserve Manager for Natural England writes: I should start by introducing myself; I have been appointed to the post of North Wiltshire Reserve Manager for Natural England and am now the first point of contact for the National Nature Reserve (NNR) at Fyfield Down. The NNR lies within the Marlborough Downs Nature Improvement Area and has been part of the World Heritage Site since 2008.

My arrival coincides with the acquisition of the majority of Fyfield Down NNR by a local farming family who have introduced cattle grazing to the Down. This is great news for the conservation of the nature reserve as cattle grazing helps to maintain a more varied vegetation structure and in the long term will assist in restoring the grassland to flower rich downland.

Over the coming months we plan to establish a new volunteer group to assist in managing the two north Wiltshire NNR's (Fyfield Down and Pewsey Downs). The group will support Natural England staff in carrying out practical conservation work such as clearing scrub from around sarsen stones and restoring ponds.

Also commencing this summer is an exciting project to develop a downloadable audio trail for Fyfield Down. Natural England staff hope to capture some of the immense accumulated knowledge of archaeologist Professor Peter Fowler, who directed the Fyfield and Overton project between 1959 and 1998.

If you are interested in volunteering at Fyfield Down and/or Pewsey Downs please contact Ben Cooke by emailing

ben.cooke@naturalengland.org.uk
or by calling 07776227068.

The World Heritage Site and the Marlborough Downs Nature Improvement Area

The Marlborough Downs Nature Improvement Area (MDNIA) ran from April 2013 until March 2015. The area involved largely overlaps with the eastern side of the Avebury part of the WHS. The MDNIA was accepted under a competitive scheme administered by Natural England and was the only successful applicant in the first tranche to be farmer-led. There was a bottom-up approach with a large element of voluntary contribution. The overarching objective was to create strategic policies and encourage best practice for landscape scale nature conservation. Many of the participating farms were already in Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship schemes, encouraged by their location within the WHS which is a target area for stewardship schemes.

Photo © Colin Sheff



Photo © Colin Sheff

The two organisations have much in common: landscape character, public enjoyment, access, community involvement, outreach and education. Two Swindon schools participated in curriculum-related projects - the WHS Avenue to Learning and a workshop to build Tree Sparrow nest boxes within the NIA.

The WHS had a presence at the first two Open Farm Sundays run by the MDNIA. Visitors (some 800 at each event) were interested to look at the historic farming background of the landscape. At the 2015 Open Farm event we introduced the new Management Plan as well as ancient cereals and antler picks.

RSPB - New homes for butterflies at Stonehenge

Photo © RSPB



Hundreds of wildflowers have been planted on four Bronze Age barrows at Normanton Down just across the A303 from Stonehenge. These flowers include the classic chalk grassland herbs; kidney and horseshoe vetch, common rockrose, wild thyme, dropwort, harebell, small scabious and devil's-bit scabious. The wildflowers were collected as seed from nearby Salisbury Plain and grown on by Heritage Seeds. They have been specially chosen as they are the main food plants of the caterpillars of iconic chalk downland butterflies, such as the chalkhill blue, adonis blue, brown argus and marsh fritillary.

The work is part of the Save our Magnificent Meadows project, a partnership of 11 organisations, led by Plantlife, who are carrying out work across the UK to help transform the fortunes of vanishing meadows, grasslands and wildlife. The project is targeting just under 6,000 hectares of wildflower meadows and grasslands in nine strategic landscapes across the UK, including Wiltshire. The project is primarily funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Leading the work at Stonehenge are the RSPB who manage the Normanton Down nature reserve on private farmland for ground nesting birds and downland wildlife. RSPB Site Manager, Patrick Cashman, writes "These barrows already support fragments of a once more widespread flower-rich downland landscape, and we are taking this opportunity to top them up with key butterfly food plants, so their warm southern flanks can become new homes for butterflies from nearby Salisbury Plain and help provide stepping stones into the wider landscape".



Photo © RSPB



Photo © RSPB

We are delighted to see the historic monuments being treasured for their relict ancient grassland, and having their profile raised as a resource to help reconnect the natural and historic landscape.

Community Update from English Heritage and the Stonehenge Visitor Centre

The opening of the Stonehenge Visitor Centre in 2013 has created new ways for local communities to connect with the extraordinary history at Stonehenge. We always encourage local communities to come and visit the site, but there are other ways that you can get involved.

Volunteering Opportunities

English Heritage is looking for volunteers to take on a variety of exciting volunteering roles at Stonehenge and Old Sarum:

- Neolithic House Volunteer
- Education Volunteer
- Stonehenge Exhibition Volunteer

Community Box

Do you run a local community group and would like to learn more about Stonehenge? Then book our Community Box and one of our knowledgeable volunteers will come and deliver an exciting talk for you with replica objects. Or, if you would like to borrow the box and deliver your own talk, that's fine too.

Community Ambassadors

Community Ambassadors help us tell local people about heritage events in Wiltshire. Ambassadors receive newsletters containing information about English Heritage learning programmes as well as events at Salisbury Museum, Wiltshire Museum, National Trust and Wessex Archaeology. Becoming a Community Ambassador is a great way of supporting us if you have little time on your hands. So, if you are a communicative individual, who is always organising outings with family and friends, then this is for you.

Photo © English Heritage



Volunteers at Stonehenge

For more information on these opportunities please visit: www.english-heritage.org.uk/volunteering, email: volunteer.enquiries@english-heritage.org.uk or call: 01793 445009

Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Bird Survey 2014

In 2014 as part of the development of the Management Plan 2015 we carried out the first ever bird survey of the whole of the World Heritage Site. This survey was carried out by Nick Adams with the support of the RSPB and funded by Historic England.

We decided to concentrate on important species for the habitats within the WHS. The species selected were as follows: lapwing, corn bunting, grey partridge, tree sparrow, yellow wagtail, turtle dove, linnet, yellowhammer, quail, Montagu's harrier, kestrel, barn owl, redshank, common curlew, common snipe, stone-curlew and great bustard. Due to the sheer number of birds present, species such as skylark and meadow pipit were not mapped to ensure as full coverage as possible in the time available. A full list of species encountered was recorded, including breeding behaviour by tetrad.

The priority species were surveyed twice by tetrad (2km x 2km squares) during the breeding season once in April/May and once in June/July. The routes chosen stick to public footpaths, permissive footpaths and land with public access, this means that the survey should be easily repeatable. Not every individual bird in a tetrad was recorded, but this method produced a repeatable survey that would show any trends in population changes in the future if the surveys are completed again.



Yellowhammer

Photo © Tom Marshall



Stone curlew

Photo © Andy Hay



Grey partridge

Photo © Chris Gomersall

These records were then overlaid on a single map for each tetrad to show apparently occupied territories (birds recorded in same area on both surveys) and possible territories (birds recorded in one survey only, with no definite breeding behaviour). The maps within this report show the maximum count of individuals from a single survey visit by tetrad. By using raw count data, the maps are more straightforward to repeat and remove any subjectivity should they be repeated in the future by a different surveyor who may have different views on what constitutes a territory.

The surveys show that both Avebury and Stonehenge WHS are valuable areas for farmland birds and can be easily considered to be of national importance. This is very good news for future management of the WHS, as it gives more options to obtain funding to protect both the natural and historic environment.

The new Countryside Stewardship schemes are offering funding for biodiversity and a number of these options might provide protection to archaeology as well, the obvious example would be calcareous grassland creation options. Wiltshire holds the two largest areas of this rare habitat in Northwest Europe (Salisbury Plain and Porton Down) and any schemes to link up remnant areas are likely to be looked at positively.

The mixed farming that these grasslands promote (arable areas produce winter feed and bedding for livestock) is one of the main reasons these areas are so important for farmland birds. Wiltshire is in the area where largely pastoral farming to the west meets the largely arable areas to the east. It is important to retain this as much as possible to support the wildlife as well as the farmers who farm there.

If you are interested in finding out more about the bird survey please contact the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Coordination Unit.



Lapwing

Photo © Andy Hay



Skylark

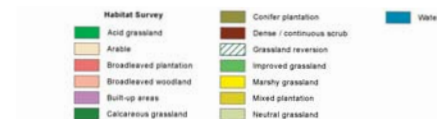
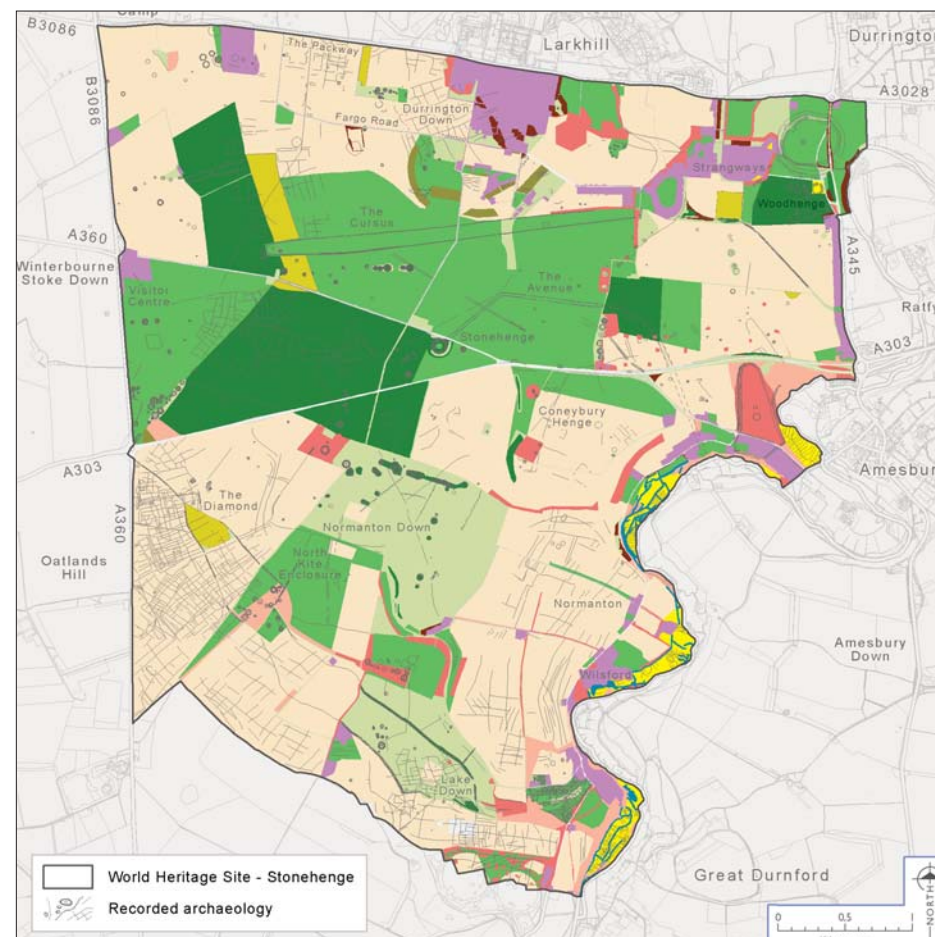
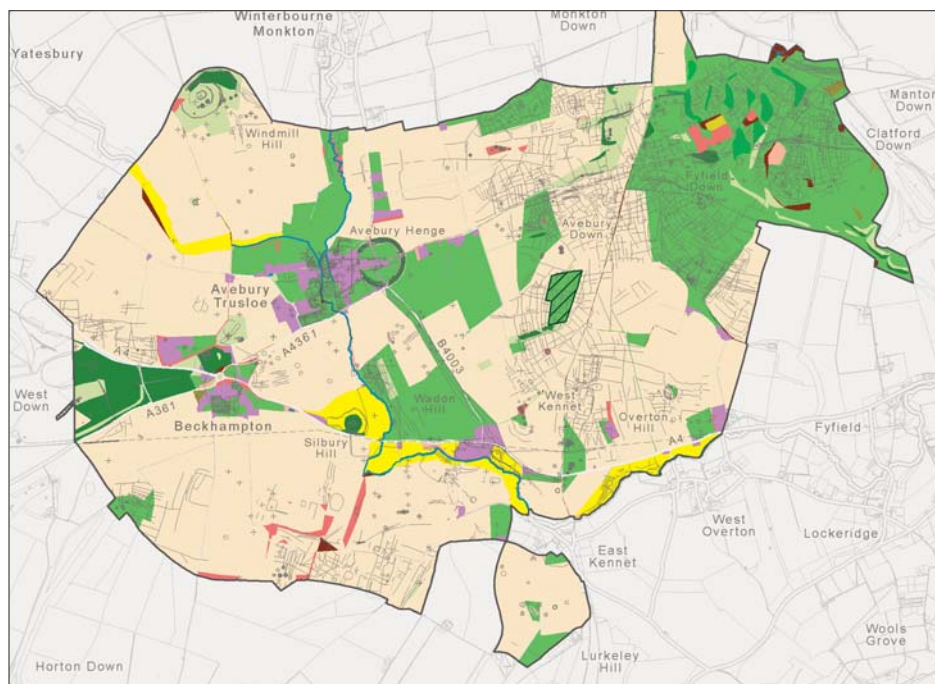
Photo © Chris Gomersall

2014 Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Habitat Survey

At the same time as the WHS Bird Survey a Phase I Habitat Survey was also carried out which provided a baseline for future nature conservation work. The survey was carried out by Rob Large of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust with funding from Historic England. The surveys were carried out in April and May 2014.

The entire site of 5150ha, was initially mapped from rights of way and then more detailed botanical surveys were undertaken where conditions indicated species-rich habitats might be present.

The Survey showed that around 75% of the WHS is under intensive agricultural management. The next most abundant habitat was calcareous grassland with a total of 322 hectares. The majority (242ha) of this was reversion grassland which has been sown under agri-environment schemes funded by Natural England specifically aimed at improving bio-diversity. The total percentage of more biodiverse land use is 16% or 743ha. These include broadleaved woodland and marshy grassland.



Source: Recorded archaeology taken from the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record. Other features drawn from Ordnance Survey mapping. Stonehenge and Avebury WHS habitat survey (2014) carried out on behalf of English Heritage by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

We are tremendously grateful for Rob's work and hope that this will provide an excellent baseline to monitor habitat changes and inform potential projects in the future.

If you would like to find out more please contact the WHS Coordination Unit.

New Stonehenge exhibition to tell the story of monument as a tourist attraction

A new exhibition at Stonehenge opened on 1 May 2015 and looks at another side of the famous stone circle – its history as a tourist attraction – with an array of fascinating objects from the past few centuries on display.

Highlights of the exhibition include the very first Stonehenge guidebook, printed in 1823, the iconic Spinal Tap shaped LP, and an array of memorabilia ranging from a Great Trilithon-shaped toasting fork to postcards through the decades.

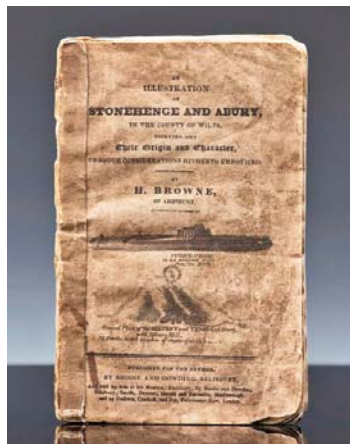
Stonehenge may have been considered a tourist attraction as early as the Roman period, and medieval people certainly visited the site - describing it as one of the wonders of the world. The *Wish You Were Here* exhibition begins with Stonehenge in Victorian times and traces its development through war and peace and the post-war years, both as a tourist attraction and global icon.

Though an isolated ruin in the 19th Century, the ancient monument saw enough visitors to warrant the production of the first guide books and souvenirs. The 20th Century saw an admission charge introduced in 1901 to address the cost of increasing amounts of damage and to help pay for a police constable.



Curator Julian Richards places a Victorian photo album of Stonehenge in the display case

Photo © English Heritage



The first guidebook to Stonehenge, printed in 1823

Photo © English Heritage



A ceramic plate showing Stonehenge

Photo © English Heritage



An Amesbury resident at the turnstile for Stonehenge, 1935

Photo © Wiltshire Swindon History Centre / Fuller

Postcards went on sale in the early 1900s and from that point on, cards in sepia, lurid 'tints', black and white, and full colour document the changing face of Stonehenge and its surroundings. From the 1970s onwards, the growing international recognition of Stonehenge saw the iconic stone circle spawn an eclectic range of art, music and popular culture.



Stonehenge becomes a fashionable photographic location

Photo © Wiltshire Swindon History Centre / Fuller



Ivory envelope opener with an image of Stonehenge.

Photo © English Heritage

Curator and archaeologist Julian Richards writes: "Anyone visiting Stonehenge today is part of a long tradition. I am fascinated by how Stonehenge has been experienced by visitors over the years and the way in which it has been used as an inspiration for art and music. I have been collecting 'Stonehengiana' for years, and I am delighted that the collection is now to appear at its natural home. There are things here that I hope will make visitors smile. Welcome to the wonderful world of Stonehenge"



A ceramic shoe with the image of Stonehenge

Photo © English Heritage

Stonehenge General Manager Kate Davies said: "We are very excited to launch *Wish You Were Here* and tell the more recent history of Stonehenge – as the place visitors have long been inspired by. We want today's visitors to take away a real sense of fun from this exhibition and hope that they are inspired to share their experiences – whether by traditional postcard or by social media."

Wish You Were Here at Stonehenge visitors and exhibition centre will run until March 2016. Admission is included in the entry price for Stonehenge. Visitors are invited to share their experiences on social media with the hashtag [#stonehengewishyouwerehere](#).