

**Stonehenge World Heritage Site Committee
Meeting on Tuesday 23 July 2013
10.30am at Antrobus House, Amesbury**

FINAL MINUTES

Present: Lady Elizabeth Gass (Chair), Beth Thomas (Stonehenge WHS Coordinator), Loraine Knowles (English Heritage - Stonehenge Director), Richard Crook (National Farmers Union), Ariane Crampton (Wiltshire Council), Sarah Simmonds (Avebury WHS Officer), Christopher Young (English Heritage – Head of International Advice), Roger Fisher (Amesbury Town Council), Jan Tomlin (National Trust), Richard Osgood (Defence Infrastructure Organisation), Fred Westmoreland (Community Area Board – Amesbury, Philip Miles (Country Land & Business Association), Stephanie Payne (Natural England), Clare King (Wiltshire Council)

		ACTION
1.0	<p>Introductions & Apologies</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Cllr Fred Westmoreland as a new member of the Stonehenge WHS Committee. Fred Westmoreland is representing the Amesbury Community Area Board.</p> <p>Apologies received from: Simon Ramsden (English Heritage), Patrick Cashman (RSPB), Peter Bailey (Wilsford cum Lake/WHS Landowners), Richard Ormerod (Highways Agency), David Dawson (WANHS/ Wiltshire Museum Director), Leo Wirtz (Wiltshire Council), Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Wiltshire Council), Nick Snashall (National Trust), Alistair Cunningham (Wiltshire Council), Phil Sheldrake (RSPB),</p>	
2.0	<p>Agree minutes of last meeting & matters arising</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting in April 2013 without any amendments. There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.0 3.1	<p>Governance Review – Beth Thomas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Committee Chair • Membership of Committee <p>Beth Thomas introduced this item and drew the committee members' attention to the papers that had already been circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>There was considerable discussion regarding the proposals contained within the paper, in particular some members felt that the timetable was too rushed and did not reflect the fact that many of the current members of the Committee had been involved in the development of the visitor centre at Stonehenge over many years. The opening of the visitor centre was seen as a watershed point in the work of the Committee. Any changes therefore should be delayed until Spring 2014 after the opening of the visitor centre. This would mean that the Stonehenge Committee would be out of step with Avebury and would need to nominate a member to represent the Stonehenge WHS Committee during the recruitment process of the Independent Chair of the WHS Partnership Panel.</p> <p>Specific comments: Cllr Westmoreland felt that the Stonehenge committee should more fully reflect the suggested make up of the committee at item</p>	

	<p>2.1.4 of the paper presented on the local steering committee membership and selection of chairs.</p> <p>Comments regarding wording of the text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1.4 First bullet point: Differentiating between major and minor landowners might cause unnecessary difficulties. It should also include the words “within the WHS” as any landowner might be able to join. This section did not mention the coordination unit but this is essential in order to act as secretariat to the committee. The coordinators should be included as ex-officio members. • The fifth bullet point should be altered to read “Deputise for the Independent Chair of the Partnership Panel if necessary.” The suggestion was made that a vice-chair be nominated in order to cover the local steering committee chair in case of absence. • 3.3 The second bullet point should be altered to “Members who represent organisations on the WHS Partnership Panel (English Heritage, National Trust & Wiltshire Council) should not be eligible for nomination.” <p>ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the Committee were asked to send any comments on the proposed structure or the wording of the paper “Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Governance Review Working Group Local Steering Committee Membership & Selection of Chairs” by 2nd August 2013. • BT to revise paper with Sarah Simmonds to reflect comments from the committee for review in November. Avebury will move forward with the selection of their new Steering Committee Chair. <p>It was agreed that:</p> <p>(i) The Stonehenge WHS Committee will agree the membership and timetable for the election process of the Chair at the November meeting.</p> <p>(ii) That members should put forward names of organisations who could be invited to join the Committee reflecting the suggested make up at 2.1.4 of the paper at the November meeting.</p> <p>(iii) The new chair would be elected in Spring 2014 after the opening of the Stonehenge visitor centre.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>BT</p>
<p>3.2</p>	<p>Update from members of Partnership Panel – Ariane Crampton</p> <p>AC of Wiltshire Council gave a brief update from the Partnership Panel. The group has met twice. The first meeting in June involved Jane Scott, Leader of Wiltshire Council, Ian Wilson of the Assistant Regional Director of the National Trust and Andrew Vines, Planning and Conservation Director, South West from English Heritage together with a number of officers to support them.</p> <p>The second meeting in July involved officers who work closely with both parts of the WHS.</p> <p>They have agreed a timetable for the recruitment of the new Chair. It is planned to advertise the role in September with interviews in October with a view to being in place by the time of the opening of the Stonehenge visitor centre at the end of December 2013.</p> <p>The job role will be based on the description provided by Bath WHS. It has been agreed that the job will only attract reasonable expenses and will not be paid.</p> <p>The recruitment will be jointly managed by EH/NT and Wilts Council. Jane Scott has requested that she be on the interview panel and NT and EH have yet to confirm who will represent them.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the first full Partnership Panel meeting will take place in early 2014.</p>	

	<p>The Avebury WHS Steering Committee have asked for</p> <p>a) the job description and advert to be circulated for comment</p> <p>b) to have a representative present for the interview</p> <p>These requests have been agreed and members of the Stonehenge WHS Committee will also have the job description and advert sent to them for comment and will need to choose a representative to attend the interview.</p> <p>ACTION: AC to circulate draft job role description and advert to Stonehenge WHS Committee.</p>	AC
3.3	<p>Update from AAHRG – Sarah Simmonds</p> <p>SS gave a verbal update from the last Avebury Archaeological and Historical Research Group (AAHRG) held at the beginning of July.</p> <p>AAHRG have agreed to expand to include researchers working in the Stonehenge area and become the Avebury & Stonehenge Archaeological and Historical Research Group (ASAHRG). They are currently reviewing their terms of reference to reflect this change.</p> <p>It is hoped that ASAHRG will build on its responsibility to monitor and update the Stonehenge and Avebury Research Framework which is currently out for consultation.</p> <p>ASAHRG will need to nominate a member to join the Stonehenge WHS Committee.</p>	
	<p>4. Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan – Sarah Simmonds & Beth Thomas</p> <p>SS & BT updated the committee on progress so far. The Avebury part of the Management Plan review is now complete and SS intends to start writing the over-arching elements of the Plan and the Avebury element over the summer.</p> <p>There is a Project Board which consists of the original Avebury Project Board plus additional representatives from Stonehenge. These are: Richard Osgood (MOD), Patrick Cashman (RSPB) and Roger Fisher of Amesbury TC. The full board is meeting after the Committee meeting today (23rd July) for the first time to approve the draft plan for the Stonehenge element of the Management Plan update.</p> <p>Stonehenge will begin their review of the current Management Plan this autumn. BT will be completing an evaluation of the current plan over the summer.</p> <p>A Stakeholder Workshop is planned for Monday 23 September 2013. BT has asked Hilary Barnett who assisted with the last Management Plan update to assist at this. All members of the Stonehenge WHS Committee and Advisory Forum plus some additional people will be invited.</p> <p>This will be followed over October and November with professional focus groups to look at the detail of the current plan, review progress and look at future plans.</p> <p>It is intended to write the draft plan in the Spring of 2014 so that it can go out to consultation mid-2014 with a completion date of late 2014.</p>	
5.0	<p>World Heritage Site Coordinator’s update – Beth Thomas</p> <p>BT had previously circulated her update for committee members to read before the meeting but wanted to draw their attention to a small number of items contained in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2013 edition of Megalith will be published at the end of this month both on-line and in a small run of hard copies. It will cover the work in both parts of the WHS. <p>BT will drop hard copies in a number of key locations in the area around Amesbury, Durrington etc at libraries, leisure centres and the Community Shop etc. BT will circulate the document if others wish to put it on their websites or “tweet” it etc. BT will circulate copies to</p>	

	<p>members by post.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Stonehenge & Avebury WHS website www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org will go live at the end of July. BT and SS welcome any feedback with suggestions for future developments as it is very simple to start with. • BT has been active in the SLOGG Volunteer Activities. BT organised a volunteer recruitment event in Amesbury Library in June which was not very successful in terms of numbers but a second Volunteer Recruitment Fair in September at the Guildhall, September has been organised and over 10 organisations will be represented. • Maj Alexander Hewetson Memorial on A344. This was improved with the assistance of a team of trainee soldiers from Larkhill, the Wings over Stonehenge volunteers and Wiltshire Council. • Pedestrian Counter. BT has been successful in recruiting a volunteer, Trevor Lucas to assist with the collection and analysis of data from the 12 pedestrian counters that have now been installed around the WHS by the NT. Data will be available at the next committee meeting. 	
5.1	<p>WHS Minor Boundary Review – Beth Thomas</p> <p>BT had circulated maps and a paper on the Boundary Review project which has been ongoing over the past 12 months in advance of the meeting. BT has met or talked with all affected landowners and in general they are happy to be included although there are some queries that needed to be clarified before final agreement was reached. BT is currently working on this. The maps show the draft boundary as there may be some changes depending on the outcome of discussions with landowners.</p> <p>Roger Fisher asked if the residents of Countess Road had been consulted about being taken out of the WHS boundary. BT said that she had not done so but will do and welcomed any assistance that RF could offer in doing this.</p> <p>Richard Crook asked about compensation for farmers. BT said that any farmer with scheduled monuments is able to seek payments through the Stewardship schemes and inclusion within the boundary has historically meant enhanced payments. The CAP is not yet finalised but it is understood that the money that is available for farmers to protect the historic environment is more likely to be targeted at high priority areas such as World Heritage sites.</p> <p>BT noted how much the support of farmers had already enhanced the WHS over the past 10+ years.</p> <p>ACTION: Please send BT any comments by 31 August.</p> <p>It is intended to bring the final boundary to the Committee at the November meeting and to then send on to UNESCO via DCMS to meet the 1 February deadline to be included in the summer 2014 World Heritage Committee.</p>	ALL
5.2	<p>RSOUV – Christopher Young</p> <p>Christopher Young recalled that all WHS which did not have an agreed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value had had to submit a draft, for approval by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, based on its views at the time of inscription. The Retrospective SOUV had been submitted by DCMS to UNESCO in 2010 and was approved at this summer's World Heritage Committee meeting in Cambodia.</p> <p>A hard copy of the agreed Statement was tabled at the meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: BT to circulate e-version with draft minutes etc.</p>	BT
5.3	<p>Periodic Report – Christopher Young</p> <p>CY is currently reviewing all 28 UK reports before submitting to UNESCO before the end of July 2013.</p>	
6.0	<p>Update on Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project – Loraine Knowles</p>	

	<p>LK gave a verbal update on current progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A344 at Stonehenge Bottom was closed on 24 June 2013. • The Highways Agency has been installing a permanent barrier across the old junction. • Work at Airman’s Corner was delayed and this had a knock on effect on the A344 as work had to be completed before the A344 could be closed. • LK noted that unfortunately, British Telecom undertook essential work after completion of the roundabout which led to additional traffic control and LK was sorry for the inconvenience this caused. • The new visitor is progressing well but there is still much to be done. The site is due to be handed over by the Contractor to EH at the end of October. The planned visit to site on 19 November will be part of many “dry-run” visits to the site during November. • LK noted that since the closure of the A344 there has been a noticeable increase in the use of byway 12 partly to avoid paying car park charges and partly because of confusion caused by the road closure. • From 8 – 12 July there was a protest group led by a man called Ben Fellows who was undertaking an “anti-corruption march” from Plymouth to London. He made erroneous and false accusations on social media, Youtube etc and encouraged people to trespass onto the Monument Field. • The failure to obtain the TRO in 2011 will mean that the setting of the monument will be compromised and it will be easier for protest groups such as this recent example to use Stonehenge for their own purposes. • Finally, LK noted two new appointments - General Manager for Stonehenge, Kate Davies who starts her new role on 2 September and a Solstice Manager, Lisa Hampton who begins on 5 August. <p>Lady Gass asked if the TRO would be reapplied for. LK noted that this is the responsibility of Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>Richard Crook noted that he had observed an increase in congestion since the closure of the A344.</p> <p>The need to improve the A303 was noted. To be discussed at item 11.0.</p>	
<p>7.0</p>	<p>English Heritage update – Beth Thomas The EH report had been circulated in advance. BT drew the committee’s attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 11 – work on protecting barrows being damaged by badgers on Winterbourne Stoke Down. • Action 92 - Volunteer Manager – Anneka Harris who starts on 5th August. • Action 94 - Community Hard Hat visits to the visitor centre site on May and July which were both popular and successful. Community Ambassador project being led by Lisa Holmes. • Action 121 - Stonehenge & Avebury Research Framework which will be available in draft form for consultation shortly. • Action 128 - EH will need to consider the implications on the historic environment not only at Stonehenge but other historic sites across the SW and nationally of the recent HM Treasury report “Investing in Britain’s Future”. 	
<p>8.0</p>	<p>National Trust update – Jan Tomlin JT noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work that has taken place over the past 9 months on the landscape at Fargo Wood. This has been undertaken to support the new visitor centre and to encourage more visitors to explore the landscape by making it less intimidating. • Lucy Evershed left earlier this year. No appointment has been made as yet while the NT considers the best way to replace her. In the meantime Katherine Snell, who had previously completed an internship with Lucy at Stonehenge as stepped in on a part-time basis which is likely to continue until the end of the year. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Darvill & Fritz Luth are undertaking a geo-physical survey of the greater Henge area at Avebury. • There is also an excavation taking place on West Kennet Avenue as part of the Between the Monuments project until 9 August 2013. The dig is open to the public and members of the committee are invited to visit if they can. 	
9.0	<p>Wiltshire Council update – Ariane Crampton AC noted:</p> <p>Wiltshire Core Strategy - Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing sessions for the examination due to close 18th July (19th July reserve day). • Anticipate that the Inspector will present his findings - Autumn 2013. • Inspector is likely to request that we undertaken consultation on the Proposed Changes to the Plan that have arisen during the course of the hearing sessions prior to him issuing his report. • Subject to sound report, Wiltshire Council will look to adopt as early as possible after receipt of report (late 2013/early 2014) <p>Brad Fleet, Director for Planning, left the council on 19 July as part of the council's current voluntary redundancy process. Alistair Cunningham has taken on Brad's area of responsibility on an interim basis, pending a review of the senior management structure.</p>	
10.0	<p>Natural England Update – Stephanie Payne SP noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 3 HLS schemes in progress in the WHS. • The interactive targeting project is in progress. • SP is working with Nick Croxson of EH on the badger protection at Winterbourne Stoke Down and may be able to provide capital funding for the works as well as professional assistance from David Trump on the territories of the badgers in the area. • Agri-Environment Schemes – Some decisions have been made at EU level but more work to be done on defining the final schemes. NE is currently working with others on the design of options for the new schemes and the evaluation work has now been completed. There will be consultations once schemes are developed in draft. <p>ACTION: SP to circulate link to area on NE website on this work and the link to the NE newsletter to update the public on progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFRA have announced that transition arrangements for 2014 with a £26m budget. SSSI and Scheduled Monuments will receive priority. • Natural Character Areas – The revised Character Area profiles will be circulated for comment shortly but there will be a short window available to respond. <p>ACTION: BT will circulate the draft NCA profile to the Committee when it has been received</p>	<p>SP</p> <p>BT</p>
11.0	<p>Highways Agency Update Written update forwarded before the meeting. Richard Ormerod was unable to attend however BT highlighted the update on the A303/A30/A358 Corridor feasibility study that is due to be undertaken. RF reported that the Countess Roundabout was working more effectively now that the signals have been adjusted and repaired.</p>	
12.0	<p>RSPB Update Written update forwarded before the meeting. BT noted that there was an update on the Great Bustard Project.</p>	
13.0	<p>13. Other partner updates</p>	
13.1	<p>Amesbury Town Council – Roger Fisher RF noted the work on a footpath from Totterdown to Durrington along the A345 which is currently under construction. This should make access to Durrington Walls and Woodhenge on foot easier.</p>	
13.2	<p>MoD – Richard Osgood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MoD is currently reviewing the boundary review with some 	

	<p>good internal champions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainee soldiers from Larkhill assisted with the tidy up of Maj Hewetson memorial with the assistance of Deputy Garrison Commander, John Le Feuvre. • The 2020 Re-basing project continues. This is a £800m project in Wiltshire alone. The WHS has been highlighted as a major consideration in any planning of further developments. • Operation Nightingale is undertaking a second year of excavations at Barrow Clump on the SPTA near to Figheldean. So far 22 burials have been found together with Neolithic burial goods. 	
13.3	<p>Wiltshire Museum – David Dawson David Dawson asked to update the meeting as follows: Action 60 – Develop collaboration with the Avebury, Salisbury and Devizes museums Wiltshire Museum is planning to open new Prehistoric Wiltshire displays, featuring bronze Age gold finds from the WHS in mid-October with a formal opening planned for November.</p>	
14.0	Information exchange and AOB	
14.1	<p>Clare King, Assistant County Archaeologist noted that she has been approached by the MoD with a view to re-locating a second Maj Hewetson memorial which is currently located in a field close to the probable crash site. It is hoped to relocate it in an area that will make it more accessible to the public.</p>	
	No other business	
15.0	<p>Date of next meetings</p> <p>Monday 23 September 10am Antrobus House, Stakeholder Meeting to launch review of the Stonehenge WHS Management Plan</p> <p>Tuesday 19 November 10.30am + Visit to Stonehenge visitor centre with Advisory Forum at 2.30pm</p>	