

**Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Panel**  
**24 February 2014**  
**Wiltshire Museum Devizes Lecture Room**  
**NOTES**

Present: Lady Elizabeth Gass (Chairman- Stonehenge WHS Committee),  
 Colin Shell (Representative - ASHRG), Alistair Sommerlad (Chair), Jan  
 Tomlin (National Trust), Andrew Vines (English Heritage), Cllr Stuart  
 Wheeler (Wiltshire Council), Andrew Williamson (Chair-Avebury WHS  
 Committee),

In attendance: Sarah Simmonds (Avebury WHS Officer), Beth Thomas (Stonehenge  
 WHS Coordinator), Nick Snashall (NT)

	Item	ACTION
1.0	<b>Introductions</b> Each member introduced themselves and the organisation or group which they represent.	
2.0	<b>Chair's report</b> AS noted that he feels very privileged to be taking up the role of Chair of the Partnership Panel. He had attended the LAWHF AGM in Westminster in December and also attended the opening of the new Visitor Centre. He had made a number of site visits and talked to a number of stakeholders to gain an understanding of the issues and their interests. He aimed at this meeting to identify any issues that were of concern and seek solutions after the meeting.	
3.0	<b>Report from Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Committees</b> <b>Stonehenge</b> The visitor centre has been the recent highlight for the Stonehenge WHS. The Committee is well established and the WHS Committee is a good useful group of people who understand the issues. The Advisory Group has proved useful in the past, in particular in developing the Management Plan. <b>Avebury</b> Avebury WHS Committee works very well. The HLS Stewardship/ CAP reform is a key issue because it has been so vital in taking monuments out of the plough. Management Plan Review has been useful and key to raising the current issues. The potential undergrounding of electricity cables at the palisade enclosure is an important project. There is an issue with foreign group visitors climbing Silbury Hill. How does Avebury keep the principle to integrate with Stonehenge to the fore? The design guidance of the Transport Strategy will be very useful	

	in Avebury and immediate local area.	
4.0	<p><b>Partnership Panel - Terms of Reference</b></p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the ToR developed by the working group set up by the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Committees to review the recommendations of the Egeria Report. It was generally agreed that it should not overlap with the steering committees and double up on workload. It is likely that issues will arise as the new structure settles in and we should be flexible and deal with these as they arise. It is important to have good dialogue between the local committees and the partnership panel. There is a role for the Partnership Panel to support the Chair and the Coordination Unit to meet the overall objectives of the WHS. There was agreement that apart from the minor amendments that the ToR were acceptable to all.</p> <p><b>ACTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to consider if each member of the Panel should have a deputy and if so nominate that deputy in advance so that there is some continuity.</li> <li>• BT will circulate a revised version of the ToR to reflect the minor amendments suggested.</li> </ul>	<p>ALL</p> <p>BT</p>
5.0	<p><b>Coordination Unit - Terms of Reference</b></p> <p>The following comments were made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the ToR need to be flexible to adapt them as the Unit proceeds and review as necessary;</li> <li>(2) the resources section should be a separate appendix as these may change with time. AS agreed to meet with all parties to discuss resources being given both in kind and in cash over the short and long term. This section will then be re-circulated</li> <li>(3) What is the process for any dispute resolution?</li> <li>(4) It was agreed that the WHS Steering Committees and PP provide strategic direction and the Council only provide pay and rations and line management. Questions over line management and the difference between day to day management and strategic management. AS agreed to meet with BT/SS and Melanie Pomeroy Kellinger to discuss the details of the line management process.</li> <li>(5) NT Contribution - part of the role of the NT Archaeologist will include reporting to the Partnership Panel &amp; working with the two full time coordinators. She will provide non-statutory archaeological advice eg advice for task and finish groups. This would be across the whole of the WHS, both on and off the NT</li> <li>(6) Administrative support - a dedicated resource was unlikely but resources could be found for specific projects such as the Management Plan. This still needs to be clarified and AS would include in his resource assessment.</li> </ol> <p><b>ACTIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AS to undertake resource assessment for in kind and cash contributions to the work of the WHS.</li> </ul>	<p>AS</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AS to meet with MPK/BT/SS to discuss line management procedures.</li> </ul>	AS
6.0	<p><b>Management Plan - Update on progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Update</b> Avebury Review was carried out in 2012 and Stonehenge in 2013 with public consultation and professional focus groups looking at the themes of the Management Plan and looking at past success and future actions. A Project Board assists with overseeing the process and acting as advisors and sounding board for ideas. SS &amp; BT are now working on the draft text.</li> <li><b>Timetable</b> The next Project Board meeting will be on 15 April and will be reviewing draft aims, policies and objectives. The format is already agreed and will use the Stonehenge 2009 Plan as a template. It is planned to hold a Stakeholder Workshop 20 May and to update the Partnership Panel on progress at its next meeting. Public Consultation should be held over the summer and the current provisional date for the final document is the end of 2014.</li> <li><b>Budget/Support required/role of partnership panel</b> BT tabled an outline budget. There was some discussion regarding the cost of producing hard copies of the Management Plan. Hard copies help to promote the WHS locally, nationally and internationally and are easy to use and readily accessible. However, there was some concern that the cost was too high. <b>ACTION:</b></li> <li><b>BT &amp; SS to identify where hard copies would be sent to and report to the next meeting.</b></li> </ul>	BT/SS
7.0	<p><b>LAWHF Meeting Stonehenge 11 July 2014</b></p> <p>A draft agenda was tabled for this meeting which is to be held at the Stonehenge Visitor Centre. This meeting is an opportunity to showcase the new visitor facility and to network with other colleagues from WHS across the UK. All members of the Partnership Panel will be welcome to attend to help understand issues facing other WHS in the UK.</p>	
8.0	<p><b>Current projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Climate Change Risk Assessment</b> This document is in final stages of production. BT tabled a draft copy for inspection. This RA covers both parts of the WHS and at this stage will be produced as a PDF for download from the English Heritage and the Stonehenge &amp; Avebury WHS websites.</li> <li><b>Avebury Transport strategy</b> This is currently underway and funded by the NWD AONB and Wiltshire Council with support from the Avebury PC. It is</li> </ul>	

	<p>looking at highways related issues and aims to avoid ad hoc solutions. A Project Board is overseeing the work and is meeting shortly to look at the design principles and set parameters for intervention in the WHS. Outline schemes will also be developed using the design principles which it is also hoped could be transferred to the Stonehenge part of the WHS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stonehenge and Avebury Research Framework</b> This document is the first joint framework. It looks at previous research work and what questions have been asked and what remain and helps to identify research strategies for the future. The Project Board meet next on 28 February.</li> <li>• <b>Stonehenge &amp; Avebury WHS Woodland Strategy</b> This project has been managed by the NT and funded by Natural England. There is one outstanding item and NS hopes to finalise the document very soon.</li> <li>• <b>Communications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="http://stonehengeandaveburywhs.org">stonehengeandaveburywhs.org</a> has had just over 1900 hits since its launch in August 2013.</li> <li>○ @StoneAveWHS twitter account has over 180 followers</li> <li>○ <b>Megalith</b> -The newsletter for the WH. The next edition will include activity in 2013-14. BT will shortly start to gather copy. Please let her know if there is any activity that you would like to include.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	ALL
9.0	<p><b>Vision for Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Panel</b> Since taking over the role of Chair, AS has been having some informal discussions and considering his role.</p> <p><b>Fundraising</b> - He has already been considering potential funding sources both in kind and cash from both the public and private sector and would be interested to know what the WHS would feel was appropriate. Are we prepared to have commercial sponsorship, or is this too much?</p> <p><b>Political environment</b> - AS is able through his work to discuss issues at Whitehall level and the Panel said that this would be a useful role.</p> <p>AV noted that there are some immediate potential threats to the OUV of the Stonehenge WHS with the A303 and MoD rebasing proposals. The Partnership Panel should be alive to these issues.</p> <p>AS asked for the Partnership Panel to give him some guidance on his role in terms. Is it advocacy or coming up with initiatives and ideas? This will be an item on the next agenda.</p>	ALL
10.0	<p><b>AOB</b> No other business was discussed.</p>	
11.0	<p><b>Future meeting dates and venues</b> Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 10 for 10.30 at Wiltshire &amp; Swindon History Centre, Chippenham</p>	