

## Stonehenge World Heritage Site Committee

Meeting on Thursday 24 September 2015

at St Barbara's Hall, Larkhill

### Minutes

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p><b>Introductions and apologies</b></p> <p><b>Present:</b> Roger Fisher (Chair/Amesbury TC), Colin Shell (ASAHRG), Philip Miles (CLA), Kate Davies (English Heritage), Phil McMahon (Historic England), Rachel Sandy (Highways England), Richard Crook (NFU/Amesbury TC), Jan Tomlin (National Trust), Nick Snashall (National Trust), Patrick Cashman (RSPB), Carole Slater (Shrewton PC), Clare King (Wiltshire Council), David Dawson (Wiltshire Museum), Ian West (Winterbourne Stoke PC)</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Fred Westmoreland (Amesbury Community Area Board), John Mills (Durrington TC), Henry Owen John (Historic England), Stephanie Payne (Natural England), David Andrews (VisitWiltshire), Peter Bailey (Wilsford cum Lake/WHS landowners), Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Wiltshire Council), Ariane Crampton (Wiltshire Council), Andrew Shuttleworth (Winterbourne Stoke PC), Alistair Sommerlad (WHS Partnership Panel)</p>	
<p><b>2.0</b></p>	<p><b>Agree minutes of last meeting &amp; matters arising</b></p> <p>Version 3 of the minutes of the last meeting was approved.</p>	
<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Endorsing the Plan</b> <p>The following organisations have endorsed the plan so far: Highways England, English Heritage, Amesbury PC, Wilsford cum Lake PC, Durrington TC, Wiltshire Museum, and Salisbury Museum.</p> <p>Other organisations: Natural England, RSPB, Historic England and National Trust are in the process of going through their organisation's approval process.</p> <p>The WHS Coordination Unit (WHSCU) would be grateful for written endorsements by the end of 2015.</p> <p>The WHSCU are very happy to meet with any partner organisation to explain the Management Plan to their members.</p> </li> <li>• <b>WHSCU Action Plan</b> <p>BT circulated a table which outlined how SS and BT will cover both local and thematic responsibilities. This table may be subject to change once work with partners begins in earnest but will enable partner organisations to understand how the work load will be shared.</p> <p>Priorities for the rest of the financial year are: Sustainable Tourism Strategy, Sustainable Transport Strategy, Communications Strategy, and Setting Study.</p> </li> </ul>	

	<p>In addition there will be further work on the website, development of a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary event programme and publication of a WHS leaflet that can be used to explain the work of the WHS and the WHSCU to the general public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Update on meetings with Partners</b>            BT and SS have been meeting a number of partners over the summer months. These include: National Trust, Historic England, English Heritage, Visit Wiltshire, TransWilts, Go South Coast, English Heritage, Ridgeway Partnership and the Planning and Transport teams of Wiltshire Council. Further meetings are planned with Natural England and the Economic Regeneration and Rights of Way/Countryside teams of Wiltshire Council.         </li> </ul> <p>If any partner would like to arrange a meeting to discuss future actions please contact BT.</p> <p>IW asked a question about the monitoring of activity by the WHS Committee. The WHS Committee is responsible for the implementation of the WHS Management Plan. It does not have responsibility for monitoring day to day activity of its partners. However, it can play a role in facilitation between partner members where necessary. Partners update at each WHS Committee meeting on how they are implementing the actions for which they have a lead role and can discuss any barriers or problems in order to get help and support from the rest of Committee.</p> <p>IW also brought up the issue of the removal of trees from Winterbourne Stoke Down. This project is part of a Higher Level Stewardship arrangement to remove trees from a Romano-British settlement which is also a scheduled monument as trees are damaging to the buried archaeology. It was noted that the proposed WHS Setting Study would be considering views both in and out of the WHS and this kind of issue will be considered and policies agreed. The WHS Woodland Strategy when published will also help to establish how trees should be managed.</p> <p><b>ACTION: BT agreed to find out who at Historic England was managing this project and pass on the details to Cllr West.</b></p> <p>BT was asked if meeting minutes could be circulated to the relevant parish councils and town councils. This is possible and BT also noted that minutes of meetings once approved are available through the WHS website <a href="http://www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org">www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org</a></p> <p><b>ACTION: BT to add parish clerks to circulation list for WHS Committee minutes.</b></p>	<p>BT</p> <p>BT</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p><b>World Heritage Site Coordination Unit update</b></p> <p>Since our last meeting in April the WHSCU has achieved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publication and launch of the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites WHS Management Plan 2015 w/c 18 May 2015</li> <li>Publication of <i>Megalith</i>, the fourth annual newsletter of the WHS</li> <li>Held partner meetings with the National Trust, Wiltshire Council (Planning &amp; Transport), Historic England, Visit Wiltshire, TransWilts, Go South Coast, English Heritage, Ridgeway Partnership and more to be arranged with Natural England and other departments of Wiltshire</li> </ul>	

	<p>Council and other partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represented the WHS at the Salisbury Museum Festival of Archaeology on 18 – 19 July 2015</li> <li>• Developing the Wiltshire Council Arts Symposium November 2015</li> <li>• Worked with other WHS to develop a logo for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first 7 WHSs (the others are: St Kilda, Giant’s Causeway, Edwardian Castles of Wales, Durham Cathedral and Castle, Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey) to be inscribed in 1986</li> <li>• Completed the New Paths arts project at Avebury</li> <li>• Arranged a <i>Volunteers Together</i> event with English Heritage and members of SALOG at the Stonehenge Visitor Centre.</li> <li>• Arranged two field trips: Marden in the Vale of Pewsey and Avebury <i>Between the Monuments</i> excavations</li> <li>• Held a Partnership Panel meeting/away day.</li> <li>• Worked with partners to agree a suitable repair and maintenance strategy for the Ridgeway National Trail within the WHS (Avebury)</li> <li>• Input to review of saved policies in the Wiltshire Core Strategy</li> <li>• Worked with post-graduate placement students from UCL and Bath Spa University</li> <li>• Provided advice on a number of planning applications and pre-planning consultations affecting the WHS</li> <li>• Worked with the NWDAONB on their Historic Landscape Characterisation Statement of Significance (Avebury)</li> <li>• Co-hosted with EH a visit to the WHS from the team at Carnac in Brittany who are developing WHS nomination documents for their site.</li> <li>• The WHSCU hosted a Natural England site visit ensuring that the WHS continues as target for Countryside Stewardship</li> </ul>	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Reports from Partners on implementing the plan</b>	
a)	<p><b>English Heritage Trust Report</b></p> <p>Staff members from EHT met the WHSCU on 23 September. It was a positive meeting and it was agreed who would take forward those actions for which EHT is responsible.</p> <p><i>Action 75 – pre-visit information in major languages</i></p> <p>EHT has recently updated its website and some elements are now translated into 10 other languages to help visitors from overseas plan their visit.</p> <p><i>Action 120 – explore ways for the education space to be used by community groups</i></p> <p>This facility is already available but EHT is looking at how this facility can be accessed more easily by local groups.</p> <p><i>30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</i></p> <p>The EH events team are looking at how they can incorporate this into the 2016 events programme.</p> <p>EHT is looking forward to being involved with the Sustainable Tourism and Sustainable Transport Strategies.</p>	
b)	<p><b>Historic England update</b></p> <p>HE met with the WHSCU on 20 July. A good range of HE staff were present including planners, designation and development management staff. It was very useful meeting and ways forward on a number of actions were discussed.</p>	

	<p><i>Action 50 Develop a sensitive evidence based approach to enhancing the visibility of buried monuments</i> This would not mean restoring/rebuilding buried monuments but could include virtual interpretation or other ways to help visitors understand the WHS landscape better.</p> <p><i>Action 27 – repeat Condition Survey</i> This action was not due until around 2020 but other techniques such as aerial photography might be used.</p> <p>Other actions that HE would be involved with included the Setting Study where it will be important to analyse what is important in the landscape in terms of setting so that these can be properly considered. The boundary review as part of this process will be important too.</p>	
<p><b>c)</b></p>	<p><b>National Trust update</b> The National Trust met with the WHSCU on 23<sup>rd</sup> July.</p> <p>A number of actions are ongoing as part of the management and conservation of the WHS managed by the NT.</p> <p><i>Action 43 – remove redundant sewage infrastructure from the Cursus</i> The NT have been involved in studies related to this carried out by DIO which will enable this work to be carried out in due course.</p> <p>The NT was represented at the Salisbury Museum Festival of Archaeology on 18 and 19 July with staff and volunteers from both Avebury and Stonehenge attending.</p> <p>There is some fencing and re-fencing work due to take place around land recently returned to pasture on West Amesbury Farm.</p>	
<p><b>d)</b></p>	<p><b>Wiltshire Council update</b> <b>Implementation of the Management Plan</b> Launch of the Management Plan 21 May 2015 at County Hall hosted by Mrs Jane Scott OBE and attended by a number of key partners.</p> <p>Meetings held by Planning and Highways teams with WHSCU and further meetings with Economy and Rights of Way/Countryside Team are planned to discuss how the actions where Wiltshire Council is the lead partner will be carried forward. Further meetings to discuss the detail of specific actions will be held as required and progress reported at future meetings.</p> <p><b>Durrington Walls/Woodhenge Car Park</b> Wiltshire Council received, via the WHSCU, information that there was concern amongst the Amesbury TC regarding the upkeep of the small car park and picnic area at Woodhenge. There have been problems in the management of this area as part of the wider issues related to the Wiltshire Council contract with Balfour Beatty. The Countryside Team are confident that this issue is now resolved and this area should be better maintained in future.</p>	

	<p><b>Larkhill rebasing update</b> The County Archaeology Service and other teams within Wiltshire Council are fully engaged with the rebasing project and there is a regular heritage focused meeting. This considers the archaeological work (evaluation and recording) and issues such as the siting of a new roundabout which may impact on the solstitial alignment. There are also some related utility applications which are currently under review.</p> <p><b>A303</b> The Council is fully engaged with the process and is involved in multi-agency meetings as they arise.</p> <p><b>Other updates</b> The Archaeology Service has been busy considering Countryside Stewardship schemes but there are currently none affecting the WHS.</p> <p>The Archaeology Service has been in discussion with the Environment Agency regarding work taking place on the River Avon at Lake, just within the WHS boundary. Archaeology investigations and recording are taking place.</p>	
e)	<p><b>Natural England Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural England attended the launch of the WHS management plan.</li> <li>• Endorsement of the plan by Natural England– this is in hand.</li> <li>• The new Countryside Stewardship has been launched and I have been busy working on applications. There have not been any applications this year within the Stonehenge part of the WHS. There is potential for at least one key application in the area next year. I would be happy to give a presentation to interested people / local farmers at a future meeting.</li> <li>• I have been involved in helping with ongoing HLS casework in the WHS – such as botanical sward enhancement, capital items to protect Historic Features etc.</li> <li>• Planning to meet Beth and Sarah shortly to discuss the action plan and Natural England’s contribution.</li> </ul>	
f)	<p><b>Highways Agency Update</b></p> <p><b>A303</b> At the last meeting HE reported that the works on the A303 were subject to a Development Consent Order. The timetable is being developed and it is anticipated that there will be a public information exercise in the new year which will set out the timetable for stakeholder engagement.</p> <p><b>Longbarrow Crossroads</b> Following the last meeting a safety audit has been carried out and it has been recommended that some re-lining takes place. Funds are currently being sought for this work</p> <p><b>Countess Roundabout</b> Yellow box junction – this has been reviewed and some schemes are being worked up for the Westbound A303/A345 and Eastbound A303/A345 junction. However, funding and delivery time scale has not yet been identified for this. A business case and detailed design are being prepared to assist this.</p>	

	<p>IW noted that the previous roundabout at Longbarrow had trees on it which helped to slow down traffic as visibility across the roundabout was reduced. What are the plans for landscaping of the Longbarrow roundabout and what maintenance is undertaken on this?</p> <p><b>ACTION: RS to investigate and respond.</b></p>	RS
g)	<p><b>RSPB Update</b></p> <p><b><u>Management Plan Policy 3h, Action 59</u></b></p> <p><b>Stone-curlews</b></p> <p>A very good season with 2 pairs nesting. Both on the lower plot in turn with the 1<sup>st</sup> pair moving to the Stonehenge plot after nesting, which allowed a second pair onto Valley plot. Each pair fledged a single chick. An autumn roost of pre-migration birds has again built up on Stonehenge plot. 53 birds have been observed in the highest count this season.</p> <p><b>Lapwings</b></p> <p>14 pairs of Lapwing across the reserve with possibly 29 fledged young this year.</p> <p><b>Common Curlew</b></p> <p>A pair of common curlew again nested in the vicinity of the reserve and fledged 1 chick.</p> <p><b>Great Bustards</b></p> <p>Occasional birds seen throughout the season on the reserve. One pair has again fledged a chick on Salisbury Plain this year.</p> <p><b><u>Management Plan Policy 3g + h, Action 52</u></b></p> <p><b>Floristic enhancements</b></p> <p>Additional butterfly food plants were introduced this spring with 60 hairy violets planted in April as food for Dark Green fritillary butterflies, which have a strong population on Salisbury Plain. Landowner Rachel Hosier is planning further floristic enhancements of the fields in the reserve, by sowing wildflower seed brush harvested from flower-rich areas of Salisbury Plain.</p> <p><b><u>Management Plan Policy 4a, Action 73</u></b></p> <p><b>Access</b></p> <p>The RSPB would be pleased to host an archaeological themed guided walk across the reserve to visit the barrows this autumn now that the stone-curlew season is coming to a close.</p> <p><b><u>Management Plan Policy 5a, Action 92</u></b></p> <p><b>Interpretation</b></p> <p>The two Normanton Down nature reserve A3 information panels have been updated and replaced thanks to funding from the HLF "Save Our Magnificent Meadows" project. They highlight the importance of the barrow cemetery and sport the WHS logo.</p>	
6.0	<p><b>Report from the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Panel</b></p> <p>The Panel met recently at Lulworth Cove as an Away Day to the Jurassic Coast WHS to explore how they manage the WHS.</p> <p>The Panel found out about the structure of the Jurassic Coast WHS Unit, branding and signage, community engagement, visitor management and</p>	

	<p>potential fundraising programme through the Jurassic Coast Trust.</p> <p>The meeting also considered strategic issues for the WHS and which areas should be the priorities of the WHS partnership Panel. These include seeking continued funding for the Unit and implementation of the Management Plan, branding and signage, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and developing international links with other WHS.</p>	
<b>7.0</b>	<p><b>Report from Avebury &amp; Stonehenge Archaeological and Historical Research Group</b></p> <p>The next meeting of ASHARG is being held on 25 September in the Education Room of the Stonehenge Visitor Centre and David Jacques will be giving a short presentation on the Blick Mead investigations.</p> <p>ASAHRG has continued to advise on the Research Framework for the WHS.</p> <p>There are a number of actions where ASAHRG is the lead partner or involved as a key partner.</p> <p>Action 50 – Suggested that digital technology could be used for example using results from recent projects such as Hidden Landscapes, The setting study will be of interest to members of ASAHRG.</p>	
<b>8.0</b>	<p><b>Other partner updates</b></p> <p><b>a) Community Area Board</b> No update</p> <p><b>b) MoD</b> No update</p> <p><b>c) Salisbury Museum</b> No update</p> <p><b>d) Wiltshire Museum</b> Wiltshire Museum has been working on a new environment gallery in partnership with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. A bid to the HLF has been submitted.</p> <p>The Wiltshire Museum has been working with Dorset County Museum, Russell- Coates, Poole Museum and the Salisbury Museum as the Wessex Partnership. Together they have been awarded £450,000 by the Arts Council to develop fundraising and exhibition programming.</p> <p>The Wiltshire Museum with the Salisbury Museum are working with the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute on an exhibition to take place near Vienna next year to show the results of the recent Hidden Landscapes project which the Institute led with partner universities.</p> <p>Some objects from the two museums will be included in the exhibition and they will be working with VisitWiltshire to use the exhibition to market the area to the German and Austrian tourism industry.</p> <p>The Wiltshire Museum is looking forward to working with the WHSCU on the Sustainable Tourism Strategy amongst other actions</p>	

	<p><b>e) VisitWiltshire</b> VisitWiltshire is part of the partnership working on the use of a £5m grant from central government to promote tourism, particularly to the overseas market, to the South West.</p> <p><b>f) Amesbury Society</b> No update</p>	
<p><b>9.0</b></p>	<p><b>Parish and Town Council Updates</b></p> <p><b>a) Amesbury Town Council</b> The Amesbury TC recently agreed to improve signage to assist pedestrians wishing to walk to Stonehenge from Amesbury. It would encourage them to go up the A345, crossing the A303 at the underpass on Countess Road rather than travelling along the A303 itself.</p> <p>Woodhenge is still a matter of concern to the TC. There are larger numbers of people in the area and the road surface is very bad. There are also issues with camping and mess left behind at Solstice and other celebrations and some landscaping improvements might reduce this in future. <i>[NB Action 36 – Agree and implement actions to improve the setting and integrity of Woodhenge and Durrington Walls ]</i></p> <p>The Town Council have concerns about Byway 12 and are currently discussing how to take this forward.</p> <p><b>b) Durrington Town Council</b> No update</p> <p><b>c) Shrewton Parish Council</b> The PC is of a mind not to endorse the Management Plan but is working on a response to the WHSCU.</p> <p>John Glen MP will be chairing a meeting in Shrewton School on Friday 25 September at 7pm. A number of representatives from Highways England and Wiltshire Council will be attending. All members of the Stonehenge WHS committee are welcome to attend.</p> <p><b>d) Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council</b> Winterbourne Stoke PC has decided not to endorse the Management Plan.</p> <p>A written statement was provided by Andrew Shuttleworth: We will, through the committee, be seeking to ensure that effective monitoring measures are put in place for the new Management Plan, to ensure that actions that impact directly on our Parish interests are discharged in accordance with the relevant regulatory framework and that where changes are made to the natural or built environment within the WHS, that this is done in a manner consistent with the spirit of the Management Plan, that actions are not in any way to the detriment of local people, and that they use methods and materials of a quality and type that befit a World Heritage site.</p>	

10.0	<p><b>Information exchange and AOB</b> No further business</p>	
11.0	<p><b>Presentation by Jeff Smith MBE on the Royal Artillery Museum Ltd project at Larkhill</b> Mr Smith outlined the vision and aims of the Royal Artillery Museum Ltd project.</p> <p>The project aims to interpret not only the Royal Artillery’s important military collection but also the history of Salisbury Plain from the earliest time to the present day including the period related to the WHS, particularly as the site is close to the Knighton Down Long Barrow and Robin Hood’s Ball Neolithic enclosure.</p> <p>RAM Ltd is submitting a bid to HLF for a development phase at the beginning of December.</p> <p>The attraction will not be completed until 2019/20. It will provide opportunities for jobs to the local community and add to the “heritage trail” locally which included Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral, Wilton House and the Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop.</p> <p>A small number of the committee were shown the location of the proposed building and given the opportunity to ask further questions about the project.</p> <p>Members of the committee asked questions about traffic management, the ecology of chalk grassland and opportunities to link in with other initiatives to restore and improve chalk grassland in the area and what kind of facilities the attraction would have.</p> <p>We are grateful to Mr Smith for this opportunity to find out about the latest developments of this proposed new attraction.</p>	
12.0	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b> <b>Thursday 17 March 2015 10.30am</b></p>	