



**ASAHRG**  
**10.30 AM Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018**  
**Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Chippenham**

**NOTES**

**Present:** Sarah Simmonds, Katy Whitaker, Mark Bowden, Chris Moore (Highways England), Andrew Clark (Highways England), Josh Pollard, Eleanor Salwood, Rachel Foster, Dave Sabin, Kerry Donaldson, Mike Allen, David Dawson, Colin Shell, Martyn Barber (Chair), Susan Greaney, Richard Osgood, Alistair Barclay, Brian Edwards, Jonathon Last, Heather Sebire, Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Stamatie Gelato, Ros Cleal, Helen Miah (Notes)

**1. Apologies/Introductions. Review of Membership**

Matt Leivers, Andrew David, Tim Darvill, Jude Currivan, Amanda Chadburn, Olaf Bayer, Dave Field, Sian Williams, Ian Barnes, Briony Clifton, Dan Miles, Nick Snashall, Nick Baxter, Phil McMahon, Bruce Eagles, Gill Swanton, Steve Marshall

**2. Minutes and Matters arising**

Brian introduced and outlined the ideas for a Stonehenge Chubb Centenary Cricket and Cake Day and asked for volunteers from the room to get involved. The introductory leaflet/text can be used to explain the concept to all. Suggestion to use an Eventbrite link to sign up to get involved.

Points agreed:

- **RO is the captain of the Archaeologists**
- **RF is the captain of the Heritage Professionals**
- **SG is the key link at EH Stonehenge**
- **All feedback on the event direct to Brian**



### 3. Monitoring of the Research Framework

DM to be asked to provide a presentation on approaches to updating the Framework at a forthcoming meeting.

### 4. Current archaeological & historical research

- *Living with Monuments Project fieldwork plans 2018* – Josh Pollard

JP outlined plans for fieldwork in the Winterbourne valley to the west of the Avebury henge, as part of the Living with Monuments Project. The intention is to adopt a staged approach, with test pitting across Butler’s Field between April to June; the results of which will inform the location and scale of excavation work during late July and August. The aim of the work is to better understand the character of human activity within the riverside zone during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, and to allow a more detailed picture to be created of the sequence of alluvial deposition within the Winterbourne. A project design is being prepared and will be sent to the County Archaeology Service.

- *A303 Road Improvement Scheme: Results of Geophysics* - Chris Moore (AECOM) *Public Consultation Proposed Scheme* - Andrew Clark (Highways England)

An overview of the archaeological evaluation strategy that has been developed in consultation with HMAG and the Scientific Committee. A scheme-wide Archaeological Evaluation Strategy Report (AESR) sets the strategic direction of archaeological evaluation and the overarching scope, guiding principles and the methods to be used in relation to each part of the Scheme, following a review of previous surveys. The AESR also sets out general and detailed principles that will apply to the archaeological evaluation, based on the 2015 WHS Management Plan (Appendix L), revised and updated to reflect current guidance and good practice. An accompanying Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) describes the methods and techniques that will be employed during the Archaeological Field Evaluations, including ploughzone artefact sampling, geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation, including environmental and geoarchaeological sampling and assessment. The AESR and the OWSI together provide a framework for the development of Site-Specific WSIs (SSWSIs). Each SSWSI reviews results of relevant previous archaeological work, considers the known archaeological resource to be investigated, proposes appropriate archaeological and geoarchaeological investigation strategies, and identifies

overarching research themes and relevant period-based research questions with reference to the Stonehenge and Avebury Archaeological Research Framework (2016), for approval by HMAG.

A programme of further evaluation in accordance with the agreed AESR and OWSI has now commenced at the eastern portal location north of Vespasian's Camp, with surface artefact collection, topsoil test pitting, geoarchaeological borehole survey and trial trenching. Further evaluation is also planned at the western portal. All works will be monitored by the HMAG and the Scientific Committee will also be invited to view the works.

Early results of geophysics conducted recently just outside the WHS west of Longbarrow Crossroads and east of Winterbourne Stoke were also screened.

### Debate/Questions

- Byways 11 and 12 and how they are linked. The group proposed they should not be open to vehicular traffic to prevent damage to archaeology and its setting as well as negative impacts on farmers. Byways are not under Highways England's control. Wiltshire Council would need to initiate a TRO. This would meet the aims of the WHS Management Plan. It should be part of the legacy of any project.
- Traffic restrictions through the tunnel? There will be a non-tunnel route for vehicles that cannot access the tunnel.
- Need HIA with detailed modelling to fully understand landscape impacts, engineering drawings don't make this clear.
- What happens to the existing A303? No works to remove banking under the current road are currently planned but can be proposed at consultation. Stonehenge Bottom embankment is a problem because of buried utilities which might need to be accessed.
- HE keen to capture feedback on position of green bridge 4, and steepness of the cut, which could be varied.
- Some discussion about the site compounds west and east and possible impacts

KF asked for the scoping document be put on the Scientific Committee website.

Request for publication of archives within 3 years

## 5. Review of current opportunities for dissemination of research including recent and forthcoming publications

Wessex publication *'Along Prehistoric Lines'* will be available at Wiltshire Archaeology Conference

Question regarding publication dates for all research in the WHS: Riverside, Blick Mead, Living with Monuments.

RF circulated Section 12 from the WHS Management Plan regarding research in WHS underline the agreed process and need to report results and provide data. She asked the group to consider how they could be more proactive in getting data to the HER.

The possibility of developing links from HER to museum collections was discussed.

All agreed to formally record ASARGH concern that Publication of Research Reports is problematic.

### Actions:

RF to pull together an Event Report update on what's already held on the HER and a 'shopping list' of HER needs

All to feedback to RF via email.

Future on-going Agenda item to discuss/chase outstanding reports and data

SS to summarise ASAHRG actions from the WHS Management Plan and current progress against. The group to discuss next steps.

## 6. Other research opportunities (i.e. development-led archaeology, utilities)

- On-going rebasing work reported on at the previous meeting.

## 7. Review of monitoring (e.g. Condition Surveys, Management Plan)

SS outlined work towards independent WHS Trust; consultant working on bid to HLF Resilience Fund.

HM picking up work on Burrowing Animals in the Spring

Setting Study brief needs finalising prior to identifying a consultant. This will follow WHS Trust HLF bid

HM outlined plans for WH Day 2018 and requested input from partners.

CS reminded all that 2018 is European Year of Cultural Heritage and funding may be available.

#### **8. Representative's report from/to WHS Steering Committees and Partnership Panel**

Chair of Stonehenge WHS Committee written to Wiltshire Council regarding downgrading Byways 11 and 12

NT purchased Methodist Church at Avebury can be used to provide information on the WHS

MPK – took in good faith information from Salisbury Museum that the disposals in 2012 followed good practice guidelines.

In future communications about disposals could come via this group to ensure wider consultation.

#### **9. Opportunities for site/exhibition/archive visits in 2018**

#### **10. Revolving Meeting Chairs/Convenors**

Nominations for chairs for this group to be sent to SS by end of April

#### **11. AOB**

#### **12. Date and venue of next meeting**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June. Venue tbc