

# Stonehenge WHS Steering Committee

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017

2:00-4:00

Wiltshire Museum, Devizes

Minutes

<b>Present:</b> Roger Fisher	(Chair/Amesbury Town Council)
Alistair Sommerlad	(WHS Partnership Panel Chair)
Nick Snashall	(WHS Archaeologist, National Trust)
Jennifer Davies	(English Heritage)
Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger	(County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council)
Colin Shell	(ASAHRG)
Stephanie Payne	(Natural England)
Grant Lock	(ICOMOS UK)
Philip Miles	(CLA)
Patrick Cashman	(RSPB)
Richard Crook	(NFU/Amesbury TC)
Fred Westmoreland	(Community Area Board/Wiltshire Council)
Sarah Simmonds	(Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Manager)
Liam Wiseman	(Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Officer)

**Apologies:** David Andrews, Jan Tomlin, Andrew Shuttleworth, Rachel Sandy, Richard Harris

Item	Matters Arising	Action
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introductions and apologies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apologies noted above</li> </ul>	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Review minutes of the last meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RF Item 3.1 of previous minutes, Woodhenge scrub clearing almost complete</li> <li>SS Item 3.3 improving bus links. Connections are now on the Connecting Wiltshire website to help visitors travel between Stonehenge and Avebury</li> <li>SS Item 5.1 WHS plaque is now installed at Stonehenge on the wall of the Visitor Centre. 5.2 boundary signs are now also in place marking the entrances to the WHS</li> <li>Minutes of the last meeting were agreed with minor corrections</li> </ul>	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Byway 11 and 12</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RF reported that there is still regular parking/camping on Byway 11 and 12. Wiltshire</li> </ul>	<b>MPK to pass on information to relevant people at WC</b>

	<p>Council's assistance is required. If it were closed to motorised traffic and became a byway this would address the problem. MPK agreed to pass on the information on to relevant party at Wiltshire Council</p>	<p><b>RF to write a letter to Wiltshire Council on behalf of the Stonehenge WHS Committee</b></p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>A303 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SS reported that Highways England is still in the process of analysing comments from the public consultation. Discussed submitting the WHSCU response based on the WHS Management Plan policies. The decision on the preferred route is due in the summer.</li> <li>• PC asked exactly when the decision will be announced; MPK said there is no definitive date as yet.</li> <li>• AS added that it is not a final decision, just choosing the preferred route to research. MPK added that the ICOMOS report should be coming out soon. RC asked about Countess Roundabout, which is incredibly dangerous due to high volumes of traffic. RF added that it is much better with the new yellow boxes but still not ideal.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>WHS Farmers Representative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RF reported that at the Stonehenge WHS farmers meeting in February it was proposed that there should be a farmers' representative on the Stonehenge WHS Committee. The candidate was Hugh Morrison. Committee agreed that Hugh Morrison should join the Committee as the Farmers' representative</li> </ul>	<p><b>Hugh Morrison will join the WHS Committee as the Stonehenge Farmers' Representative</b></p>
<p><b>6.0</b></p>	<p><b>World Heritage Site Coordination Unit Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SS circulated update from the WHSCU on the work they had been doing. Noted in particular were:</li> <li>• The introduction of Liam Wiseman as the Partnership Officer and the completion of his induction and the Unit restructure</li> <li>• Successful delivery of the WHS 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference</li> <li>• Installation of boundary signs and WHS plaques</li> <li>• The initial meeting to develop the burrowing animals strategy</li> <li>• Ongoing work on Megalith and WHS communications</li> <li>• Continuing to organise meetings and response to the A303 project</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued secretariat duties for meetings</li> <li>30 Objects Google Cultural Institute exhibition</li> <li>Beginning the process of establishing a WHS Trust</li> </ul>	
<b>7.0</b>	<p><b>Partner organisation updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NS for the NT: attended 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference. Ran WHS Landscape walks. Hidden Landscapes project given Current Archaeology award. Wild Wednesday events have been successful. Attended burrowing animals scoping meeting. Significant involvement with the A303 project. Rangers working on improving the setting and condition of King Barrow Ridge</li> <li>JD for EH: attended 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference. Human Henge mental health project has been a success, currently in evaluation stage to see whether it will continue. Winter solstice was celebrated peacefully with c. 5000 people present. Continuing the visitor facilities enhancement project; opened a new coach park</li> <li>SP for NE: attended the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference. Continued to develop Countryside Stewardship schemes, aiming to improve the condition and setting of archaeology in the landscape. Working with burrowing animals strategy</li> <li>PC for RSPB: managing Nature Reserve in Normanton Down Barrow to attract stone curlews and Great Bustards back to the area. Partnered with Wiltshire Museum for an archaeological tour. Responded to A303 scheme due to the potential damage to the stone curlew population.</li> <li>GL for ICOMOS UK: awaiting the response of ICOMOS International on A303 scheme. Have sent response from the ICOMOS: UK</li> <li>FW for Wiltshire Council: awaiting outcome of consultation. RF asked about what is happening with the byways. FW suggested we should adopt a wait and see approach in relation to the A303 scheme. It is the landowners responsibility to clear the byways which is probably Wiltshire Council</li> <li>MPK attended 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference. Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service has assisted with burrowing animals strategy meeting and commented on Countryside Stewardship</li> </ul>	

	<p>schemes. Historic Landscape Characterisation project is finished and has been uploaded to the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre website. Contact Tom Sunley at Wiltshire Council for more information, can be found here:</p> <p><a href="http://www.wshc.eu/our-services/archaeology/24-our-services/archaeology/113-historical-landscape-characterisation-project.html">http://www.wshc.eu/our-services/archaeology/24-our-services/archaeology/113-historical-landscape-characterisation-project.html</a> . Project was sponsored by Historic England and has created landscape resource of over 14,500 records to create an accurate representation of the Wiltshire landscape, especially useful for those researching the area. Also commented on planning applications for the Stonehenge coach park and permissive path along the A344. Wrote a response to the A303 scheme. Working closely through HMAG with Highways to improve it. Will be leading archaeology walks in July</p>	
<b>8.0</b>	<p><b>Town Council Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RF Amesbury History Centre progressing</li> </ul>	
<b>9.0</b>	<p><b>WHS Partnership Panel Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AS discussed A303 meeting held prior to end of public consultation and how the response from the WHSCU was created to reflect the alignment with the WHS Management Plan policies. The WHS Partnership Panel is also looking at forming the Trust and there is an upcoming meeting to discuss this further</li> </ul>	
<b>10.0</b>	<p><b>ASAHRG Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CS distributed WHSCU response to everyone present, and then discussed the previous ASAHRG meeting held in January. Celebrated the launch of the WHS Research Framework. Also focussed on archaeological investigation undertaken for the A303 project</li> </ul>	
<b>11.0</b>	<p><b>Information Exchange and AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JD: EH are hiring a dedicated Stonehenge curator. Currently shortlisting candidates</li> <li>• FW: Amesbury Society are looking for speakers on a number of varied topics</li> <li>• PC: there have been 7 campervans spotted at Normanton cemetery. MPK Wiltshire Council have already helped to move them on, there are only 3 left. They can disturb the stone curlews</li> <li>• RC: big problem with badgers at Solstice Park, heading down the Marlborough Road. Noted a</li> </ul>	

	<p>huge increase in the badger population. SS: burrowing animals strategy should address this problem, currently working on it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CS mentioned Open Farm Sunday on 11<sup>th</sup> June in Avebury and encouraged people to come along. The WHSCU will be there. Focusing on art inspired by the WHS.</li> </ul>	
<b>12.0</b>	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017, venue TBC</li> </ul>	