

Stonehenge WHS Committee
Thursday 9 April 2015
10.30 AM – 1.00 PM
Antrobus House, Amesbury

Meeting minutes

Present: Roger Fisher (Chairman/Amesbury TC), Beth Thomas (Secretariat), Norman Parker (Amesbury Society), Colin Shell (ASAHRG), Philip Miles (CLA), John Mills (Durrington TC), Heather Sebire (English Heritage), Phil McMahon (Historic England), Richard Ormerod (Highways England), Rachel Sandy (Highways England), Richard Crook (NFU), Nick Snashall (National Trust), Jan Tomlin (National Trust), Patrick Cashman (RSPB), Carole Slater (Shrewton PC), Ariane Crampton (Wiltshire Council), Andy Shuttleworth (Winterbourne Stoke PC), Sarah Simmonds (Avebury WHS Officer),

<p>1.0</p>	<p>Introductions and apologies As there were some new members to the committee everyone introduced themselves.</p> <p>Apologies received from: Cllr Fred Westmoreland, Richard Osgood, Kate Davies, Henry Owen John, Stephanie Payne, David Andrews, Peter Bailey and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger.</p>	
<p>2.0</p>	<p>Minutes of the previous meetings Minutes of both the Stonehenge WHS Committee July 2014 and joint Stonehenge and Avebury WHS November 2014 were approved without further amendment.</p> <p>Matters arising BT noted that Loraine Knowles, formerly Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project Director passed away in January 2015.</p>	
<p>3.0 3.1</p>	<p>Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Public Consultation BT updated the Committee on the public consultation process. The Consultation took place from 8 December 2014 – 1 March 2015. The documents were available on the Wiltshire Council Consultation Portal and followed the Wiltshire Council Statement of Community Involvement process. The Coordination Unit held 7 public drop-in sessions at the Salisbury, Amesbury, Marlborough, Devizes, Swindon Central libraries, Trowbridge County Hall and Avebury Social Centre and met around 140 people. Over 60 people responded using the online survey and around 17 people or organisations commented by email. The responses were collated and responses made as required. Suggested amendments to the draft document were tabled and presented to the Project Board and agreed following discussion. The final table has been circulated to the Committee in advance of this meeting and comes with the Project Board’s recommendation for approval. • Farmers Meeting 9 February 2015 RF updated the Committee with feedback on the consultation meeting with farmers as recommended by Richard Crook. A similar meeting was also held at Avebury. It was a positive meeting and around 8 people attended. Issues of concern were: dog walkers, badgers and overnight parking on Byway 12. Farmers 	

	<p>were keen that the wider public were aware of the conservation work farmers did for the WHS and the importance of providing food. This is something that BT hopes to do through <i>Megalith</i> and elsewhere. Finally, farmers noted that rubbish bags given out at Solstice were often discarded and were a potential hazard to livestock. RF had reported this to the NT via the Solstice planning meetings.</p>	
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and sign off of final copy of Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan 2015 <p>The Committee went through the table of amendments and agreed these changes as tabled subject to the minor amendments noted below:</p>	
3.2.1	<p>1.3.1 The main purpose of the management Plan is to sustain the OUV of the WHS and to ensure by ensuring the effective protection, conservation, and presentation of the WHS and its transmission to future generations.</p>	
3.2.2	<p>Action 147 AS raised some issues with the wording of this action. This has now been amended to:</p> <p>Identify management strategies to minimise conflict between users of the section of the A344 which is subject to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) including vehicles, horses, walkers, cyclists and horse drawn carriages.</p>	
3.2.3	<p>Philip Miles thanked Beth Thomas and Sarah Simmonds for all the hard work that has been put into the production of the 2015 Management Plan. This was seconded by Ariane Crampton.</p>	
3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next steps <p>Avebury WHS Steering Committee will meet on 10 April to review the table and some changes may be made. [<i>post meeting note: these are set out below</i>]</p> <p>The document will then be edited and typeset and should be sent to the printers w/c 6 May in time for the launch of the Management Plan w/c 18 May.</p> <p>The proposed changes will be incorporated into the Management Plan and it will sent to an editor for checking, at this stage no further material changes can be made to the plan – only minor corrective changes where required to correct typographical or grammatical errors.</p> <p>The Management Plan will be sent to the DCMS, who have been kept apprised of progress, for approval prior to printing hard copies of the finalised, approved, Management Plan.</p> <p>Members of the group were also asked to arrange for their parent organisations to adopt or endorse the plan in due course.</p>	
3.4	<p>Management Plan launch</p> <p>There will be 3 launch events. One each at Avebury and Stonehenge for the two Steering Committees and to thank people locally for their help and support in preparing the Plan and a third event supported by Wiltshire Council and the WHS Partnership Panel at County Hall. The event at Stonehenge is Thursday 21 May in the Education Room of the Stonehenge Visitor Centre as guests of Kate Davies and English Heritage. An invitation will be sent out in due course.</p> <p>Following this event, copies of the Plan will be circulated to members of the Committee who request a hard copy</p>	
4.0	<p>Update on A303 and Highways England update</p> <p>There was a government announcement on 1 December about the National Infrastructure Programme. The announcement by the Secretary of State for Transport was that the schemes which will receive investment from 2015-21 included the A303 scheme including the stretch from Amesbury to Berwick Down past Stonehenge.</p> <p>At the current time a project team is being set up which is being led by Project Manager, Andrew Allcorn. Rachel and Richard will continue to be responsible for</p>	

	<p>ongoing work of the A303 and Rachel will be attending the Stonehenge WHS Committee meetings.</p> <p>A number of options will be looked at and Highways England will consult on those options.</p> <p>It is important to remember that the announcement in December 2014 was a financial one and the necessary planning permissions still need to be obtained. As the preferred option is developed further consultation will take place.</p> <p>The planning process will be through a Development Consent Order which is a different regime to a normal planning application but once the preferred option is agreed there will be early engagement with partners. It is intended at this point to have 'a spade in the ground' by March 2021 but the start date will depend on the process.</p> <p>In the mean time the A303 still has to run efficiently and Richard and his team will continue to take responsibility for the road and monitor its performance and look for ways to allow it to run better.</p> <p>Q&A</p> <p>a) Richard Crook raised the question of a yellow box junction to keep the exits clear at busy times. RO said that HE has been advised that a yellow box junction would not work. However they are reviewing this and the suggestion for 'keep clear' to be written on the road. Norman Parker noted that there had been yellow box junctions many years ago and the drivers had ignored them.</p> <p>b) RO was thanked for the recent tidy up of the Countess Rd roundabout.</p> <p>c) Andrew Shuttleworth asked about the safety of the Longbarrow Roundabout. RO agreed to look at the safety audit for this roundabout which is still ongoing. Independent road safety experts inspect new developments for a certain period after any changes. ACTION: Roger Fisher asked RO to update BT once these safety reviews have been complete.</p> <p>RO also updated the committee with the news that Highways Agency became Highways England and has an investment strategy and funding agreed until 2021.</p> <p><i>[Please see follow up email below]</i></p>	BT
5.0	<p>2015/16 Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging priorities <p>BT and SS have begun work on drawing up an action plan for the Coordination Unit. They will need to speak to all partners about actions where they are the lead and/or key partners to assist in developing the annual action plan for the WHS partnership.</p> <p>ACTION: BT and SS will be contacting partners in due course to discuss the action plan for 2015-16.</p>	BT / SS
6.0	<p>Report from WHS Partnership Panel</p> <p>RF reported from the most recent of the Partnership Panel. The Panel has agreed that it should focus its activities at a strategic level.</p> <p>Colin Shell raised the issue of funding to ensure long term stability for the Coordination Unit. The PP has actions within the Action Plan including Action 172 which is to 'Establish long term funding arrangements for the Coordination Unit and put in place adequate resources.' The WHSPP should be asked to address this as a priority.</p> <p>Current live issues include the A303 and the Royal Artillery Museum project.</p>	

7.0	<p>7. ASHRG Report</p> <p>Colin Shell updated the meeting on the most recent ASHRG meeting. Amanda Chadburn gave a short presentation on some work she has undertaken with Clive Ruggles on astronomical alignments in the landscape at Stonehenge. An article will be published later this year.</p> <p>The Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Research Framework is expected to be published at the end of this year.</p> <p>Historic England has a number of new reports now available online. http://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/</p> <p>A publication with the outcomes of the Stonehenge WHS landscape survey is expected this summer.</p>	
8.0	<p>WHS Coordination Unit and Partner Updates (verbal)</p>	
8.1	<p>Historic England</p> <p>Phil McMahon updated the Committee on the changes at English Heritage. Historic England is the body that provides advice to government. It continues to work in the areas of development management, Heritage at Risk and historic places planning and designation.</p> <p>Historic England has a shared services agreement with English Heritage. PM will represent Historic England at these meetings and will continue to update the Committee on any changes as they arise.</p>	
8.2	<p>English Heritage</p> <p>Heather Sebire, Property Curator (West) represented English Heritage at this meeting in the absence of Kate Davies.</p> <p>English Heritage is now a charitable trust and aims to be self-funding within 8 years. English Heritage is responsible for 423 properties in England including Stonehenge.</p> <p>There are 160 in the West Territory for which Heather has responsibility. The government has given EH £80m, £55m of which is to be spent on conservation and updating of facilities at the sites.</p> <p>Heather's role is to advise the operational team in any development plans and the care of the monument. She also attends Solstice planning meetings. Fundraising will be a larger part of the new trust.</p> <p>Philip Miles asked about visitor numbers. When planning permission was received in 2009 the site received around 900,000 visitors. Since opening the Site has received over 1.3m visitors and around 60% of these arrive by coach.</p>	
8.3	<p>National Trust</p> <p>Jan Tomlin reported that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Wiltshire Landscape portfolio has undergone a staffing restructure. There is a new Countryside Manager, Hilary Makins and changes to her team. Mike Dando and Ben Cooke have both left the NT. Ben is now working at the Fyfield Down National Nature Reserve in the Avebury part of the WHS. Keith Stegall (Area Ranger) will be taking the lead for Hilary's team in the Stonehenge Landscape supported by Paul Rowland (Area Ranger).. b) Landscape walks have restarted for the season and training of volunteers has taken place. There has also been joint training with EH on the <i>Stones and Bones</i> Discover Visit for educational groups. c) There has been some fly tipping near to the Long Barrow Crossroad on NT land. 	
8.4	<p>Durrington Town Council</p> <p>Nothing additional to report.</p>	
8.5	<p>Amesbury Society</p> <p>Numbers have been increasing at the History Centre and the Society is currently in discussion with the Town Council regarding the arrangements for managing the History Centre and its funding.</p>	

8.6	<p>Amesbury Town Council</p> <p>Roger Fisher reported that the Town Council will receive funds from the developer via Wiltshire Council once all conditions have been completed. The Town Council had received advice that they were not legally able to run the History Centre but they are currently researching with other town councils where they do run community museums or history centres to see how this can be achieved.</p>	
8.7	<p>Wiltshire Council</p> <p>Ariane Crampton reported that since the last meeting Wiltshire Council has adopted their Core Strategy.</p>	
8.8	<p>Highways England</p> <p>Rachel Sandy is the Swindon and Wiltshire Network Manager and will be involved in the planning process and scheme development of the A303.</p> <p>Rachel noted that the resurfacing east of Countess Roundabout was completed without any major problems.</p>	
8.9	<p>RSPB</p> <p>Patrick Cashman reported that RSPB had been successful in bidding for Lottery Funding for their "Save Our Magnificent Meadows" project. At Normanton Down they have been improving the ancient grassland by planting over 1000 butterfly friendly plants.</p>	
8.10	<p>Shrewton PC</p> <p>Carole Slater reported that traffic issues continue to be a major area of concern within the parish of Shrewton. The Parish have objected to the planning application for an extended coach parking area at the visitor centre. The planning application did not go to Shrewton for consultation. CS asked that there should be better communication to local parishes about any developments at the Visitor Centre. A communication strategy by English Heritage may help to improve the situation.</p>	
8.11	<p>WHS Coordination Unit update</p> <p>The main focus of activity has been the Management Plan but in addition to this BT has been working on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Volunteers Arranged a volunteer recruitment event in Devizes and social event at Stonehenge. b) Amesbury Neighbourhood Plan c) 2016 - 30th anniversary of inscription Seven UK sites (the first ones inscribed in the UK) will be celebrating their 30th anniversary as World Heritage Sites. These sites: Durham Castle and Cathedral, Ironbridge, St Kilda, Edwardian Castles of North Wales, Giant's Causeway, Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal and Stonehenge and Avebury are looking combining their efforts and using a logo to "badge" these events to develop a nationwide programme. In addition, a date in November 2016 has been booked for a conference in partnership with the Wiltshire Museum. Members of the committee suggested that perhaps we could a joint site visit as part of the celebrations. BT and SS to plan into next year's timetable. d) Megalith The next edition will be due this summer. If you have ideas for content please let BT know as soon as possible. ACTION: ALL e) Lunch BT reported that due to financial constraints the post meeting lunch will not continue after this meeting and thanked Anna Maria Tomblin for all the delicious lunches that she has prepared for the committee over the years. 	ALL
9.0	<p>Information exchange and AOB</p> <p>No further business</p>	
10.0	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Thursday 24 September 2015 at 10.30am</p>	

Excerpt from Avebury WHS Steering Committee 10 April 2015:

The Steering Committee then went through the **Table of Responses to the Public Consultation on the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site March 2015** document and signed off on the proposed changes. There were four amendments sought to the proposed changes, and a further note for the minutes. Three changes were agreed. Page numbers refer to those in the Table not the management plan itself.

Pg 3 – VisitWiltshire – 9.4.6: Amend the proposed change to read:

*“There is however a parking capacity issue at Avebury so it would not be appropriate to encourage visitors to travel there by car **at peak times.**”*

Pg 11 – Avebury Society – 1.3.1: Amend the proposed change to read:

*“The main purpose of the Management Plan is to sustain the OUV of the WHS **by ensuring that effective protection, conservation and presentation of the WHS and its transmission to future generations...**”*

Pg 34 – Wiltshire Ramblers – 9.5.11: Amend the proposed change to read:

*“The Great Stones Way proposed by The Friends of the Ridgeway **has met with resistance from some quarters and has not been endorsed by Wiltshire Council. Such a route would be best approached through...**”*

Pg45 – CPRE Wiltshire – 7.5.(1)2: The group discussed the merits of including additional examples of development in or on the WHS boundary, not just those in the setting such as Solstice Park, as highlighting the need for a Setting Study. No amendments was considered necessary as the group agreed that the Management Plan adequately addressed issues arising from development in or on the WHS boundary in other areas of the plan.

Email from Rachel Sandy – 23 April 2015

From: Sandy, Rachel
Sent: 23 April 2015 09:18
To: Thomas, Beth
Cc: Ani, Maduabuchi; Ormerod, Richard; Alcorn, Andrew
Subject: HE WHS committee Actions

Dear Beth

Thank you for inviting me to attend the last meeting of the Stonehenge WHS Committee meeting on the 9 April 2015. I look forward to attending future meetings on behalf of Highways England.

Richard and I took a number of actions away from the meeting including investigation of the safety concerns at Longbarrow roundabout that were raised by a number of committee members.

Maduabuchi and I have subsequently met with our road safety engineers and design engineers and discussed the issues which I understood to be related to lane allocation and vehicles changing lanes on the circulatory carriageway when making ahead movements along the A303.

Our design engineers will now look at whether there is a design scheme option that could be delivered to encourage better lane discipline and utilisation.

Once we have established whether there is a beneficial and feasible improvement option we will look to consult with you and the WHS committee and invite further feedback.

The request for a 'yellow box' marking at Countess roundabout to protect the Amesbury arm from blocking by vehicles queueing on the A303 across the roundabout was also discussed at the meeting. I understand that Paul Vosper wrote to the WHS committee on the 26 March 2015 outlining that Highways England will investigate whether the criteria for such a marking is met in this location and also whether it could reasonably be enforced or if there is a more appropriate option. I have now started these investigations and anticipate being able to provide an update at the next WHS committee meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss the above or any other matters.

Kind regards

Rachel

Rachel Sandy