

Stonehenge World Heritage Site Committee

Meeting on Tuesday 18 March 2014
10.30am at Antrobus House, Amesbury
FINAL MINUTES

Present: Lady Elizabeth Gass (Chairman), Beth Thomas (Stonehenge WHS Coordinator) , Dr Nick Snashall (National Trust) , Richard Osgood (DIO/MoD), Philp Miles (CLBA), Richard Crook (NFU), Cllr Fred Westmoreland (Wiltshire Council/Amesbury Community Area Board, John Mills (Durrington TC), Norman Parker (The Amesbury Society), Patrick Cashman (RSPB), Colin Shell (ASAHRG), Alistair Sommerlad (Stonehenge WHS Partnership Panel), Ariane Crampton (Wiltshire Council), Carole Slater (Shrewton PC), Andy Shuttleworth (Winterbourne Stoke PC), Kate Davies (English Heritage), Stephanie Payne (Natural England), Christopher Young (English Heritage).

		Action
1.0	<p>Introductions and apologies</p> <p>The following new members were welcomed to the Stonehenge WHS Committee: Norman Parker (Chair of The Amesbury Society), Alistair Sommerlad (Chair of the Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Partnership Panel), Carole Slater (Chair Shrewton PC), Andy Shuttleworth (Winterbourne Stoke PC), Colin Shell (ASAHRG) and Kate Davies, English Heritage, General Manager of Stonehenge.</p> <p>Apologies were received from: Roger Fisher (Amesbury TC) , Leila Al Kazwini (DCMS), Simon Ramsden (English Heritage), Richard Ormerod (Highways Agency), Jan Tomlin (NT), Adrian Green (Salisbury Museum), David Andrews (VisitWiltshire), Peter Bailey (Wilsford cum Lake), Melanie Pomeroy Kellinger (Wiltshire Council)</p>	
2.	<p>Agree minutes of last meeting & matters arising</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting were agreed with the exception that Richard Ormerod (Highways Agency) had been omitted from the list of attendees to the meeting in November.</p>	
2.1	<p>Actions from last meeting:</p> <p><u>Item 3.1</u> BT to contact ICOMOS UK to see if they are able to allocate a named representative for our meetings - BT had emailed and phoned and not received a response. Will keep ICOMOS UK on the invitation list. BT to make contact with groups/organisations according to recommendations of the membership report – New representatives had been invited to join Stonehenge WHS Committee as per the recommendations of the report. See item 3.1 below.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>
2.2	<p><u>Item 5.0</u> BT to ask if members of the Committee can purchase a map at a discounted rate.</p> <p>A discount was offered to all members of both the Advisory Forum and the WHS Committee at the opening event for the new prehistoric galleries at the Wiltshire Museum in November 2013.</p> <p>BT to present summary of the information from pedestrian</p>	<p>Complete</p>

	counters at next meeting – BT has been unable to do this for this meeting due to pressure of work but will submit a report at the meeting in July 2014.	BT
2.3	<u>Item 6.0</u> R Ormerod to ensure traffic signals at Countess Rd are working correctly Please see item 12.0 for update on this. R Ormerod to contact Roger Fisher Amesbury TC to establish dialogue. Please see item 12.0 for update.	Ongoing Complete
2.4	<u>Item 9.0</u> JT and FW to discuss the plans for the apple track after the meeting Discussions have taken place.	Ongoing
2.5	<u>Item 14.4</u> BT to supply contact details to R Osgood for the team responsible for the WWI temporary exhibition at the visitor centre September 2014. BT has given RO contact details for Simon Jones and Mel Coussens who are working on the EH WWI exhibition in September 2014.	Complete
3.0	Governance Review	
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of Committee • BT presented updated report on membership of Stonehenge WHS Committee. ACTION: BT was asked to circulate a full list with the minutes.	BT
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stonehenge Committee Chair Now that review of membership is complete the Stonehenge WHS Committee need to elect a new chair to take over from Lady Elizabeth Gass. The process is outlined in the documents prepared by the Working Group who looked at the recommendations of the original Egeria Heritage Report on the governance of the WHS. <p><i>3.2 Proposed Approach to Selection of Chairs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To be drawn from membership of Steering Committees</i> • <i>Members of the Steering Committee representing organisations who are also members of the Partnership Panel are not eligible to stand for election as Chair of the local Steering Committee.</i> • <i>The post should be reviewed every three years</i> • <i>Candidates may either nominate themselves or be nominated by another member this should be seconded by a member of the Steering Committee.</i> • <i>If more than one candidate is proposed there should be a postal ballot. The successful candidate is the person who receives the majority vote.</i> • <i>It may be appropriate for the committee to elect a vice-chair for the Local Steering Committee</i> <p>BT will circulate details of the process and the deadline will be 11 April 2014 for nominations. Should there be more than one candidate a postal ballot will take place. It was agreed that the nomination of a Vice Chair should also take place.</p>	
4.0	Report from Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Partnership Panel Alistair Sommerlad introduced himself as the Chair of the new WHS Partnership Panel which is made up of 6 organisations: English Heritage, National Trust, Wiltshire Council, and representatives from the two local steering committees and ASAHRG. The Panel represents the whole of the WHS ie both Stonehenge & Avebury. It exists to promote the WHS and protect the OUV of the site, assist the local committees in their work and	

	<p>improve presentation and interpretation. The first meeting was held on 24 February 2014. The role of the Partnership Panel was clarified and the next meeting is in June 2014. It is intended that the Partnership Panel will meet twice a year and complement the work of the local committees.</p>	
5.0	<p>Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan BT updated the Committee on current progress on the joint Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan. The review of both the Avebury and Stonehenge management plans is now complete. SS and BT are now in the process of putting together the draft management plan. A draft programme timetable was tabled at the meeting. A project board made up of members of both local committees is overseeing the project. The next date for everyone's diaries is a second stakeholder workshop on 20 May 2014.</p>	
6.0	<p>World Heritage Site Coordinator's update BT had circulated an update on actions. BT drew the Committee's attention to: Action 8 – The review of the boundary is currently on hold due to the review of the management plan and current work related to the MoD re-basing programme. This may be undertaken in a different way and unlikely to be restarted until 2015. CS asked if the Committee had seen the final proposed boundary. BT noted that the Committee only saw a draft and there was more work to be done. ACTION: BT to re-circulate the proposed draft boundary and paper submitted to the Committee in July 2013. Action 54 – A climate change risk assessment is about to be published by English Heritage. It will appear as a PDF on the EH and WHS website. Action 44/45 – as part of the review of the current Management Plan a small working group was founded to look at the chalk grassland in both parts of the WHS. As a result of these discussions Wiltshire Wildlife Trust are carrying out a Phase I Vegetation Survey and RSPB are to undertake bird survey of both parts of the WHS. These will inform actions in the next management plan, form a base line for future study and go a long way towards providing an "ecological map" of the WHS. Action 79 – A Megalith for 2014 will be produced in June and BT is looking for copy before Easter. Any suggestions for articles welcome. BT will be concentrating mainly on completing the Management Plan within the desired timescale.</p>	<p>BT</p> <p>ALL</p>
7.0	<p>Update on Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project KD noted that Phases 2 & 3 of the SEIP are now complete with the stopping up of the A344 and the opening of the visitor centre on 18 December 2013. There is a number of snagging and construction issues still to be resolved. The operations team are getting used to the building and how it works. Phase 4 which is the removal of the old visitor facilities is now underway and is expected to be completed by June/July 2014. PM asked about how the new facility was operating as there had been some negative press. KD responded that EH had very good coverage on the opening of the visitor centre however, there was some negative press following an exceptionally busy Christmas period with +30% visitors on previous years. There had been some issues with transport and car parking. However the operations team have been working very hard to resolve the issues and there have now been significant improvements in the</p>	

	<p>feedback received on social media such as Trip Advisor. +70% of visitors are giving 4/5 star reviews now. Visitor numbers are up on last year so far but are very much affected by the weather as Stonehenge is an outdoor attraction. The team are now preparing for the busy period from Easter onwards.</p> <p>Feedback on the building itself is very positive particularly the exhibition and shop. A modern building is not to everyone's taste but the response is generally positive. There have been some disappointment at the offering in the cafe which is designed for "grab & go" due to volume of numbers rather than a sit down meal. However, EH are working on the website and other pre-visit sources of information to ensure that visitors' expectations are managed better.</p> <p>The Neolithic Houses are currently under construction. 3 are being built now and a further 2 are planned.</p> <p>The landscaping is not yet complete and will take 1-2 years to fully develop. WHS logo and information is now on site.</p> <p>ACTION: BT was asked to re-circulate the designers CGI images to remind everyone of how the building should look when finished.</p>	BT
8.0	<p>English Heritage update</p> <p>An update report has been submitted by EH.</p> <p>A number of the actions relate to the work on the new visitor centre and Stonehenge Landscape interpretation scheme which the National Trust developed in partnership with English Heritage.</p> <p>In addition, EH has been working with MoD on the re-basing project and Dept of Transport/Highways Agency on the A303 feasibility scheme and in particular in highlighting all the studies undertaken for previous schemes.</p>	
9.0	<p>National Trust update</p> <p>An update has been received from NT.</p> <p>NS drew the Committee's attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree felling at the East end of the Cursus and on Amesbury G42 which is now complete. The view along the Cursus is now much improved and has improved the conservation of Amesbury G42. • Chalk grassland has been further extended by 8 ha on West Amesbury Farm south of the A303 and SW of the King Barrow Ridge. • NT's contribution to the SEIP has been the installation of a large number of additional access points into the landscape and an information point at Fargo Wood which it hopes will encourage visitors to further explore the landscape. New signage is being installed to encourage and welcome visitors into the landscape. • The National Trust is holding +70 events in 2014 including a new walk "Discover Durrington Walls". • More volunteers have been recruited and NT has been working with EH on a new Discovery Visit for education groups. • Chris Jones has been appointed as the Visitor Experience Officer for the Stonehenge Community Team. 	
10.0	<p>Wiltshire Council update</p> <p>Written update on actions to be circulated after meeting.</p> <p>Army 2020 Rebasing Project</p> <p>AC reported that Wiltshire Council has been heavily involved in the re-basing of 4,000 troops into the Wiltshire area and in particular at Larkhill. Accommodation is required for barracks and military families. Wiltshire Council is working with MoD/DIO and EH to resolve the issues in the Larkhill area.</p>	

	<p>Planning Policy The Core Strategy has not yet been adopted. On 2 December 2013 the Planning Inspector said that Wiltshire Council had not made enough provision for housing and asked them to increase it to 42,000. The increase has been allocated proportionately across the County, taking into account the WHS and respecting the previous distribution.</p> <p>Coordination Unit This has now been formed and housed at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre in Chippenham within the Archaeology Service.</p> <p>Comments: FW noted that EH had received some criticism at a recent public meeting regarding the rebasing and felt that this was unjustified. CY noted that any development needs have to be assessed against any impact on the outstanding universal value of the site and UNESCO will certainly take an interest in the most iconic WHS in the UK and any negative impact could result in being put on the endangered list and ultimately being de-listed. Any works needed a full Heritage Impact Assessment to avoid potential risks. AS noted that he understood that there were a number of planning permission conditions which had not been fulfilled and asked what Wiltshire Council had done to enforce these.</p> <p>ACTION: AC & FW to investigate the details.</p> <p>EG reminded the Committee that the old visitor centre was very poor and what we have now is much improved and that many people have worked hard to put the changes in place.</p>	AC/FW
11.0	<p>Natural England Update A written update has been submitted. SP noted that 3 HLS agreements have recently been completed within the WHS. These will continue to protect monuments and improve habitat for wildlife. A link to information on the new environment schemes is included in the report to get the latest information.</p>	
12.0	<p>Highways Agency Update</p> <p>1. A303 Signing and Carriageway Marking The signs referred to in the previous minutes were erected in December along with the additional carriageway markings to improve lane usage of the extra capacity that was created at the A303/A360 Longbarrow Roundabout. It is difficult to assess the full effectiveness of these additional measures as traffic flows are lighter at this time of year. The first real test will be the Easter bank holiday traffic demands</p> <p>2. Highways Agency / Wiltshire Council Amesbury Area Board Meeting 31st January 2014 Richard Ormerod and Ed Halford met with Cllr John Noeken and Cllr Graham Wright on 31st January to understand the concerns relating to the traffic at A303 / A345 Countess Junction and the effect on the local community. The current traffic signal control strategy and traffic operation was discussed in detail and potential for further improvement (see below) together with concerns for “rat running” through the local road network.</p> <p>3. A303/A345 Countess Roundabout – Traffic Signals</p>	

	<p>Now that the traffic signal controls have been fully operational for some time the Agency has asked Skanska (route operator) to prepare a short study scope to check the traffic signal control and performance is fully optimised. This study will review the existing control strategy and operation at the junction include a signal calibration check together with identification of any further additional improvements that can be made to improve efficiency of the junction. It is intended this study will be undertaken shortly.</p> <p>4. A303 Feasibility Study A meeting of key stakeholders was held on 24 January 2014. The meeting allowed the Department for Transport (DfT) to present the background to the proposed Feasibility Study and the draft scope, seeking feedback or comments from those present. There were no formal notes of the meeting, as it was an opportunity for the Department for Transport to present and discuss the proposed draft scope of work. The Highways Agency are currently collecting information on the issues affecting the route and traffic modelling that would help with analysis of infrastructure solutions.</p> <p>FW thanked the Committee as following its intervention the Community Area Board has had constructive discussions with Highways Agency.</p> <p>AS noted that there is a diversion using the symbol of a triangle which pushes people off the A303 onto the A360 but it there is no onward signage at Airman’s Corner which is causing drivers to travel back ward and forwards along A360 between A303 and Airman’s Corner. ACTION: BT will raise the issue with the Highways Agency.</p>	BT
13.0	<p>RSPB Update</p> <p>Great Bustard There will be a talk on the project on Tuesday 8 April at 7.30 given by David Kjaer at the Salisbury Arts Centre who will give an update. Have been seen close to the new visitor centre.</p> <p>Normanton Down Reserve RSPB are currently renewing their reserve agreement with the Hosier family and are hoping to extend into 2 further fields just north of the Kite Enclosure.</p> <p>Wildlife Leaflet PC was pleased to note that action 83 was now complete with the publication of a new wildlife leaflet for the Stonehenge landscape which had been developed in partnership with the NT. It will also be available as a PDF shortly. Please contact PC if you wish to display this leaflet within your organisation.</p>	ALL
14.0	<p>Report from Avebury & Stonehenge Archaeological and Historical Research Group ASAHRG is a loose association of those interested in the archaeology and history of both parts of the WHS and just beyond. They have been working on the revised Research Framework and developments in the WHS area are often considered and informal advice given. It does consider areas beyond the WHS. It hopes to expand its role by sharing and commenting on new research projects. A project discussed at the last meeting is called “Sconeenge” and is a study of the Stonehenge cafe which used to stand near to Stonehenge Bottom. It is an early example of a purpose built facility for visitors and possibly the</p>	

	<p>first Stonehenge “visitor centre”. NP noted that there were continuing connections between the cafe and Amesbury. ACTION: BT will pass on NP’s contact details to Martyn Barber of EH who is leading on this project.</p>	BT
15.0	Other partner updates	
15.1	<p>Community Area Board No additional comments</p>	
15.2	<p>MoD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Army Rebasing project is taking up a considerable amount of time. The public consultation is currently underway. https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/salisbury-plain-training-area-master-plan-army-basing-programme The MoD and DIO are aware of the issues surrounding the WHS at a high level. • The Larkhill Sewage works have reached capacity and DIO are currently looking at options with EH and Wiltshire Council. • Hope to remove the redundant sewage pipe work across the Cursus this year. • Phase 2 training troops may be able to assist this year with the clearance of barrows near to the old incinerator works at Larkhill, south of the Packway which are currently overgrown. • Third and final year of excavations at Barrow Clump this year. The open day is Saturday 19 July 2014. • Currently undertaking research work on a project “Digging War Horse” focused on the First World War Horse Hospital which was located near to the present Fargo ammunition dump. • Dealing with request to relocate the Hewetson Memorial on Larkhill Down or install access path to it. This is being initiated by Wings over Stonehenge (WOSH) NT volunteer group. 	
15.3	<p>Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum No update available but BT noted that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Wessex Gallery would be opening June/July 2014 and a launch event was planned for 12 July 2014 • The museum are to change their name to “Salisbury Museum” 	
15.4	<p>VisitWiltshire No update</p>	
15.5	<p>Amesbury Society NP noted that The Amesbury Society is a small but consistent group that has been going for more than 40 years. In the past year or two they have been involved in supporting the Amesbury Heritage Centre & Museum in the Melor Hall. NP asked that the Amesbury Heritage Centre & Museum be mentioned alongside the other museums involved in the World Heritage Site. The Heritage Centre receives no public funds and is run entirely by volunteers. It is currently open 5 days a week (Tuesday/Saturday) to visitors.</p>	
16.0	Parish and Town Council Updates	
16.1	<p>Amesbury Town Council FW noted that there would be a small dig at Vespasian’s Camp run by the University of Florida later in March and there will be a 14 day dig September/October this year. The site is not open to visitors except by pre-arranged conducted tours because it is on private land.</p>	

16.2	<p>Durrington Town Council JM noted that Durrington Town Council are polling the community regarding their preferences for the options set out by the DIO/MoD for new accommodation in the area There is to be site visit shortly attended by Claire Perry MP & others to look at the issues.</p>	
16.3	<p>Shrewton Parish Council Army rebasing is taking a good deal of time and attention. Currently developing a neighbourhood plan to deal with the question of accommodating c64 homes in the area (900 in 2014). A meeting to consider traffic management in the village being held 18 March. The Parish Council has been working with EH throughout the development of the visitor centre and very much hope the village will benefit commercially too.</p>	
16.4	<p>Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council The parish spend a good deal of time considering the A303 and affect of traffic on the village. It has been involved with the planning applications related to the visitor centre which is in the parish. A stakeholder meeting is being arranged by Wiltshire Police to consider “quick fixes” to improve the situation but the long term solution also needs to be resolved.</p>	
17.0 17.1	<p>Information exchange and AOB Pedestrian access from Amesbury Access from south of the A303 and Amesbury was raised as an issue. BT is aware of this and was raised by a number of members of the public. Access into and around the WHS will almost certainly form part of the action plan of the new Management Plan. A footpath has been installed along the A303 but unfortunately a crossing at Stonehenge Bottom was rejected as it failed to meet the Highways Agency’s safety criteria. Any future scheme for the A303 should include facilities for pedestrian and cyclists. There is a safe crossing point at the Countess Road roundabout.</p>	
17.2	<p>RC noted that there are no mentions of Amesbury at the new visitor centre ACTION: KD undertook to investigate and report back.</p>	KD
17.3	<p>UNESCO CS noted that New Grange in Ireland which is also a prehistoric WHS found that UNESCO not only considered development within the WHS but also developments outside the boundary of the WHS which raised their concerns.</p>	
17.2	<p>Rebasing & the natural environment PC asked if the environmental impact of the rebasing project was being considered. It was confirmed that they are considering a wide range of impacts including nature and the environment.</p>	
17.3	<p>Boundary & scope of WHS NP noted that there was a good deal of archaeology related to the WHS outside the boundary. BT agreed that Wiltshire is rich in archaeology of all periods. The Stonehenge and Avebury WHS is designated for its late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age archaeology and whilst the knowledge gained since 1986 when the site was inscribed we may now believe a different border might be appropriate, a major boundary review would need a new nomination process and DCMS have advised that they would not support this. The minor boundary review noted above is simply rationalising the</p>	

	existing boundary and including monuments such as Robin Hood's Ball mentioned in the nomination document but not included in the boundary in 1986.	
17.4	Boscombe Down Archive NP has been archivist of this collection for some 15 years. He recently found evidence that Stonehenge was used for calibrating rocket sites from Boscombe Down.	
17.5	Dogs in the landscape RC noted that there had recently been a number of distressing incidents where sheep had been injured or killed by dogs which were off the lead. ACTION: KD & NS agreed to discuss what could be done to raise awareness of this issue amongst dog walker at the next EH/NT liaison meeting.	KD/NS
17.6	Lady Gass Lady Gass will be stepping down as Chairman of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site Committee a role she has been doing for around 20 years. She thanked everyone who had worked so hard for the WHS and Antrobus House for providing such an excellent venue for the meetings. Lady Gass said that she will follow future developments with interest. Nick Snashall made a vote of thanks to Lady Gass for her hard work and support of the WHS over such a long time. The Committee responded with a round of applause.	
17.7	Christopher Young Christopher is retiring from English Heritage at the end of March 2014. Lady Gass thanked him for his support of the Stonehenge WHS for many years and in particular for the completion of the Stonehenge Management Plan in 2008.	
18.0	Date of next meeting Tuesday 22 July 2014	