



Stonehenge World Heritage Site Committee

Meeting on Tuesday 30th April 2019

10.30 – 12.30 PM

Wyndham Hall, Amesbury

NOTES

1. Present:

Kathi Sharp (KS)	Durrington Town Council
Roger Fisher (Chair) (RF)	Amesbury Town Council
Jenny Davies (JD)	English Heritage
Ron Lock (RL)	Shrewton TC
Hugh Morrison (HM)	Farmer representative
Colin Shell (CS)	ASAHRG
Stephanie Payne (SP)	Natural England
Sarah Simmonds (SS)	WHSCU
Helen Weedon (Notes) (HW)	WHSCU
Melanie Barge (MB)	Historic England
Norman Parker (NP)	Amesbury History Society
Rachel Foster	Wiltshire Council

Guests:

Gavin Purchase	Highways England
Doug Stewart	Consultant, Taking the Past into the Future WHS Trust Project
Ray Bryant	Wiltshire Council, Spatial Planning
Louise Tilsed	Wiltshire Council, Spatial Planning

Apologies:

Richard Crook	NFU/Amesbury TC
David Andrews	VisitWiltshire
Jan Tomlin	National Trust
Andy Shuttleworth	Winterbourne Stoke PC
David Dawson	Wiltshire Museum
Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger	Wiltshire Council, County Archaeologist
Nick Snashall	National Trust
Patrick Cashman	RSPB
Philip Miles	Country Land and Business Association

2. Agree minutes of last meeting & matters arising

- 2.1. Minutes – agreed
- 2.2. Matters arising – none

3. Stonehenge WHS Committee Chair

3.1. Roger Fisher has agreed to stay on as Chair and was thanked for his commitment

3.2. All agreed the need to have a Vice Chair

Hugh Morrison was elected as Vice Chair

Proposed JD

Seconded RF

4. Stonehenge WHS Byways ETRO Update

Statement from Wiltshire Council

Update for Committee on WHS Byways:

'The ETRO was the subject of a legal challenge in the High Court by the Trail Riders Fellowship. The ETRO was quashed by the High Court on 21 November 2018 and the prohibition on motor vehicles was lifted (and the gates on the byways removed) on 23 December 2018 (on expiry of the Solstice temporary traffic orders).

A decision has not yet been taken on whether or not a replacement ETRO will be made but there are no immediate plans to do so. '

There was considerable frustration expressed regarding this situation.

The introduction of the ETRO had been welcomed by the Committee at its meeting in October 2018 as a positive step towards delivering Actions 143 and 144 in The WHS Management Plan.

During the period that the byways were closed English Heritage and partners reported a marked decrease in antisocial behaviour and a tangible improvement in the wellbeing and safety of all staff working in the vicinity as well as a greatly improved visitor experience. Since the byways have been reopened parking and associated antisocial behaviour has returned.

Action

RF/SS Committee to write to Wiltshire Council to express ongoing concern

JD send SS a short position statement from English Heritage that can be included

JD applied for the normal temporary closure for Summer Solstice

Note HM has emailed Simon Rowe to preserve current agricultural access which wasn't included in the TTRO and to discuss use of Kent gates which was problematic for agricultural vehicles.

5. Parish and Town Councils Actions and Priorities

RF has distributed list of the actions and priorities from the Management Plan that pertain to town and parish councils for them to take back to their meetings for discussion and progress.

SS reminded all that the Unit can attend Parish/town council meetings if requested. The Unit were represented at the recent Avebury PC Annual Meeting.

Actions

RF to send list of actions to WHSCU

Parish and Town Council representatives to report on progress at the next Stonehenge Committee Meeting in the autumn

6. A303 Designated Funds - WHS Projects

6.1. The WHSCU has secured £120k to deliver three key strategies identified in the Management Plan:

- Sustainable Tourism
- Sustainable Transport
- Landscape Access

Exploring the World Heritage Site and Beyond will bring these 3 strategies together and be concerned with both parts of the WHS and the links between them. A Project Board has been established and initial meeting held to help shape the brief. Consultation will include the Committees and the WHSPP will need to sign off the project.

Timescales are as soon as possible and the funding is not dependant on the road scheme going ahead. Funding will go to Wiltshire Council specifically to procure consultants to deliver this work.

Note

A Community Forum has been established with representation from many partners including the WHSCU to discuss how to achieve a positive legacy from the A303 project for the communities. SS will ask the consultants delivering the Exploring the WHS and Beyond project to consult this forum on the benefits they would like to see in terms of sustainable tourism, transport and landscape access

6.2. Burrowing Animals Strategy will be funded and commissioned by Highways England from Designated Funds. The work will be overseen by a Project Board set up by WHSCU with representatives of the relevant WHS partner organisations. Historic England drafted the initial brief. This work is complex and sensitive. Consultants will need to work with WHS landowners and farmers who will be key partners in the project.

7. World Heritage Site Coordination Unit Update

An Update Report was circulated with papers for the meeting and is attached

7.1. SS feeding in to the DCO process based on the aims and policies in the WHS Management Plan

7.2. HW highlighted work delivered for World Heritage Day 2019 with Kennet Valley and Chisledon Schools focussing on the meaning and values of World Heritage generally and the Avebury WHS specifically. Schools were involved in a site visit and took part in creative activities responding to their experiences in the classroom. Artists from Create Studios in Swindon were employed to work with both schools thanks to funding from the Avebury World Heritage Site Charity.

A short time-lapse of the work with Chisledon School can be see here

<https://vimeo.com/327305735?ref=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR3ZEFrCj9dYZERm9qsSeQNZpDxAltqGBYQSJCqSkXqIQgaA-5VwOUzAZ-E>

7.3. HW offered to attend community events/schools

7.4. Megalith will be produced over the summer with a focus on community, living and working in the World Heritage Site. The Committee supported continuing with the high quality, printed newsletter.

Action

All to consider ideas for Megalith articles.

HW will circulate more detailed information about the requirements and timetable for Megalith as soon as it has been agreed.

8. Reports from Partners on implementation of WHS Management Plan and related projects

8.1. English Heritage at Stonehenge

- Grass work on the monument field, summer and winter paths and removed bridge
- Hands on History engagement activities over the Easter holidays and will be repeated in October half term
- Gearing up for Summer Solstice. Spring Equinox was quiet.
- There have been a number of convictions using Stonehenge Regulations which has had a positive impact on reducing antisocial behaviour and shown they are enforceable
(Note – the police have confirmed there will be increased community police presence in Amesbury)
- Conversations in Making – Linda Brothwell contemporary artist exhibition
24 May - 24 November 2019
Linda Bothwell's work provides an intriguing new way to think about the Stonehenge area and the archaeological objects found here.
The creation of 40 vessels for this exhibition has been inspired by speaking to people who work in the local community. She has also been inspired by prehistoric tools and pottery vessels in both [Wiltshire Museum](#) and [The Salisbury Museum](#). Tools, vessels, making and using our hands; these are the threads that link people and place through time. These are Conversations in Making.
- Shout out Loud – three-year National Lottery Heritage Funded project that aims to give young people a voice in heritage. Working with 11-16 year olds to create new interpretation in collaboration with creative practitioners

- Programme 1: Durrington Youth Group and Create Studios have been working on a short film exploring local memories connected to Stonehenge. We hope to show the film locally in September.
- Now offering free travel for local schools to come to Stonehenge within a 10 mile radius, using Stonehenge buses, good take up so far.

8.2. Natural England

- Input into burrowing animals project brief and steering groups.
- Badger survey ongoing across part of the WHS including territory mapping funded by HLS. Working closely with Nick Croxson on this project.
- Porton to Plain initial survey work has been completed. We would like to thank the landowners and farmers for their help and allowing access. A general summary report has been sent to everyone with summary of findings for individuals. The survey has highlighted (confirmed) the importance of the WHS existing habitat features and created grasslands as a central network and link /corridor between Salisbury Plain and Parsonage Downs, with tremendous opportunities for further enhancements to benefit the species targeted: marsh fritillary, small blue, adonis blue and chalkhill blue butterflies, farmland birds and bats. The information will be valuable to help work with local farmers to deliver landscape scale benefits, develop future schemes and identify the opportunities for multiple benefits. If people would be interested to learn more please get in touch or we could arrange to talk at a future meeting (Farmer group or whole committee).
- Worked with Nick Croxson and local farmer on innovative project to protect a barrow group. Funded by HLS the work included tree removal, tree surgery, scrub/vegetation control and special fencing to allow future grazing by goats. Goats were chosen as they are good browsers and will help to control any re-growth.
- Article in Megalith 2018 about mapping species and habitats. Highlighted the importance of the WHS as a habitat.
- Input to Burrowing Animals strategy work including some on the ground mapping.

8.3. Historic England

- New Regional Director Rebecca Barrett will sit on Partnership Panel and Trust Transition Project Board.
- Helen Woodhouse is leading on the HE response to the DCO process in PM's absence.
- Grant aid for the WHS Partnership Officer post confirmed
- 2020 WHS Monument Site Condition Survey – Nick Croxson will be leading.

8.4. Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service

- WCAS are attending a number of World Heritage Site project meetings including the Ridgeway Project, Setting Study, Burrowing Animals Strategy, and Condition Survey.
- WCAS are monitoring the gates and barriers on the Ridgeway for the temporary Traffic Regulation Order.

- WCAS continue to provide advice on a number of planning applications and utilities consultations. Historic England has given Scheduled Monument Consent for the Water leak on Green Street which was due to be monitored by a professional archaeologist.
- Research continues with the Living with Monuments Project, led by Josh Pollard at Southampton University – Waden Hill this Spring and West Kennet Palisades this summer (SMC has been obtained from Historic England).
- WCAS will be helping run a Stonehenge WHS Walk on 27th July for the Festival of Archaeology.
- WCAS are seeking a grant for extending the WHS Partnership Officer post.
- WCAS continue to provide advice in relation to the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down road scheme and the three Legacy Projects.
- Bulford site East of WHS - post-ex assessment received by WCAS and Monument Management discussions are being held for the double henge.

8.5. Amesbury Society

- Waiting to hear outcome of grant application for the Amesbury History Centre.
- Finds from Solstice Park now on display at the History Centre. Local history telling the story from 9000 BC, possibly the longest habited locale in the UK.

9. Parish/Town Council, Farmers' Group Updates

9.1. Shrewton – major problem is local traffic and concern this will get worse during the works to the A303 if the DCO is granted.

9.2. Durrington – pleased with Winter Solstice, hoping summer will be as good.

9.3. Farmers – The A303 scheme is the main focus – it could have a massive impact for farms as small businesses.

The spillway has been removed on the ex-MOD sewage works which is allowing habitats to return.

Byways as already discussed.

10. Report from the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Panel

Meeting 9th May 2019

11. Report from Avebury & Stonehenge Archaeological and Historical Research Group

ASAHRG have received the following presentations:

11.1. *Living with Monuments Project Fieldwork Easter and Summer 2019* – Josh Pollard (University of Southampton)

Action HW to arrange site visit for ASAHRG and Committees

11.2. *Riders after the Storm - further consideration of the archaeology on the Ridgeway and its protection* – Colin Shell

11.3. *Devizes Assize Court – a new home for the Wiltshire Museum* - David Dawson

11.4. *Update on DCO Process* – David Cox (Highways England)

12. World Heritage Site Trust update

Presentation given by Doug Stewart, consultant working on Taking the Past into the Future WHS Trust Transition Project. The Committees will continue to be consulted on the form/structure for any new model and changes to governance arrangements if proposed.

Action

SS circulate presentation.

All encouraged to contact Doug direct with thoughts, ideas and feedback.

doug@lemondrizzleconsultants.com

13. Wiltshire Core Strategy Review

Presentation given by Ray Bryant, Wiltshire Council Spatial Planning

Wiltshire Council has begun a review of the adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy (2006-26) Core Policies including 'saved' policies (in this case from the Kennet Local Plan). Included in this process is an opportunity to review, update and revise, where appropriate, specific policies and references to the WHS.

Currently there are a number of references to the WHS specifically:

Core Policy 6 Stonehenge

Core Policy 59 Stonehenge, Avebury & associated sites World Heritage Site

'Saved' Policies on the Avebury WHS (TR6-TR9)

The review offers an opportunity to consider whether these policies should be amalgamated into one policy or remain geographically separate?

SS will be working with the planning team to consider policies that relate to the WHS and would welcome views from partners. Comments should be focussed on how the relevant policies protect the WHS and any improvements that could be made. SS will work with planners to consider the comments and any proposed changes will be circulated to the Committee for comment.

Action

All to feedback comments to SS by 31st May

The Committee were assured that this work was only in relation to the WHS specific policies and that key stakeholders such as Parish and Town Councils would be given opportunities to engage in the wider review process in the normal ways.

The policies were circulated with the meeting papers and in a follow up email.

They can be viewed within the context of the Wiltshire Core Strategy

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshirecorestrategy.htm>

And they are also included as Appendix H to the World Heritage Site Management

Plan: [http://www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org/assets/05-](http://www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org/assets/05-BIBLIO_APPENDICES_MAPS_FACTS.pdf)

[BIBLIO APPENDICES MAPS FACTS.pdf](http://www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org/assets/05-BIBLIO_APPENDICES_MAPS_FACTS.pdf)

14. A303 DCO update

Gavin Purchase presented the timetable of the DCO process, identifying key dates and opportunities for further engagement.

The presentation was circulated immediately following the meeting.

Please note the timetable is being updated regularly for the most up to date information on the scheme visit the website <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/a303-stonehenge-home/>

For further information on the DCO Timetable and Process visit

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a303-stonehenge/?ipcsection=exam>

15. Information exchange and AOB

15.1. RF Should Bulford PC be represented on this group? The group agreed that they should be consulted on whether they wish to join the Committee

Action RF to follow up

15.2. SS WHS boundary sign has been removed from Woodford Valley by unknown persons. Wiltshire Council is arranging to replace the sign.

15.3. MB English Heritage will be undertaking Heritage Crime Training with rural police officers.

16. Dates of next meetings tbc

- Wednesday 6th November 2019
- Thursday, 30th April 2020