



Stonehenge WHS Steering Committee

Minutes Agreed 12.03.24

Thursday 16 November 2023, 11am – 1pm
Bourne Hill, Salisbury / Teams

Present: Hugh Morrison **HM** (Chair, WHS farmers), Claire Selman **CSe** (WHS Coordination Unit), Mel Barge **MB** (Historic England), Cllr Tim Edwards **TE** (Amesbury Town Council), Rachel Hosier **RH** (WHS farmers), Richard Crook **RC** (NFU), Cllr Ron Lock **RL** (Shrewton Parish Council), Colin Shell **CS** (ASAHRG), Richard Osgood **RO** (MOD), Phil Foxwood **PF** (DCMS), Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger **MPK** (Wiltshire Council), Nick Snashall **NS** (National Trust), Jan Tomlin **JT** (National Trust), Patrick Cashman **PC** (RSPB), Stephanie Payne **SP** (Natural England), Cllr Andrew Shuttleworth **AS** (Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council), Cllr Ian Silk **IS** (Durrington Parish Council)

Becky Banbury **BB** (minutes/WHS Coordination Unit)

Observers by invitation of the Chair: Nick Simms **NS** (National Trust), Cllr Stephen Stacey **SS** (Avebury Parish Council)

Apologies: Chris Farr (Country Land and Business Association/CLA), Heather Sebire (English Heritage Trust), Adrian Green (Salisbury Museum), David Andrews (Visit Wiltshire/Great West Way), Scott Ashman (English Heritage Trust), Lynn Trigwell (Wiltshire Council), David Dawson (Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society), Wendy Brown (Amesbury Town Council), Roland Smith (Wiltshire Council), Helen Woodhouse (Historic England), Susan Denyer (ICOMOS UK), Eddie Leighton (Wilsford cum Lake Parish and representative of the WHS landowners), Jo Tudor (Durrington Town Council)

Abbreviations: Steering Committee **SC**, Coordination Unit **CU**, Partnership Panel **PP**, World Heritage Site **WHS**, English Heritage Trust **EHT**, National Trust **NT**, Historic England **HE**, Department for Culture, Media and Sport **DCMS**, Wiltshire Council **WC**, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds **RSPB**, Trust Transition Project Board **TTB**, Avebury & Stonehenge Archaeological & Historical Research Group **ASAHRG**, Working Group **WG**, National Lottery Heritage Fund **NLHF**, Terms of Reference **ToR**

Meeting Summary	The committee discussed the outcome of the TTB Meeting and next steps in the Trust Transition Project to deliver an initial supporting CIO within next year. Meeting supported the aim to move to full CIO once small supporting CIO can evidence that it can operate effectively and generate funding.			
	The future Governance project was also discussed, which will run concurrently alongside the development of the CIO. Meeting agreed that whole partnership should be fully involved in shaping of governance and that the project plan should include additional meetings and consultation including residents / community groups.			
Meeting acknowledged the ambitious timescale to deliver these projects and the need to support the CU, ensuring it is adequately funded and resourced. Members also discussed how a move away from council hosting would be useful to demonstrate the CU's independence with consideration of similar arrangement to AONB [now renamed 'National Landscapes'].				
Date	Item	Action	Lead	Complete
16.11.23	3.0	Provide SC with information on CIO models including examples.	CU	30.11.23

16.11.23	3.0/ 4.0	Share 3.0 Trust Transition and 4.0 Partnership Governance Timelines and Governance Core Principles with SC. Members are invited to comment by email or phone by 14.12.23.	CSe All	23.11.23
16.11.23	4.0	Arrange meeting with SC Chairs to review partner feedback on Trust Transition and Partnership Governance Timelines and Governance Core Principles.	CSe/ SC Chairs	TBC 15.12.23
16.11.23	4.0	Arrange joint meeting (Steering Groups / Partnership Panel) Spring 2024.	CU	
16.11.23	4.0	Provide examples of decision-making roles and relationships for joint meeting.	CSe	
16.11.23	4.0	Discuss future governance model at Parish Council Meeting 07.12.23.	CSe/ Council representatives	7.12.23
16.11.23	4.0	Provide details of Stonehenge Trader publication to EHT for possible community engagement.	CSe	
16.11.23	4.0	Provide record of NT position regarding governance work.	JT	
16.11.23	6.4	Share link to Local Plan consultation web portal and LP Policy 100. The Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites for SC to review/ comment by 22.11.23.	CSe	17.11.23
16.11.23	8.0	Send outstanding / additional Partner Updates to BB by 29.11.23 for inclusion in minutes/ forthcoming newsletters.	All	29.11.23
16.11.23	9.0	Issue draft meeting minutes to SC within 2 weeks.	BB	30.11.23
16.11.23	10.0	Seek update from EHT regards Stonehenge resident pass.	CU	16.11.23

1.0	Apologies, agree minutes of last meeting 04.07.23. Review actions and matters arising
1.1	Apologies given above.
1.2	Minutes of 04.07.23 agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
1.3	<p>Matters arising (update provided by CSe):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were thanked for their contribution to the monthly newsletter and encouraged to send news and events information to BB, plus any comments on improving partner communications. • Work on revision of processes is ongoing and will be undertaken alongside Governance changes. • Membership lists are now up to date. Members were thanked for their submissions. • Summary of partnership survey is available in meeting paper '3.0 Appendix A Minutes TTB 15.09.23 (draft)'. Members were thanked for their input. • Solstice comments from farming / community have been fed back to EHT. • A303 work and chalk grassland reversion details has been shared with SC members. Members are encouraged to contact CU if they require further details on any other partnership projects / related work.

2.0	Report from Partnership Panel
	<p>HM provided a summary of the Panel meeting prior to forthcoming circulation of draft meeting minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership Panel members received updates on number of projects and events including report from the World Heritage Committee and process to input into the State of Conservation Report and Setting Study. • Recommendations were agreed for the addition of standing agenda items: The Annual Action Plan and Chair’s Review. • Members from TTB invited alongside the CIO Working Group to support preparation of governance proposal to inform consultation at the November Steering Committee meetings, taking into consideration consultation of survey and workshop.
3.0	Update Trust Transition Project: TTB Meeting 15.09.23 outcome and next steps in lottery funded project
	<p>A cross-partnership update on TTB Project was issued on 12.10.23 after board meeting took place.</p> <p>HM provided a summary of the TTB, which in response to the partnership survey and subsequent discussion at the meeting of 15.09.23, has agreed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create a supporting CIO, with fundraising and project delivery function, in the first instance and work with the CIO Working Group to deliver this. • The need for a phased approach, with a decision point identified to consider feasibility of full CIO based on performance. • Changes to governance to be developed in full consultation with Steering Committees. • For Wiltshire Council and Coordination Unit to review ways of working to support independence of Coordination Unit. <p>CSe provided definitions of CIO models and shared 3.0 Trust Transition timeline to illustrate CIO project plan to achieve a small CIO by July 2024. Meeting acknowledged speed of project and multiple ‘moving parts’ involved to achieve operational CIO within anticipated timeframe. Members have been invited to review these documents and provide comment.</p> <p>CSe confirmed that NLHF Grant had been extended until July 2024 to deliver CIO project (with possible future extension if required). It is proposed that some of the NLHF grant funds are utilised to engage specialists with knowledge expertise to support key areas of work, including the development of decision points / evaluation metrics. These will assist in determining when it is right and appropriate to move from supporting CIO to full CIO. The proposed timescale for this transition is approximately 2 years - dependent on success criteria being met.</p> <p>Specialist support will also be secured to look at the constitution of a supporting CIO, business plan, fundraising strategy etc.</p> <p>Members discussed fundraising requirements / budget required to operate the charity and agreed further work needs to be undertaken to establish details. CSe summarised the key objective for fundraising will be to distribute funds to support projects within the WHS Management Plan and assist partner activities. The fund raising and fund giving objectives/mechanisms of the CIO will be established as part of project delivery.</p> <p>Actions <i>CSe to provide SC with information on CIO models including examples.</i> <i>CSe to provide 3.0 Trust Transition timeline to SC members for review and comment.</i></p>

4.0	Partnership Governance – a future governance model
	<p>TTB recommends that changes to governance should be developed in full consultation with Steering Committees.</p> <p>CSe explained that the drivers for governance change are UNESCO’s directive for greater synchronisation between the sites, the management plan review which requires governance to be fully operational and the availability of lottery funding to support the work. A new governance model in its finalised form will ensure balanced representation while incorporating changes to further increase efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p>CSe shared a draft Partnership Governance Project Plan, illustrating a timeline which runs in parallel with development and delivery of CIO. The plan will be circulated to SC members for review and comment after which CSe will meet with SC Chairs to collate and discuss feedback received.</p> <p>Following discussion at Avebury SC it was recommended that the TTB project plan should include additional meetings and consultation with other groups such as parish councils. Members agreed that a cross-partnership meeting with steering committees and partnership panel should be arranged in Spring (date TBC), to review, discuss and consense the governance structure, membership and ToR.</p> <p>CS requested further information about parallel sequencing of governance work and development of CIO in respect of SC meeting schedule and priorities. CSe confirmed that delivery of the governance model would be principal area of work for SC members during this period which necessitates the cross-partnership meeting in Spring. For the CIO, SC focus will be on reviewing the constitution which may be achieved through emails or phone calls, however it may be also possible to discuss the CIO at the joint meeting (dependent on completion of work elements). Further consideration will be undertaken on timetabling.</p> <p>Meeting discussed more widely whether undertaking both programmes of work concurrently was too ambitious and if SC focus should be on CIO in first half of next year. Members acknowledged willingness to deliver both projects in tandem, as far as possible (albeit with a stretch target for completion) but expressed concern for workload of CU to deliver. MPK confirmed that there is specialist support, help and NLHF funding for some of the workstreams going forward which will lessen the burden on the CU.</p> <p>JT expressed NT’s position (to be provided in writing), which supports the broad agreement that the current governance structure is not effective and needs to be changed within the proposed timescale. Securing a future governance model will provide stability around funding with existing and future funding bodies. MPK confirmed council’s desire for changes in the governance to go ahead along with the funding structure which is hoped to be put in place in April 2024. The council is happy to support further movement towards the independence of the CU. It is largely independent, but council is considering ways in which this can be made more transparent. HM - move away from council hosting would be useful to demonstrate the CU’s independence with consideration of similar arrangement to AONB [now renamed ‘National Landscapes’].</p> <p>CSe introduced 4 core principles which need to be agreed by SCs to deliver the project. These were; how to agree new structure; overall governance structure; decision making within the structure and what expertise and responsibility is required on each board?</p> <p>Meeting acknowledged that members require time to review the documentation (to be circulated by email after meeting) and provide comments. However, initial thoughts and questions included:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is proposed membership of boards (representation and numbers) to ensure fair decision making? • What does consensus mean if boards are non-voting? Definition required. • The need to develop appropriate communications plan to suit requirements of groups. • The need to use specialist time wisely - identifying most effective engagement. • Who makes day-to-day management decisions if partnership board role is strategic? How are day-to-day management decision expedited quickly? Meeting explored whether governance could adopt similar model described by TE at Amesbury Town Council, whereby a policy group subset has designated powers to make quick decisions by email within agreed framework and cost threshold. Meeting discussed whether Partnership Board Chair should determine decision making process and be accountable to board for decision made. • Possible challenge of new structure is that number of interested parties will wish to be represented on board but can't due limitations of membership size (eg town and parish council/ farming reps) – how best to represent their views? Meeting agreed that further consideration is required regards parish and town council representation in respect of reporting / representing function possibly through development of a specific panel or annual forum. Options to be explored at meeting for parish council representatives on 7.12.23. • SS suggested option to create a small forum which could draw in other community representation, create cohesion between two sites and energise engagement. • Further outreach work is required by WHS to engage with local communities through communications (such as Stonehenge Trader) and events. Including possible funded projects for residents at Stonehenge / Avebury. <p>Actions <i>CSe to circulate partnership governance plan (timeline and core principles) to SC for review and comment by email or phone by 14.12.23.</i> <i>CSe to arrange meeting with SC Chairs to review partner feedback on Trust Transition and Partnership Governance Timelines and Governance Core Principles.</i> <i>CU to arrange joint meeting (Steering Groups / Partnership Panel) Spring 2024.</i> <i>JT to provide record of NT position regarding governance work.</i> <i>CSe to provide examples of decision-making roles and relationships for joint meeting.</i> <i>CSe / councillors to discuss future governance model at Parish Council meeting 07.12.23.</i> <i>CSe to provide details of Stonehenge Trader to EHT for possible community engagement.</i></p>
5.0	DCMS Update: WH Committee, A303 status and next steps
	<p>CSe - CU has begun discussions with Historic England who are leading on timetable and delivery of State of Conservation report to be submitted on request of UNESCO.</p> <p>PF provided following DCMS update: The World Heritage Committee has requested a modifications package alongside State of Conservation Report. DCMS is leading on drafting of document (due by 1 February 2024) with input from National Highways, DfT and others.</p> <p>Following a redetermination of the Development Consent Order [DCO] in July for the planning of the scheme, there was a subsequent claim requesting a judicial review. The courts are currently considering the grounds of that request. Expectation is that it will be granted with a decision by the courts to be made in March / April 2024.</p> <p>There is the possibility of a subsequent appeal, but the current view is that it's unlikely it would be granted, given previous redeterminations and challenges etc.</p>

6.0	Update on key projects
6.1	<p>Management Plan Review (update provided by CSe): CSe provided summary of points from the Management Plan Review Steering Group 26.10.23. Meeting minutes are out for review and will be made available in due course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members agreed that a realistic completion date is end of financial year March 2026, given other significant activities being undertaken by coordination unit and WHS partners over course of next two years (CIO and governance). • First steps: activity between now and next Steering Committee in March: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluation of status of actions in Management Plan which will go hand in hand with creation of annual action plan. ○ Costing of review agreed and funding sourced. • Reduction of actions from 178 (Bath have 47, Edinburgh 39). • Refining management plan - signposting information rather than including them in document, including links which can be updated during lifespan to research and policies. • Move away from print to digital formats including a PDF of the whole plan and more specific accessible sections (areas of work) to meet needs of different stake holders /audiences (including residents and planners). • A worked-up proposal to be shared in March cycle of meetings.
6.2	<p>Condition Survey (update provided by CSe):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Condition Survey is currently taking place with the support of a group of trained volunteers. All monuments have been reviewed and a number prioritised for fieldwork survey based on factors such as their previous condition and other aspects such as proximity to PRoW. • Avebury Survey - nearing completion. • Stonehenge - contacting landowners regarding access, survey to begin in December. • Results will be shared at next SC.
6.3	<p>Exploring the WHS (update provided by CSe): CU made progress last year in identifying smaller group of actions to take forward and is now making contact with Esther Gordon-Smith, National Highways, to confirm any key dates to be aware of and when best to hold project board meeting.</p>
6.4	<p>Setting Study (update provided by MPK):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The production of the Setting Study has been slowed down by the development of the Local Plan and Wiltshire Design Guide, but it will be picked up early next year and progressed throughout 2024. • WHS stakeholders will receive a consultation version prior to it going out to public consultation. • Setting Study will be a Wiltshire Council Supplementary planning document and therefore is required to through a formal public consultation exercise prior to it being adopted formally by the council and made available for use in the determination of planning applications. • WC is in touch with DCMS and Historic England to discuss how the Setting Study will be included in the State of Conservation Report and referred to. <p>MPK reminded meeting about Local Plan Review. This is currently going through its public consultation phase.</p> <p>Members of the committee are welcome to comment especially in relation to the policies for the protection of the historic environment and the WHS. The deadline for comments is</p>

	<p>22.11.23 via the online web portal.</p> <p>CSe confirmed that WHS will comment on review and will incorporate any views provided by partners should they wish to share them before the deadline. CSe will send link to Policy 100 The Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site for review.</p> <p>Following the end of the consultation period, the council will process, summarise, and consider the main issues raised. It will submit the Plan, accompanying evidence, and all submitted comments to the Secretary of State, who will appoint an Inspector to undertake an independent examination. The Inspector will assess whether the Plan meets the relevant legal requirements, complies with the Duty to Cooperate, and is sound before it is formally adopted.</p> <p>MPK expressed view that the Local Plan has a strong and specific policy (core policy 100) that protects and enhances the WHS. WHS is also protected by more general policies for heritage and landscape in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Further information about the Local Plan and timetable can be found on the council's web portal.</p> <p>Action <i>CSe to share link to Local Plan Consultation web portal and Policy 100. The Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site for SC to review/ comment.</i></p>
7.0	WHS Coordination Unit (CU) Updates
7.1	<p>Staffing update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BB now in role as support to secretariat. •
7.2 - 7.4	<p>CU Work Update (update provided by CSe):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CU is working on new file sharing system for WHS partners with delivery in next few months. • Alongside forthcoming partner reviews of Management Plan actions, the CU is developing an annual action plan for 2024. CSe would like to identify some actions with partners to be agreed prior to next March round of SC meetings. ToR states that the local steering committee agrees action plan within the framework of the Management Plan and then the Partnership Panel reviews the priorities set out in the action plan and identifies resources for their delivery.
8.0	Partner Updates
	Email updates from ASAHRG, English Heritage, Farmers Representative, National Trust, Natural England, RSPB, and Wiltshire Council can be found in Appendix A.
9.0	Confirmation of feedback to Partnership Panel
	<p>Minutes of meeting will be basis of feedback.</p> <p>CSe provided review of actions arising from meeting.</p> <p>Draft meeting minutes to be sent to SC within 2 weeks.</p> <p>Action <i>BB to send to draft meeting minutes to SC for review and comment on 30.11.23</i></p>
10.0	AOB
	RC requested update on process for eligible residents to receive Stonehenge passes. Noone was available from EHT to provide comment – CU will investigate and update.

11.0	Future meeting dates
	<p>SC joint meeting sometime in March period. Date to be confirmed.</p> <p>Steering Committee dates: 20 March 2024, 11am – 1pm 1 July 2024, 11am – 1pm 13 November 2024, 11am – 1pm</p> <p>All to be held at Bourne Hill, Salisbury</p>

Meeting ended: 1.00pm

Appendix A

Partner Updates supplied via email

ASAHRG Report, Colin Shell, 08.11.23

Report to the Avebury and Stonehenge Steering Committees, November 2023

1. Management Plan Actions

Since the last report, with the continuing absence of dedicated funding, there has been no change in the ability of ASAHRG to progress Management Plan actions for which it is a key partner.

2. ASAHRG meeting

The recent ASAHRG autumn meeting, 13 October, was held online with the kind assistance of David Dawson, Wiltshire Museum.

The sudden sad passing of Kate Fielden since our last meeting, caused members to pause and consider her unmitigated and expert endeavour on behalf the conservation of the rich Wiltshire cultural and natural landscape. Several members were able to attend her Memorial Service in St John's, Devizes. It was agreed appropriate that members should bring together contributions towards an appreciation of Kate's life that could be compiled for publication in the next Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine. This will be coordinated by Brian Edwards and the ASAHRG Secretary.

The main presentation at the meeting was by Heather Sebire on the English Heritage projected Education Centre at the Stonehenge Visitor Centre , with the aim of using Archaeology as the basis of enhancing teaching and interest for young school children in the STEM sphere. Members were very much in support of the initiative, to which they could consider how to contribute either individually or collectively.

As follow-up to the summer visit to excavations in Avebury, Ben Chan gave a brief update on the outcome of the Avebury Manor Parkland investigations.

With Evora, Portugal, being European Capital of Culture in 2027, the World Heritage Site partners had been approached to consider participation in potential initiatives, with ASAHRG being particularly in mind. Gill Swanton attended a meeting and will continue to explore for the Group where members input could be useful. The next meeting is in January 2024.

Since the meeting, the results of the poll on the preferred design for the ASAHRG logo were available and the chosen version heads this report. It is hoped it may be soon incorporated in a suitable form with the other WHS partners' logos on the first page of the WHS web site.

English Heritage

Nichola Tasker who was Director of Stonehenge has now left EH and is being temporarily replaced by Rebecca (Becky) Eade until a permanent replacement is recruited.

English Heritage and University of Cambridge were delighted with the positive response to the inaugural Festival of Neolithic Ideas held at Stonehenge on 11-12 November 2023. All talks and walks were fully booked throughout the weekend and the activities, including a planetarium, handheld laser scanning of artefacts and a pop-up prehistoric supermarket, provided great entertainment as well as an opportunity to explore the science of archaeology, helping visitors to better understand the World Heritage Site.

Farmers Report, Rachel Hosier

The WHS farmers have had a difficult few years with the A303 Tunnel Scheme threatening the land our families have watched over for generations. It is now with great sadness that I report the sudden and unexpected passing of Rob Turner. Rob embraced the WHS being one of the first farmers to revert arable land close to the Stonehenge monument back to grass to protect the archaeology. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with his family.

For over 20 years the WHS farmers have been doing their bit to increase the biodiversity within the Stonehenge landscape. Each farm picking the arable and grassland options suited to their individual farms to give a wide range of habitats for red listed birds as well as rare arable plants and reducing the impact on archaeology. This work is being further enhanced by the Porton to the Plain farmer group lead by RSPB and independent ecologists. We have had a number of meetings this year, farm walks and inspiring talks covering a range of topics. Rare arable plants on Countess farm, soil health increasing the beetle populations, introductions to new environmental schemes working on a landscape basis and a fascinating look into the history and habitat of the hare.

Seeing the positive changes to the wildlife and ecology on our farm has been inspiring us to do more. However, we are constantly hampered by people who either un-intentionally or sometimes intentionally, damage the progress we make.

Fly tipping in the WHS is becoming more of an issue, with waste being thrown into fields with livestock.

We still see dogs not under control chasing wildlife or farm animals.

Parts of our environmental schemes are not open to public access to protect breeding birds and give them safe space to thrive. We find people and dogs and campers there.

We are now in the season of hare coursers and illegal poachers. It is not uncommon to find ourselves in serious situations trying to safeguard our ecological focuses as well as protecting the WHS and our farm infrastructure. Help from the WHS organisations as well as NFU and Rural Crime team would be much appreciated to enable us to continue to build on the biodiversity we have already accomplished.

National Trust (provided by Jan Tomlin)

Further to the information shared about NT's work over recent months and our forthcoming visitor offers, in the Stonehenge Landscape we continue to deliver care for monuments, and to complete essential tree and maintenance works.

Natural England (provided by Stephanie Payne)

- Working up 2 new CS [Countryside Stewardship] applications which include continued positive management of the Stonehenge landscape, protecting WHS monuments, enhancing their landscape setting, managing existing chalk grassland and recreating, restoring significant areas to chalk grassland.
- Working with Nick Croxson to prioritise the use of new standalone grants for protecting SM which are available under Countryside Stewardship. There are several potential sites within the WHS. It would be helpful to hear of any monuments which it would be useful to consider. The grant can fund for example: erosion repairs, tree/ scrub management, protection of barrows from burrowing animals. Standalone fencing is also available for interpretation.
- Porton to Plain Farmer group and Wiltshire chalk partnership -NE colleagues have been supporting and are helping to implement a species recovery project for rare butterflies and chalk grassland restoration in the Stonehenge WHS. NE are also keen to help support a future landscape recovery grant in the area, which would provide opportunities to benefit WHS archaeology and deliver the WHS jointly agreed management plan objectives. I can provide more details about the grant to circulate and/or ask colleagues to speak about this.
- The Landscape Recovery grant is part of the new agri-environment ELM scheme. It is aimed at farmers and land managers who want to take a landscape scale, long term approach to deliver for environmental and climate change outcomes. It funds ambitious landscape scale bespoke long-term agreements of 20 years plus, bringing together partnerships of farmers, land managers, NGO and statutory partners, local communities etc. It will be looking for both private and public sector funding. They are looking for around 25 projects at the moment each year. Public funding is provided for successful applicants to develop a bespoke scheme during the first 2 years, supported by a project liaison officer.
- NE historic environment specialists have produced a really useful document on Historic Environment and Nature Recovery which will be useful when discussing landscape and nature recovery projects and strategies. I can circulate this if that would be helpful.

RSPB (provided by Patrick Cashman)

The co-ordinated roost count by RSPB volunteers around Salisbury Plain has found that the numbers of stone-curlews gathering in the WHS this autumn has fortunately remained similar to last year, with 42 birds counted at several pre-migration roosts sites compared to 41 birds last year. These shy iconic birds of the Wessex downs, are very territorial and nest in lone pairs in the surrounding countryside, but gather in quiet spots with their young in pre-migration roosts in the autumn before flying south to spend the winter in southern Spain and North Africa.

Wiltshire Council (provided by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger)

1. Local Plan Review

This is currently going through its public consultation phase. Members of the committee are welcome to comment especially in relation to the policies for the protection of the historic environment and the WHS. The deadline for comments is 22 November via the online portal.

[Current consultation \(Reg 19\) autumn 2023 - Wiltshire Council](#)

2. Wiltshire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document

This document went through its public consultation process in the Autumn and the Council is in the process of assessing the feedback and making amendments. The final version will go to Cabinet and then full council in the early part of next year prior to its adoption as SPD.