



Stonehenge World Heritage Site Advisory Forum

Meeting on 22 November 2011
1.45pm at Antrobus House, Amesbury
DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Lady Gass (Chairman), Beth Thomas (Stonehenge WHS Coordinator), Ian Briscoe (Forestry Commission), Ruth Butler (Salisbury & S Wilts Museum), James Carr (Winterbourne Stoke PC), Steve Colwill (Wiltshire Police), Brian Davison (WANHS), Andrew Fitzpatrick (Wessex Archaeology), Peter Goodhugh (Countess Road Residents' Association), Max Hosier (Boreland Farm), Francis Taylor (CBA), Pippa Turner (Manor Farm), Amanda Chadburn (English Heritage), Philip Miles (Country Land and Business Association), Richard Crook (National Farmers Union), Roger Fisher (Amesbury Town Council), Stephanie Payne (Natural England), Loraine Knowles (English Heritage), Peter Carson (English Heritage), Nick Snashall (National Trust), Christopher Young (English Heritage)

Apologies: Sue Davies (Wessex Archaeology), Alistair Millington (Sustrans), Henry Rawlings (Ablington Farm), Sarah Simmonds (Avebury WHS Officer), Carole Slater (Shrewton PC), Nicola Andrews (National Trust), Dave Batchelor (English Heritage), Paul Blaker (DCMS), Tim Champion (University of Southampton), Dave Healing (Durrington Parish Council), Tony Richardson (RSPB), Jan Tomlin (National Trust), Chris Gingell (National Trust), Alastair Cunningham (Wiltshire Council), Georgina Clampitt-Dix (Wiltshire Council), Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Wiltshire Council), Dave Healing (Durrington Parish Council), Tony Richardson (RSPB), Patrick Cashman (RSPB), Kate Fielden (CPRE), John Elliott (Druid's Lodge)

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| <p>1. Introductions & apologies Minutes from last meeting were agreed. See apologies listed above.</p> |
| <p>2. Update on the Environmental Improvements Project – Loraine Knowles, English Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report attached to minutes.• BD asked about the alternate water supply to the Visitor Centre if the aquifer not adequate – LK commented that the nearest mains supply is 2km to the West and will add considerable expense to the project if a link is required.• FT asked about the scheme of works on the section of the A344. It will not involve completely removing the existing surface. The treatment will be different along each section along the road depending on the ground level and archaeological sensitivities. |
| <p>3. Stonehenge World Heritage Site update – Beth Thomas, English Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report attached to minutes• Summer Solstice 2011 – 18k approx attended – thanks to Wilts Police, NT, Wilts Council etc for their assistance. For 2012 the car park will not be available due to construction works. EH are working on alternate arrangements if required. |
| <p>4. Archaeology Update – Amanda Chadburn, English Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field work since September 2010 The two public inquiries related to the SEIP have has taken up a good deal of |

time this year in preparing the case for the archaeology and acting as witness in those inquiries.

Stonehenge Riverside Project – field work has completed but there is a good deal of post-excavation work still continuing. “Feeding Stonehenge” (Mike Parker Pearson University of Sheffield) – this project is yielding interesting results.

Two **Geophysical projects** have taken place this year on NT land. The results are starting to come through and proving to be interesting and thought provoking. Further information to come on this.

Stonehenge Landscape Project – EH project looking at all aspects of the landscape including military history.

Laser scan survey of the stones of Stonehenge at very high level has been completed and we are awaiting the final results. It is hoped that some of this can be used to interpret Stonehenge at the new Visitor Centre.

- **WHS Research Framework**

Coordinated by Wessex Archaeology and funded by English Heritage with a number of partners across both parts of the WHS. The results will update the current documents for Avebury and Stonehenge and identify the issues that we still wish to explore.

- **Astronomy**

Working with Clive Ruggles at Leicester University who has been working on a thematic study of WHS with astronomical aspects. This is now on the ICOMOS website.

http://www.astronomicalheritage.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=26&Itemid=31

- **Periodic Reporting on WHS to UNESCO**

Every six years each country has to report on the condition of its World Heritage Sites for UNESCO. This report is used to assess global trends affecting WHS across the world. One report will be made for both parts of the Stonehenge & Avebury WHS.

5. **National Trust update** including Woodland Strategy for the Stonehenge & Avebury WHS – **Nick Snashall, National Trust**

- **Woodland Strategy** – final draft received 21 November. Draft report will go out to Project Board early December and hope to have completed by end of the year.
- **Stonehenge Landscape Visitor Experience Plan** – in association with new Visitor Centre to have a seamless experience across the landscape.
- The Stonehenge Community Team, led by Lucy Evershed worked with the University of Birmingham Geophysical team to offer talks etc.
- **National Trust Facebook page for Stonehenge Landscape** now live.
- Full range of events throughout the team – assisted by volunteers and interns.
- Using archaeology for outreach projects in the local community.
- **Avebury Manor** featuring in BBC One TV show starting 24 November 2011.

6. **Avebury World Heritage Site update - Sarah Simmonds, Wiltshire Council**

- Report tabled
- Management Plan is to be reviewed over next 2 years. It is hoped to improve the links between the two sites in the next version of the plan. For example when considering the attributes and vision of the WHS.

7. Update from Wiltshire Heritage and Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museums - Ruth Butler, Learning and Outreach Officer (Salisbury & SWilts)

- **HLF Bid for redevelopment of museum galleries**

Submission due by March 2012. Once accepted the Museum will be able to start work quickly as planning permission and listed building consent has already been received. RB outlined the proposed re-design of the museum's galleries. It is hoped that these changes will complete to coincide with the opening of the new Visitor Centre. It is designed to be complementary to the Visitor Centre by bringing to life the people of Stonehenge

- **Henge Hopper**

We are awaiting a written report from David Dawson about the bus link which was provided between Avebury, Devizes and Stonehenge. It is understood that although very popular with those visitors who used the bus there were insufficient numbers for the service to be commercially viable. However, the SEIP will be looking at green transport links and the information from this pilot will be useful in developing further plans for the future.

8. Governance Review – Amanda Chadburn, English Heritage

First Statement of Management was written for Avebury in 1992. The governance has not been revised since the originally groups were set up in the 1990s. A great deal has changed since then, not least a unitary authority for Wiltshire as well as NT now managing the two sites together under one General Manager. An independent consultant will be engaged to review the committees, how they are made up, the advisory and decision making processes, the resources available and consider best practice from elsewhere in the UK.

It is intended to complete this project between Jan – March 2012. The report will then be presented to the steering groups of both parts of the WHS. EH will be providing the resources for this project.

BT will let members of the Advisory Forum know who the consultant will be so that they know who will be contacting them for information.

9. Presentation on the Condition Survey and Woodland Strategy for the Stonehenge & Avebury WHS – Paul White – Wessex Archaeology

Condition Survey

Paul White made a useful presentation with found some positive and negative findings. The main threats continue to be: burrowing animals, woodland/scrub, ploughing, stock/grazing and vehicles. Monuments are generally in better condition overall but substantial increase in badgers and other burrowing animals. The grass reversion has shown some real improvements in the condition of monuments that were at risk from ploughing. Those in plough continue to be at risk.

Woodland Strategy

A thorough survey of the woodland and scrub including hedges was undertaken in the WHS. The study has reviewed the aesthetic and communal value of woodland and used a number of methods including reviewing historic maps and pictures which show the landscape in previous centuries. There are some recommendations for the treatment of various areas for improvement to issues such as the inter-visibility of monuments across the WHS.

BD noted that there had been a working group looking at woodland in Stonehenge in the past which consisted of EH/NT/MoD and Wiltshire County Council but this had been abandoned. He suggested that this group could be re-activated.

BT does intend to have a workshop meeting with key partners to discuss how to take forward the results of the Woodland Strategy, Condition Survey and Burrowing Animals Survey in the new year.

10. Date of next meeting and agenda items (site visit?)

Tuesday 25 September 2012– It was suggested that a visit to the RSPB sanctuary on Normanton Down would be useful. Particularly as Stone Curlews gather for migration at around this time of the year.

11. Information exchange & AOB

- There has been some theft of signage within the WHS – metal theft?
- PG asked about Stonehenge visitor numbers. PC responded that visitor numbers continue to increase.