

**Avebury World Heritage Site  
Archaeological and Historical Research Group  
DRAFT Notes of meeting 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

**Present:** Martyn Barber (Chair), Melanie Pomeroy Kellinger, Brian Edwards, Sarah Simmonds, Jim Gunter, Colin Shell, Dan Miles, Kate Fielden, Nicola Hembrey, David Field, Josh Pollard, Steve Marshall, Ian Barnes, Beth Thomas, Phil McMahon, Nikki Cook, Nick Snashall, David Dawson, Andrew David, Julie Scott-Jackson, Abby George, Nikki Cook

**1. Apologies and Introductions**

Mark Bowden, Katie Hinds, Bruce Eagles, Vicky Crosby, Amanda Chadburn, Paul Cripps, Simon Crutchley, Ros Cleal, Susan Greaney, Jude Currivan, Amanda Chadburn, Katy Whitaker, Jonathan Last, Nick Baxter, Rachel Foster, Jim Leary, Gill Swanton, Mike Allen, Heather Sebire

Oliver Jackson, a placement student with the County Archaeologist, attended the meeting.

**2. Minutes and matters arising**

**2.1 Minutes**

The minutes were approved with one small amendment: NW should be NC (Nikki Cook)

**2.2 Matters Arising**

Covered under agenda items. There will be no break in today's agenda and therefore AOB will be dealt with once at the end of the meeting.

**3. Monitoring of the Resource Agenda**

**3.1 Update on WHS Research Framework**

The Resource Assessment papers are all in. One of the challenges has been bringing together the two different styles and approaches to the assessments in the two halves of the WHS. A stand alone Resource Assessment document will be available for Avebury.

The agenda and strategy will be combined for Stonehenge and Avebury. Various frameworks have been reviewed for ideas on how to present this section. Efforts have also been made to identify questions relevant to WHS status. The document will be divided into periods and themes; some repetition is unavoidable. The aim has been to produce a format accessible to the range of likely users. The draft research agenda will be circulated to AAHRG and wider consultees for comment. Work will continue on completing the research strategy as soon as possible.

It is hope the Research Framework will be a living document that is reviewed and updated as research is undertaken and new questions arise. AAHRG/ASAHRG

will have a vital role in this process. A strategy for this will need to be discussed at the next Research Framework project board meeting. Maintaining an up to date GIS might form part of a possible approach. This will require the prompt submission of field work by all researchers working in the WHS. These should in all cases be submitted to the HER. Hosting and maintaining the GIS will require resources and it will be necessary to consider who will be able to take responsibility for this and how resources will be provided. The project board can consider this at their next meeting in September.

The project board will also need to make publication decisions including how the Resource Assessment will be presented and numbers of hard copies required. A publication grant needs to be considered.

The Framework should be ready to publish by the end of this financial year. The new WHS website for Stonehenge and Avebury will be one of the obvious places to make the Framework available.

CS added that in Ireland all data related to research funded by grant giving bodies was required to be publicly available. This should be considered in England.

**Action: NC to send draft combined research agenda to SS for circulation to AAHRG. All to comment by end of August**

**NW to arrange a meeting of the project board for September**

#### **4. Current archaeological & historical research**

##### **4.1 Stones of Stonehenge: Clatford 2013 – Josh Pollard**

JP explained that the 2013 season is a short one week intervention including an extension of geophysics and some augering to ascertain what is under the alluvium. The focus is on investigating where sarsen extraction may have taken place in the Totterdown area; a not inconsiderable challenge. In 2014 work will focus on area where Stukeley located the stones.

JG suggested JP talk to Vaughan Williams about geophysics he has done on a nearby site in relation to quarry sourcing.

There is some suggestion that stones may have been partially shaped prior to moving and therefore large areas of stone debris in valley bottoms cleared of sarsens would be of interest.

Stukeley's understanding of the Roman landscape including the position of the Roman road in this area is important. A possible project for a PhD student would be a survey of Stukeley's documentation and his role as field observer.

DD underlined the need to include plans for archiving and depositing of finds in project designs. JP and MPP to rectify this in the current project design. The project design also needs to be deposited in the HER.

**Action: JP to check with MPP if a visit is possible. If possible, JP to send an invite to SS for circulation to members of AAHRG.**

#### **Between the Monuments Fieldwork 2013 – Josh Pollard**

Work will take place at the potential occupation site at West Kennet Avenue near the foot of Waden Hill from 22<sup>nd</sup> July to 9<sup>th</sup> August. Tours will be provided by NT volunteer guides and finds will be displayed in the Farmyard. There will also be a blog presence.

There will be a formal open day to which members of AAHRG and the Steering Committee will be invited.

**Action: JP/NS to invite members of AAHRG via SS to visit the West Kennet excavation on 7<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **4.2 Avebury's Waterscape – Steve Marshall**

Steve Marshall gave a very interesting and well-received presentation on his recent field research on the springs and rivers of the Avebury area. A report on the discovery of springs around the Silbury ditch can be found in *British Archaeology* (Issue 131 July/ Aug 2013). Spring sources for Avebury's two rivers the Oslip and the Winterbourne have been identified; the springs could have supplied water for nearby Windmill Hill. Many more springs were found near Silbury - the eastern palisade enclosure has springs at its centre. Seasonal variations were recorded in the level of an Avebury well, showing that when the ditches were first dug they reached down into the water table.

JP congratulated SM on his mapping of the springs. He suggested that the possibility of the ditch at Silbury being an artificial pool or reservoir rather than simply a quarry merited further investigation. The results set out in the report prompted other suggestions including revisiting Yatesbury Cursus and looking for possible Mesolithic activity in the Oslip springs area. The position of rivers and springs raised further debate around the possibility of the Beckhampton Avenue extending to Fox Covert and a spring line. The possibility of the West Kennet Avenue running to Palisade Enclosures rather than the Sanctuary was raised although perhaps unlikely due to stones found along the route of the A4. Further investigation is needed into the nebulous area where the Avenue meets the A4.

#### **4.3 Review of Stonehenge Boundary – Beth Thomas**

BT gave a brief summary of papers circulated prior to the meeting on the proposed extension to Stonehenge WHS boundary. The group were asked for feedback in the meeting and to forward any further comments to BT.

MB has plotted the boundary to reflect all mapped archaeology not just scheduled monuments. He suggested including the unscheduled barrows at Rollerstone. MPK suggested also looking at buried archaeology for example around Druid's Lodge. She suggested that scheduling important currently unscheduled areas might be the most effective option for protection. BT clarified that that the proposals had taken into account unscheduled archaeology.

Further proposals included the barrow at Larkhill and the area including Rollerstone Camp car park that is intervisible with Stonehenge. There were some suggestions that field systems with extant earthworks should be included particularly those clearly related to round barrows. MB suggested that the Winterbourne Stoke field systems should be included. BT is concerned that they do not fit the identified OUV for which the WHS is listed. The work is a minor extension and not a change to the inscription criteria. At Avebury the extension did include large areas of field systems at Fyfield Down. There may also be some flexibility in the date range for identified periods which can alter as a result of research.

**Action: All to send additional comments to BT by end of August**

**BT to arrange to meet MPK to discuss the proposals**

## **5. Review of Current Opportunities for Dissemination of Research**

### **5.1 Between the Monuments: West Kennet Avenue Excavation**

The excavation will offer opportunities for outreach with guided tours for visitors and residents.

### **5.2 Wiltshire Museum Gallery Opening**

Wiltshire Museum will be opening its new Prehistoric Galleries in Devizes on 12<sup>th</sup> October. DD will pass on an invitation via SS to members of AAHRG.

### **5.3 Archaeology and Conservation Fair Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

There will be an open day at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre for the public to find out about working in archaeology and conservation with the aim of increasing participation in the area. The WHS will be represented.

### **5.4 Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group Dig Devizes Green**

This will take place on 20- 21<sup>st</sup> July.

## **6. Review of content of report from/to WHS Steering Committee**

### **6.1 Governance Review**

CS reported back on the last Steering Committee meeting in April. The meeting focussed mainly on the recommendations of the governance review steering group. The proposed structure discussed at the last AAHRG meeting was agreed by the Committee.

### **6.2 Joint Stonehenge and Avebury Management Plan**

The Committee also agreed to combine the Stonehenge and Avebury Management Plans. There is already a joint Condition Survey, Research Framework and draft Woodland Strategy for Stonehenge and Avebury. The review process at Avebury is complete but the production of the final Plan will be delayed to allow time for Stonehenge to undertake their review. This review process will begin in the autumn.

A draft outline structure and timetable for delivery were agreed by both the Avebury and Stonehenge Committees. Work on drafting the overarching and Avebury specific elements will begin this summer. The final Plan should be ready for submission to UNESCO towards the end of next year.

### **6.3 WHS Coordination Unit: Adequate Funding**

It was agreed that CS should underline to the Steering Committee the need for sufficient funding for the coordination unit comprising adequate resource as recommended in the Egeria report. Without this the changes to the structure would be unworkable.

### **6.4 Avebury and Stonehenge Archaeological and Historical Research Group (ASAHRG)**

SS summarised the recommendations produced by AAHRG's working group circulated prior to the meeting. The wider group were generally in agreement with the recommendations. Some suggestions were made regarding the functioning of the new group. It was agreed that there should be a review after two years following the formation of the new group. If the new joint group has not been able to function successfully, the option to set up a separate Stonehenge research group could be re-examined.

ASAHRG will follow the existing AAHRG ToR with those adjustments set out in the paper and suggestions raised at the meeting. The ToR will need to articulate the role of ASAHRG in relation to oversight and updating of the joint Research

Framework. The ToR will be reviewed after 2 years. Membership will be reviewed on a regular basis to maintain a practicable group size.

It was recommended that a defined finish time should be established. Meetings should be kept to three hours with a proposed start time of 10 AM. Longer presentations could be reserved for planned seminars. Chairing will need to be kept tight with the new expanded group.

KF recommended that the ASAHRG representative on the WHS Partnership Panel should be independent. This might be someone with experience of research or involved in active research in both halves of the WHS.

**Action: SS to edit the AAHRG ToR for application to the ASAHRG based on agreed recommendations and discussion above.**

**SS to circulate draft ToR for agreement at the next meeting of AAHRG**

## **7. Other Research Opportunities**

### **7.1 County Archaeology Update**

MPK had no relevant applications to report

## **8 Review of monitoring**

### **8.1 Scheduling Review**

Some proposals were put forward including the long barrow identified from aerial photography to the east of West Kennet Avenue. Further work will be needed to justify scheduling such as small scale excavation or sampling. Additional scheduling at West Kennet Palisade Enclosures also requires further work and ground truthing. Required corrections identified in the WHS Condition Survey should be carried out. Certain adjustments are also required in some areas such as Fox Covert. The round barrow near Faulkner's Circle should be removed.

Themed or geographical groups may carry more weight if submitted together with a rationale. A WHS proposal might be the best approach. The group agreed that one of the first roles of the new ASAHRG group should be to produce this proposal. A small working group will need to be set up to achieve this.

**Actions: SS to add scheduling review to agenda of early meeting of ASAHRG**

## **9. Final Review of the Report to WHS Steering Committee**

- Recommendations of the working group were accepted to establish a joint research group: ASAHRG. ToR for the group will be agreed at the autumn meeting of AAHRG

- Progress on the WHS Research Framework: Resource Assessment if complete and due to be circulated to AAHRG and wider consultees for comment. The Avebury section will be stand alone. The agenda addresses both Avebury and Stonehenge. The project board will discuss the best format for publication and the research strategy in September. The framework will be a living document that will be updated as research is carried out. ASAHRG should play a prominent role in this. Hosting arrangements and the responsibility for updating the framework remain to be discussed.
- New joint research group to set up working group to put forward scheduling proposals 2014.
- Live fieldwork: Between the Monuments excavation on the Avenue Josh Pollard et al; geophysics at Clatford for Stones of Stonehenge project Mike Parker Pearson et al; geophysics interior of henge Tim Darvill and Fritz Lüth
- **Need for funding to be made available to ensure adequate coordination as set out in the Egeria report. This is necessary if other governance review changes are to be workable.**

## **10. AOB**

### **10.1 Manton Barrow**

Manton Barrow requires conservation. It was going to be part of the Monument Management Scheme (MMS) but EH funding for this programme has altered. MPK clarified that the new contract arrangements are too onerous. It may be preferable to look at scheduling sites requiring protection until the MMS arrangements are sorted out. A volunteer group could be found to clear scrub. It is a possible FOAM project. A Section 17 arrangement could be investigated with Nick Crosson (NC) the Heritage at Risk Project Officer (HARPO) as a possible alternative. The very active burrowing animal activity at the site should make it a priority.

**Action: MPK and PM to raise the issue with NC**

### **10.2 Research Excellence Framework**

JP explained that as part of the process of review of universities the public benefit of their research is now assessed. He requested comments from members of the group regarding the public impact and benefits of fieldwork in Avebury particularly in the period from 2008 to the present.

**Action: All to send testimonials to JP by 13<sup>th</sup> July**

### **10.3 ICOMOS: Best practice in the Interpretation of Megaliths**

All interested in attending the social events (Salisbury 15<sup>th</sup>/Devizes 17<sup>th</sup>) or the open session (Sarum College 18<sup>th</sup>) RSVP to HS.

### **10.4 Statement of Outstanding Universal Value**

The SOUV for Stonehenge and Avebury was adopted by the World Heritage Committee in Phnom Penh last month.

#### **10.5 Recording Tree Carving and Finding the Forgotten**

Wiltshire Field Group is recording WW1 heritage both military and home front.

#### **10.6 Graffiti in the WHS**

BE is recording incidents of graffiti/paint daubing where there have been related court cases. Please contact him if you have any information. KF has access to transcripts of ladies graffiti related to the Battle of the Bean Field and wire cutting.

#### **11. Date of next meeting**

10.30 AM on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Venue to be confirmed.