

ASAHRG

10.00 am – 12.00 pm Friday, 10th September 2021
Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Attendees:

Gillian Swanton (Chair)	Alistair Barclay	Kerry Donaldson
Sarah Askham (Minutes, WHSCU)	Olaf Bayer	Martyn Barber
Anne Carney (WHSCU)	David Dawson	Anna Collar
Jonathan Last	Wil Partridge	Amanda Chadburn
Nick Baxter	Heather Sebire	Jacqueline McKinley
Josh Pollard	Thomas Sunley	Matt Leivers
Mike Allen	Melanie Pomeroy-	Benjamin Chan
Nikki Cook	Kellinger	Colin Shell
Briony Clifton	Vincent Gaffney	
	Steve Marshall	

1. Apologies/Introductions/ Review of membership and nominations

- Apologies were given by Brian Edwards who was scheduled to present – a report on Brian's presentation will be sent with the minutes.
- Richard Osgood, Katy Whitaker, Dan Miles, Nicola Snashall, Susan Greaney, Clive Ruggles also sent apologies.
- Membership and nominations: Wil Partridge was nominated to join by David Dawson and Lisa Brown. All agreed and Wil joined the meeting.
- Anna Collar and Stuart Eve were nominated as members last meeting, all agreed.
- Professor Fritz Leuth was nominated by Amanda Chadburn and Gillian Swanton.

2. Matters arising

- Update from Dan Miles regarding the Research Framework:

“Work on the Researchframeworks.org web portal is going well with an official launch this Autumn. No more work has been done on the Stonehenge & Avebury research framework, though some interest has been shown by ASAHRG members to join a working group to discuss the mechanisms for managing it and keeping it updated. This should be convened also in the Autumn. I have had limited time over the past few months due to other commitments including the Covid response work, but am getting back to focusing on the development of research frameworks and the SARF is on my forward job plan.

“Apart from the above, it would be useful to see how we can collect some of the information associated with current research projects in the WHS, maybe including some of the ASAHRG presentations. It would be good to arrange a meeting to see how we can accommodate this.”

3. Current archaeological & historical research

3.1. Ways of Seeing Wiltshire – Brian Edwards

Brian’s Report:

“Ways of Seeing Wiltshire: A debrief for ASAHRG of an exhibition at Wiltshire Museum, 20 May - 30 August 2021

Apologies I can’t join you today.

In being retold over and over through the same great artists and great works, an orthodoxy has developed for British landscape painting over the last half century of which Wiltshire is very much an inherent but compliant part. The theme of Ways of Seeing Wiltshire was then in part that far too many stories are left untold and that evidence is on offer to rewrite the bigger picture.

The theme was dictated by the works added to the Collection since 2018, which was supplemented by a few additional works. With lockdown restrictions preventing access to the Museum library before the opening, books and guides were added from my own library and archive. In probability, these will also eventually find their way into the Collection.

Feedback from the exhibition has been very positive and several future projects have been suggested. News of one of these suggestions may perhaps be reported at the next meeting.

Any further feedback would be most welcome.”

3.2. *Living with Monuments Project: fieldwork update* – Josh Pollard

Work in ‘Sewage Tank Field’ (at N side of junction of West Kennet Avenue road and A4).

West Kennett Palisade Enclosure complex: continuing work from previous year to the west of Gun Road and opposite the Grain Store. The area had been re-modelled and reused over time, including an enclosure, a possible linear feature, pits containing antlers, 3m deep post holes, one of which revealed a double burial of beaker date. Ben Chan reported that the flint work included some dating to the Mesolithic. There were modified sarsen blocks present. There were also blocks of Granodiorite on the site

3.3. *Roman landscape of Avebury: project update* – Anna Collar

Investigations at Springfield (to the west of the A4361, north of Avebury village and opposite Rutlands Farm). An enclosure, a possible building (including pads to support posts or columns), a potential well or shaft. Pottery and possibly stone from Rhineland found. Deep augering was carried out by Mike Allen and Charly French.

4. Review of current opportunities for dissemination of research including recent and forthcoming publications

AChadburn – the article produced by Amanda Chadburn, Matt Leivers and Clive Ruggles on the Larkhill excavations will be published in the Journal of Skyscape Archaeology soon.

DD - the British museum is running a major exhibition about prehistoric Europe and Stonehenge features in the title. The exhibition will use items from Wiltshire museums and is a good opportunity to promote research on and dissemination of the WHS.

DD – Wiltshire Museum is carrying on with their series of Zoom lectures and are looking to do hold another Archaeology in Wiltshire conference next March.

ACarney – the CU, with help from Wiltshire Museum and Wessex Archaeology are planning a series of lectures for the WHS’s 35th Anniversary. These are likely to be starting around the 25th November. Members will be kept up to date with details as soon as plans are confirmed.

5. Other research opportunities (e.g., development-led archaeology, utilities)

- County Archaeology Update

There were no new updates from the last meeting.

6. Review of monitoring

- WHS Management Plan Review update

ACarney – a small steering group has been formed and they last met in July with the next meeting scheduled for October. This time the Management Plan will be an online version, however the exact form is to be confirmed and this will be influenced by cost. It will be shorter and more focused as it needs to be easier to navigate. The CU will need ASAHARG's help on 3 areas of the plan's update: the summary of the research that has happened within the framework of the current plan, an update of appendix K and a review of completed and ongoing actions achieved in the last period.

There was a request for any other information on previous Management Plan Actions undertaken and the outcomes. GS suggested that these should be available in the minutes of previous Steering Groups' minutes where they were recorded in the WHSCU reports.

CS volunteered to help the CU with the review of Actions.

ACTION: SA to send CS a list of ASAHARG actions from the Management Plan.

- WHS Condition survey and Setting Study update

ACarney – Nick Croxson provided an update for the Condition Survey and stated that there has been dialogue between 2 potential project partners; one has expressed a strong interest, but nothing has been confirmed. However, the deadline for a single tender may have now passed and so Historic England may have to re-tender for the project.

ACarney – Chris Blanford Associates have won the contract for the Setting Study. Successful site visits were carried out over the summer – this has helped unpick many of the issues. The draft of the methodology report is expected next week and CBA are continuing with data analysis alongside this.

- Scheduled Monuments Review

ACarney - Historic England are in process of writing a Listing Strategy and until this is complete and published later this year, they are not undertaking any further strategic project work.

7. Representative's report from/to WHS Partnership Panel and Steering Committees

CS – the panel met on the 16th of July and the main item on the agenda was the recruitment of a new independent chair. The interviews for the post will take place next week, where hopefully a new chair for the panel will be agreed upon. The panel also considered the outcome of the judicial review for the A303 road scheme and began to look forward to next year's World Heritage Committee meeting for which a State of Conservation report will be needed. This report is seen by panel members as a critical document in respect of the road scheme. The minutes from this meeting are not yet available.

CS reported that no Committee Meetings had taken place, but were due next week.

CS asked members to indicate what they would like to be taken forward to the next Steering Committee and Partnership Panel meetings as matters of report and concern.

CS reported that a WHS Governance Review is taking place.

AChadburn – an update on the excavations and fieldwork that have taken place this summer in the WHS.

CS raised concerns over issues on the Ridgeway. MPK stated that actions were being taken to ensure its protection and an update on the Ridgeway will be given at the next meeting by Neil Adam who is taking the lead for the Archaeology Service.

ACTION: NA to update members on the status of ridgeway at the next meeting of ASAHRG.

8. Future events and opportunities for site/exhibition/archive visits in 2021 and 2022

Nothing to report

ACTION: all members to circulate any future event or research opportunity to members as and when they find out.

9. Revolving Meeting Chairs

RO will chair the next meeting if available and by KW for the following. Members agreed to discuss the matter of chair further in the spring meeting.

10. AOB

HS – work on the lintels at Stonehenge will be starting next week and the work will be open to the public for viewing. This will be the first major intervention for some time but is a good opportunity to check the lintels' structure and stability, stop water from gathering and importantly repair any damage.

SM – Terry, Avebury's Druid and Keeper of the Stones has sadly passed away. He was a popular and supportive figure in the landscape of the WHS. There will be a 'commemorative biker ride-by' on September 17th.

WP – for the Wealth of Knowledge Project all research undertaken on Wiltshire Museum's archaeological collection over the last 10 years has been reviewed. This has allowed for several areas of research opportunities to be identified. The museum would like to see more work done on both the Roman and Mesolithic periods. If members have an idea of any research questions that could be relevant, then please get in touch.

ACTION: members to forward any relevant research questions to Wil Partridge.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place in January. The date will be selected from 14th/21st/28th according to the availability of Richard Osgood but will be published by mid-December.

The question of format was a matter of discussion, with various wishes and considerations to be taken into account.

- a. There is a strong wish to be able to return to face-to-face meetings
- b. Some people are still careful of meeting face to face
- c. There could be another set of regulations on meetings if the Covid infection numbers rise again
- d. The weather might be horrendous at that time of year
- e. As a result of the above the 3 Chairs will be investigating the possibilities of holding a hybrid meeting to cover all eventualities.

ACTION: GS to contact RO for availability on the 14th, 21st, 28th of January.

ACTION: SA to send invite to members once the date has been confirmed.