

Avebury & Stonehenge Archaeological & Historical Research Group

Friday 29th July 2022, 10am
Wiltshire Museum/ Zoom (hybrid meeting)

Draft Minutes

Attendees:

Sarah Askham (Minutes)	Colin Shell CS	Fritz Luth FL
SA	Matt Leivers ML	Jonathan Last JL
Katy Whitaker (Chair) KW	Brian Edwards BE	Roland Smith RS
Anne Carney AC	Kate Fielden KF	Dave Field DF
Melanie Pomeroy-	Alistair Barclay AB	Phil Harding PH
Kellinger MPK	Heather Sebire HS	Kerry Donaldson KD
Nick Snashall NS	Richard Osgood RO	Neil Adam NA
Amanda Chadburn ACh*	Gillian Swanton GS	
David Dawson DD	Jude Currivan JC	

*edited a second draft of the minutes

1. Apologies/Introductions/ Membership

Apologies:

Ben Chan	Dan Miles	Nick Baxter
Susan Greaney	Mark Bowden	Andrew David
Tim Darvill	Clive Ruggles	Ros Cleal
Briony Clifton	Sian Williams	Mike Allen
Jacqueline McKinley	Tim Harvard	Josh Pollard

Nominations for membership:

Roland Smith – Wiltshire Council, proposed by MPK, seconded by KW
Jess Thompson – University of Cambridge, proposed by JP, seconded by BE
Sophy Charlton – University of Oxford, proposed by BE, seconded by JP
Stephanie F Piper – University of York, proposed by BE, seconded by JP

Andrew Needham – University of York, proposed by BE, seconded by JP
Helen Goodchild – University of York, proposed by BE, seconded by JP

All agreed.

2. Minutes of last meeting & Matters arising

Amendments were made to items 6.1 and 7.

Minutes agreed.

Update on Item 6.2, Condition Survey (SA)

Wessex Archaeology have been appointed and the project design has gone for sign off with stakeholders. The survey will be a mix of desk-based assessment, field survey and UAV survey – the scope of UAV has yet to be decided and will be treated as a separate strand of the project. Volunteers will be used to carry out aspects for the work, with the intent to train them up and use in the future. Volunteer promotion and recruitment happening July/August with an initial ‘managing and undertaking’ workshop intended for August/September. Field survey training is scheduled from November 2022 to January 2023. A draft report is expected by March 2023 with the aim to have it finalised by June 2023.

3. Representative’s report to/ from WHS Steering Committees & WHS Partnership Panel (CS)

[Redacted: The minutes for this item were not agreed at the following meeting]

4. Monitoring the Research Framework (update)

No further updates.

5. Review of ASAHRG Terms of Reference and Officers

KW – the main reason for discussing this item is to manage succession planning as ASAHRG officers (chairs and representatives) are out of time – the cycles are detailed in the group’s ToR. This is due to the fact that COVID has hit the normal cycle of meetings over the last two years. The membership list also needs reviewing, and steps have been taken towards making sure the membership list is up to date. The group’s ToR reflect when the Avebury

research group became joint, and the world is now very different – there are many more ways to meet and share information, and the ToR of the group should reflect this. We will therefore need to review and refresh the ASAHRG ToR.

AChadburn volunteered to do an initial review of the Group's ToR, highlight what should be changed and bring this as a proposal to the group. MPK offered to help.

All members agreed to a review of the Group's ToR and agreed that Amanda should start the initial revision process.

For items 5.1 and 5.2 (see below) it was agreed that there would be a discussion at this meeting, but nothing will be ratified, however a list of proposed names for officers will go to the wider ASAHRG membership with a second call for nominations (members name with proposer and seconder).

5.1. Chairs of ASAHRG (ToR Procedure E)

Chairs reviewed every 3 years with expectation of change. KW indicated that she wanted to step down.

Neil Adam was nominated by MPK and seconded by KW.

However, it was agreed that we could not move forward with new Chairs until the membership list was accurate and all members had been contacted – see 5.2 below.

5.2. ASAHRG Representatives (ToR Procedure D)

[Redacted: The minutes for this item were not agreed at the following meeting]

5.3 Membership (ToR Procedure B)

[Redacted: The minutes for this item were not agreed at the following meeting]

6. Current Archaeological & Historical Research

David Dawson – Reflections on the British Museum Exhibition, The World of Stonehenge

Please see presentation slides, circulated.

It was agreed that CS would liaise with DD to write a letter of appreciation to the director of the British Museum on behalf of ASAHRG, indicating how happy the Group were with the exhibition and that Wiltshire artefacts were part of this major exhibition.

Colin Shell – White Hill, West Overton, Project: further research and implications

Presentation Slides Requested.

Katy Whitaker – Post Medieval Sarsen Stone Quarrying

Please see presentation slides, circulated.

7. Review of Current Opportunities for Dissemination of Research (including recent and forthcoming publications)

MPK – the Swindon conference will be happening on the 12th of November in honour of Bernard Phillips. Tickets will be £22 including lunch and can be purchased via the STEAM Museum website: [STEAM - Museum of the Great Western Railway Roman Swindon and Environs Conference in honour of Bernard Phillips - STEAM - Museum of the Great Western Railway](#)

CS mentioned the Bournemouth Pitt Rivers lecture by Chris Evans on Tuesday, 25 October 2022, at 18:30, might be of interest to members:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sixth-pitt-rivers-lecture-excavation-as-experiment-by-christopher-evans-tickets-312789480757>

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

DD – Mik Markham will be doing a photographic survey of stone axes for the South West Implement Petrology Group.

9. Review of WHS monitoring

9.1. WHS Management Plan Review update

9.2. WHS Setting Study update

9.3. UNESCO Periodic Reporting

ACarney to provide written update for circulation to the group as the meeting had over-run.

10. Future events and opportunities

CS – ASAHRG's 30th anniversary in 2023 could be celebrated with a possible conference. The subject could be a comparison between local World Heritage Sites and their interactions. This will need organising and volunteers are needed to help coordinate. It could happen at Marlborough College in the summer of 2023. This year is also the 50th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention.

If members wish to help volunteer organize a 30th anniversary conference, then please contact Colin Shell.

11. AOB

NS – the permanent archaeology exhibition in the NT's Great Barn at Avebury is now closed. The barn is now in use as a focus space for visitor engagement and will be showing the film 'Beyond the Stones' for the 35th anniversary.

12. Date of next meeting

Friday 21st October 2022, location: Wiltshire Museum, Devizes.