



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Stonehenge, Avebury
and Associated Sites
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ASAHRG

10.30 am Friday, 10th January 2020

Education Room, Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre

Draft Notes

1. Apologies

Steve Marshall
Sian Williams
Dan Miles
Rachel Foster
Jonathan Last
Martin Papworth

David Roberts
Olaf Bayer
David Andrew
Heather Sebire
Ian Barnes
Nicola Snashall
Jacqueline McKinley

Present

Sarah Askham (notes)
Sarah Simmonds
Brian Edwards
Kate Fielden
Phil Harding
Matt Levers
Martin Barber
Nick Baxter
Alistair Barclay
Amanda Chadburn
Jude Currivan

Bruce Eagles
Briony Clifton
Dave Sabin
Kerry Donaldson
Josh Pollard
Mike Allen
Richard Osgood (chair)
Gill Swanton
Ben Chan
Ros Cleal
Colin Shell
Bruce Edwards



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Tom Sunley is now a new member of ASAHRG proposed by Colin Shell and seconded by Gill Swanton. He sent his apologies for the meeting but is happy to be a member. TS is Historic Environment Record Date Manager and sits within the Archaeology Service at Wiltshire Council.

2. Minutes and Matters arising

- 2.1. Report to be given by Dan Miles (not present) now moved to the next meeting in May.
- 2.2. SS stated that there have been no requests for the draft Setting Study brief and encouraged members ask if they wanted a copy. Funding for the project has not yet been secured so comments and feedback on the brief are still being accepted.

Action: Email SS if an electronic copy if you'd like a copy of the Setting Study brief. Please send any comments/ feedback to SS.

- 1.1. Not yet heard form Lisa Brown/ Wessex Partnership regarding potential for Salisbury Museum to host some ASARGH meetings.

Action: SA to Contact LB and find out if Salisbury Museum might be willing to host a meeting.

2. Monitoring of the Research Framework

- 2.1. Approach to updating the framework to be proposed by Dan Miles. This will now be at the next ASARGH meeting. This requires a small working group to be set up. **SS** stated that it may be possible to go to the A303 benefits forum to identify funds, therefore it could be timely to develop an approach to this framework.

Action: DM to set up a small working group with the WHSCU to review identify an approach to updating the Research Agenda.

3. Current archaeological & historical research

- 3.1. *Living with Monuments: Results Summer 2019 and Plans for 2020*



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Josh Pollard presented the project. Please see the presentation slides attached.

Comments:

- MPK asked how the results can be used to help manage monuments in the future and if there was any evidence on the preservation of the archaeology? MA stated that there was generally enough soil depth for archaeology to be protected, however ploughing in the area could damage deposits in some areas where the soil is thinner. MA stated that characterising the area to see if it is part of the complex and consideration for future scheduling is important. A geophysical survey would assist.

3.2. *Augering Results and Landuse Analysis*

Mike Allen presented. Please see the summary attached.

3.3. *Woodhenge Dating*

Amanda Chadburn Presented the work.

Summary

This project, which looks at the astronomical alignments of monuments around Stonehenge, will be published in 2020-21 by Liverpool University.

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

- 4.1. Houses of Death by Alistair Barclay, David Field and Jim Leary. Leaflet handed out at the meeting.
- 4.2. **RO** informed that *A Prehistoric Burial Mound and Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Barrow Clump, Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire: English Heritage and Operation Nightingale excavations 2003-14* (Wessex Archaeology Monograph) came out earlier this week.

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

- 5.1. Wiltshire Archaeology Day is on the 22nd March - the programme has been circulated.
- 5.2. **MPK** gave a County Archaeology update and asked for help regarding Devil's Den. There are records of previous interventions which can be viewed as events on the HER,

however there is no record of work between 1950 to 1961. The report/ published record of Stuart Piggott's work can't be found and no one else has come across the record. **KF** suggested to look at the Ashmolean Museum archive. **JP** suggested to look through back issues of WAM for fieldwork notes. **GS** suggested to check notebooks held at Devizes museum.

MPK stated that further GPR work on the site would be useful even though it is outside of the WHS. **BE** stated that a note was being prepared on Devil's Den and will send it to **MPK**.

Action: BE to send note on Devil's Den to MPK.

6. Review of monitoring (e.g. Condition Surveys, Management Plan)

6.1. **SS** is undertaking a review of delivery of the WHSMP actions. Most ASARGH actions from the Management Plan are ongoing, however a significant action is the scheduling review for which ASARGH is a key partner. Historic England has been consulted on the approach. They prioritise monuments at risk and thematic scheduling. A convincing justification will need to be made due the very limited nature of resources. An initial approach with an outline report should be submitted for HE to offer advice on what is worth working up into a comprehensive report for review. A small working group should be established.

MA stated that his work so far shows that buried soil extends beyond the current scheduling at Avebury. This area could potentially be more important than the bank because it contains lithic archaeology. The information coming from this project will help with the scheduling review.

AC stated that a 2m buffer zone should be present for all scheduled monuments from 1990 onwards. **RD** stated that some descriptions and scheduling areas are inaccurate and therefore monuments are at risk. **CS** added that definitions from early scheduling need looking at because this may lead to a revision of boundaries and that they should be downloadable as a GIS layer. **GS** added that as the mapping of the scheduled monument on her land is inaccurate, then it could be difficult for landowners to understand the archaeology and therefore fully protect it.

Action: The Unit will be in touch with relevant members to establish a small working group. All to email SS/SA if you are interested in joining the group.

6.2. Another pertinent action for ASARGH is establishing links with other WHS's. (Action 131: Develop links with UK and international WHSs to share best practice. Develop reciprocal professional relationships with WHSs that have similar attributes of OUV and management challenges.) **SS** has recently returned from Japan where she went with English Heritage the Centre for Archaeology and Heritage at the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures. It was an excellent opportunity to form valuable links the Japanese Jomon stone Circle sites which will be nominated for inscription on the WHL in 2021. There are also opportunities to form links via the upcoming collaborative Jomon exhibition at Stonehenge. These themes tie into the current links forming between the UK and Japan in 2020 via the Japan-UK Season of Culture and the Olympics.

SS asked if there is an opportunity for someone to work alongside ASARGH members, potentially **JP** or **BC**. **BC** stated that there is already a basis for links to Japan through a previous student that worked with them and they could build on this.

6.3. Historic England will take the lead on the WHS Condition Survey. Nick Croxson has been looking at the previous surveys that are repeated every decade. The last survey undertaken was the first time that methodologies across both parts of the WHS were aligned. It is important to retain this baseline methodology to provide a meaningful review.

Action: Project Board to continue work to move forward with the Condition Survey.

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

7.1. CS – there will be a meeting next month of the WHS Trust Transition Project Board which is looking at the future of the WHCU with support from the NHLF Resilient Heritage Fund. It is unknown what the final structure of the Unit will be; the Unit's structure and responsibilities may change.

7.2. CS reported on the B4003 and West Kennet Avenue which came up at the Avebury WHS Steering Committee. Even though an agreed methodology for sandbag repairs is in place this has still not been carried out. There is ongoing damage to the verges at the side of the road from traffic: this means damage to archaeology. CS suggested ASARGH should agree to support an Experimental Traffic Order to make the B4003 one way in the short term to prevent damage if the road it not going to be closed to traffic.

SS suggested this situation is a complex problem and should be on the agenda for the next WHS Partnership Panel.

It was agreed **CS** as **ASAHRG** representative should write a letter on behalf of the group to emphasise the need to prioritise repair and action to prevent further damage.

- **AC** suggested that **ASARGH** should highlight the issues around the B4003 to the Historic England Heritage at Risk team as the bad weather and soft ground could exacerbate problems. **MPK** suggested that an urgent assessment of the entire roads condition should be carried out, with the Historic England HAR team taking the lead.
- **SS** reported that **HE** had previously been involved in site visits, the methodology for repair and scheme for closure to motorised traffic in the WHS Transport Strategy. The **WHSCU**, **NT** and **HE** have worked with Highways to design the methodology for interim repair. Funding is now required from Wiltshire to undertake the work. funding is needed.

Action: CS to write a letter to Wiltshire Council expressing concern over erosion to verges at the side of the B4003 emphasising the need to prioritise action to prevent ongoing damage to West Kennet Avenue. Include need to prioritise funding and implementation of the repair of verges including the layby using the agreed methodology.

8. Opportunities for site/exhibition/archive visits in 2020

8.1. **JP** will welcome visits to the excavation.

9. Revolving Meeting Chairs/Convenors

N/A

10. AOB

10.1. Historic England is putting out an invitation to tender for a short contract looking at research in the higher education sector. **CS** will forward the link to all that are interested.

10.2. The next Overton Down experimental earthwork review is due in 2024, **GS** asked if anyone can contribute, they let her know.



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- 10.3. **GS** reported on a situation regarding camping on the Ridgeway during and after solstice events. Dealing with encampment is a Wiltshire Council and Police matter.
- 10.4. **KF** inquired about the availability of transcripts for the audio recordings of the A303 meetings by Highways. They do not appear to be available.
- 10.5. There is an increased concern over metal detecting rallies held in the area. Not in the WHS. This is a growing problem as commercial operators are in some cases getting LO permission and this has the potential to cause damage to many non-designated sites. **MPK** requested that if anyone should see this on any sensitive areas then to let the Council know so that they can deal with the issue. AC suggested that a letter should be written to Sarah Poppy at Historic England, asking her to ensure metal detecting regulations are emphasised in the design of any forthcoming environmental stewardship schemes.

Action: AC to talk to Sarah Poppy about maintaining metal detecting regulation in the design of future environmental stewardship schemes.

1. Date and venue of next meeting

Friday 15th May 2020