

# Minutes

# A303 Stonehenge – Amesbury to Berwick Down

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Scientific Committee</b>		
<b>Date:</b>	16 November 2017	<b>Time:</b>	10:30 – 16:30
<b>Location:</b>	Holiday Inn, Solstice Park, Amesbury, Wiltshire SP4 7SQ		

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## Attendees:

### Scientific Committee

Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe  
Dr Mike Allen (MA)  
Dr Andrew Fitzpatrick  
Dr David Fields  
Professor Clive Ruggles  
Julian Richards  
Dr Colin Shell

### HMAG

Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (MPK) (Wiltshire Council)  
Clare King (Wiltshire Council)  
Phil McMahon (Historic England)  
Heather Sebire (English Heritage)  
Nicola Snashall (National Trust)

### Secretariat

Leslie Smith (Highways England)

### Presenters

Neil Macnab (AmW)  
Chris Moore (AmW) (CM)

### Apologies

Professor Nicky Milner  
Professor Mike Parker Pearson  
Professor Tim Darvill

Dr Josh Pollard  
Professor Vince Gaffney  
Professor Oliver Craig  
Mike Pitts

**Chair:** Sir Barry Cunliffe

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Agenda Item	Action
<b>Welcome</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No comments on the minutes from the previous meeting</li></ul>	
<b>Presentation and Discussion around the website for the Scientific Committee</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Presentation by MPK: why the website was created, the website layout and the ownership of the website.</li><li>Confirmation that the designer, Chris Franklin, is independent from Highways England, HMAG and the Scientific Committee.</li><li>A discussion was held over the 'members only area' – an aura of secrecy is not desirable – a description of what is held in the area should be added to the home page.</li><li>Feedback for the website to be sent to MPK by email.</li><li>The website will be live before the next Scientific Committee meeting.</li><li>Note from Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger:</li></ul> <p>We would be grateful if members of the Committee could open the following link and have a look at the draft web site. <a href="http://a303scientificcommittee.org.uk/">http://a303scientificcommittee.org.uk/</a> The site is not live yet so you will need to enter the <u>Username</u>: a303 and <u>Password</u>: committee members. We hope to go live with the web site when we have received feedback from the Committee, hopefully by the end of the year at the latest. Can you please let us know: what you think and any areas for improvement, any additional photos or images you would like included, and most importantly a little biography (max 100 words) of yourselves with a photo. Could you please also confirm what title you would like to be used on the web site e.g. Dr, Prof etc. Please can you pass all feedback and information to go onto the web site by 15<sup>th</sup> December directly to <a href="mailto:melanie.pomeroy-kellinger@wiltshire.gov.uk">melanie.pomeroy-kellinger@wiltshire.gov.uk</a></p>	

<b>Tour of the Landscape</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AThe Eastern and Western Portal locations were viewed from NT land</li> <li>• The topography and route were discussed at each location in relation to the principal monument groups.</li> <li>• The potential visibility of the portals and approach cutting was discussed.</li> <li>• The potential for colluvium to be present at the portal locations was also discussed.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	
<b>Presentation on the Evaluation Strategy by AmW</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presented the provisional Red Line Boundary (RLB) - as well as the road line itself the boundary includes possible compound areas.</li> <li>• Confirmation that not all land within the RLB will be required for construction.</li> <li>• CM pointed out where the landscape tour took place in regards to the RLB.</li> <li>• The Strategy sets out a series of principles for evaluation based on those published in the WHS Management Plan, reviews the extent, scope and robustness of previous surveys/evaluation along the route, and proposes a programme of further evaluations to augment the results of previous work.</li> <li>• CM presented previous surveys in the RLB relating to the 2004 scheme as well as the current Scheme – areas within the WHS where further survey will be required will be the western portal and approaches, the eastern portal and approaches. Outside the WHS land at Longbarrow and for junction improvement at Rollestone Corner will also need evaluating. Land at Countess East has been subject to extensive survey and additional survey may not be necessary here.</li> <li>• The location and potential changes to Blick Mead were also discussed; MA circulated some information on the sequence in the Avon floodplain here, which included peat deposits.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• The Evaluation Strategy will be circulated to the Committee for comment. Digital copies requested when available as well as hard copies.</li> </ul>	
<b>Presentation on the Overarching WSI by AmW</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose and scope of the OWSI was explained – together with the Archaeological Evaluation Strategy this forms a framework for site-specific WSIs (SSWSIs) that will detail the known archaeological context, relevant research questions (with reference to the published WHS research framework) and specific objectives of each package of evaluation.</li> <li>• The OWSI will also be circulated to the Committee for comment.</li> <li>• MA to feed in change of interpretation of the palaeoenvironment – to send to AmW but cc in the Scientific Committee.</li> <li>• SSWSIs for sections of the Scheme within the WHS will be circulated to the Scientific Committee for comment.</li> <li>• CVs of excavation team to be circulated to HMAG as they need to be experienced in artefact recognition.</li> </ul>	
<b>Presentation on the Scoping HIA by AmW</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The HIA is a non-statutory document being prepared by AmW in line with the recommendations from ICOMOS.</li> <li>• An HIA scoping report is being prepared following the ICOMOS Guidance 2011.</li> <li>• Purpose of the HIA is to assess the impact of the Scheme on the OUV of the WHS – this is distinct from the statutory Environmental Impact Assessment but the results will be fed into the Environmental Statement.</li> </ul>	

## Minutes

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Design team are developing the design, keeping heritage at the forefront of the minds of all those working on and inputting to the design. HMAG members also attend design team meetings and input to the design as it is being developed. The design is being developed to minimise adverse impacts on the OUV of the WHS. The Scheme will remove the sight and sound of the existing A303 from the landscape and provide opportunities to reconnect the WHS landscape for public access.</li><li>• The impacts on the OUV of the WHS will be assessed against the 7 attributes set out in the WHS management plan, and the authenticity and integrity of the WHS. The attributes relate to the Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial and funerary monuments and associated sites. The relevance of artefact scatters as evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement is recognised.</li><li>• The HIA Scoping Report will be circulated to the Committee for comment once it has been agreed with HMAG, Highways England and DCMS.</li></ul>	
<b>AOB</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BC has received a copy of correspondence from Rachel Hosier with a 10 page letter ranging from asbestos to ordinance to druids to destruction of archaeology.</li><li>• A discussion was held over suspected damage to archaeology on Mrs Hosier's land.</li><li>• BC suggested that David Jacques should be invited to give a short presentation to the Committee to explain the importance of his excavations at Blick Mead.</li><li>• Plan to have the next Scientific Committee meeting in Birmingham or another location to facilitate attendance by all members in the second half of January.</li></ul>	