

Minutes

A303 Stonehenge – Amesbury to Berwick Down

Title:	Scientific Committee		
Date:	18 December 2018	Time:	11:00 – 14:00
Location:	Mace, 155 Moorgate, London, EC2M 6XB		

Attendees:

Scientific Committee

Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe
Professor Clive Ruggles
Dr Andrew Fitzpatrick
Dr Colin Shell
Professor Mike Parker Pearson
Dr David Field
Mike Pitts

HMAG

Dr Nicola Snashall (National Trust)
Dr Heather Sebire (English Heritage)
Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Wiltshire Council)

HE/AmW

Andrew Clark (Highways England)
Chris Moore (AmW)
Jeremy Damrel (AmW)

Wessex Archaeology

Dr Matt Leivers

Apologies

Professor Nicky Milner
Professor Oliver Craig
Dr Mike Allen
Professor Tim Darvill
Professor Josh Pollard
Professor Vince Gaffney

Phil McMahon (Historic England)
Neil Macnab (AmW)

Chair: Sir Barry Cunliffe

Agenda Item	Action
Welcome and Apologies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Noted Apologies received from Members.	
Minutes and Actions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minutes agreed by all present.	
Matters Arising	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Blick Mead Press Interest. <p>Following press reports about drilling at Blick Mead Sir Barry Cunliffe emailed David Jacques to find out what had gone wrong. David Jacques provided a selection of emails to Barry in confidence, Barry provided a summary of the essential points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">16th April 2018, Meeting Held between Highways England, David Jacques, Tony Brown, and Historic England, at which it was agreed that Highways England would undertake monitoring upon completion of an Historic England Tiered assessment.25th May 2018, emails between David Jacques and Chris Moore – Confirming that monitoring would be for a period of at least 12 months.14th September 2018, Email from Tracey Merritt (landowners Solicitor) to Highways England, response from Highways England Correspondence Officer sent on October 2nd.2nd October 2018, David Jacques emailed Phil McMahon and Tony Brown asking why monitoring had not begun, no reply was received.2nd November 2018, Jane Sladen (Highways England) emailed David Jacques saying monitoring equipment would be installed on site in November and provided locations of monitoring points.	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7th November 2018, Jack Parris (Highways England) told David Jacques that monitoring would be installed the following week – (which did not happen due to access). ○ 8th November 2018, Landowner emailed Jack Parris, requesting that David Jacques be totally involved in terms of location of monitoring equipment. ○ 26th November 2018, Highways England (Aecom) start works on site for two days, installing 5 monitoring points. Landowner and David Jacques requests works to stop, work is halted on site. David Jacques meeting. agreed with Highways England. <p>Barry noted that it was unfortunate that this occurred, why was David Jacques not invited to site to agree the siting of boreholes at the time of installation?</p> <p>Andrew Clark confirmed that it was an unfortunate series of events leading to this occurring. The issue boils down to a miss-communication between informing David Jacques of the borehole locations and not inviting him to observe the works. Andrew confirmed that he would be meeting David Jacques on site on the 21st December to agree a way forward for further monitoring points.</p> <p>Highways England was operating with the best intentions to make progress having received earlier criticism of not advancing the works. It should also be noted that Highways England placed wooden stakes on site on the 22nd August 2018, to mark potential boreholes, and it would have been very obvious to the Blick Mead team throughout their dig during October 2018.</p> <p>Chris Moore further presented slides detailing the known location for the Blick Mead trenches and the borehole locations as installed, these show that the boreholes have not been installed in any excavated trench. (Slides attached)</p> <p>In addition, it was explained that the method of installation of the boreholes involved an initial hand dug section, down to a depth of up to 1.2m during which the Mesolithic Horizon was not encountered. The extracted cores from the monitoring tube installation did not reveal any evidence of the Mesolithic layer.</p>	
<p>Presentation by AmW and Wessex on the Evaluation and following Discussion – Attached slide pack</p>	
<p>Chris Moore presented the DCO process and explained the importance of Relevant Representations. He encouraged the committee members to make relevant representations so that the Examination can focus in on key issues that the committee may have.</p> <p>Questions were raised with regards to timing of the process, timings of the works, and how works (including temporary works) would be managed on site.</p> <p>Response was given relating to the approach to documentation and how these are worked up prior to and during examination, but then how they are bound to the DCO and as such they must be delivered upon.</p> <p>Matt Leivers of Wessex Archaeology then provided a thorough update on the completed evaluation across the site, highlighting results of finds, including burials, cremations, pottery and numerous flints both worked and burnt.</p> <p>There was discussion about the relevance of some of the finds and their relationship to Blick Mead and associated sites.</p> <p>Barry asked whether the committee members, in retrospect, considered the methodology to be appropriate and to have achieved the desired outcome? Conclusion was that it was a valuable approach (specifically the test pitting for ploughzone finds)</p>	

Minutes

A303 Stonehenge – Amesbury to Berwick Down

<p>Points made with regards to the potential to correlate lithics to identified features, useful form of evidence even when unrelated to features. Statement made on the usefulness of the square trenches within the approach to help identify discrete features. Also noting the success of the Geophysics stage at strongly identifying the features in the ground.</p> <p>Question was raised on the finds of ancient crops, some were identified and sampled but were shown to be intrusive and not evidential.</p>	
AOB	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tony Brown sent Barry a note on the hydrological importance for Blick Mead appended to these minutes for information.	

Next Meeting: Doodle Poll to be set up during January to look at dates at the end of February and early April. Meeting will focus on the Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (DAMS).