

## Minutes

## A303 Stonehenge – Amesbury to Berwick Down

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Scientific Committee</b>		
<b>Date:</b>	17 April 2019	<b>Time:</b>	11:00 – 14:00
<b>Location:</b>	Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre Cocklebury Road, Chippenham, SN15 3QN.		

### Invited Attendees:

#### **Scientific Committee**

Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe  
Dr Andrew Fitzpatrick  
Dr David Field  
Mike Pitts  
Dr Colin Shell  
Professor Vince Gaffney  
Professor Josh Pollard

#### **HMAG**

Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Wiltshire Council)  
Dr Nicola Snashall (National Trust)  
Dr Helen Woodhouse (Historic England)  
Dr Heather Sebire (English Heritage)  
Rachel Foster (Wiltshire Council)

#### **Highways England**

Jim Hunter (Highways England)  
Chris Moore (AmW)  
Annette Roe (AmW)  
Dr Matt Leivers (Wessex Archaeology)

**Chair:** Sir Barry Cunliffe

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1. Welcome and Apologies</b> Apologies were received from the following members: Professor Mike Parker Pearson Professor Nicky Milner Professor Oliver Craig Professor Tim Darvill Professor Clive Ruggles Dr Mike Allen Andrew Clark (Highways England) Neil Macnab (AmW) Hayley McParland (Historic England)	
<b>2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Actions</b> Minutes accepted by all present	
<b>3. Matters Arising</b> None	
<b>4. Update on DCO process and Examination</b> Presentation by AmW Preliminary issues published by PINS in R.6 letter. Preliminary meeting held 2 <sup>nd</sup> April, examination now runs to 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2019. Examination timetable published in R.8 letter:	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accompanied Site Inspection scheduled for 21st May</li> <li>• Open Floor hearings scheduled for 22nd–23rd May</li> <li>• Issue-specific hearings scheduled for 4th–7th June and 11–14th June</li> <li>• Further hearings (if required) scheduled for 26th–30th August</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Recent Documents issued – Evaluation Reports and DAMS</b></p> <p>11 archaeological evaluation and geophysical survey reports were submitted to the Examination on 12th April. These will be available through the PINS website.</p> <p>Working Draft of the DAMS circulated to the meeting – ahead of the submission of a Draft for Examination at deadline 2 (3rd May)</p>	
<p><b>6. Presentation by Wessex Archaeology on Flint and Tree Hollow Distributions</b></p> <p>Presentation reviewed flint and tree hollow distributions across the Scheme and outlined proposal for further sampling of ploughzone artefact content in 5 areas. Discussion raised a number of comments on the approach to lithic distributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– areas of knapped material are culturally significant. They result from past activity which should be investigated.</li> <li>– 1% test pit sample from evaluation should be enhanced by further investigation of a greater %</li> <li>– need to address research questions to the flint scatters in relation to other material</li> <li>– why not 100% sampling of potential Beaker settlement at western portal.</li> <li>– if not to be 100% sampled then consider applying Dutch practice of removal of topsoil m<sup>2</sup> by m<sup>2</sup> and archiving it (i.e. long term storage).</li> <li>– low density blade material might mean Early Neolithic activity – if so, low density might not be insignificant.</li> <li>– the committee would expect 100% excavation of subsurface features – debate concerns topsoil and extent to which it should be sampled.</li> </ul> <p>Wessex Archaeology invited members to view lithic material assemblage at their offices in Salisbury. Action: Highways England to circulate dates when this can be accommodated. <i>[Post Meeting Note: Availability of May 16<sup>th</sup> has been given]</i></p> <p>Presentation to be circulated with minutes of this meeting, for information.</p>	<p><b>HighE</b></p> <p><b>AmW</b></p>
<p><b>7. Draft Archaeological Mitigation Strategy</b></p> <p>Presentation of draft DAMS by AmW.</p> <p>Members comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– concern that final DAMS principle (re. archaeological remains of OUV) might be misread</li> <li>– a strategy for digital recording should be included</li> <li>– acknowledged that Highways England have taken huge amounts of care in the preparation of the project: unprecedented on any road project in his experience.</li> </ul> <p>Further comments invited in writing – comments received by 24<sup>th</sup> April could be considered in time for submission of draft DAMS for examination, comments received after this can be considered during later development of the DAMS.</p> <p>Request that all members copy all in on their suggestions for research questions.</p>	

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<p>A further SC meeting would be helpful before finalisation of DAMS, this would likely be in July. Examination timetable to be circulated with relevant deadlines highlighted with regard to provision of members' comments and timing of further meeting.</p>	<b>HighE</b>
<p><b>8. Discussion of Mike Parker Pearson's proposals for mitigation works</b> This will be picked up at the next meeting</p>	
<p><b>9. Update on Blick Mead</b> The Chair has received copies of correspondence from David Jacques and Andrew Clark (Highways England). Evidently there has been a breakdown of communications between the parties: The Blick Mead Project considers that further monitoring was promised, Highways England does not. – 5 water monitoring meters were installed around the site in November. – water monitoring data has been submitted to the Examination – requested that Highways England presents this data to the committee, explaining why were the meters put where they were, what are the results and what would additional monitoring points add (or not) re the hydrogeology? It was agreed that members of the Blick Mead Project be invited to attend for part of the next SC meeting to bring members up to date. Highways England /AmW specialist also to be invited.</p>	<b>HighE</b>
<p><b>10. AOB</b> – Kate Fielden has sent a copy of her response to Historic England's comments on her paper on OUV to the Chair. The chair asked if it could be submitted to the SC via the secretary, Dr Fielden said she preferred to send it herself. Not all members have yet received it. – concern that Iron Age/Roman remains could be affected at the Parsonage Down excavated material deposition area. This has been noted that the area has been appropriately surveyed, and confirmed that the fill area has been designed with preservation in mind and mitigation proposals outlined in the draft DAMS, which would be developed further in consultation with WCAS. – at the Preliminary Meeting, counsel for Highways England stated that the outstanding evaluation reports had been delayed because the Scientific Committee meeting scheduled for 3 March was not quorate. Could this please be clarified? Request that Highways England add in the record from the Preliminary Hearing to these minutes meeting and clarify to the Inspector. <i>[Post Meeting Note – PINs has yet to publish the record, this will be circulated when complete.]</i></p>	<b>HighE</b>
<p><b>11. Date of next meeting</b> To be confirmed.</p>	