

MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

24 September 2013

Update to Marlborough Area Board concerning changes to Avebury World Heritage Site's management structure.

1. I have an update regarding the fact that the Avebury WHS Management Plan will now be a joint plan with Stonehenge – the other half of the WHS. This will be some delay in production of the final plan as Stonehenge needs to undergo the review process already completed at Avebury. There will be an opportunity to comment on the draft joint management plan next year. I can come along to a meeting of the Community Area Board then. The rationale:

The WHS Management Plan project board identified that a joint plan would deliver a number of important benefits:

- Delivering a more coordinated approach to management for a serial WHS with a single SOUV as advised by UNESCO
- Strengthening the identity of the WHS to assist in raising awareness, understanding and support from partners, other organisations and the wider public
- Providing a succinct and coherent point of reference for organisations dealing with both Stonehenge and Avebury such as Wiltshire Council and the National Trust; aligning policies where appropriate and removing repetition
- Reflecting recently produced effective joint WHS documents: WHS Condition Survey; WHS Research Framework and WHS Woodland Strategy
- Providing a single document with an overarching element that would assist the WHS Partnership Panel and single coordination unit working across the WHS as proposed in the Governance Review
- Making the best use of limited plan making resources

Key Point:

The Project Board agreed that a combined document should reflect the overarching elements of the WHS such as its single Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and shared attributes, issues, objectives and joint projects. It would also need to explicitly recognise and articulate the differences and individual character of both Stonehenge and Avebury and include site specific issues, objectives and actions

2. Following a recent governance review we are establishing a new WHS Partnership Panel in addition to the two existing Avebury and Stonehenge Steering Committees. This WHS Partnership Panel will provide greater coordination between Stonehenge and Avebury and represent the WHS as a whole. We are in the process of recruiting an independent chair for the group.
3. We have a new chair for the Avebury WHS Steering Committee announced this week. It is Andrew Williamson; the Chair of Avebury Parish Council. He is taking over from Andrew Vines the Director of Planning for English Heritage in the South West who will move onto the WHS Partnership Panel.

I have also attached the diagram of the new governance structure for the WHS.

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Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site

Governance Structure

