

Minutes
A303 Stonehenge – Amesbury to Berwick Down

Title:	Scientific Committee		
Date:	04 November 2022	Time:	10:00 – 12:00
		Location:	Zoom Meeting

Invited Attendees:
Scientific Committee

Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe
 Dr Andrew Fitzpatrick
 Dr David Field
 Mike Pitts
 Dr Colin Shell
 Professor Mike Parker Pearson
 Professor Nicky Milner
 Professor Oliver Craig
 Dr Richard Madgwick
 Professor Martin Bell
 Professor Tim Darvill

HMAG

Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Wiltshire Council)
 Dr Nicola Snashall (National Trust)
 Andrew Burn (Historic England)
 Dr Hayley McParland (Historic England)
 Dr Heather Sebire (English Heritage)

National Highways

Andrew Clark (National Highways)
 Will Miller (National Highways)
 Neil Macnab (AmW)
 Craig Smith (AmW)
 Chris Moore (AmW)
 Andy Crockett (WAL)
 Clare King (WAL)
 Josh Williams (Costain Mott MacDonald)
 Abi Tompkins (Costain Mott MacDonald)

Chair: Sir Barry Cunliffe

Agenda Item	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Welcome Apologies were received from the following members: Professor Clive Ruggles, Professor Vince Gaffney, Dr Mike Allen, Professor Josh Pollard, Chris Evans.</p> <p>Dr Matt Leivers from Wessex Archaeology was also unable to attend.</p>	
<p>2. Conflicts of Interest All members were reminded that the contents of Scientific Committee meetings are confidential. This is in keeping with both the Nolan Principles and Chatham House Rules which are referenced in the Scientific Committee Terms of Reference (available on the website).</p> <p>Documentation prepared by the project team is often shared prior to being finalised and as such will not have undergone quality assurance procedures. If access to data or reports is required, then the project team should be approached and they will endeavour to supply such material.</p>	All
<p>3. Update on Progress <u>Delivery Assurance Partner</u></p>	

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<p>The Delivery Assurance Partner contract to support the development and delivery of the A303 Stonehenge project has been awarded to Costain Mott MacDonald and they are currently in the process of mobilising their team. The involvement of the consultant team from AECOM mace WSP (AmW) will gradually be reduced as tasks are handed over.</p> <p>Josh & Abi from Costain Mott MacDonald introduced themselves to the meeting.</p> <p><u>Main Works contract</u></p> <p>The contract for the Main Works phase has been awarded to MORE JV. Currently the contract is not costing anything ensuring value for money for the taxpayer. Once the outcome of the DCO redetermination is known MORE JV will be instructed accordingly.</p> <p>If the scheme does not progress, there is a discussion regarding access to data and reports that have been produced as part of the development on the scheme. Members expressed strong views as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Archaeological reports on fieldwork which are not complete at the time of a decision not to proceed must be completed and archived. 2. A synthetic publication should be produced so that any survey results and other archaeological data are in the public domain. <p>National Highways to consider.</p> <p><u>DCO & programme</u></p> <p>The re-determination of the Development Consent Order is still ongoing. The latest round of consultation closed at the end of September and was published on the Planning Inspectorate website on 14th October 2022. There is no formal process or timescales, but we anticipate the next step will be an announcement of the Secretary of State for Transport's (SST) decision in the coming months. Updates can be found on the following website: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a303-stonehenge/?ipcsection=docs</p> <p><u>ICOMOS report</u></p> <p>Following the UNESCO / ICOMOS / ICCROM Advisory Mission, which took place between 19 and 21 April 2022, their report was uploaded to the Planning Inspectorate website on the 12th August. National Highways then provided a response, as requested by the SST, before the SST requested a response on the Advisory Mission's report and National Highways' response by Interested Parties.</p>	AC
<p>4. DCO Overview</p> <p>Craig Smith provided an overview of the Development Consent Order process:</p>	

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Once made, a DCO is subject to DCO Requirements that secure the submission and agreement of additional detailed documentation relating to the project. In this case the determining authority for applications to discharge requirements will vary. Most requirements are due to be discharged by the SST, whereas heritage documents under Requirement 4 will be discharged by Wiltshire Council.

The DCO decision was quashed by the High Court (30/07/2021). The SST is currently in the process of re-determining the DCO. There is no statutory process or timeframe for re-determination of a DCO application. This means the SST could make the decision at any time.

When a DCO is re-determined it can be the same as the original DCO, or the SST can make changes. However, at this stage there is no reason to suggest that there would be any significant changes to the wording of the DCO.

Alongside the DCO re-determination process, National Highways has continued to work with HMAG to develop the suite of archaeological documents in draft form in advance of a DCO being re-determined. The intention being that these documents can be used to discharge DCO requirements following re-determination.

The DCO secures the following documents:

- DAMS (Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy) - Implementation is secured by a Requirement within the DCO and it is also a requirement of the OEMP.
- OEMP (Outline Environmental Management Plan) - Captures environmental mitigation measures and includes a Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments which includes the preparation of documentation secured by the DCO Requirements.

The following documents are secured through the DCO requirements:

- PW CEMPs (Preliminary Works Construction Environmental Management Plans) – Prepared by different contractors undertaking the preliminary works. They cross-reference the archaeological documents below. The SoS is the determining authority for these documents.
- HMP (Heritage Management Plan) – One document to cover the entire scheme has been prepared and HMAG have been consulted. It aims to ensure the historic environment is protected in a consistent and integrated manner.
- AMS (Archaeological Method Statement) – There are 15 AMS documents planned but only nine have been drafted and HMAG consulted. These documents expand upon the methods by which heritage will be protected during the execution of tasks.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SSWSI (Site Specific Written Scheme of Investigation) – There are currently 24 SSWSI documents planned but not all have been progressed yet. These expand on the requirements as set out in the DAMS and cover all aspects of archaeological fieldwork in specific areas ('Sites') of the Scheme. <p>Wiltshire Council is the determining authority for the HMP, AMS, and SSWSI. The consultation process for these documents is set out in the DAMS.</p>	
<p>5. Documentation Update</p> <p>Clare King provided an update on the development of archaeological documentation for the scheme:</p> <p>The outcomes of the previous SSWSI Area D workshop were considered, following on from the presentation at the last meeting, with a further discussion of the communication pathways and discussions that are developing prior to work commencing on site.</p> <p>There was consideration of what was 'standard site processes' (which included adaptations to approaches covered by the SSWSI and Specialist Strategies, with specific triggers), and what was covered by a formal Iterative Process and required agreement prior to implementation.</p> <p>The procedures for ensuring that communication and cooperation, along with a formal approvals process, to ensure that decisions were timely (but included time to consider and discuss), were discussed.</p>	
<p>6. Scientific Committee membership</p> <p>Members are encouraged to consider potential gaps in expertise in the current Scientific Committee so that the membership can be expanded as required. A deadline of Friday 18th November 2022 was set for members to contact the Chair on this matter. The project team can then invite potential new members as directed.</p>	All
<p>7. Website Update</p> <p>The website was previously hosted and managed by an external contractor, but that arrangement has come to an end and the website has transferred to the project team. The look and feel of the website has been updated, although there is some minor formatting work still to do. The website address is as follows: https://www.a303scientificcommittee.org.uk/</p> <p>In due course the website will be developed with a password-protected area for Scientific Committee members to view data and reports from the site work.</p> <p>It was noted that the website was looked on favourably during the UNESCO / ICOMOS Joint Advisory Mission.</p>	
<p>8. Next Meeting</p> <p>Dates to be circulated via Doodle poll for a meeting in January 2023</p>	WM
<p>9. AOB</p> <p>None</p>	