



# Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Steering Group

## Microsoft Teams Meeting

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 14.00 – 16.00

### Present:

**Marion Blockley (MB)** – Chair  
**Brandi Hall-Crossgrove (BHC)** – WHS Coordinator  
**Cllr Carolyn Healy (CH)** – Telford & Wrekin Council  
**Psyche Hudson (PH)** – Telford & Wrekin Council  
**Cllr Caroline Bagnall (CB)** – Shropshire Council  
**Ian West (IW)** – Broseley Town Council  
**Peter Boland (PB)** – Historic England  
**Rory Hunter (RH)** – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust  
**Russell Rowley (RR)** - SGCT  
**Helen Allen (HA)** – English Heritage  
**Katie Smith (KS)** – WHS Digital & Content Marketing Assistant

1.	<b>Introductions and apologies</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome from MB several apologies were received as it was the Easter Holiday period. Andy Wigley, Val Hulme, James Dunn, Andrew Gittins, Nick Ralls,</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Minutes of last meeting</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous minutes accepted as an accurate record.</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Matters arising</b>
	<p>AGA site update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CH explained that the roof was taken off the Wing Shop and although this was authorised works, there is a building adjacent to the Wing Shop which has also been removed. This was queried as consent was only provided to remove the roof of the Wing Shop. There was a response received from the planning team which confirmed that it was necessary to remove the steel structure to access the roof of the Wing Shop which should have been communicated prior to being undertaken, to ensure that it was clear exactly what was needed on site.</li> <li>• PB confirmed that correspondence was had between Historic England and Telford &amp; Wrekin and the process has been explained prior to the removal of the additional building. Historic England are happy with the explanation.</li> <li>• CH noted that there are modern bricks currently being stored on site, but these are not for use at the AGA site.</li> <li>• MB suggested a general statement should be distributed regarding the AGA site.</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Report from WHS Coordinator</b>
	<p>SPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The initial draft has been completed. Targeted engagement in April 22. Approval from Telford &amp; Wrekin and Shropshire Cabinet to do public consultations in May 22. Public consultation to end in July 22. Final draft to begin in August 22.</li> </ul>

- CH noted that the draft had been completed by officers and has been sent over to Shropshire Council for comments and amendments to ensure that all officers are in agreement. It is good that officers are working together to have an SPD that covers the World Heritage Site.
- All information provided is currently being submitted to the website which will be launched in late June / early July.
- Social media sites have now been launched.
- The Terms of Reference (ToR) need updating for the steering group. The proposed update was February 2021. RH confirmed that a small group met to discuss the ToR but it was not followed up to get it resolved. BHC, RR, MB, RH will meet for a ToR discussion that can be brought back to the steering group.
- The steering group's major points are monitoring the management plan and coordinating the WHS. The current structure will need to be discussed for the ToR for who and why those are sitting on the group, and whether there are any gaps.
- BHC confirmed that research has been undertaken on the management plan, and new action plans will be included which will update the current management plan as a whole. The first phase will be concluded by the end of 2022.
- RH queried whether this is a new approach, given the situation faced with the pandemic as things have moved on since 2017, and is this a review with new priorities. BHC confirmed that the expectations are that the management plan will be reviewed and new actions included. How much to add or change will be reviewed.
- CH confirmed that action plans need to be reviewed along with the body text, to ensure that there is not a disconnected set of documents.

## **5. Flood Mitigation**

- MB noted that the frequency of major flooding has now increased and the costs and expenses associated with mitigating flood damage and risk do not take into account all the attributes of a landscape of Outstanding Universal Value. It is hoped that Adam Lines, Environmental Agency, can raise the profile of the WHS within the River Severn Partnership.
- CH explained that there are two parts to the Borough's response to climate change. There is a council action plan on the T&W website which looks at things that are undertaken directly as an organisation, which is an ever-changing live plan as actions arise. The Borough partnership with wider partner actions is currently being developed and is soon to be published. There isn't anything specific mentioned around World Heritage but this can be included at a later date.
- MB stated that it is important that the WHS and the specifics of sensitive mitigation of flood damage within the historic environment are taken into account; these are more expensive, subtle and complicated than standard flood mitigation so it would be helpful if the Borough partnership included elements to recognise the WHS.
- CH noted that we are torn between preserving the heritage and lower carbon emissions associated with properties. Planners will review the residents' guide to planning to include solar panels, etc.
- MB explained that there is no Government funding for the World Heritage Sites so it is not possible to deal with major infrastructure problems like flooding. Historic England are producing guidance on climate change and the historic environment which will be used to update the

	<p>management plan and action plan. The WHS will be more resilient as people learn to adapt to climate change.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Partnership Funding Bid</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A small working group have met to discuss how funding would be sought in parallel with the update of the WHS management plan. An area based scheme is currently being considered.</li> <li>• MB summarized the key points. This is part of the strategy to improve the condition or management of areas of historic or landscape value that help people connect with it.</li> </ul> <p>Led by a Partnership of local, regional and national interest. A more detailed document is attached with these minutes. Eligible works included.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical works to repair and enhance the historic area</li> <li>• Activities to help people engage with heritage</li> <li>• Support work to develop and run the project</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will need to be a phased approach to the planning and the funding that would be needed.</li> <li>• RH queried who will put the bid in. IGMT or SGCT will be the accountable body and will lead on the bid.</li> </ul>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Partner Updates</b></p> <p><b>Kassandra Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BHC will schedule a meeting to discuss the report to bring back to the steering group. RH is currently in talks with managements of Kassandra Project to extend and better understand the impact on the historic buildings. Historic England research issue 19 covers an article the Kassandra Project – BHC to distribute to all. RR is in discussions regarding environmental data. Forestry measurement data has been inputted into the model. Work is being undertaken with Chester University and the Kassandra project to use ground based lidar lasers and a drone to measure the amount of biomass in forestry to work out how much carbon it is sequestering each year.</li> </ul> <p><b>AGA Site</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update discussed under ‘matters arising’</li> </ul> <p><b>Power Station</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apologies from AW</li> </ul> <p><b>IGMT</b>– *lost connection so update from Rory needed*</p> <p><b>SGCT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benthall Edge early railways project begins on 22<sup>nd</sup> April for three days. 7 shallow trial excavations will be completed, led by Broseley Local History Society with IGMT and SGCT. Permission has been provided from Natural England. A report will be provided and decisions made whether it will be worth pursuing further.</li> <li>• Ash dieback is continuing to cause huge problems.</li> <li>• Works have been completed on Madeley Road which has opened up traffic sight lines into the WHS. Station Road still needs to be completed, with a road closure expected during autumn.</li> <li>• Need to fell 70% of the woodland above the Shakespearean and consultation will need to be undertaken.</li> <li>• Joint volunteer project with IGMT working at the arboretum doing footpath clearance works.</li> <li>• Two new part time staff have been recruited.</li> </ul>

- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May – Royal Forestry Society group visit around the woodland sites, coming from over the UK.
- Open day on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May to be held at the Anstice.

#### **Broseley Town Council**

- One planning application refused in Jackfield. No further updates.

#### **Shropshire Council**

- No updates

#### **Telford & Wrekin Council**

- Lots of parking pressures in The Gorge. Working with officers on schemes to help alleviate the problems. It is likely that the Park and Ride will not be available before the summer and will need a review of the offer, so there is a plan to use the Abraham Darby car park for the summer holidays.

#### **Events Team**

- Planning afoot around the festival in September.

#### **English Heritage**

- Free tours have been offered during half term week with three slots each day filled, all provided by volunteers. HA confirmed will shortly be leaving the steering group, and details of the new representative will be provided shortly.
- Introduction to Katie Smith, the new WHS Digital and Content Marketing Assistant. Katie will be contacting all steering group members for additional background information shortly which can be included on the website.

#### **8. AOB**

- All present agreed to a change of meeting time. Steering group meetings will now be held 13.00 – 15.00.

#### **9. Date of next meetings**

- July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022 in Bath. Meet with the steering group from Bath to discuss the steering group structure and visit the new World Heritage Site Centre. Full details of the visit to be confirmed.
- October 18<sup>th</sup> 2022 via Microsoft Teams.