



# Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Steering Group

## Microsoft Teams Meeting

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 13.00 – 15.00

### Present:

**Marion Blockley (MB)** – Chair  
**Brandi Hall-Crossgrove (BHC)** – WHS Coordinator  
**Cllr Eileen Callear (EC)** – Telford & Wrekin Council  
**Peter Boland (PB)** – Historic England  
**Rory Hunter (RH)** – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust  
**JP Brayford (JB)** – Severn Gorge Countryside Trust  
**Sarah Simmonds (SS)** – ICOMOS UK  
**Ben Williscroft (BW)** – Shropshire Council  
**Ian West (IW)** – Broseley Town Council  
**Helle Jorgensen (HJ)** – University of Birmingham

<b>1.</b>	<b>Introductions and apologies</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome from MB.</li> <li>• Apologies received from Cllr Carolyn Healy (TWC), Alison Hinks (Madeley Town Council), Cllr Paul Watling (Madeley Parish Council), Caroline Bagnall (SC Cllr), Ed McGregor (English Heritage), Nick Ralls (IGMT), Andy Wigley (SC), Marc Liddeth (EA), Rachel Laver (RL), Psyche Hudson (TWC)</li> </ul>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of last meeting</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ian West apologies for the previous meeting to be recorded.</li> <li>• Spelling corrected for JP Brayford's name under 'Present'</li> </ul>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters arising</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AGA site: The steering group are only able to view a low-resolution version of the Heritage Impact Assessment on the planning portal and are therefore unable to read the drawings, which would be useful in making valuable comments. It would be helpful to have a higher resolution version to allow the steering group to make comments on this.</li> </ul>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Report from WHS Coordinator</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SPD is available to view online.</li> <li>• BHC discussed the WHS action plan with the group which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Comments and feedback required from those who have not yet fed into the plan.</li> <li>• RH noted that there may be further proposals from the IGMT for the action plan and currently looking at the business plan for 2024.</li> <li>• Actions need to be ranked and prioritised.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WHS GIS system.</b> Agreed that action to be kept but amended to develop an agreement or protocol on how it will be maintained or accessed. MB concerned about signposting where the historical environment records are located, due to the importance of consulting the historic environment record before undertaking any work in the WHS. Work with Shropshire Council to enhance visibility and access to information.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Destination Management Plan.</b> EC raised traffic within the WHS and advised that connectivity is important. (Action 20). A working group will be arranged between IGMT, SGCT, TWC and Shropshire Council.</li> <li>• <b>Blists Hill &amp; Legges Way.</b> Ownership in question. MB advised that a check of the historical mapping will locate and confirm the ownership.</li> <li>• Any further feedback for the action plan is required as soon as possible, it is very important to receive comments from all who sit on the steering group.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funding Bids</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RH queried who will manage the money and administer the finances if funding is awarded, and whose name the bid will be submitted under. MB stated that these are things that will need to be resolved before the bid is submitted otherwise the application will be turned down. There is a substantive risk involved with this scale of bid. BHC will write the first bid to recruit a bid writer to help liaise with NLHF and submit the detailed costings and bid</li> <li>• MB stated that The National Lottery Heritage Fund will use a strict set of criteria to review the viability of any grant application. This includes whether there is an adequate team in place or resourcing to recruit a team to deliver the project. The requirements of the NLHF need to be met in order for the bid to progress.</li> </ul> <p><b>New Chair and Deputy Chair by April 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MB completes her term of office as chair at end of April 2024.</li> <li>• The job description and person specification will be circulated. TWC will make up interview panel. It is important to have a range of representatives of organisations as part of the interview process, and to also consider conflict of interest issues.</li> <li>• An invitation will be sent for a representative from the Ironbridge Coracle Trust once MB is no longer part of the steering group.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Partner Updates</b></p>
	<p><b>Telford &amp; Wrekin Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently working on the Destination Management Plan and the Economic Development Strategy.</li> </ul> <p><b>IGMT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new fence at Blists Hill has begun its installation, this is 2.1 kilometers which will take around 6 months for completion.</li> <li>• The improvements to the Museum of the Gorge have now been completed.</li> </ul> <p><b>University of Birmingham</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students have now returned to the University of Birmingham campus, with a group of 10 students undertaking the international heritage management programme.</li> <li>• World Heritage studies have been axed from the curriculum offer this year due to staff departing and not being replaced within the University.</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IW discussed with the group regarding previous interventions around a planning application that was received for Calcutts Road, Jackfield. The application requested three additional houses and rebuilding a bungalow. Shropshire Council previously rejected the application due to unsuitability for the World Heritage Site. Since then, this has been resubmitted in 2023 to consider the same request, which was also rejected. There has now been an appeal for the 2022 application. It is not yet known whether the appeal will be valid due to the time period since the application was rejected. A robust response will be put together for the new application. Comments to be sent to BHC to collate.</li> <li>• MB has written a letter of support for the bathing water river quality group, recommending and supporting, both as an individual and as the steering group chair.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work has commenced on Jiggers Bank.</li></ul>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Date of next meetings</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 12-3pm (in person @SGCT)</li><li>• October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 12-3pm (Microsoft Teams)</li></ul>