



Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Steering Group

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Tuesday 18th April 2023, 13.00 – 15.00

Present:

Marion Blockley (MB) – Chair
Brandi Hall-Crossgrove (BHC) – WHS Coordinator
Cllr Carolyn Healy (CH) – Telford & Wrekin Council
Peter Boland (PB) – Historic England
Sylvia Figueiredo (SF) – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust
JP Brafford (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
Kathryn Jones (KJ) – Marches LEP

1.	Introductions and apologies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome from MB. Welcome to new attendees Ben Williscroft (SC) and Kathryn Jones (on behalf of Marches LEP). • Apologies received from Marc Lidderth (EA), Rachel Laver (Marches LEP), Cllr Rae Evans (TWC), Nick Ralls (IGMT), Joy Tetsill (SC), Rory Hunter (IGMT), Alison Hinks (Madeley Town Council), Psyche Hudson (TWC), Caroline Bagnall (SC Cllr), Cllr Eileen Callear (TWC)
2.	Minutes of last meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous minutes accepted as an accurate record. • The Cassandra project has concluded and the information has been posted online.
3.	Matters arising
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
4.	Report from WHS Coordinator
	<p>WH Day & Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IGMT are leading a photo competition which will end on 14 July. <p>Upcoming events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation at Bangor and meeting with Slate District • Meeting with University of Ferrara from Italy – 26-28 April • Coordinators Meeting – 24 May • 17-23 Tallinn Estonia ICOMOS European Regional Meeting – 17-23 April • Presentation to University of Ferrara in Italy – w/c 3 July • Lake District WHS Conference – 11 – 13 July • WH:UK AGM in Stirling and Forth Bridge WHS – 2 – 4 October <p>Industrial WHS Group</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group met on the 22 February and currently working on a joint communication strategy. Continuing to work with WH:UK and ICOMOS UK to be a catalyst for national recognition and potential funding. Two working groups on management plans and planning. <p>SPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultation finished in February and comments are currently being reviewed. The final draft should be with Cabinet by the summer. <p>Periodic Reporting, Funding Bid, Management & Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic reporting was submitted 31 March. UNESCO will respond to this in 4-6 weeks from this date, with finalisation to take place by the end of July. Currently working on analysis to update management plan and actions. <p>Meeting Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding bid, management and action plan meeting – September 2023 workshop Partnership panel meeting – September 2023 Research group meeting – 27 April
5.	<p>Partner Updates</p> <p>Telford & Wrekin Council</p> <p>AGA Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CH, MB convened a meeting to gather views of residents of the WHS as a whole on the proposed development on the AGA site. A letter has been prepared to indicate that residents do have concerns about the proposed development and the potential loss of World Heritage Status. The consensus of the meeting supported the concerns that ICOMOS and have raised, however it is recognised that a derelict site in the middle of a WHS is not wanted. Residents will want to have the opportunity to consider any revisions to what is currently proposed. <p>Shropshire Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No news on the Power Station at present. BW will confirm whether the memorandum between Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire C.C. is in the public realm. <p>Broseley Town Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates. <p>Madeley Town Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies from MTC. <p>IGMT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) Project As reported previously, IGMT has been successful in obtaining funding to undertake conservation work on 49 of our structures. The funding spend out must take place over three years. The project has commenced already and will start with a full conservation of the Museum of the Gorge and reinstating the pitched roof to the lady chapel on that building. The Museum of the Gorge works commence on 24 April. 2.2.1. Information boards will be placed on the building in the coming few weeks. The Trust has held an initial meeting with the Local Planning Authority including the Built Heritage Specialists to establish how planning will be approached for this project. Due to the timescales, we must avoid any delay in submitting all that is required. Museum Estate Development Fund (MEND) Project. The Trust has also been successful in obtaining funding for 5 discreet projects at Blists Hill Victorian Town all of which are due to commence imminently.

- Works are all at Blists Hill Victorian Town and include a replacement of all fire alarm systems, new perimeter fence, upgrades to the operation of the Foundry, voltage optimisation to improve energy consumption/reduce carbon output and part funds work on restoration of rails of the Inclined Plane. The remainder of the inclined plane project will be funded by the NHMF.
- The Daily Grind exhibition opens at Coalbrookdale on 28 April 2023 and runs until 5 November 2023. There is a landing page on the IGMT website. Please advertise through your networks.
- This exhibition shines a spotlight on the lives and voices of the people who have worked in the industries of the Ironbridge Gorge from the early days of the 18th century until the end of the First World War.
- Entry to the exhibition will be free. There will be an evening opening for the local community 11 May where members of the IGMT team will be there to greet people and talk about the exhibition.
- There are a handful of matters ongoing which may we understand may have been raised to the attention of Telford & Wrekin Council. 5.1.1. Wall at Coalbrookdale – The retaining wall near Enignuity pedestrian crossing has collapsed. This does not appear to be historic but is an eyesore. IGMT has commissioned topographical and structural surveys which will provide us information to be able to undertake a repair.
- Sign at Coalport – The Trust understands that the sign at the entrance for Coalport China Museum car park is causing issues for residents turning onto High Street. This will be resolved as soon as resource is available to attend to it.
- Pathway at Coalport – The path between the Youth Hostel and Shakespeare inn has a number of rotten bollards. RH will contact Carolyn Healy to look at how we might get these replaced as a joint project.
- Tree fall, Reynolds Wharf – IGMT has been informed that a tree has fallen on land to the east of Reynolds Wharf. This has been added to our Grounds Maintenance task list and the team will attend as soon as they are able.

SGCT

- There is currently no new security in place.
- S106 money due anytime to help pay for the works due to take place on Benthall Edge.
- Looking to take part in the Festival of Archaeology at the Museum of Iron, 15 July.

IG Business Consortium

- The focus of the Business Consortium is now on the Christmas lights switch on. The Business Consortium will remain as a contact on the mailing list, as a communication tool and to keep in touch with businesses.

University

- In talks with the University of Illinois on doing some comparative research around the WHS.

English Heritage

- Not present.

Marches LEP

- Overseeing ongoing monitoring of capital projects.
- Awarded new funded for Marches growth hub. Website link to be provided for updates.
- Information on Marches Growth Hub (the LEP's business support service) may be found here <https://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk/> - you may be particularly interested in the events calendar <https://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk/calendar/>, and the business support finder <https://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk/directory/>
- To keep up to date with current activities at the Marches LEP, you can sign up for the newsletter <https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/latest-news/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new economic evidence base can be found using the following link and elements of this may be useful to support any funding applications that are being made. The Marches SEP Evidence Base 2023. The Marches LEP funded Visitor Economy Strategy can also be accessed using the following link: https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-Marches-LEP-Visitor-Economy-Strategy-2020.pdf and information on its associated evidence base https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-Marches-Evidence-Base-for-VES-2019-FINAL.pdf. <p>Environment Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular inspections and ad-hoc maintenance being undertaken. The most high-impact activity will be installing the temporary defenses but there is no date for this to take place at the moment. Additionally, ARUP have been commissioned to do a piece of work looking at the potential for Natural Flood Management on the Lyde Brook (Coalbrookdale Brook). Nothing is certain and this would not be implemented for a couple of years if it was found to be feasible. CH advised that £378,000 new flood protection funding has been received from the government as funding for properties that are unprotected by flooding <p>Historic England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates. <p>ICOMOS UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A day conference took place in London on 25 April focused on using a Rights-Based Approach in UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
6.	AOB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CH recently met with local policing team to discuss a heritage watch scheme in the area. Volunteers will report anything related to listed buildings etc. There will be a focus on churches and chapels that are open to the public and staff, and an assessment and advice will be given on crime prevention. This will encourage local people to keep an eye out on these buildings.
9.	Date of next meetings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 17th, 2023 from 12-3pm (in person @ SGCT) April 16th, 2024 from 12-3pm (on Microsoft Teams)