



Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Steering Group

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Tuesday 18th October 2022, 13.00 – 15.00

Present:

Marion Blockley (MB) – Chair
Brandi Hall-Crossgrove (BHC) – WHS Coordinator
Barbara Johnson (BJ) – Telford & Wrekin Council
Cllr Carolyn Healy (CH) – Telford & Wrekin Council
Cllr Eileen Callear (EC) – Telford & Wrekin Council
Peter Boland (PB) – Historic England
Rory Hunter (RH) – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust
Russell Rowley (RR) – Vice Chair & SGCT
Ed McGregor (EM) – English Heritage
Alison Hinks (AH) – Madeley Town Council
Sarah Simmonds (SS) – ICOMOS UK
Andy Wigly (AW) – Shropshire Council
Joy Tetsill (JT) – Shropshire Council
Ioanna Katapidi (IK) – University of Birmingham

1.	Introductions and apologies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome from MB. The first of the new format of meetings to begin at 13.00. • Apologies received from Cllr Caroline Bagnall, Ian West, Mark Liddeth, Helle Jorgensen, Cllr Rae Evans, Debra Harris, Toria Salisbury-Scott. • Welcome to Ioanna Katapidi, University of Birmingham and Ed McGregor, English Heritage.
2.	Minutes of last meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous minutes accepted as an accurate record.
3.	Matters arising
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
4.	Report from WHS Coordinator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BHC shared a PowerPoint to the group. • The final version of the SPD has been drafted, and is currently being refined prior to approval by T&W and Shropshire before being presented at Cabinet. The proposed consultation is due to take place in the New Year. The final confirmed draft will be presented back at Cabinet for adoption in summer 2023. • The website is now live. An expansion of the map of the WHS will be added and a request was made for more content and images. CH noted that the website looks good. It was confirmed that there is space on the website and social media for any good news stories and blogs. • MB suggested that it would be useful to circulate upcoming scheduled calendar of events for social media. • The annual WH:UK conference was discussed. • The WHUK Sub Committee started in January 22. Discussions were had regarding a joint industrial festival, joint tourism trial and a National Master Plan for all sites suggested. This

	<p>would be similar to the management plan but at a bigger level, which would look at what would be acceptable for the sites as a whole.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rory noted that the IGMT would be happy to be involved in the suggested plans, however this raised concerns of capacity for the group. BHC confirmed that this will not be put in place yet. The management plan will be up to date before other plans are considered. • Joint public engagement will be undertaken for the management plan and the SPD as these have many similarities and community engagement is needed for both. Workshops involving all steering group members will also be conducted. • The Terms of Reference (ToR) were discussed. • It was agreed that the steering group would meet twice a year, in October and March, and increase the duration of the meeting to 3 or 4 hours. • CH noted that it should be clear what the meeting is wanting to achieve, and to drive forward the management plan. Suggested 1 meeting to be held in person. • JT noted reluctance to move to twice a year if there isn't another mechanism brought in to get things agreed and discussed in-between, as well as the partnership meeting. • BHC suggested putting a plan in place if meetings are required in between. The steering group is the overarching meeting to make any decisions. • EC agreed that an in person meeting would be preferred, but to also have the ability to be hybrid to allow those who cannot attend in person to join virtually. EC is keen to hear about driving things forward for outcomes.
5.	Severn Gorge Conservation Area boundary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Johnson shared a presentation to the group. • Severn Gorge Conservation Area was last appraised in 2016. The current boundary does not take into account recent areas of development and also has some anomalies which need amending, however these are only minor changes. It is proposed that the SGCA boundary would differ from the WHS boundary. • A map of the overview of the proposed changes was shared, including the proposed changes in Madeley and Coalbrookdale. • T&W must take into account the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of the WHS. • Article 4 removes some permitted development rights within the WHS, and means residents are required to apply for planning permission to undertake certain works in the property, to protect the image of the conservation area. This does not mean that applications will be refused. A number of houses that will be brought into the new boundary will not be under article 4 straight away. • There are currently no proposals to change the WHS boundary at this time. SS commented that it would be easier if the SGCA and WHS boundary updates did coincide. • CH requested a formal buffer to the WHS and to see the fields erected around the northern boundary, where possible, to avoid further development, as planning applications are already being received. This comment will be made formally to the consultation. • The public consultation will run until 11th November, and changes can be made if necessary. Adoption is currently targeted for early 2023 and will be published on the T&W website once complete. If further details are required please contact Barbara.Johnson@telford.gov.uk. • RH noted that some aspects of this will affect the IGMT future planning. Shire horses are currently being walked up the main road on an unsuitable track onto the back of Lees Farm field, which was intended to sell. Looking to relocate the Shire's to the field next to Blists Hill which the IGMT own. The north easterly part of the canal and surrounding footpath is being brought into the conservation area making it difficult to develop on, which will create challenges.
6.	Periodic Reporting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BHC requested data and relevant information for the periodic reporting.

- The report must be submitted by 31 March to Historic England.
- Following discussions it was suggested that a meeting is arranged for the beginning of March 2023, when all information has been received and to allow time to make any necessary changes.
- BHC noted that the periodic reporting will be good to work into the management plan.
- MB suggested that it would be useful to circulate the summary report from previous cycles to show the amount and type of information that will be required.
- BHC will aim to send the questions for the data to the relevant members of the group as soon as possible.

7. Partner Updates

Telford & Wrekin Council - AGA Site

- Officers not present to discuss the AGA site.
- CH noted that it would have been useful to have a discussion with the group, and will request that an update is circulated in writing.
- MB is concerned that the group do not appear to be part of the information loop, and are therefore unable to give advice on policies and effectively influence these policies and processes, which stops the steering group achieving one of its main objectives and also bringing forward views of residents. The group is unable to be effective if it is not fully engaged. There was recognition that some discussions have to remain confidential but there is a need to be kept informed to help and contribute to the process.

Shropshire Council - Power Station

- Planning permission has now been issued for the site.
- The memorandum of understanding has been concluded between two local planning authorities regarding the reserved matters applications. One of first liaison group meetings was held recently. AW will confirm whether the MOU is in the public domain and accessible to the group.
- MB asked for an update on progress for recommissioning the railway and especially works to the Albert Edward Bridge and Coalbrookdale viaduct. There has been a pre application discussion from Network Rail regarding the proposed strengthening works that they are looking to undertake, due to the impact of rail freight traffic on the bridge it will need reinforcing. A scheme has been put forward but requires further justification at this time.

IGMT

- Planning approval has been given for new signage. The IGMT front door signage is being replaced over next 8 weeks, this will include new threshold car park signs and new signs above the doors. Blists Hill Car Park threshold signage is being replaced next week, with each museum in subsequent weeks.
- Continuing with the museum state development fund work.
- Maintenance will be taking place in Blists Hill.
- The national heritage memorial fund contract has been signed which will provide 4.5 million of conservation funding that can be spent.
- A request has been sent to the planning department to enquire whether a heritage partnership agreement can be sought with T&W. This is due to the amount of planning applications that will need to be submitted and not all requests may require planning permission.
- Work is currently taking place on the trees, and a new groundskeeper will be starting soon.

SGCT

- RR will be leaving the trust and consideration is needed on who will be replaced as vice chair for the steering group.
- There have been four attempted robberies on two of the sites in the past two months, with equipment stolen and damaged. Police do not have the resources to help. There has been

	<p>approval from the board to spend an extra £30,000 on security, but the money will need to be taken from the reserves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree problems with ash dieback and also grey squirrel damage in the large beech trees in Dale Coppice. There are some local residents who are not happy that the trees have been marked for felling however the damage is worse than what was expected. It is difficult to compromise in terms of safety as this is taken very seriously. A site meeting is planned for 29 October to discuss the residents' concerns. • No feedback has been received from the Kassandra project. BHC is due to meet with Historic England and provide an email update for the Steering Group. <p>Broseley Town Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update provided <p>Events Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update provided <p>English Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update provided
8.	AOB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well wishes were passed on by all to RR on his last meeting before retirement. • RH noted disappointment that water works were due to start a week before the school half term. It was suggested that if these had been postponed it would have helped local trade, and thought is needed to be given when permission is granted. RH acknowledged that the work needed to take place. CH acknowledged the difficulty that the works made, however noted that there is no 'good' time to undertake the necessary works and statutory requirements cannot be refused. These also have to be coordinated with Shropshire. Many of the major schemes have now been completed.
9.	Date of next meetings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 17th, 2023 from 1-3pm • April 18th, 2022 from 1-3pm (World Heritage Day) • July 18th, 2022 from 1-3pm • October 17th, 2022 from 1-3pm <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 21st, 2023 from 12-3pm • October 17th, 2023 from 12-3pm