



Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Steering Group

Severn Gorge Countryside Trust, Coalbrookdale

Wednesday 11th March 2026, 13:00 – 15:00

1.	Introductions, apologies and minutes of last meeting
	• Welcome and introduction of new members from KS. • KS provided apologies from those unable to attend. • Confirmation that following no objections from LF's email, minutes from the last meeting have been uploaded to WHS website.
2.	Severn Trent River Health Investment Presentation
	• Hannah Lister and Matthew Priestley provided an introduction to Severn Trent's proposed infrastructure upgrade works, including their obligations to waterway and waste water disposal improvements. Indication was given of the different options currently being explored for infrastructure upgrades in the WHS. • Reassurance was provided that the heritage value of the area and the visual implications to the WHS will be carefully considered. MP agreed to the potential of arranging a community drop in session for residents to understand the plan once drafted. • MP has requested that a summary of events be provided to Severn Trent to inform the planning of their long-term project timetable.
3.	Update on Progress of Management Plan Project
	• LF provided update of Management plan progress, including outcomes from Focus Group meetings, proposed changes to the OUV, information gathered from survey and community groups contacted for consultation. • LF confirmed that UNESCO have accepted a minor boundary amendment application for the WHS. The decision for this will be made at the July 2026 international committee. Chair thanked LF and the focus group for their hard work so far. • CCH raised concern for the smaller percentage of local residents who had fed back on the public survey. MB seconded that local residents were not as aware of the implication for their residential area as they could be. LF asked all to promote the community group engagement to their groups.
4.	National Trust Introduction and Presentation
	• Chair invited Rory Hunter to summarise the transition between IGMT and the National Trust and wanted to acknowledge the efforts, contributions and commitments the Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust have made over the 60 years. Rory mentioned that he hoped to be able to circulate a digital copy for the 6 decades of the IGMT book. • Mark Agnew provided an introduction to the National Trust and their team, an update on progress with the IGMT to National Trust transition, and an introduction to their future plans. The Trust are working with BTOpenReach to establish connectivity to allow a phased opening with central sites looking to reopen first. Chair noted how the transition to the Trust coincides with the 40th Inscription of the WHS in November. Members encouraged more regular operation of the P&R to reduce the highways impact of additional visitors.

	JPB requested that they could be made aware of OpenReach's timetables once the NT are aware so that they can make use of road closures for SGCT maintenance. CCB further promoted the need to reopen the Broseley Pipemakers museum, and reiterated the town council's offer of support.
5.	Partner Updates
	a. Telford & Wrekin Council i) Cllr Healy (Ward Member) advised that a Parking Survey will shortly be circulated to inform the feasibility of Resident Parking Scheme including HGV deliveries. Issues around delivery vans parking on double yellow lines on the Wharfage and Tontine Hill raised by RH. ii) Jon Bielstein (Culture) discussed the culture strategy consultation which will align with Telford's bid for Town of Culture. Discussion of how this will be applicable to the WHS and the benefit the WHS's designation could have on the bid. iii) Sarah Bird (Tourism) advised the group that the Telford and Shropshire Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) Board had been launched with a request for members. Discussion of how this joined up approach could help to further promote the whole of the local areas visitor economy. iv) Cllr McClements (Ward Member) Reiterated the Council's support for the Town of Culture bid and the Councils work to establish the LVEP. v) Other Updates No further updates. b. Shropshire Council i) Cllr Bagnal (Ward Member) No further updates. ii) Andy Wigley (Planning and Heritage) provided Shropshire Council's support for the mapping exercise undertaken with LF and their consultation for a new Shropshire Local Plan with the use of a new plan making model from central government. c. Broseley Town Council i) Cllr Bagnell and Sue Evans-Turner – Applied to be a Town of Culture with regular theatre, film, live music/dance. The Pipe Museum, which has been closed, are really keen to reopen and the profile is raised. The Gorge Parish Council i) Maureen Bragg – Next year going to be interesting for the Parish Council, who manage 5 Community Centres, due to Boundary Review, which will have impact on finances. The PC are also trying to bring in more speed cameras and are planning Christmas Lights for the 5 centres. Severn Gorge Countryside Trust (JPB) - Set up a stand alone business providing forestry services outside of SGCT land and will be main focus until April. Using more and more volunteers. Numbers of trees falling is hopefully minimised due to proactive management.

	Forestry Commission Bob Thirsk – Advised that FC are the Governments experts in terms of trees and actively promote the planting of trees and happy to answer any questions the Group may have. Harper Adams University Simon Segar – Report given in absence. Feedback has been given on the National Lottery Heritage Fund application for the 40th anniversary river project. This was broadly positive but has asked for the project to be more targeted, and focused on a specific list of outcomes. Simon is seeking help from the rest of the group to review this feedback and for suggestions on how he can meet this feedback. Chair – Summarised issues covered including updates on Management Plan, Severn Trent and National Trust alongside other important updates.
8.	AOB
	Chair would like to formally thank Rory Hunter for his hard work and dedication to his role of the WHS Steering group. He has been a great asset to the group, and all wish him the best for the future.
9.	Date of next meetings
	Thursday 17th September 2026 from 1400-1600 (in person)

Appendix 1: Attendance and Apologies

Ken Sloan (KS)	Chair
Laura Fildes (LF)	TWC WHS Coordinator
Andrew Gittins (AG)	Telford & Wrekin Council
Cllr Carolyn Healy (CCH)	Telford & Wrekin Council
Jon Bielstein (JB)	Telford & Wrekin Council
Cllr Angela McClements (CAM)	Telford & Wrekin Council
Catherine Worral (CW)	Telford & Wrekin Council
Cllr Caroline Bagnall (CCB)	Shropshire Council
Andy Wigley (AW)	Shropshire Council
Ben Williscroft (BW)	Historic England
Bob Thirsk	Forestry Commission
JP Brayford (JPB)	Severn Gorge Countryside Trust
Rory Hunter (RH)	Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust
Mark Agnew (MA)	National Trust
Mary Lewis (ML)	Coracle Trust
Hannah Lister	Severn Trent Water
Matthew Priestley	Severn Trent Water
Maureen Bragg (MB)	The Gorge Parish Council
Su Evans Turner (SET)	Broseley Town Council
Sarah Bird (SB)	Telford & Wrekin Council



Apologies

Helle Jorgensen (HJ)	University of Birmingham
Alison Hems (AH)	ICOMOS-UK
Adrian Corney (AC)	Environment & Neighbourhood Team Leader TWC
Cllr Rae Evans (RE)	Madeley Ward
Ed McGregor (EM)	English Heritage
Dr Simon Segar (SS)	Harper Adams University
Barbara Johnson (BJ)	Telford and Wrekin Council
Becky Jones (BJ)	Shropshire Council