

## Minutes of the World Heritage Bid Partnership meeting 28.9.00

### 1. **Introduction (Cllr. Bert Biscoe)**

Cllr. Biscoe stressed the importance of the contribution made to the understanding and conservation of Cornish industrial heritage by local industrial archaeologists – this underlined the need to ensure that the Bid was an inclusive process. This was not to be simply a technical partnership, but one which would include the people of Cornwall and those with overseas links

Cornwall County Council would prepare the bid which would help all to better understand Cornwall's industrial heritage and would bring both short and long-term economic benefit to the county.

The Partnership would validate the bid document at draft and final stages and would encourage widespread consultation. It was recognised that the wider community held a wide range of views of the future conservation of Cornwall's landscape and heritage.

### 2. **Meeting structure (County Archaeologist Nick Johnson)**

Nick Johnson explained the format of the meeting, whose principal aim was to decide on an appropriate management structure for the bid process.

### 3. **The World Heritage Site context (Paul Aisey, DCMS)**

Paul Aisey gave the background to recent government involvement with UNESCO and the World Heritage Site programme, explaining that sites linked to the Industrial Revolution were currently being promoted. 25 sites (including Cornish Mining) were added to the tentative list in June 1999 and are being promoted as bids are developed. The bid process spans 18 months, this particular bid being expected to be submitted in June 2002. It would then be examined by the secretariat for 3 months and then passed to an assessor who would undertake site visits. The assessor would report to ICOMOS who in turn would make recommendations to the World Heritage Site bureau (June 2003), who would report to the World Heritage Site Committee. This committee would either accept or reject the bid in December 2003. If accepted the site would be inscribed in January 2004.

Though drawn out, the process was a useful one in that it drew together interested and affected parties to consider the impacts of proposals and encourage conflict resolution and appropriate sustainable management; this would be of value whether the site was inscribed or not and would form the basis for grant bids to the HLF or the RDA's.

DCMS would put forward the application and it should be expected that the Secretary of State would take a personal interest in the bid.

### 4. **Historical background (Nick Johnson)**

NJ used slides to give a flavour of the range and extent of sites which would be included within the bid, then used a series of overheads to show progress on the pilot GIS mapping component of the project.

### 5. **Organisation and management of the bid process (Nick Johnson)**

NJ proposed a management structure for the partnership as outlined in the briefing paper. Other organisations which might form part of the Partnership might include IMERYS, the Duchy of Cornwall, the Tregothnan Estate, the Cornwall RIGS Group, the Royal Cornwall Museum, the Russell Society, the St. Just Mines Research Group and other local mining history societies. The discussion was then opened to the floor.

- Cllr. K. Trembath needed to know the cost implications of the project, since district councils and other bodies would need to allocate funds within their

budgets. David Pollard (Planning Director CCC) replied that the briefing paper set out a partnership structure for funding.

- Cllr. N. Plummer moved that paragraphs 17-21 of the briefing paper were adopted by the meeting.
- Cllr. Biscoe felt that the partnership were happy with the structure set out in the briefing paper but needed to discuss the breadth of its membership.
- F. Griffiths introduced Cllr. Greta Madigan and indicated that Devon County Council had pledged formal support. There would be some need to consider the impact of Objective 2 funding in West Devon. DCC would pass their information to the project team, but were worried that there was insufficient survey information for West Devon and that the timescale for preparing the bid was very short.
- Support for the project was pledged by a representative of Camborne School of Mines, Cllr. C. Brewer (North Cornwall), Cllr. R. Lello (Hayle).
- Cllr. Biscoe asked whether those present could identify any significant bodies not already represented. Nigel Stevens (Cornwall Heritage Trust) stressed the need for inclusivity, which might include organisations such as the Stannary Parliament. Cllr. Biscoe said that there was a need to distinguish those organisations which more appropriately would have places as information providers and those which should be on the advisory group. A list containing suggested additional members was passed to Nick Johnson. Cllr. Plummer suggested that underground exploration groups should also be involved, given their specialist information. Cllr. Trembath stressed that landowners should be involved, since the management policies would affect their interests.
- Charlie David (NCDC) wondered when local communities would be consulted. Nick Johnson indicated that this would be done through area panels organised by the District Councils.
- David Pollard underlined the need for a smaller steering group formed of those who had specific responsibilities or resource the project.
- Steve Foster (Cardon D.C) asked how the area panels would be managed. District level might not be appropriate in the Tamar Valley where more than one local authority was involved. Nick Johnson suggested that the Tamar Valley AONB management panel would be a useful model, but that the form of area panels would inevitably vary across the county, and should be tailored to each area's particular make-up. District Councils would inevitably be involved since they were responsible for local plans and policies as well as projects.

**6. Date of next meeting**

10<sup>th</sup> November 11.30 –1.00. Council Chamber, County Hall, Truro.