

**Notes of the Cornish Mining WHS Officer Working Group
Held in the Grenville Room at New County Hall, Truro
On Friday 9th November at 2.30pm**

Present: See attached list

Apologies: Allyson Cooper (Carrick District Council)
Christopher Young (English Heritage)
Paul Aalsey (DCMS)

1. Remit and working arrangements of OWG

It was agreed that the frequency of meetings should be flexible and time-tabled to coincide with milestones within the project.

The Officer Working Group exists to facilitate the Partnership and to act as an initial sounding board for the bid team.

The minutes of the OWG are to be circulated to the Partnership.

2 Review of progress on the Bid project

General research and mapping almost complete. Research text currently being circulated to technical panels and initial drafting of Bid area boundaries about to commence.

3 Towards defining WHS Bid Areas

UNESCO are currently revising their operational guidelines and these should be strictly adhered to.

First need to establish a statement of why Cornish mining is of outstanding universal value.

The bid could be submitted under any or all of the following UNESCO criteria for cultural sites: 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, although 4 is likely to be the most successful. The bid can be put forward under as many as it is felt can be satisfied.

We should also consider putting our nomination in as a Cultural Landscape.

UNESCO are clamping down on the number of nominations per year, although our bid falls into an under represented category (industrial sites) for which they are looking for nominations.

The WHS Centre in Paris check the dossier and pass it onto UNESCO HQ in Paris and appoint an expert to evaluate the project, paying particular attention to the management regime and compliance of criteria. Someone from another country will also be a part of the evaluation mission.

Can we define the boundaries and re-define them later if necessary – yes. Assessor also has powers to change the boundaries.

No problem with satisfying criteria but the problem may be how we express it.

Worth researching how the sites identified already satisfy the six criteria.

Will WHS buffer zones be reflected in the local plan?.

Local plans to accommodate and articulate policies for WHS areas and buffer zones (several of the district local plans already mention the WHS). Local Plan policy is the best protection for the buffer zones.

Malcolm Pinch (Restormel BC) offered to raise this at the Local Plan Policy Group.

Should the site boundary include elements of what remains underground? – yes, key underground access points should be considered for inclusion.

The draft WHS Bid Areas will be circulated for comment at the next OWG meeting.

The OWG members will be asked to assist in the setting up of Area Panels related to the Bid Areas. These panels will be based as far as possible on existing local panels, eg the Tamar Valley AONB.

Frances Griffith suggested that each Area Panel should contain a good representation from local authority conservation, planning and economic regeneration teams.

4 Format and content of Nomination document

Discussion deferred.

5 Timing and Venue of next meeting

10.00 – 13.00 Friday 22nd February 2002, The Cornwall Centre, Redruth