

**Monitoring:
Monitoring indicators**

13.6.1 The purpose of monitoring is to assess how the values of the World Heritage site are being maintained over time and to measure whether the objectives of the World Heritage site Management Plan are being achieved. Measuring progress is essential to be able to adapt and improve the management of the site. Identifying key threats early on is necessary to be able to put in place remedial measures before the damage gets too great. Regular monitoring is necessary to re-assess priorities in view of new issues and progress made. Monitoring indicators need to be firmly linked to the values and objectives identified in the World Heritage site Management Plan.

A set of nineteen monitoring indicators for the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage site was produced jointly by the two coordinators, with input from a number of partners, and endorsed by the Stonehenge WHS Committee in 2003. Their aim is to measure progress with the protection, interpretation and management of the site. Although most indicators are common to Avebury and Stonehenge, there are some minor differences reflecting the specificity of each site. It was agreed that the indicators should be simple, meaningful, easy to gather and constant, so that comparisons over time could be possible. Now that attributes of OUV have been identified, it is essential during the lifetime of this plan to review the indicators to see whether they should be made more relevant to them.

Extracts from *Young, C., Chadburn, A. and Bedu, I. 2009. Stonehenge. World Heritage Site Management Plan 2009. London, English Heritage.*

See Table 16 for indicators

Table 16. Monitoring indicators – Stonehenge World Heritage site management plan

Objectives	Key monitoring indicators	How and who?	How often?	In place?
Conservation of archaeological sites	1. Existence of updated records for the archaeological sites	Sites and Monuments Record maintained by the Wiltshire County Council (WCC)	As appropriate	Yes
		Stonehenge Geographical Information System (GIS) maintained by English Heritage (EH)		Yes
	2. Condition of archaeological sites	WHS Condition Survey funded by EH	Every six years	Yes
		Regular monitoring of sites by National Trust (NT) volunteers and EH Historic Environment Field Assistants	As appropriate	Yes
3. Hectares of grass restoration and number of sites protected from plough damage	Map and figures collated by WHS Coordinator, Defra, National Trust	Annual update	Yes	