

To: Abi Brown, Fusion Arts, North Hinksey Parish Council

PROPOSAL

*

Botley West Way Standing Stones

This concept involves four natural boulders – two larger pierced ‘standing stones’, of which one contains a carving in the round of a hare, and two undecorated smaller boulders providing natural seating/climbability. Please see sketches below.

One stone is to be set into accessible ground – for example the grassy patch outside Chancellors’ estate agents in the middle of the main avenue, and pierced through with a circular hole, dressed smooth to the cut circular surface, to make a (climbable) ‘gateway’, perhaps 600-800 mm from the ground. This stone is intended as a playful, interactive sculpture and is designed to be climbed through, sat inside etc. The proposed stone type (Ancaster Weatherbed) comes in large raw blocks with natural faces, and has very interesting geological formations within its strata, with banding of colour and prominent shell/fossil content. This structure of the stone will be most prominently visible in the dressed inner surface to the circular hole.

The circular opening is intended to pick up the theme of Botley as a ‘gateway’ to the city.

The other standing stone is aligned with the first stone, but set in a position not designed to be accessed – such as in the flowerbed immediately to the E of the first stone. It similarly has a pierced circular hole similar to the first stone, except that this circle is higher from the ground (perhaps 1200mm), and contains a carving of a seated hare looking towards the sky. Hares are seen on the playing field near Matthew Arnold School, and elsewhere in the fields around Botley/ North Hinksey. The sculpture of the hare is carved within the actual block of stone (not inserted), and the colourful geology of the rock will be seen in the surface of this carving.

The dressed inner surface of this hole containing the hare is intended to be a collaborative element, decorated in coloured mosaic by Clare Goodall – please see her proposal for more information on this.

Two other smaller boulders will be positioned on the grassy area near to the ‘gateway’ stone. These are interactive objects intended for seating, climbing etc.

An itemised quote for this idea and some further information about the project follows the images below. Please also see notes to the quote.



ALEX WENHAM LTD

Proposal images:



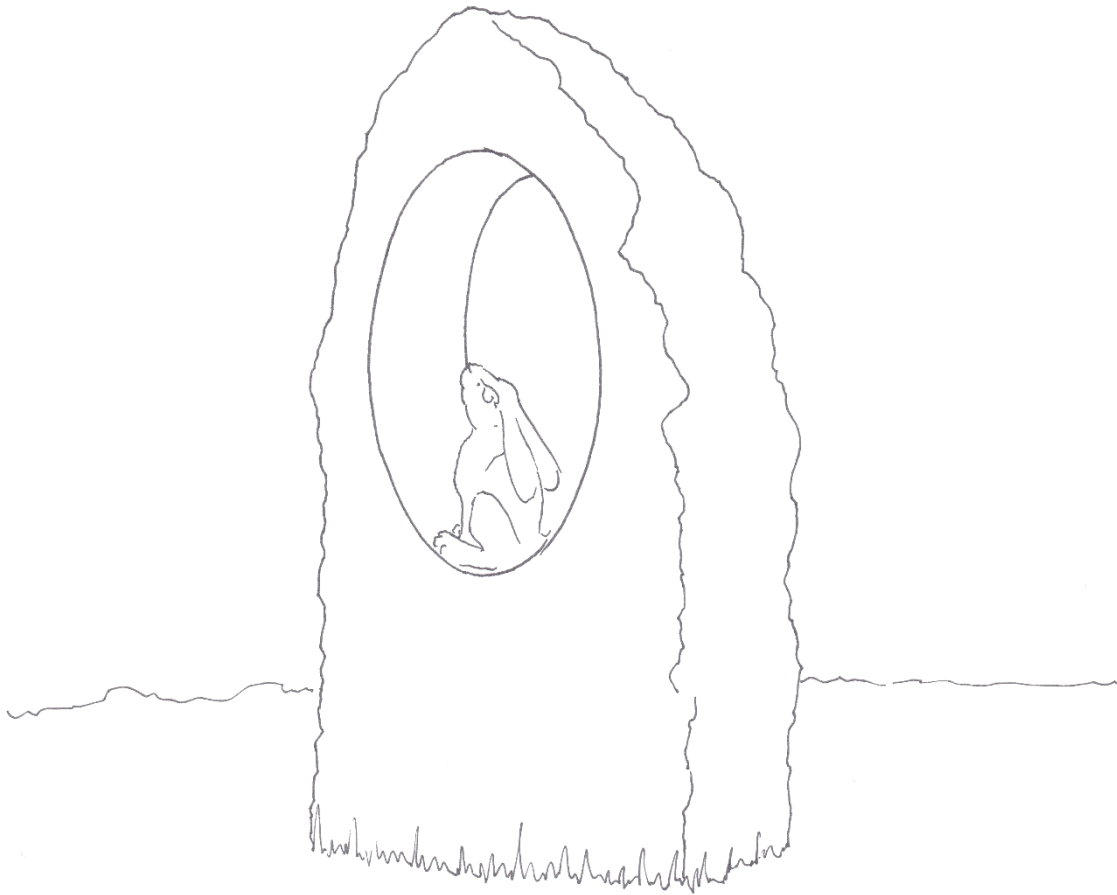
Sketch of the hare sculpture – approx. 450-500mm h

ARCHITECTURAL STONE CARVING · RESTORATION · STATUARY · LETTER CUTTING

www.alexwenham.co.uk · 07703 260672 · alex@alexwenham.co.uk



ALEX WENHAM LTD



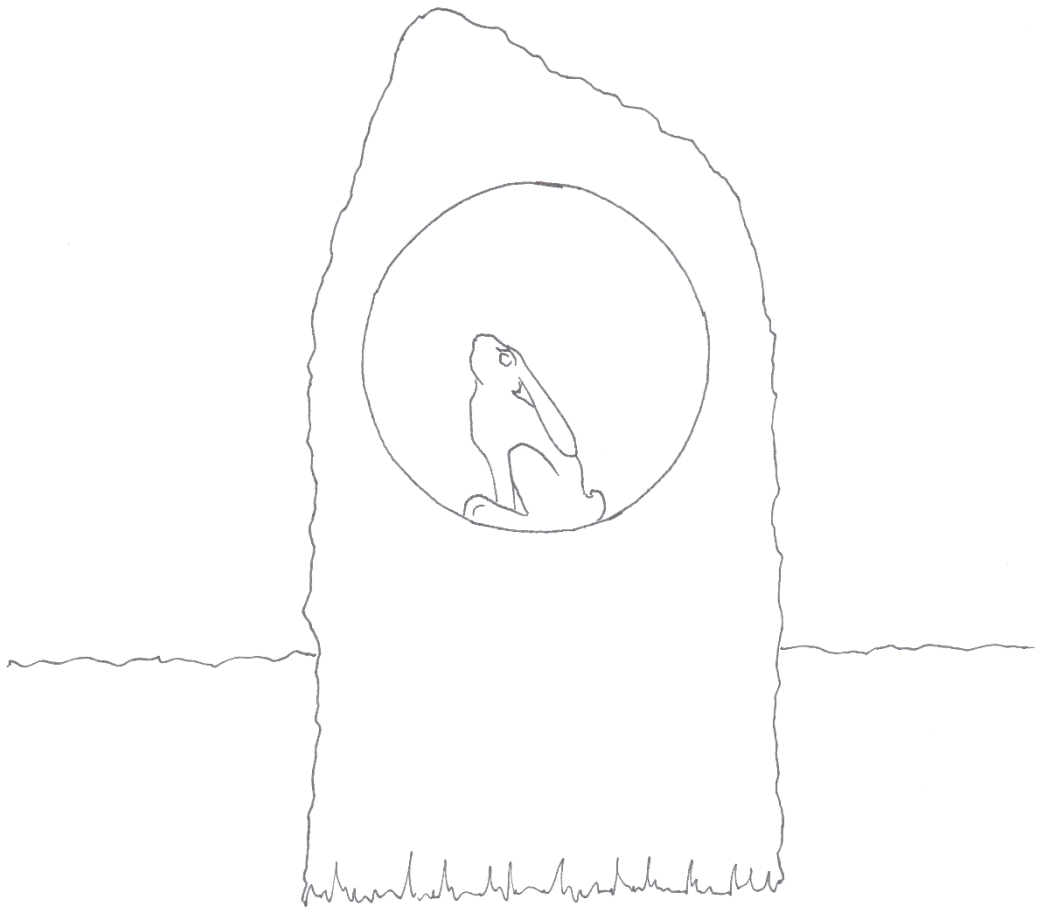
Oblique view of hare sculpture showing inner surface of the circular hole proposed for decoration with mosaic

ARCHITECTURAL STONE CARVING · RESTORATION · STATUARY · LETTER CUTTING

www.alexwenham.co.uk · 07703 260672 · alex@alexwenham.co.uk



ALEX WENHAM LTD

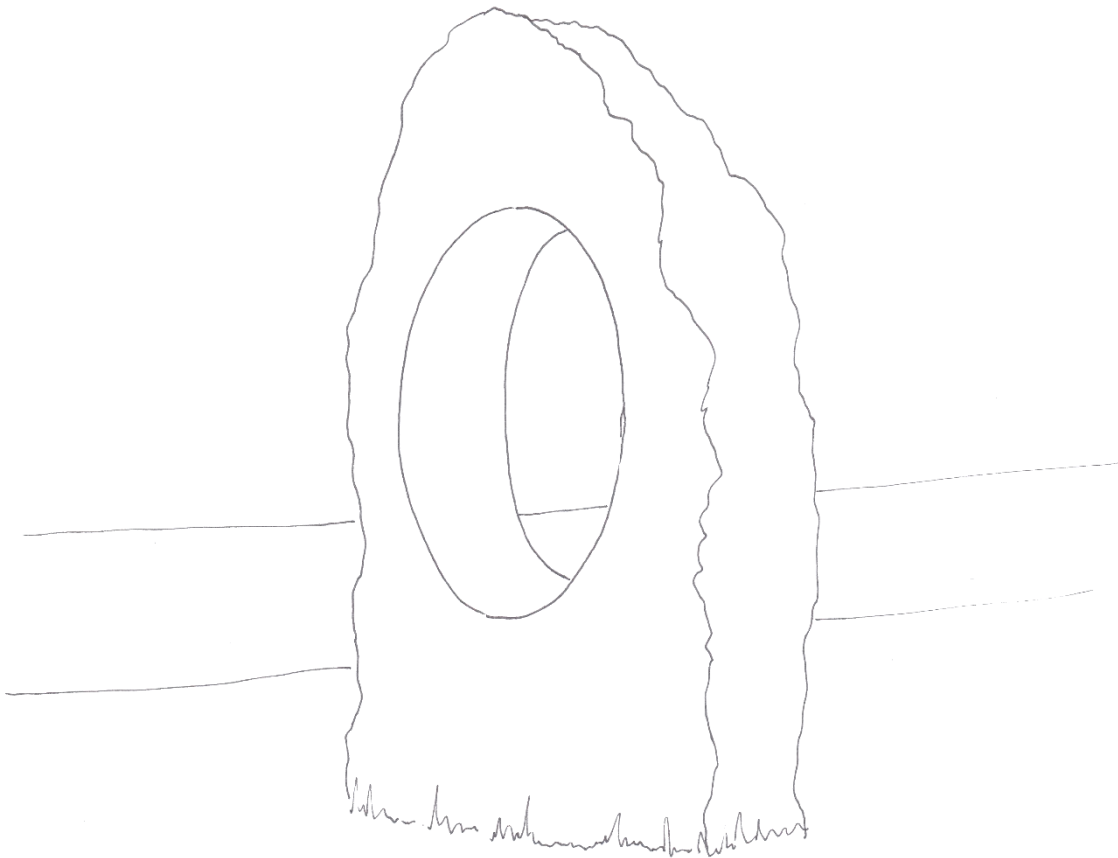


ARCHITECTURAL STONE CARVING · RESTORATION · STATUARY · LETTER CUTTING

www.alexwenham.co.uk · 07703 260672 · alex@alexwenham.co.uk



ALEX WENHAM LTD



Sketch of 'gateway' stone, showing climbable hole. Two other smaller boulders will be laid nearby to this standing stone.

ARCHITECTURAL STONE CARVING · RESTORATION · STATUARY · LETTER CUTTING

www.alexwenham.co.uk · 07703 260672 · alex@alexwenham.co.uk



ALEX WENHAM LTD



Mock-up of 'gateway' stone in proposed location being modelled by glamorous assistants. The circular hole could be lower than seen here, to be more readily climbable. David in background showing height of 'Hare' stone in flowerbed beyond.

ARCHITECTURAL STONE CARVING · RESTORATION · STATUARY · LETTER CUTTING

www.alexwenham.co.uk · 07703 260672 · alex@alexwenham.co.uk



ALEX WENHAM LTD



Mock-up of 'Hare' stone in proposed location within flowerbed.

ARCHITECTURAL STONE CARVING · RESTORATION · STATUARY · LETTER CUTTING

www.alexwenham.co.uk · 07703 260672 · alex@alexwenham.co.uk



ALEX WENHAM LTD



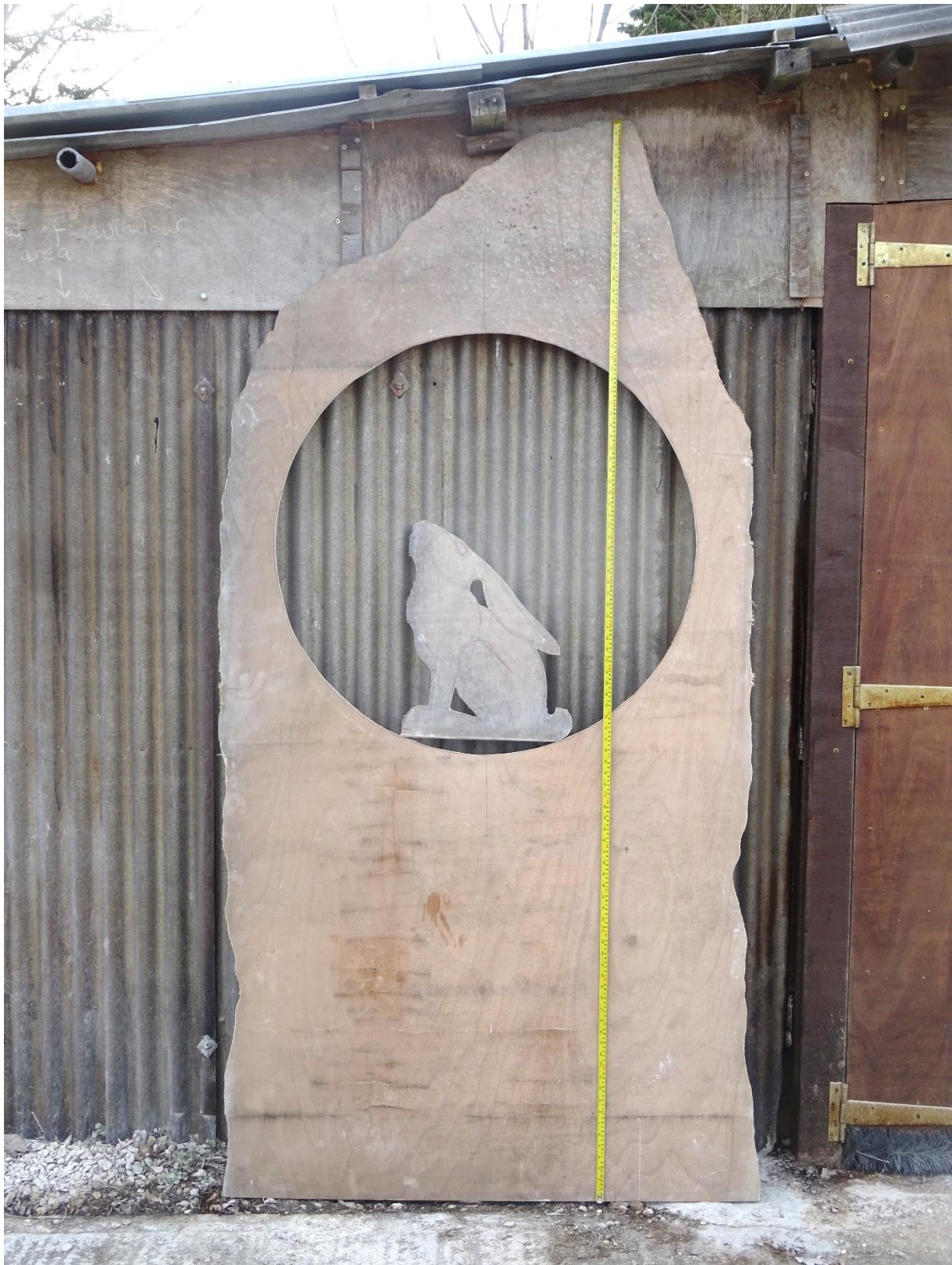
Template of hare profile. (NB hare to be carved completely in the round)

ARCHITECTURAL STONE CARVING · RESTORATION · STATUARY · LETTER CUTTING

www.alexwenham.co.uk · 07703 260672 · alex@alexwenham.co.uk



ALEX WENHAM LTD



Template of hare proposal, tape measure to scale

ARCHITECTURAL STONE CARVING · RESTORATION · STATUARY · LETTER CUTTING

www.alexwenham.co.uk · 07703 260672 · alex@alexwenham.co.uk



ALEX WENHAM LTD

Quote:

Item	Description	Price
1	Concept, design, small amount community engagement	1250
2	Supply two large boulders (approx 2.5t ea), and two smaller boulders (approx 0.75t)	2500
3	Deliver standing stones to workshop/small boulders directly to site	500
4	Dress flat base to 2no standing stones	300
5	Dress large circular piercing to 'gateway' standing stone as per image, clean faces, curved intrados, square section	1300
6	Dress large circular piercing to 'hare' standing stone as per images, clean faces, curved intrados, square section, leaving reservation in place for hare sculpture	1300
7	Carve hare as per design images	4000
8	Dress recessed area in circular intrados of 'hare' stone to receive tile mosaic (Clare), leaving a lip of square material to each arris	500
9	Deliver standing stones to site	250
10	oversee installation offered gratis (contractor to handle installation inc prepare groundworks)	-
	Total (ex VAT)	£11,900
	VAT to be added	

Notes:

1. Includes all materials
2. Includes all design work
3. Please see my terms and conditions attached
4. Timing by negotiation subject to availability
5. Workshop visits welcomed by appointment
6. VAT to be added at current rate at time of invoice
7. See other practical details below:

ARCHITECTURAL STONE CARVING · RESTORATION · STATUARY · LETTER CUTTING

www.alexwenham.co.uk · 07703 260672 · alex@alexwenham.co.uk



ALEX WENHAM LTD

Practical details

Stone type: Ancaster Weatherbed. This is a fossiliferous oolitic limestone of the Jurassic period. It is available in large, raw quarry block format; and (importantly for this project) with all natural faces (generally stone is sawn from other quarries and has sawn faces). It can range in hue from pale buff to tawny and even pink, often with prominent bands of colour within its varying strata. Generally the exterior (natural) surface of a boulder will look relatively homogenous, but the dressed surfaces to the interior will reveal the geological detail, including a wealth of small fossil material (seashells). The largest blocks can also have at their centre a striking 'heart' of very hard steely blue-grey material. It is one of my favourite stones to work, carves very finely, is very robust and has excellent weathering properties. This material can be observed in Oxford in the door and window surrounds of Waterstone's bookshop at the top of Cornmarket, and also the principal façade of Wadham College on Parks Rd. Samples of this material and existing sculptures made from it can be viewed by appointment at my Cumnor workshop.

Dimensions: will be determined by the available shapes/sizes of the natural material. Typically the largest of these blocks come with a bed height of around 500mm, a width of up to 1200, and a length of up to 2500-2800mm. Of course the intention is to stand the stone up on end, so that the length from a geological perspective will become the height from a sculptural one.

Installation: the large standing stones will require a small plinth of concrete to be floated into the ground to make a footing. They will need to be lifted into place mechanically (telehandler, fork-lift or hi-ab). Prior conversations have involved an assumption that the contractor, having concrete and machinery on site, will be able to provide these; though this remains to be established and may have a cost implication. The smaller boulders will need to be laid in place mechanically via the same means, but will not require any ground preparation.

In situ carving: as part of the proposal, I have offered to undertake some of the final stages of carving *in situ*, over the course of a few days, and be happy to engage in conversation with passers-by while I do this. My hope is that this engagement will satisfy the remainder of my part of the council's hope for engagement between the artists and the community.

Maintenance: the stone is extremely durable, and will require very little in the way of maintenance – perhaps only washing from time to time (bird droppings etc).

Timing: by negotiation subject to availability following the issuing of an instruction. Please note that my workshop diary is extremely full for the remainder of this year.

Alex Wenham
Oxford
X February MMXXII

ARCHITECTURAL STONE CARVING · RESTORATION · STATUARY · LETTER CUTTING

www.alexwenham.co.uk · 07703 260672 · alex@alexwenham.co.uk