

Green Street

Maintaining an historic route for today's use

What are the issues?

- Green Street is an important route. It is the only way for road traffic to reach several farm buildings and homes. For WHS visitors it is the quickest way to access the north-east and south-east quadrants of the circle from the centre of the village.
- The surface of the road is generally poor, especially at its eastern end, and needs work. In addition to other traffic, the road has to support the daily passage of heavy agricultural and commercial vehicles.
- At the northern and southern points of access to the circle, the verge on the left hand side (travelling away from the village) has been very seriously eroded for a length of about 15 metres, exposing and adversely impacting a low wall, and is often flooded after rainfall. It is a hazard for pedestrians and motorists alike.
- Green Street is used by motor bikes and road vehicles to gain access to the Ridgeway as often outside the permitted period (April-October) as within it. This causes serious damage to what has been called a precious 'archaeo-reserve'.
- Parking in Green Street by visitors to the circle, previously a feature only of solstice celebration, is now an issue over many weekends. Parked vehicles have caused difficulty to milk tankers needing to access farm buildings at the end of the road.

What have we done so far?

- In the past parishioners have asked for something to be done about the eroded verge, the quality of the road surface, frequent access to the Ridgeway by motor-bikes and off-road vehicles outside the permitted period, and parking.
- In January APC reported the eroded verge to Wiltshire Council. After inspection in February, the Council agreed with the National Trust that a barrier be put in place and that the Trust should lead in considering other remedial actions.
- Wiltshire Council patched parts of the road surface during 2017 though much of the work needs repeating.
- In 2016 the Avebury WHS Steering Committee asked Wiltshire Council to extend the current Traffic Regulation Order to provide year-round protection of the Ridgeway, making access by motor bikes and off-road vehicles illegal.

Possible ways forward

- The eroded verge should be renewed as a matter of urgency.
- The road surface needs attention before the end of 2018.
- Concerns about access by motor bikes and off-road vehicles outside the permitted period could be addressed by extending the Traffic Regulation Order in the way suggested in 2016 by the Avebury WHS Steering Committee.
- Signage currently at the head of Green Street should be adapted to make it clear that, for road vehicles, it is a *cul de sac* and also that there is no parking available except for residents.
- Renewing the faded yellow lines would be ineffective if not enforced (and Wiltshire Council tells us that there are no resources available for enforcement) and would in any case be inappropriate for a World Heritage Site.
- **Other suggestions or views are welcome.**