

# 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 allows access to 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 northern side has been very seriously eroded for a length of about 15 metres, exposing a low wall, and is often flooded after rainfall. It is a hazard for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists alike.
- Green Street is used by motor bikes and road vehicles to gain access to the Ridgeway within the permitted period (April-October) and outside it. This causes serious damage to what has been called a precious 'archaeo-reserve'.
- Parking in Green Street by visitors to the circle, previously something that happened only at the summer 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 motor vehicles outside the permitted period, and parking.
- In 2016 the parish council supported Avebury WHS Steering Committee in asking Wiltshire Council to extend the current Traffic Regulation Order to provide year-round protection of the Ridgeway, making access by motor bikes and motor vehicles illegal.
- Wiltshire Council patched parts of the road surface during 2017 though much of the work needs repeating.
- In January the parish council 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.

## **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 motor 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* so as to deter parking except by 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. In any case yellow lines can be considered inappropriate for a World Heritage Site.

**Other suggestions or views are welcome.**