

## **Information for the West Kennet Avenue**

- The West Kennet Avenue was built nearly 4,500 years ago and is a legally protected (Scheduled) Monument.
- It is part of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site, a status given for the important and significant Neolithic and Early Bronze Age archaeology in these areas.
- Archaeological excavations in the area have shown occupation activity going back nearly 5,500 years, before the Avenue was constructed. Neolithic occupation evidence in Avebury is rare and this location significantly adds to our understanding of life in Avebury at this time.
- These excavations have also shown that this important archaeology is very shallow - just centimetres below the surface.
- Mesolithic artefacts, Bronze Age burials and prehistoric fields systems spanning both sides of the B4003 have also been found here.
- The full length of the B4003 runs along a large portion of the West Kennet Avenue and cuts through parts of it. Sections of the road and the opposite verge are included in the extent of the scheduled area.
- The verge is being eroded along the entire length of the road due to vehicles passing along the B4003, pulling over or parking along the roadside. This erosion is substantial in several areas; it is damaging a legally protected monument and is contributing to the loss of globally significant archaeology.
- The West Kennet Avenue Scheduled Monument has been placed on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register as a result of this damage.
- Much of the West Kennet Avenue and the surrounding areas remain unexcavated. Losing parts of this monument and the archaeology within due to erosion and damage caused by vehicles has hugely negative impacts on the conservation, management and understanding of this special and unique site.