

Area Board Project/Councillor Initiative

1. What is the project?

To work in partnership with English Heritage, Wiltshire Council, Easton Grey Parish Meeting and the parish councils within the Community Area to safeguard the Roman settlement on the Fosse Way at Whitewalls, Easton Grey from further damage by motor-vehicles using the byway. To restore the site in order to make it a pleasant place for local people and visitors to enjoy the scenery and to understand and appreciate its historic importance as a scheduled ancient monument.

The police will install and monitor cameras in the area. Bridle gates and barriers will be installed as well as fencing. Information boards will be provided by English Heritage and it is hoped that once the site is secured that English Heritage will make good to the archaeological site.

Traffic Regulation Orders will prevent motorised vehicles accessing the site while enabling walkers, cyclists and riders to enjoy this amenity.

2. Where is the project taking place?

Whitewalls in the parish of Easton Grey, at the River Avon (Sherston Branch)

3. When will the project take place?

Over the twelve month period starting in April 2011.

4. Please outline:

- **Community benefits**
- **Evidence of need**
- **Links to Community Plan**
- **Community Issue**

Community benefits - the project will restore the damage that has been caused to this nationally important heritage site by its unwitting use by off-road motor-vehicles as a driving course, so that it can be properly enjoyed by local people and visitors for specific visits and as part of walks and rides through the area. Interpretation panels will be installed to explain the history of the site and its conservation value for flora and fauna. The site, once restored, has the potential to become an important educational resource for schools, locally and regionally, and other groups and individuals interested in the study of history, archaeology and nature.

Evidence of need - the damage that has been caused to the site, primarily by 4x4 vehicles, has

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been a constant cause for concern and source of complaints from English Heritage, the landowners, local parish councils and walkers, horse-riders and cyclists for many years. All are keen to see an end to the problems and there is strong local support for this initiative.

Links to the Community Plan - The application demonstrates links to the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan 2009-2013 in that local people stressed the need to retain and protect their rural environment.

Community Issue - The parish meeting and local people have long been concerned about this site and wish to see the problems resolved.

5. What is the desired outcome/s of this project?

Through a combination of Traffic Regulation Orders and physical measures to prevent motor-vehicles from accessing the vulnerable areas of the site, the damage being caused will be overcome and restoration of the site to ensure that it is a pleasant and welcoming place to visit can be achieved. Interpretation panels and information will enable people to have a greater awareness and understanding of the site, so that it can be used as a local and regional educational resource.

6. Who will Project Manage this project?

Project management will be by a partnership involving English Heritage, Wiltshire Council, the landowners, Easton Grey Parish Meeting, the Police and off-road motoring organisations, led by Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way and Countryside Service.

7. Please confirm costs and provide quotes

- Total project costs up to and including £5,000 - 1 quote
- Total project costs over £5,000 - 3 quotes

The cost of the project as a whole is estimated to be in the region of £20,000. However, the costs are to be shared amongst the project partners and **the contribution now sought from the Area Board of £4,386 will cover the installation of heavy-duty gates, purchase and installation of barriers and fencing to secure the site against continued misuse by motor-vehicles.**

8. Additional information in support of the project

Several attempts have been made over the years to resolve the problems on this site, but achieving a consensus over effective measures has been difficult to reach with the result that the attempts met with limited success. The new approach has the support of all the interested parties and will provide an effective, permanent solution for the future.