

AGENDA

Meeting: Corsham Area Board
Place: Corsham Town Hall, High Street, Corsham, Wilts, SN13 0EZ
Date: Thursday 11 January 2024
Time: 7.00 pm

Including the Parishes of: Box, Corsham, Colerne, Lacock.

The Area Board welcomes and invites contributions from members of the public. The Chairman will try to ensure that everyone who wishes to speak will have the opportunity to do so.

If you have any requirements that would make your attendance at the meeting easier, please contact your Democratic Services Officer.

Networking opportunity from 6:30pm – Meet the Wiltshire Council Director of Highways and Transport, Cabinet Member for Highways and Local Councillors.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to email max.hirst@wiltshire.gov.uk

All the papers connected with this meeting are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225) 713114 / 713115.

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Corsham Ladbrook (Chairman)
Cllr Helen Belcher OBE, Corsham Pickwick (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Box & Colerne
Cllr Derek Walters, Corsham Without

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Parking

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Public Participation

Please see the agenda list on following pages for details of the items for discussion. The Area Boards welcome public participation and the Chairman will try to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate where possible. To discuss matters not on the agenda, please contact the officer named on the front page, ahead of the meeting.

For extended details on meeting procedure, submission and scope of questions and other matters, please consult [Part 4 of the council's constitution](#).

The full constitution can be found at [this link](#).

Our privacy policy is found [here](#).

For assistance on these and other matters please contact the officer named above for details

Area Board Officers

Strategic Engagement & Partnerships Manager (SEPM) – Ros Griffiths
Area Board Delivery Officer – Louisa Young
Democratic Services Officer – Max Hirst

Items to be considered	Time
<u>Welcome and Introductions</u>	7.00pm
<p>1 Highways and Transport Matters</p> <p>To receive a presentation covering the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Business Plan Priorities • Maintenance • Local Transport Plan • Congestion • Public Transport • Air Quality 	
<p>2 Question and Answer Session</p> <p>An opportunity to ask any highways questions.</p>	
<p>3 Session Summary and Next Steps</p> <p>To consider the next steps arising from the presentation and subsequent discussions.</p>	
<u>Short Interlude - Before Area Board</u>	
<u>Area Board Business Items</u>	
<p>4 Apologies for Absence</p> <p>To receive any apologies for absence.</p>	8:00pm
<p>5 Minutes (<i>Pages 1 - 10</i>)</p> <p>To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2023.</p>	
<p>6 Declarations of Interest</p> <p>To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.</p>	
<p>7 Chairman's Updates (<i>Pages 11 - 56</i>)</p> <p>The Chairman will give an update on outcomes and actions arising from previous meetings of the Area Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2023. • Cost of Living Update 	
<p>8 Information Items (<i>Pages 57 - 82</i>)</p> <p>The Board is asked to note the following Information items:</p>	

- Wiltshire Age UK Update
- Community First
- Healthwatch Wiltshire
- Update from BSW Together (Integrated Care System)
- FACT Family Help Programme Update
- Archaeology Service Annual Newsletter 2023.

9 **Partner and Community Updates** (Pages 83 - 84)

Verbal Updates

To receive any verbal updates from representatives, including:

- a) Wiltshire Police
- b) Fire & Rescue
- c) Town & Parish Council Nominated Representatives
- d) Corsham Climate Action

Written Updates

The Board is asked to note any written and online updates attached to the agenda:

- Parish and Town Council Updates

10 **Area Board Priority Areas Update**

Update on our Priority Areas:

- Youth engagement and positive activity opportunities (Cllr Helen Belcher)
- Addressing climate change (Cllr Derek Walters)
- Promoting wellbeing and reducing social isolation in older and vulnerable people (Cllr Brian Mathew)
- Supporting the local economy (Cllr Ruth Hopkinson)

11 **Area Board Grants - Budget Update**

The Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager for Corsham, Ros Griffiths, will update the Board on the budget for Area Board grant applications.

12 **Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG)**

To note the minutes and consider any recommendations arising from the most recent LHFIG meeting.

Further information on the LHFIG process can be found [here](#).

Close

The next meeting of Corsham Area Board will be on 27 June 2024.

For information on applying for a grant or grant application deadlines for these meetings, contact the Area Board Delivery Officer, louisa.young@wiltshire.gov.uk

MINUTES

Meeting: Corsham Area Board
Place: Selwyn Hall, Valens Terrace, Box, SN13 8NT
Date: 12 October 2023
Start Time: 19:00pm
Finish Time: 21:22pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Max Hirst max.hirst@wiltshire.gov.uk,(Tel): 01225718215 or (e-mail)
max.hirst@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Ruth Hopkinson
Cllr Helen Belcher OBE
Cllr Derek Walters
Cllr Dr Brian Mathew

Wiltshire Council Officers

Ros Griffiths – Strategic Engagement & Partnership Manager
Louisa Young – Area Board Delivery Officer
Max Hirst – Democratic Services Officer
Dominic Argar – Assistant Multimedia Officer

Partners

Wiltshire Police – Inspector Pete Foster
Police and Crime Commissioner – Philip Wilkinson OBE
Chief Constable – Catherine Roper

Total in attendance: 37

<u>Minute No..</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
116	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The chair welcome everyone to the meeting.</p>
117	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <p>Emma Legg</p>
118	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <p>To approve and sign as a true and correct record of the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2023.</p>
119	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
120	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chair gave an update on outcomes and actions arising from previous meetings of the Area Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Local Plan Review • Wiltshire Life Awards 2024 • Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023 • Cost of Living Announcement
121	<p><u>Information Items</u></p> <p>The Board received and noted the following announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthwatch Wiltshire • Update from BSW Together (Integrated Care System)
122	<p><u>Police and Crime Commissioner & Chief Constable</u></p>

Corsham Area Board was pleased to welcome Phillip Wilkinson OBE, the Police and Crime Commissioner to the meeting where he gave a verbal update on progress since his appointment 2 years ago.

The Police and Crime Commissioner described his main role as to challenge Wiltshire Police Force to perform better in order to remove itself from special measures.

- Particular attention was drawn to efforts to improve call centres for 999 calls, with response times dropping from 27 minutes on average to 10 minutes.
- A more effective and efficient Police Force, including an improvement to response times.
- A reduction in violent crimes, specifically sexual crimes which has improved from a 2% conviction rate to currently 14%, with the expectation that this figure will continue to improve. Drug crimes have also been prioritised through Operation Scorpion to focus on specific targets committing drug crimes. Wiltshire Council is now the top Force in county line drug disruption.
- Tackling crimes highlighted by the community, specifically road safety. Community Speedwatch was highlighted as really important to this priority and enforcement statistics had massively improved through ticketing and other enforcement actions. Antisocial behaviour was also highlighted as a community priority.
- Rural Crime. The local Rural Crime Unit had been given better equipment in the form of drones and night vision to better tackle specifically organised crime gangs committing rural crimes against farmers. Operation Ragwort was highlighted as a specific initiative to tackle this.

The board also welcomed the Chief Constable, Catherine Roper, who gave a verbal presentation.

Points to note:

The Chief Constable had been in post 6 months and described the work she had been doing since the force had been graded poorly and placed in special measures in June 2022. The reasons for this were described as:

- Not recognising vulnerable persons and their challenges.
- The response to incidents not being adequate.
- The process from when members of the public first contacted the police to the conclusion of a case was described as having failings all throughout.

The Chief Constable was very conscious that the foundations of Wiltshire Police needed to be rebuilt, and that as trust and confidence in the force had declined the morale within the force had declined as a result.

Rebuilding the fundamentals of Wiltshire Police would lead to being brought out of special measures. This included work already underway on the business-as-usual delivery plan, restructuring the senior management and performance frameworks and refocusing crime-tackling priorities.

The Chief Constable understood public unease at burglary crimes and described this as unacceptable. More investment had been made in neighbourhood teams and with the reorganisation of response teams both would add to further deterrence and response.

Other areas of improvement included:

- Visibility on the roads to deter criminals.
- Recruitment activities, with emphasis given to opportunities for those in a gap year.
- The Evolve programme, allowing those most involved in day-to-day activity to give their views on where improvements can be made.
- Auditing and inspections, ensuring progress had been made through regular reports to the PCC. Every 6 months the Chief Constable and PCC attend Whitehall to face numerous questions and explain how improvements had been made.
- The Control Room. The Chief Constable praised the work that had been done to improve the speed at which calls are answered and actioned but understood that more improvements could and would be made.

The following points and clarifications were made by the Board and the public in attendance:

That the rise in sexual offence prosecutions was a good start and hopefully will continue the upward trend.

It was good to see speeding being taken so seriously, with serious issues being reported in the Corsham area.

It was clarified that the next inspection was expected imminently but more specific inspections took place continuously on all areas of the force since Wiltshire Police remained in Special Measures.

	<p>The Coordinator for Speedwatch in Box received clarification that officers could be provided to assist and authorise tickets for offenders and enforcement was really important to Wiltshire Police.</p> <p>It was clarified that since parking had been decriminalised Wiltshire Council was now responsible for enforcing rules, however where parking was dangerous the police would respond and take action.</p> <p>The Board was pleased that the police presence was increasing around town, and it had been noticed and appreciated.</p> <p>It was clarified that Speed Indicator Devices and the data from them were used to help determine where a police presence was needed to monitor speeding.</p>
123	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>The Board received a verbal update from representatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Police – Inspector Pete Foster • Town & Parish Council Nominated Representatives • Parish and Town Councils <p>Box Parish Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New recycling waste bins. • The Box Hill Common Community Orchard was already providing a benefit to the community by teaching new skills. • Further work on the Box Hill Common Fruit Orchard area had been completed or undertaken, including another 10kg of seeds, clearing out invasive species and felling diseased trees. • The Rudloe Litter Group had collected and disposed of 144 bags of litter so far this calendar year. • With the Rudloe Community Association, Box Parish Council had lodged an expression of interest in acquiring Rudloe Community Centre from Wiltshire Council. <p>Written updates were also noted by the Board from:</p> <p>Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service Corsham Town Council</p>
124	<p><u>Priority Updates</u></p> <p>The Board gave an update on each of its respective priorities for 2023/24:</p> <p>Youth engagement and positive activity opportunities (Cllr Helen Belcher)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get active event and youth directory. • Next Local Youth Network meeting set for November. • SPARK festival for year 9 students to think about Health and Wellbeing. <p>Addressing climate change (Cllr Derek Walters)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for Tree Wardens had been revitalised. • More climate themed events and activities were being planned <p>Promoting wellbeing and reducing social isolation in older and vulnerable people (Cllr Brian Mathew)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellbeing group meeting took place recently in early October. • A Celebrating Age event will take place on 27 October. • Falls Prevention Resources <p>Supporting the local economy (Cllr Ruth Hopkinson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household Support Funding for Corsham Foodbank and Souper Friday • Corsham Library Warm Spaces • Corsham Means Business
125	<p><u>Corsham Health Centre - Follow Up</u></p> <p>A statement was read out, with a further update promised for the next area board meeting in January:</p> <p><i>“The Chippenham, Corsham and Box PCN are interested in taking some space in Corsham Health Centre in the short to medium term. Discussions are underway with other health providers including the RUH and AWP to see if a solution can be found that maximises the use of the space to make bringing the building back into use financially viable. Graham Wilson is currently on leave, but a further update will follow on his return.”</i></p> <p><i>Simon Yeo, Assistant Director of Estates.</i></p> <p>The update was described as positive by the Board and expectation for a further update at the next Area Board meeting in January was expressed.</p>
126	<p><u>Rudloe Community Association - Community Asset Transfer Request</u></p> <p>This agenda item dealt with an application for the transfer of the management, control and maintenance of Rudloe Community Centre and carpark from Wiltshire Council to the Rudloe Community Association, in accordance with Wiltshire Council’s Asset Transfer Policy. The Association had recently been reactivated for the purpose of returning the centre to community use. The site was designated</p>

	<p>as strategic (Category 1) as it offered opportunity for affordable housing and had a value in excess of £250k.</p> <p>The Area Board was asked to consider an application submitted by Rudloe Community Association for the transfer of the management, control and maintenance, of Rudloe Community Centre and carpark.</p> <p>It was clarified that the Rudloe Community Association were providing an “open-ended commitment” to supporting the Centre. There wasn’t a particular viability benchmark in place in terms of costs and there were diverse funding sources in place to ensure support is provided. There were no specific plans to renovate but capital was in place for work on the building, for example the roof.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Ruth Hopkinson and seconded by Cllr Brian Mathew it was:</p> <p><u>Resolved</u></p> <p>To endorse and refer the Community Asset Transfer Request to Cabinet</p>
127	<p><u>Area Board Grants</u></p> <p><u>Community Area Grants</u></p> <p>Corsham Orcas requested £5000 towards timing blocks for their swimming club.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Helen Belcher OBE and seconded by Cllr Brian Mathew</p> <p>It was:</p> <p><u>Resolved</u> To award Corsham Orcas £5000 towards timing blocks. <u>Reason</u> – <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2023/24.</i></p> <p>Box Cricket Club requested £5000 towards women’s changing and showering facilities.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Helen Belcher OBE and seconded by Cllr Brian Mathew</p> <p>It was:</p> <p><u>Resolved</u> To award Box Cricket Club £5000 towards women’s changing and showering facilities. <u>Reason</u> – <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2023/24.</i></p> <p><u>Older and Vulnerable Adults Grants</u></p>

Wiltshire Music Centre requested £1500 for Celebrating Age Wiltshire.

Proposed by Cllr Brian Mathews and seconded by Cllr Derek Walters

It was:

Resolved

To award Wiltshire Music Centre £1500 towards Celebrating Age Wiltshire.

Reason – The application met the Older and Vulnerable Adults Grants Criteria 2023/24.

Heritage Trails Project requested £1246.90 for Trail Walking Leaflets.

Proposed by Cllr Derek Walters and seconded by Cllr Brian Mathews

It was:

Resolved

Heritage Trails Project £1246.90 towards trail walking leaflets.

Reason – The application met the Older and Vulnerable Adults Grants Criteria 2023/24.

Inclusive Intergenerational Dance requested £3200 for a creative lunch.

Proposed by Cllr Brian Mathews and seconded by Cllr Helen Belcher OBE

It was:

Resolved

To award Inclusive Intergenerational Dance £3200 towards their creative lunch.

Reason – The application met the Older and Vulnerable Adults Grants Criteria 2023/24.

Youth Grants

Corsham Windband Association requested £3000 for extending their provision to teach woodwind and percussion instruments.

Proposed by Cllr Helen Belcher OBE and seconded by Cllr Brian Mathews

It was:

Resolved

	<p>To award Corsham Windband Association £3000 towards teaching woodwind and percussion instruments, assuming that the matched funding after investigation was accepted. <u>Reason</u> – <i>The application met the Youth Grants Criteria 2023/24.</i></p> <p>Inclusive Intergenerational Dance requested £1600 for My Space.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Brian Mathews and seconded by Cllr Helen Belcher OBE</p> <p>It was:</p> <p><u>Resolved</u> To award Inclusive Intergenerational Dance £1600 towards My Space, providing that the required match funding was met. <u>Reason</u> – <i>The application met the Youth Grants Criteria 2023/24.</i></p> <p>Army Welfare Services requested £3240 for an Easter residential trip.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Brian Mathews and seconded by Cllr Ruth Hopkinson</p> <p>It was:</p> <p><u>Resolved</u> To award Army Welfare Services £3240 towards their Easter residential trip. <u>Reason</u> – <i>The application met the Older and Vulnerable Adults Grants Criteria 2023/24.</i></p> <p>The following grants were approved through delegated authority:</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Ruth Hopkinson and seconded by Cllr Helen Belcher OBE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Neston and Box Scout Group £500 • Cotswold Voluntary Wardens Colerne Rights of Way £1000 • Stay Safe Initiative Digital Empowerment Programme £725 • 1st Colerne Sea Scout Group Kayaking Equipment £432.50
128	<p><u>Local Highways and Footways Improvement Group</u></p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Ruth Hopkinson and seconded by Cllr Helen Belcher OBE it was:</p> <p><u>Resolved</u></p> <p>To approve the recommendations from the meeting of the Local Highways and Footways Improvement Group on 19 July 2023.</p>

129	<u>Urgent items</u> There were no urgent items
130	<u>Close</u> The next meeting of Corsham Area Board will be the 11 th January 2024.



The Police and Crime Commissioner's
ANNUAL REPORT
2022-23

Wiltshire and Swindon

pcc



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Foreword from Philip Wilkinson, Police and Crime Commissioner



Welcome to my Annual Report which I hope you will find informative as well as providing an insightful summary of the work undertaken by myself and my team during the 2022/23 financial year. It has certainly been another busy and productive year, with progress being made across all the priorities of my Police and Crime Plan 2022-25.

Since starting in this role, my mission, and that of my Office, has always been Making Wiltshire Safer – safer for all those who live, work and visit our county. I am totally committed to driving this mission throughout the remainder of my term as

I continue to deliver on the commitments that I have made to all residents.

While the Police and Crime Panel hold me to account, the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner is, on behalf of the residents of Wiltshire and Swindon, to hold the Chief Constable to account to maintain an effective, and legitimate, police force and the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan. This plan focuses on the priorities that you made me aware of through my many meetings with the public and our various survey feedback.

“ My mission has always been to make Wiltshire a safer place to live, work and visit. ”



The recruitment of a new Chief Constable was a conscious decision on my part to bring an experienced and senior chief officer to Wiltshire and I am pleased to be able to report that the actions Chief Constable Catherine Roper has been taking are delivering the necessary changes that we need to improve the performance of Wiltshire Police.

There has been a defined focus on quality of service, on driving performance, an increased focus on victims and quality of investigations to boost outcome rates. We have also seen a determined effort by the Chief to encourage leaders within the Force to take control and drive-up standards and for our communities to receive more visible, proactive policing.



There remains much work to be done and Chief Constable Roper has been detailing these improvements and actions in her fortnightly open letter to me, which she also shares with you - so you can hold us both to account.

I, and my strengthened team spent much of last year challenging the previous Chief Constable to empower and better support the front-line commanders and officers and which included putting in place a new hierarchy of leadership training courses.

Towards the end of last year and supported by the Government's 'uplift' in police officer numbers, we finally started to see some serious improvements in operational performance, and I am delighted to report that with Chief Constable Roper, and a restructured leadership team in place, these improvements are accelerating.

In summary, Wiltshire Police is an improving police force, which combined with the additional services commissioned by my office is an improving police service.

Collectively we are making considerable progress in many specialist areas of policing but we still have much more to do before Chief Constable Roper and I can be confident that we have the most effective operational processes in place to provide the policing service that our residents want and deserve.

It has taken nearly two years since I was first elected but I am now confident that working with Chief Constable Roper, and her new team, we will see positive progress when they are next assessed by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.

First and foremost, though, and more importantly than any inspection, I want Wiltshire Police, supported by my team, not only to continue to make Wiltshire safer but also for you, our residents, to feel safer in your communities too.

Only when we deliver that mission, and have earned the trust and confidence of you, our residents, will I be satisfied.

Philip Wilkinson
Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Commissioner

Police and Crime Commissioner **role**

As PCC, I ensure the public has a direct voice in policing and crime matters. I am also responsible for:

- Setting the strategy for policing and community safety through a Police and Crime Plan
- Commissioning a range of services to deliver the Police and Crime Plan
- Commissioning support services for victims of crime
- Setting the annual policing budget and the precept
- Providing a local link between police, local authorities, Wessex criminal justice, partner agencies and communities
- Consulting and engaging with members of the public, specifically victims of crime
- Maintaining an efficient and effective police force
- Holding the Chief Constable to account for the operational delivery of policing and the performance of the force
- Publishing an annual report reporting on progress made against the Police and Crime Plan
- Appointing, and if necessary, removing a Chief Constable
- Contributing to the response to national and regional criminal activity and threats as set out by the Home Secretary in the Strategic Policing Requirement.





Your Police and Crime Commissioner - find out about my role and work

I am keen that Wiltshire's residents can find out as much information as possible about the role of the PCC, my office and the work that is being carried out.

As well as sending regular updates to all parish council magazines, there are a range of options on my website where you can access the latest news and performance reports:

- » [Making Wiltshire Safer - Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025 \(office.com\)](#)
- » [Quarterly Performance Reporting \(wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)
- » [Philip Wilkinson - Choose My Police and Crime Commissioner \(choosemypcc.org.uk\)](#)
- » [Campaigns \(wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)
- » [Media releases - OPCC News \(wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)
- » [Area boards - Scheduled meetings - Wiltshire Council](#)
- » [Police and Crime Panel - Scheduled meetings and reports \(Wiltshire Council\)](#)

Our policing area

Surrounded by the counties of **Berkshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, and Somerset**

Covers an area of almost **3,500 sq km**



Salisbury Plain

is the principal home and training ground for the armed forces



Two unitary authorities

Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council



Population of **726,951***

Swindon = 222,881 Wiltshire = 504,070* (*ONS 2020 estimates)*



2,298 employees

1,165 police officers, 122 PCSOs, 1,070 staff



Oldest county force

in England - established on **13 November 1839**



Historic monuments

such as Stonehenge, Avebury and the city of Salisbury

Has rural and market towns

Calne, Chippenham, Devizes, Marlborough, Malmesbury, Royal Wootton Bassett, Warminster and Trowbridge



Swindon a vibrant town located on the M4 corridor, homes lots of national and global head offices



Budget of **£134m**

Central grant **£73m**

Police council tax **£61m**



Wiltshire police demand:

More than **43,000** recorded crimes (pre-Covid)



More than **103,000** 999 calls

More than **268,000** 101 calls



11,000 victims of crime supported by PCC victim services

Making Wiltshire Safer: Police and Crime plan overview



Making Wiltshire Safer: Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025 was informed by you – our residents.

I consulted widely via the Use Your Voice survey, public discussion groups, with 462 responses from partners on behalf of large parts of our community, including MPs, local authorities, and councillors in Wiltshire and Swindon.

I listened to key stakeholders and partners, using Focus Group sessions including representatives from diverse communities and young people, and listened to the Chief Constable and colleagues within Wiltshire Police, before publishing my Plan, after approval from the Wiltshire and Swindon's Police and Crime Panel.

You told me that you wanted a police service which fights crime, prevents Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and drug-related activities in your communities, delivers improvements in road safety, tackles rural crime and reduces serious violence and domestic abuse.

These areas were important to you and my Police and Crime Plan has ensured that the strategic blueprint range of activities to achieve improvements have been carried out.

Since its publication in March 2022, I have continued to listen to the comments and ideas of Wiltshire and Swindon's communities, also drawing from a wide range of public surveys and crime data to shape delivery.

My mission has always been to make Wiltshire safer through the provision of a quality and efficient police service which tackles the crimes that matter most to our communities. My **Making Wiltshire Safer: Police and Crime Plan** sets out the direction for Wiltshire Police's focus and priorities from 2022 – 2025 to help to achieve this.

“ It is my job as Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure Wiltshire Police has the necessary resources to fight and prevent crime. ”

During the last year, our communities have reinforced the need for more frontline police officers – and I agree with them.



Using your support for a precept increase, Wiltshire Police has recruited additional police officers to help provide more visible policing in communities and quality investigations. Working with the Chief Constable, and on her operational advice, we will increase the total number of officers by 32 in the annual review of the current workforce mix.

These officers will bolster Wiltshire Police's work in the community, and crime investigation, and are in addition to the Uplift officers who are also coming through the recruitment and training pipeline into our communities, as well as specialist roles and the rural crime team. This will mean Wiltshire Police will better meet the needs of our communities.

The Plan has four priorities:

PRIORITY 1: Provide a police service that meets the needs of its community

Due to the government's uplift programme, we now have 150 more officers than two years ago – and the most police officers Wiltshire Police has had in more than a decade. This is alongside a new targeted operational model that places more officers in the neighbourhood teams and in the community.

We also now have two mobile police stations to visit our smaller towns and villages where police stations have been closed and to improve the service we deliver. Wiltshire Police has two more mobile stations in the delivery pipeline and we hope these will be out in our communities soon.



We still have work to do to improve our response to 101 calls but that is a work in progress.



and the Force have significantly stepped-up targeted enforcement and disruption activity to target these offenders involved in gang violence. Following the government's establishment of the Serious Violence Duty, my office has been leading efforts to better coordinate the multi-agency response to knife crime in our communities, through the Community Safety Partnerships in Swindon and Wiltshire and invest the additional funding we have secured to divert those young people most at risk of serious violence and support those affected.



Op Sceptre: some of the knives surrendered

PRIORITY 2: Reduce violence and serious crime

Two years ago, the positive outcome rate for rape and serious sexual offences in Wiltshire were some of the worst in the country and less than 2%. The Force's positive outcome rate as of March 2023 is 22.6% which, while still too low, is an improvement I am determined to sustain, and I encourage any victims to please report any crimes to the Police.

The use of illegal substances is a complex and long-term challenge but Wiltshire Police is now the best performing force in the country per head of capita for county line drug disruptions and my office is working closely with partner agencies across the Combating Drugs Partnerships in Wiltshire and Swindon to help those affected by substance abuse by delivering high-quality treatment and recovery, as well as targeting the networks to reduce supply and demand.

There is understandable concern from communities about the rise in knife crime and serious violence, particularly by young people,



PRIORITY 3: Tackle crimes that matter to local communities

You asked me to focus on road safety, anti-social behaviour, and rural crime.



Wiltshire Police's approach to delivering road safety is a combination of education, effective enforcement, and deterrence.

In 2021, the Force issued a total of **192** enforcement tickets, referrals to court and speed awareness courses. As a result of significant investment, between the 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, this team undertook enforcement at **220** locations issuing **2,561** speed awareness course tickets, **330** fines and points and **44** court appearances.

A key commitment I made in my plan was to use data from community Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) to better inform and target the police's enforcement activities to areas of greatest risk and I am pleased to confirm that this is now happening.

You can keep up-to-date with where speed enforcement action is happening across our county by visiting my webpage – [Road Safety \(wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](http://wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk).

Tackling anti-social behaviour requires a comprehensive approach with local authorities and other partners, as many of the solutions and interventions are delivered by organisations other than the police. While the overall trend for anti-social behaviour is heading down, I recognise the impact this type of crime can have on individuals and communities, and I am pleased that where hotspots do emerge the police and local authorities are working together to tackle it swiftly.

Significant investment has been Op Galileo, which forms part of Wiltshire Police's Rural Crime strategic plan and is a national campaign which seeks to combat offenders poaching and hare coursing. My office has funded drones and night vision equipment to drive enforcement improvements. As a result, there has been a 55.5% reduction in hare coursing and a 64.3% reduction in poaching crime logs.



PRIORITY 4: Improving the experience of victims and delivering justice

My office commissions many of the services which support victims and using local funding, as well as money from the Ministry of Justice, we invested £2M in these services in 2022-23.

I chair the Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board which works to coordinate criminal justice services and improvements across the system, working with the Crown Prosecution Service, HM Courts and Tribunal Service, Prison Service, Probation Service, youth justice services, local judiciary, Legal Aid Agency, and the police.

2022 – 2023 Police and Crime plan progress update

Priority one



A police service that
meets the needs of
its communities

Recruitment of Chief Constable

I was delighted to appoint new Chief Constable, Catherine Roper, following a competitive recruitment process in February 2023. Appointing a Chief Constable is one of the most important decisions I will make while in office and I am grateful for the support of my office in bringing the comprehensive recruitment process to a successful conclusion.

We are fortunate to have secured such considerable policing experience and aptitude in Chief Constable Roper. Her focus and commitment to delivering a quality police service for the county's residents was evident and I was particularly heartened to hear the passion she will bring to improving the performance of, and confidence in, Wiltshire Police.





Uplift achieved

Wiltshire Police successfully increased its full-time equivalent police officer numbers to over 1,165 by March 2023 meeting the Government's national uplift campaign. I have also invested in additional officers and staff to ensure that Wiltshire's residents see an improved and more visible police service.

Annual drug offences crime volumes

There was a 10% decrease between April 2022 – March 2023 (1,109) and April 2021 – March 2022 (1,205). The national figures for crime disruption activity show Wiltshire Police are the top force in England and Wales for the past two years.

Mobile police stations

I approved investment for Wiltshire Police to purchase two further mobile police stations that will be active in rural communities and support night-time economy policing operations in our larger communities during certain weekends. They are equipped

and designed to replicate actual police stations, supporting neighbourhood policing officers further in their work protecting our communities.

HMICFRS vetting and misconduct

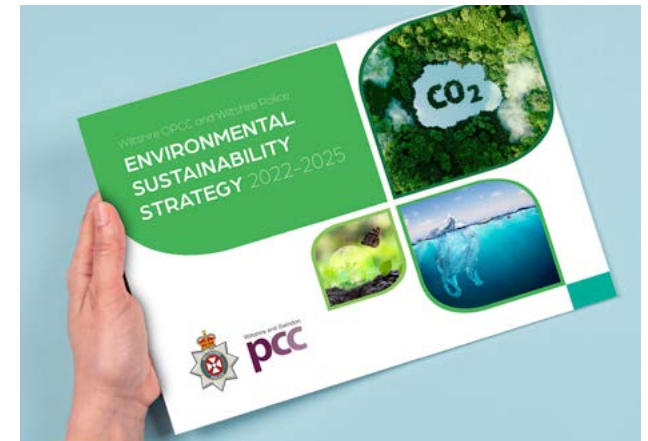
Together with Chief Constable Roper, I have reviewed all local standards and vetting policies to ensure they are fit-for-purpose. A comprehensive review of all existing misconduct cases has been completed by the Force. All Force staff and officers are being checked against national police data bases and I have taken the additional step to include all OPCC staff in this review.

Police training

My office commissioned an external review of Wiltshire Police training, receiving 80 recommendations for immediate actions to improve training and development for officers and staff. As a result, I approved investment of £1.2m to improve the training estate which includes new facilities and IT equipment, with the aim to significantly enhance the capability and quality of training the Force can deliver for staff.

Force and OPCC Environmental Sustainability strategy

We are focused on delivering reductions in emissions and reducing our impact on the environment. We have set our objectives inline with key government policies, and we are committing to refining our understanding of our environmental impact as an organisation and across our supply chains. We are working to increase our understanding and systems to monitor, and subsequently reduce our impact across our organisation and workforce.



Melksham custody refurbishment

I approved a £3.7M investment to fund refurbishment works within the custody suite at Melksham, including mechanical and electrical system upgrades, an improved air lock system, a more secure alarm network and a refresh of the custody desk, offices, and cells. The improvements will also meet Home Office compliance advice, as well as HMICFRS inspection criteria. This in turn will help to improve future Wiltshire Police PEEL reports and overall custody standards.

These works will ensure Wiltshire Police provides modern custodial facilities for improved detainee safety and better evidence collection opportunities to inform investigation and charge outcomes. The design also incorporates important improvements to the way in which detainees with neurodivergent conditions are managed whilst on custody. I am confident that all areas of policing will reap the benefits of this refurbishment project.



Tidworth police station

The new community police station in Tidworth replaces the town's ageing community centre and the old police stations in Tidworth, which was no longer fit-for-purpose for modern policing. The partnership with Tidworth Town Council is enabling the construction of a new police station, with an investment of £2M from the OPCC, with a better facility for people living in the local community, which will be more accessible and will create a better working environment for our officers and staff.



Southern policing hub

I am committed to a Safer South Wiltshire and have listened to residents' concerns, alongside the operational advice from Wiltshire Police. A public consultation event was held at Salisbury Guildhall 31 October, which more than 100 people attended in person. It is a key part of my Police and Crime Plan – and a core component of my Estate Strategy- to have major policing hubs to cover the north of the county, which is Gablecross in Swindon, and one in the south, in the Salisbury area. We have proceeded to explore several options for possible locations – and finances allocated within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for investment.

Scrutiny panels

These panels are made up of local volunteers from a diverse range of backgrounds and experience. They meet regularly to review body worn video footage of the use of force and stop and search, and to monitor the use of Out of Court Resolutions by the police. The panel offers a public perception of policing, which is shared directly with officers, providing organisational learning and helping to improve procedural justice.

Priority two



Reduce violence and serious harm

Op Soteria

Part of the government's Rape Review, Operation Soteria is a Home Office-funded research and change programme which has developed a new national operating model for the investigation and

prosecution of rape and serious sexual assault. In March 2022 the Home Office announced Wiltshire Police would be included in phase two of Op Soteria, alongside Dorset and Hampshire forces. Op Soteria ensures every police force is focused - not only to improve the service victims receive - but to ensure everyone in the criminal justice system is working to improve charge rates and convictions, which have been appallingly low. These principles are perfectly aligned with the priorities within my police and crime plan.

Serious Violence

Tackling knife crime and serious violence is a key priority for Wiltshire Police, and they have undertaken significant enforcement activity across response to community concerns. The police approach is always intelligence led, and operations have been focused on high-harm causers – those individuals known to be part of gangs and most at risk of being engaged in serious violence or carrying bladed weapons.

Following the establishment of the Serious Violence Duty by the government in January 2023 my office has been leading the coordination of partner agencies from across policing, health, local government, justice and education to work with the community to tackle the root cause of knife crime. The OPCC has funded a number



of interventions and diversionary activities in partnership with other agencies to reduce young people's interaction with the criminal justice system.



These include 'PL Kicks' – a scheme run by Swindon Town FC Community Foundation in conjunction with the Premier League which uses football to engage young people between 8-18 years of age. It was set up in 2006 as a way of using football to engage young people and to try and tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour, youth violence and to improve community safety. The areas where the scheme is being delivered has seen an increase sports participation and a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

“

One of my friends told me about Foundation park on Fridays. Then Miss (his teacher) said that you could come every Friday. I told all my friends and I've been here for a year or two and it's a very good experience. I play with some of the olders as well and it's beautiful.

Joseph
PL Kicks Youth Member

”

“

I found out about PL Kicks after they posted an advert at New College. I made a few friends and now I come every Friday. Without those Friday sessions, I'd probably be at home playing video games or on the street doing something worse.

Honestly, it's amazing because you get your legs warm and your heart pumping – you feel alive.

Lenon
PL Kicks Youth Member

”

The OPCC has also provided funding to support the mobilisation of the nationally recognised 'Focussed Deterrence' model, which involves police officers working with Swindon Youth Justice Service in a multi-agency team to deliver engagement and enforcement interventions for those young people who are the greatest risk of committing serious offences. Street Doctors and the Blunt Truth are examples of educational interventions the OPCC are also funding with the Youth Justice Service to deliver emergency first aid training sessions which empower young people affected by violence to keep themselves and others safe.

Op Sceptre

In addition to these proactive operations and interventions, Wiltshire Police also undertake extensive community engagement, primarily through schools, as part of the national operation to reduce knife crime, Operation Sceptre. This involves the police conducting test purchase operations to ensure young people are not able to buy knives illegally, undertaking knife sweeps within the local community to recover discarded weapons



and placing amnesty bins in community locations to encourage the safe disposal of these weapons – since 2018 this has resulted in the removal of over 1,200 knives and blades from our streets.

Op Scorpion

Together with fellow Police and Crime Commissioners, and their respective Forces across the south west, we have collaborated on Op Scorpion to disrupt drug dealing, and associated crime, in our communities. Tackling drug-related crime, rooting out dealers and disrupting supplies of drugs onto Wiltshire's streets has been the direct result of a regional, co-ordinated, campaign led by the south west region's five Police and Crime Commissioners. Outcomes from the campaign are detailed on page 20.



Safety at Night Charter

My office launched the Safety at Night Charter across Swindon and Wiltshire in 2022 which is aimed at supporting local businesses across the night-time economy to reduce violence and help the public feel safer when out at night. Aimed at pubs, bars, restaurants as well as leisure and event venues and transport providers, the charter provides practical advice and guidance for businesses and their staff on establishing and maintain a safe space for everyone, but with a focus on women and girls as we know from our own survey that they are often disproportionately affected by crimes in these venues. More than 150 organisations have signed up across Wiltshire and Swindon

and this has been supported by proactive, high-visibility, policing operations, targeted in hotspots areas to tackle violence in the night-time economy and provide reassurance to the public.

Support for victims

Almost £900,000 of funding for victims in 2022-23 was utilised in the support of victims of sexual harm and domestic abuse across Wiltshire and Swindon with more than 4,000 victims of domestic abuse being supported by specialist services and 1,700 victims of sexual violence receiving dedicated support. During the year I worked with Wiltshire Council to recommission the domestic abuse service with increased referrals available to victims, and the provision of mental health support and a specialist team to support moving people into refuge accommodation. My office also worked with NHS England to recommission therapeutic interventions to support victims of child abuse.

FearFree

FearFree is an organisation working to break the cycle of domestic abuse and sexual violence. It brings together services for victims of Domestic Abuse and their families, providing a full range of services with a single, easy to use access point.



“

I've had the pleasure of working with several Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) over the last two years and they have all been extremely kind. As well as regularly checking in with me and keeping me updated, they helped my confidence grow.

”

“

An in-person group full of wonderful facilitators and participants. The group captured a lot of what we experience on the other side of trauma and used that knowledge to help us pursue our personal growth. The group was also done in a safe and calming environment. The facilitators were kind and knowledgeable and always available to listen.

”

Their professional, fully trained and hugely caring teams work across communities in the South West, providing personalised support services to help victims change or move on from abusive relationships, supporting people who have experienced sexual violence or stalking, supporting children and young people affected by abuse to move on with their lives and running voluntary programmes for perpetrators to help them change their behaviour.



Domestic abuse perpetrator programme

Through a progressive partnership approach between my office and the Probation Service we have launched a domestic abuse perpetrator programme delivered by the Integrated Offender Management Team within Wiltshire Police to comprehensively monitor 64 high-risk offenders in the community and custody and deliver behavioural change interventions designed to reduce their likelihood of reoffending.

Sexual Assault Referral Clinic (SARC)

This service offers immediate support to victims of recent or non-recent rape or sexual assault, offering confidential, practical and emotional support from a team of specialist staff. I was pleased that my office and NHS Southwest were awarded the “Best Procurement Delivery Award” for the recommissioning of this service in October 2022, following the launch of the new contract as it demonstrated our commitment to the quality of this service for victims and the importance of the support provided through every step of the process.

Sounds Like Women

Sounds Like Women is an organisation raising awareness about the most pressing issues for women, girls, their families and communities, including domestic abuse. The group's mission is to empower through music and a range of music services and community activities.



“

As a survivor of domestic abuse, I found the group when I was a shadow of my former self. I went along to the musical workshops, where through various exercises it helped me to find my voice... quite literally! Now I have the confidence speaking out something I wouldn't say before!

”

“

I was so very quiet and very withdrawn and I started doing the workshops. It was once a week and over a period of time, it gradually brought out the real me that was hiding inside, the one that had been scared away. And it literally, though music therapy, bought my voice back.

”

Starting Point mentoring pilot

My office has funded a pilot with Swindon Borough Council to deliver mentoring to 20 young people most at risk of entering the criminal justice system or being exploited through involvement in gang crime. This is focused particularly at those children attending EOTAS (Education Other Than at School) and I will fund a similar pilot in Wiltshire in 2023-24.



Operation Cavell

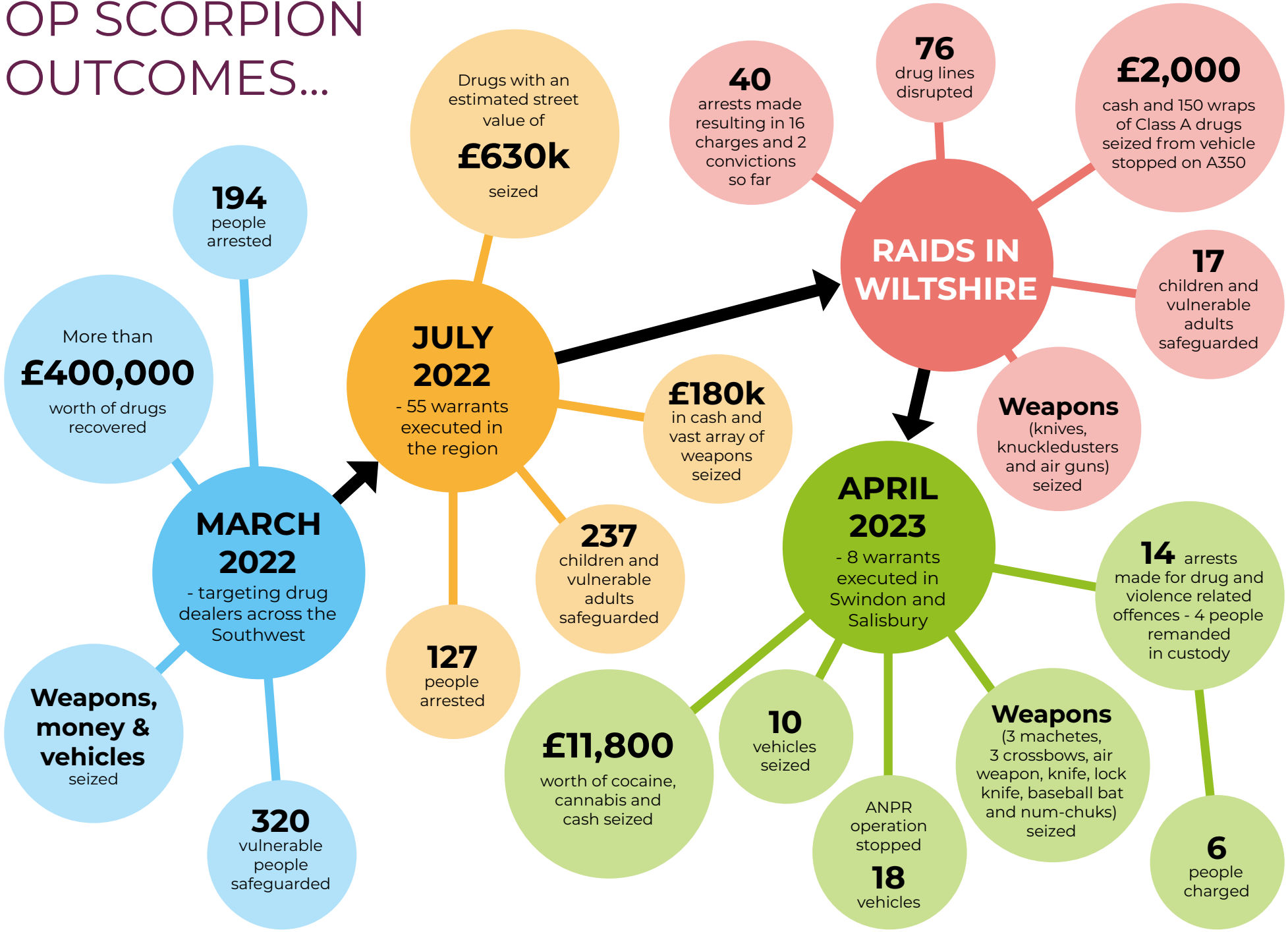
Together with Wiltshire Police, I joined partners across the southwest to support Operation Cavell which is a campaign to tackle rising assaults against emergency responders and increasing support for all emergency workers to secure convictions for offenders.

“

I went to join in some Sounds Like Women workshops with a group of women who had all suffered due to domestic abuse. We had so much fun and laughed, sung and recorded a song together! I can't recommend Sounds Like Women enough for healing and empowerment!

”

OP SCORPION OUTCOMES...



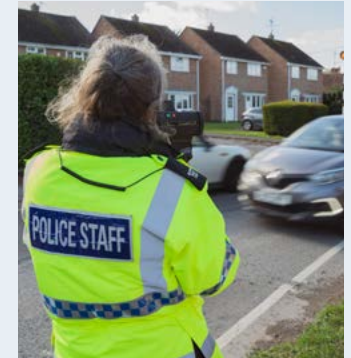
Priority three



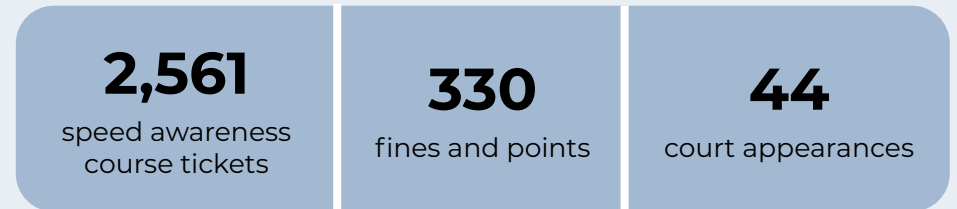
Tackle crimes that matter most to local communities

Road Safety

I promised to improve road safety and make better use of intelligence data. My office has led increased road safety focus, including collaboration with all partner agencies to improve co-ordinated outcomes. Three new Traffic Enforcement Officers have been employed; as well as state-of-the-art equipment, three new Road Safety Officers and associated cars, two administrators to process speeding tickets increasing focus on road safety and supporting Community SpeedWatch activities.



Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 the team undertook enforcement at 220 locations, resulting in:



I said we would use data from Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) across Wiltshire and Swindon to inform Force deployment of enforcement activities in my Police and Crime Plan - and we have. A pilot has



been successfully undertaken from January to June 2023 to gather data from 20 SIDs for use by Wiltshire Police. The monthly data was extracted by volunteers over a period of five months. This data has been sent to Wiltshire Police and imported into their computer system.



The data has been used to assess average and maximum average speeds on an hourly / daily / weekly, and monthly basis, at all locations covered by the SIDs. The Force uses this data, together with other sources of intelligence, to make speed enforcement decisions. This has now been rolled out to all SIDs across Wiltshire and Swindon, with 60 SIDs registered and submitting data.

Wiltshire Police have joined the Department for Transport campaign and are using positive drug wipe data to enhance intelligence and to improve road safety.



Community Speed Watch

The Community Speed Watch scheme, which is run by volunteers across the county, encourages local people to address speeding in their communities. The volunteers work closely with Community Policing Teams, supported by the Special Constabulary Roads Policing Unit. All volunteers are trained by Traffic Management Policing Officers to monitor traffic speed and must comply with a code of practice.

“ We are absolutely delighted with the investment in more Speed Enforcement and Road Safety Officers and all of the visible speed enforcement they have undertaken in our village. This makes our Community Speed Watch volunteers and residents feel supported, and we know that improving Road Safety is a major priority. It is great to see that things are really being done to make our roads safer. ”



“ Over the past year our Community Speed Watch Team has really appreciated the support from the Speed Enforcement Team (special thanks to Speed Enforcement Officers Jack, Debbi and Scott). Our records indicate that the combined roadside presence has significantly contributed to the speed awareness and a reduction in the number of speeding vehicles. Thank you. ”

Anti-social behaviour

This is not a low-level crime – it can be devastating for those who become victim to it, and it can be a precursor to more serious crime. I am determined that Wiltshire Police tackle it, working jointly with local authorities and other partners to respond robustly and comprehensively to issues where they arise.

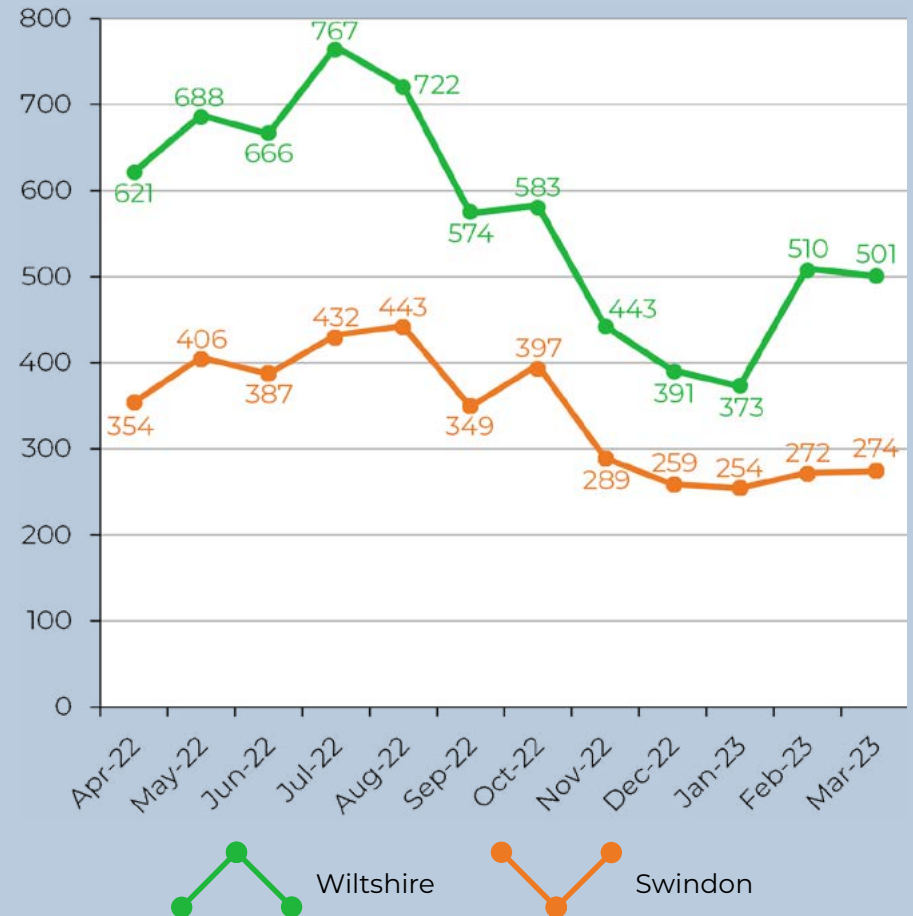


In the last year, Wiltshire Police has worked with Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough to utilise the range of powers available to address anti-social behaviour and reduce its impact on the community. This has included the use of public space protection orders, dispersal orders in areas of concern, injunctions on individuals and closure orders on properties where such behaviour has caused significant distress to local

residents. The Force have also undertaken high-visibility patrols in hotspots identified by the community and targeted enforcement at those individuals perpetrating this sort of crime.

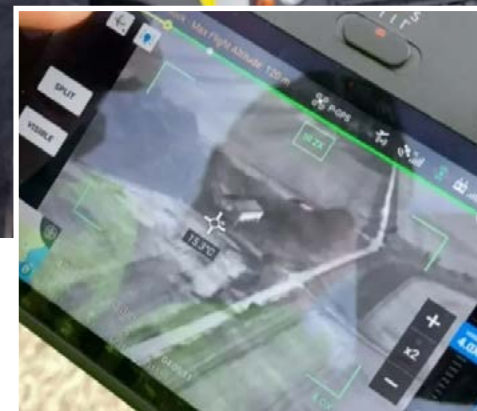
My office has worked with partners across the Community Safety Partnerships in Wiltshire and Swindon to develop an ASB toolkit which helps the public access the support they need and sign post to the right agency which can deal with any issues they are experiencing. Whilst I am pleased to see a drop in incidents of anti-social behaviour in the last year of 27% in Wiltshire and 32% in Swindon, there remains more to do, and I will continue to focus on this issue as residents have told me how important it is to them.

ASB incidents in Wiltshire and Swindon April 2022 - March 2023



Safer streets fund

My office worked with Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council to successfully secure over £0.5M through the government's Safer Streets Fund to deliver projects designed to combat acquisitive, anti-social behaviour and tackle violence against women and girls. The range of interventions delivered included targeted youth work with young people in deprived areas, establishment of pop-up youth cafes, procurement of a mobile CCTV unit and installation of CCTV in hot spot areas, prevention work with schools and parents, provision of taxi marshals in Swindon to help increase safety for those out socialising at weekends.



Rural crime

I know how important tackling rural crime is, so I have invested in the Rural crime team with the uplift of three staff, doubling the size of team and purchasing a new pursuit and off-road vehicle. I have supported visible operations and work with Rural Crime Partnership to improve confidence in our rural communities.

PCC community action fund

This year I relaunched my Community Action Fund which offers grants up to £5,000 to local organisations and charities to support delivery of activities which align with the priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan. Working closely in partnership with the Wiltshire Community Foundation, we have redesigned the application process to make it even more accessible for smaller group and enable multiple opportunities to apply throughout the year. Funded by proceeds from the Police Property Act, the pot of money available has come from auctioning any unclaimed property that has been recovered following a crime.

Priority four



Supporting victims

During 2022-23 across Wiltshire and Swindon, I dedicated more than £500,000 in addition to national funding of more than £1M to support victims of crime, resulting in over 24,000 victims being assisted with a range of specialist and practical support depending on their needs.



Horizon

At the centre of Wiltshire and Swindon's model of support services is Horizon Victim and Witness Care, which provide support to all victims of crime. The team is funded by the OPCC and during this year I have supported the development and extension of the new advocate role which is aimed at enhancing the support and guidance available to particularly vulnerable victims.



Improve the experience of victims and deliver justice

Restorative justice

Restorative Together is a service provided by Horizon which brings those harmed by crime or conflict together with those responsible. This service offers victims of crime a level of resolution and possible closure and can help the harmer recognise and understand how their behaviour affects others. The Restorative Justice facilitators are all volunteers who are highly trained to work with those harmed, and their harmers, to help all parties move on in a positive way. I was delighted that Wiltshire's Restorative Justice volunteers won the Citizens in Policing 'Police Support Volunteer Team of Year' at the South West regional awards - this particularly recognised the dedication and skills they have to make this vital programme a success.



Mental health triage

This year my office has recommissioned the mental health triage service, working with partners in Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Trust and the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board. The service provides a dedicated clinical mental health professional 24/7 located in the Force control room to assist police with incidents where the mental ill health of an individual gives rise to concern.



Custody healthcare

During the year my office worked with colleagues from police forces across the south west to commission a new regional custody healthcare contract. Worth £8M, over ten years, this contract provides professional health services to detainees while in custody delivered by qualified medical professionals, ensuring high standards and quality of care and support throughout the custody process. This contract went live in Wiltshire Police in October 2022.

Reducing re-offending

My office commissions a range of services aimed at reducing reoffending by providing appropriate help, rehabilitation, and support services for offenders.

In the last year the OPCC has worked with NHS England to recommission the mental health treatment requirement service which provide individuals with complex mental health needs with specialist support through community sentencing.

We have also worked in partnership with our local authority colleagues to recommission substance misuse contracts in both Swindon and Wiltshire. These services provide drug and alcohol treatment pathways through out-of-court resolutions and court



orders for offenders, delivering alcohol treatment and drug rehabilitation requirements. These contracts include hubs across the force area as well as outreach services into custody where dedicated staff work alongside the police to engage and support offenders to tackle substance misuse.

In addition to these specialist services, the OPCC commissions a range of out-of-court resolutions. These are a means of dealing with



less serious offending, which do not need prosecution at court and can be dealt with quickly and more effectively through alternative means. My office funds an interventions hub hosted online which provides 35 e-learning interventions targeted at common low-level offences or at specific offender groups such as vulnerable females.



An external review of the **Wessex Criminal Justice system**, which identified case supervision, training, police / CPS (Crown Prosecution Service) relationships, initial response, and processes as areas to improve. The significant improvement in DA (Domestic Abuse) 1st hearings from 79 days (May 21) to 22 day (May 22). Now, includes a 33% decrease in the average days from police referring a case to the CPS and the CPS authorising a charge, March 23. Alongside 7% (65) growth in investigations where an offender was issued with a charge outcome: victim-based offences.

Listening to you

Hearing your feedback and your experiences of the service you have received from Wiltshire Police is vital and helps me to scrutinise and challenge the policing service being delivered with the Chief Constable, and her leadership team.



As part of this, gathering feedback from our communities either I, or a member of my Office, has attended 15 Area Boards across Wiltshire between April 2022 and March 2023. We were also present at 12 Parish Council meetings and seven town council meetings. I have also been responsible for providing regular updates to both local authority council leaders and providing briefs and updates for all councillors across Wiltshire and Swindon.

We use these community-based meetings to gather feedback and hear how communities feel about the policing service but also to update on issues important to local communities, often with our policing colleagues so we can provide the fullest picture possible.

All information received is used to build improvements into the Force, where appropriate, or to provide community intelligence which can be used to inform local policing priorities.

Talking and listening to residents – and key communities – remains an area where we are dedicating time and resource to ensure I can faithfully represent the views of communities within policing.

My office and I have been out at 34 public consultation sessions across the county – including at high-footfall areas such as shopping

Public engagement

Between April 2022 and March 2023 either I, or a member of my office attended...



12 Parish Council meetings

7 Town Council meetings

34 Public consultations

15 Area boards

57 Public engagements

Digital engagement

March 2022 - 2023



centres, schools, and community centres, libraries and in under-represented communities.

We also actively engage with our communities digitally across social media channels where I, or my office, have a presence on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and X (formally Twitter).

Between March 2022 and 2023, we have published 928 posts, delivered 812k impressions (the number of times it was displayed in a content feed), to 318k users, with a 6.7% engagement rate. We consistently benchmark our engagement rates against industry standards for local government.

We use our public sector website to its full potential, ensuring accessibility best practice and engaging with new and returning visitors. This has resulted in nearly 44,000 page views. The website is optimised for all devices and, along with our social media activity, we track its performance and make improvements where needed.*

As well as attending 57 public engagements across the county, and representing the role of PCC and my office, I also hold regular bi-monthly surgeries with all local Members of Parliament and ensure any issues raised with them by their electorate are dealt with, and action taken where necessary and appropriate.

Alongside this, the work of the Force and how my office scrutinises, challenges and supports the performance of Wiltshire Police, was looked at in great detail across six Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Panel meetings.

During the same time period, my office has continued to ask for residents' views and feedback in a more formal way. These include engaging with young people, with communities and with victims of crime:

- **Youth Commission:** The commission is now in its second year and enables young people aged between 14 and 25 to support, challenge and inform the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon. Young people can gain new knowledge, skills, and experiences, and have their say on crime and policing issues that matter most to them and their peers. The Youth Commission published its report earlier this year, and I hosted the 'Big Conversation' conference in January 2023 alongside police and partner agencies to hear directly from the youth commissioners on their findings.
- **Safer Nights Survey:** 2,800 residents responded to the survey sharing how safe they feel at night, and what could be done to ensure they feel safer. The results shaped the Safety at Night Charter and informed funding bids from the OPCC, and partners, for safer streets funding. Projects now being delivered include more street lighting, extra CCTV and a network of business signing up across Wiltshire and Swindon.
- **Victims Voice - satisfaction survey:** The OPCC coordinate the victims survey to ensure Wiltshire Police are meeting the needs of our victims. This survey aims to gain insight from a greater number of victims and use their experiences to help shape and improve services and the way the police engage and support victims through the criminal justice process.

*Analytics provided by Hootsuite.



His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services Inspections

In 2022, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services Inspection (HMICFRS) conducted an inspection of Wiltshire Police in line with their programme of scrutiny. Its report, 'Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy' (PEEL), in July 2022, graded Wiltshire Police as 'inadequate' in the ability to respond to the public, protect vulnerable people and strategic planning.



All other areas of assessment were graded as requires improvement, including how Wiltshire Police support victims and protect vulnerable people. Due to this inspection Wiltshire Police were placed into 'ENGAGE' status, where additional support and oversight are put in place by the inspectorate.

The Inspectorate's report was a sobering read and is highly disappointing especially when I know we have many dedicated officers and staff working hard to deliver a quality policing service. However, the inspection report was consistent with my own assessment and what I was hearing from residents, of Wiltshire Police's ability to deliver and performance, and I provided substantial public comment at the time.



My aim, alongside Chief Constable Roper, is for Wiltshire Police to provide a quality, effective, frontline policing service which prioritises those crimes which matter most to communities. These are priorities I have set in my Police and Crime Plan and I expect to see a tangible change that will improve, and enhance, the service that Wiltshire's residents get from their police service.

During 2022/23 there has been a significant refocusing of effort to improve policing services and this information is set out in detail on Wiltshire Police's website.

My role as PCC is to scrutinise, challenge and support the Chief Constable and ensure that these improvements are delivered. I have put in place a comprehensive approach to ensure this happens and the public are updated on progress, this includes:

- Weekly briefings from the Chief Constable and on key issues, where I review actions to improve Police deliver and impact for our communities
- Two monthly meetings formally reviewing Force performance and progress against my Police and Crime Plan and the HMICFRS PEEL areas
- Regular public reports to Police and Crime Panel on my assessment of the Force's PEEL progress

- Continual monitoring of Force internal delivery mechanisms and the arrangements in place to deliver the improvements required by HMICFRS and the OPCC
- Regular engagement with the HMICFRS representatives and Inspectors
- Programme of in-person visits by PCC, and OPCC senior staff, to Police services across Wiltshire and Swindon, meeting Police Officers and Police Staff to listen to issues, measure performance progress and recognise achievements.
- Feedback to communities on Force performance through quarterly performance updates, media releases and personal updates to community groups.

This work will continue through 2023/24 where Chief Constable Roper and I will continue to deliver improvements and engage with the HMICFRS, College of Policing and the Home Office to demonstrate both service, and performance, improvements.

Wiltshire Police will be reinspected in 2023/24 and I will continue to monitor Wiltshire Police's progress. I continue to have confidence that Chief Constable Roper is delivering the changes required.

Specific departments within Wiltshire Police have also been inspected. These were consistent with the work identified in the PEEL inspection and incorporated into these improvements.

More details of specific police inspections and national thematic inspections can be found at [His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/)





Finance and accountability

Summary of Financial Performance

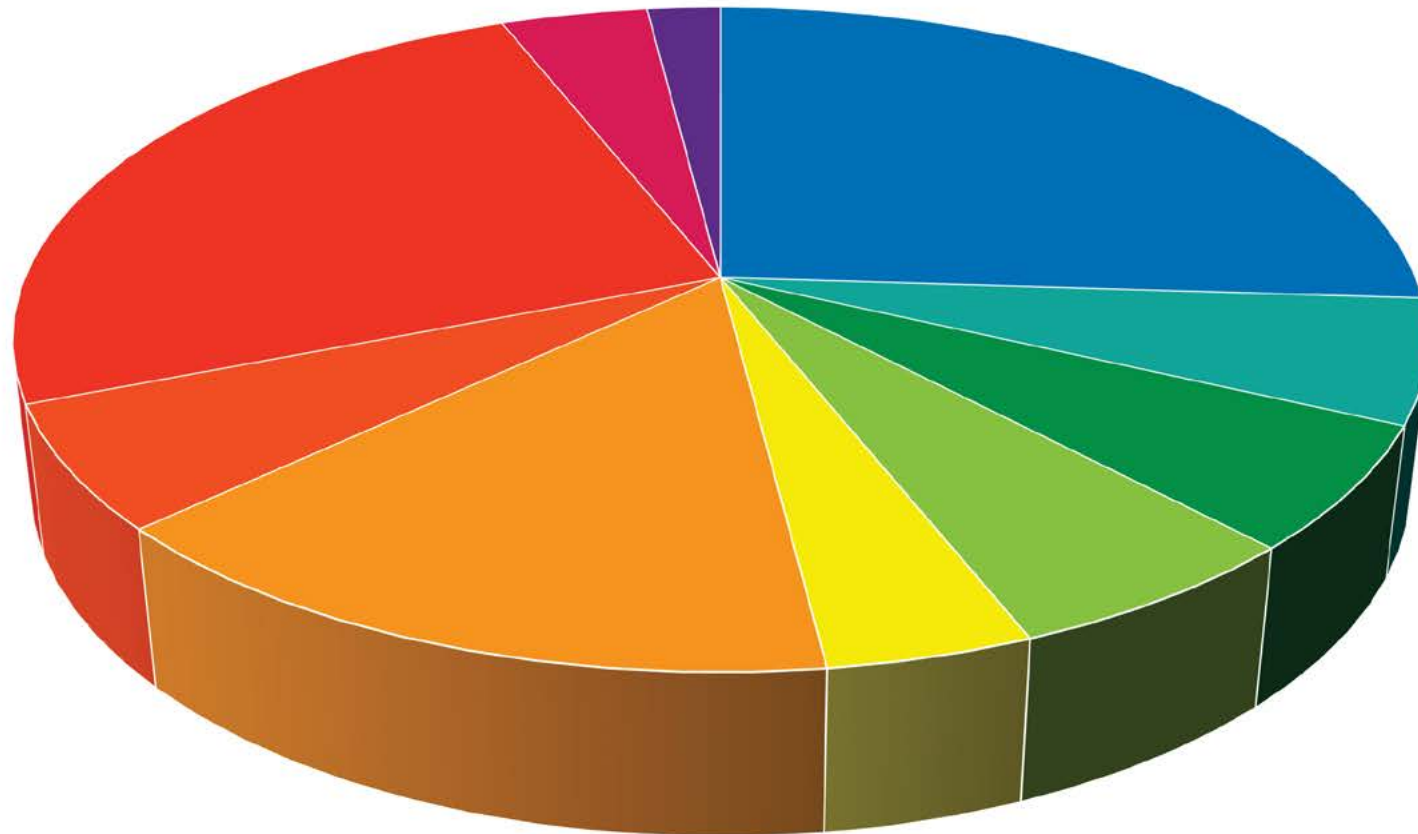
My policing and office budget is as follows:

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	£m	£m	£m
OPCC office costs and external funding	3.268	5.171	5.451
Capital contribution	2.329	2.857	2.912
Enabling services allocation	27.683	32.224	34.825
Chief Constable allocation	100.747	100.144	103.345
Cost of service	134.027	140.396	146.534

Financed by

Police grant	67.709	70.428	70.657
Legacy council tax grants	5.235	5.235	5.235
Precept	61.004	64.359	69.428
Surplus on collection fund	0.000	0.295	0.714
Investment income	0.079	0.079	0.500
Total income	134.027	140.396	146.534

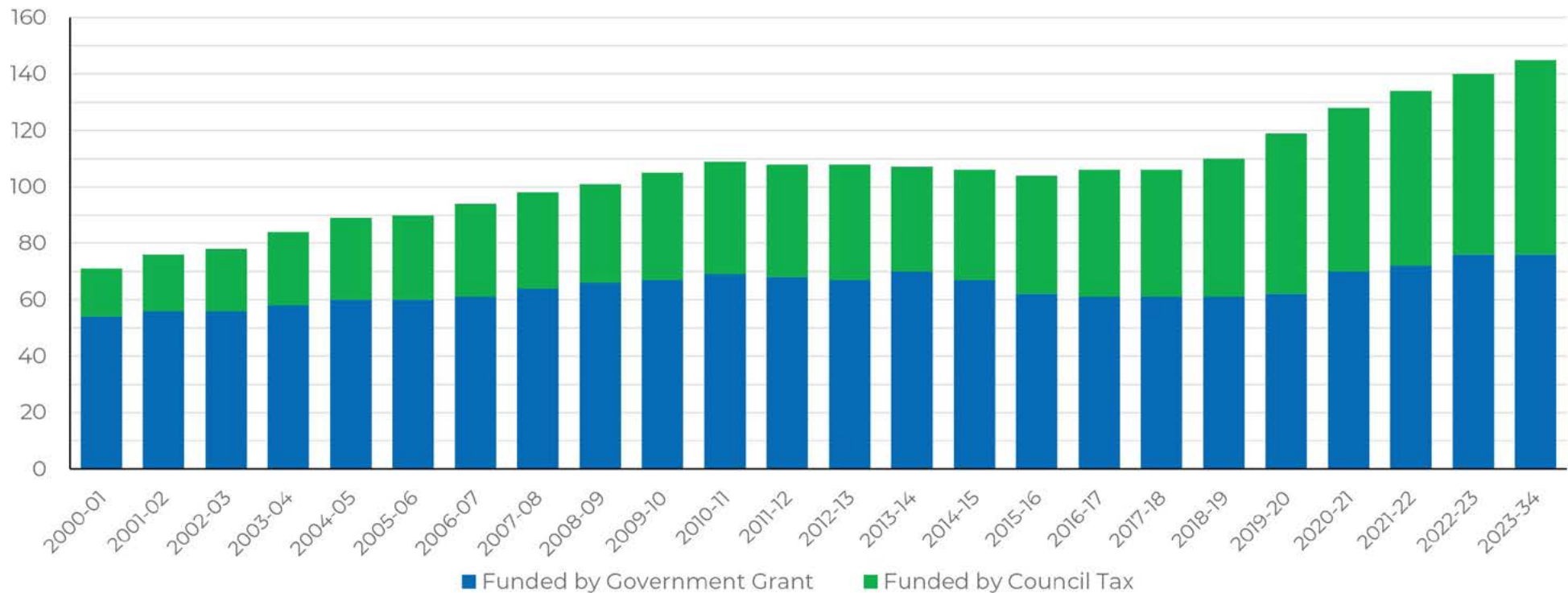
Actual spend



Local policing: 26% (28% 21/22)	Dealing with the public: 6% (8% 21/22)
Criminal justice arrangements: 6% (6% 21/22)	Specialist operations: 6% (4% 21/22)
Intelligence: 4% (4% 21/22)	Investigations: 15% (15% 21/22)
Public protection: 6% (5% 21/22)	National policing: 0% (1% 21/22)
Support including ACPO: 25% (24% 21/22)	PCC including commissioning: 4% (3% 21/22)
Central costs including reserves/capital: 2% (4% 21/22)	

Funding allocation

Central funding versus local funding graph 2000/01 to 2023/24



How the money was spent

Community Safety Fund 2022/23

The community safety fund is money I allocate to support the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan priorities. The fund supports collaborative arrangements with local authorities, third sector providers and Wiltshire Police.

Victims Fund 2022/23

This is a specific allocation by the Ministry of Justice for victim services and restorative justice services. In 2022-23, the amount provided to me was £916,371 and this enables the commissioning of services to improve support for victims. The Ministry of Justice also

awarded funding of £494,429 specifically for services supporting victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Police Property Act Fund

This fund manages money raised through the sale of lost property and is awarded to community and voluntary groups to support the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan through the PCC's Community Action Fund. This year I relaunched this fund to offer grants up to £5,000 to local organisations and charities to support delivery of activities which align with the priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan. Working closely in partnership with the Wiltshire Community Foundation, we have redesigned the application process to make it even more accessible for smaller group and enable multiple opportunities to apply throughout the year.



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Making Wiltshire Safer



www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk

HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD
We want to hear from rural residents across the South of Wiltshire about their experience of crime.
Tell us your experience
the survey

YOUR CCTV
could help to fight crime
pcc

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
for Wiltshire and Swindon
London Road, Devizes,
Wiltshire SN10 2DN


T 01225 256926

E pcc@wiltshire.police.uk

W www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk

To keep up to date with the Office of the
Police and Crime Commissioner follow
us on social media:

 [OPCCWiltSwindon](https://twitter.com/OPCCWiltSwindon)

 [WiltshireandSwindonPCC](https://www.facebook.com/WiltshireandSwindonPCC)

 [wiltshireandswindonpcc](https://www.instagram.com/wiltshireandswindonpcc)

 [office-of-the-police-and-crime-com-
missioner-for-wiltshire-and-swindon](https://www.linkedin.com/company/office-of-the-police-and-crime-commissioner-for-wiltshire-and-swindon)

 [@PCCWiltshireandSwindon](https://www.youtube.com/@PCCWiltshireandSwindon)

Wiltshire and Swindon

pcc

Area Board Briefing Note

Service:	Cost of Living
Date prepared:	15 November 2023
Further enquiries to:	Will Oulton
Direct contact:	William.oulton@wiltshire.gov.uk

Cost of Living

With overall inflation stabilising, it is welcome news that some cost pressures for the community have reduced, but with other financial pressures remaining on household budgets, it is anticipated that there will be continuing demand for support and advice as the winter draws in.

The Council is continuing to work with partners to deliver interventions that provide advice and support to our communities, including:

- Wiltshire libraries are continuing as warm spaces and will also play a key role in distributing support (e.g. with Warm Packs or free Sim-cards) and advice (e.g. Providing energy advice or signposting to partners).
- We have contacted community providers to update our [interactive guide](#) to help people find key support to combat fuel and food poverty. In addition, we are creating a page on the directory that gives an interactive advent calendar view of provision/ opportunities over the Christmas period.
- Foodbanks and Community Food Providers are invited to apply for funding to support their work. Applications are welcome from 13th November 2023 – 21st January 2024. Organisations can make one application in this funding round. Further information and the application form is appended to this update.
- We have further developed our approach to delivering Household Support Fund, working with a range of services and partners to financially support a range of programmes and initiatives.
- [Our website](#) and media channels offer a range of online support and sign-posting information on topics including council tax/benefits, energy advice and mental health support.
- A dedicated Wiltshire Wellbeing support line to provide advice and guidance, and officers are working with to improve processes to ensure people are directed to right support.
- We continue to engagement with our communities, through activity such as the Boaters Survey, which has had a terrific response so far, and Community Conversations, to understand need.

The DWP will be issuing the second Cost of Living Payment of £300 to those in receipt of Universal Credit, Jobseekers allowance, Employment support allowance, Income support and Pension Credit between 31st October and 19th November 2023.¹

The Council is pleased to say that, following a successful summer programme that saw more than 1,220 young people take part, Wiltshire Council's Holiday Activity and Food programme (FUEL) will be back during the Christmas school holidays. It is funded by the Department for Education and provides children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals with free access to activity, food and nutritional education during school holidays. Eligible families will be able to sign up later in the year and details will be promoted through all schools in Wiltshire in due course. More information about FUEL can be found at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fuel-programme.

Warm and Safer Wiltshire

Warm & Safe Wiltshire, provided by the council in partnership with Swindon Borough Council and the Centre for Sustainable Energy, is a service to help residents live in warmer, safer and healthier homes. It provides in-depth telephone, home visit and outreach support to people and communities covering a wide package of support: including energy bills, energy saving tips, energy saving vouchers, and funding for heating and insulation improvements in their homes. More information is available at [Warm and Safe Wiltshire advice service](#)

This year, in particular, we are offering grants for broken heating systems and have extensive voucher offer to help with heating and food vouchers. Attached to this briefing is poster for the public highlighting the scheme

Also attached is a leaflet for frontline workers which details training available to frontline workers, which can also be taken up by third sector.

To help different communities access support, we have two Warm and Safe Community case workers covering the North and South of the county providing support to the third sector, home visits and in depth case work. The focus here will be on the 20% most deprived across Wiltshire, Travelling and Boating Communities, and the Military.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation

We are consulting on possible changes to its local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working aged people, ensuring it continues to benefit those who need it, and that the scheme evolves in line with Government's developing plans on Universal Credit.

The consultation is now open until 27 November 2023. I'd like to encourage people to respond via the electronic survey online at <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/benefits-council-tax-reduction> - paper copies are available in all of Wiltshire's libraries and main hubs. So far, more than two hundred responses have been received.

Potential changes to the scheme should result in it being more generous to people in hardship who are eligible to receive support, and that in turn should help to reduce the overall council tax debt written off each year due to those who are unable to pay.

¹ [Cost of Living Payments 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Wiltshire Food Banks and Community Food Providers Support Fund

Grant Application

Wiltshire food banks and community food providers, are invited to apply for funding support for the following categories:

- The purchasing of food, or food vouchers (up to £5,000)
- Support costs that enable the food setting to bring in professional financial advice (no funding limit - each proposal will be assessed individually)
- The purchasing of capital items that enable residents to reduce their energy costs, which could be used at the food setting or in residents' own homes (no funding limit – each proposal will be assessed individually)

This funding cannot be used for ongoing operational costs. Eligible organisations will be from the voluntary and community sector and will provide food free of charge, or at a subsidised rate.

Applications are welcomed for this second funding round available from 13th November 2023 – 21st January 2024. Organisations can make one application per funding round.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their application with their local Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager (SEPM). You can find the contact details for your local SEPM [here](#).

Applications will be assessed on multiple factors including the number of households they support, the evidence of need provided and the value of the service being offered to residents. It is anticipated that funding demand will be high, so please be aware that there may not be sufficient funding to fully support all requests.

To submit your application please complete this form and return to areboards@wiltshire.gov.uk. Please note, it is essential that all successful applicants return a proforma regarding the use and impact of the funding. This will be provided to all successful applicants with the required deadlines for submission.

1) Food bank or food provider details

Food bank or food provider details	
Address	
Contact name	
Contact telephone number	
Contact email address	

2) Detail regarding your application?

Please provide a description of how the requested funding will be used? Please use a separate box for purchasing of food, advice costs or other.	Expected no. of households to benefit from the funding?	Amount being applied for?

3) Please provide as much evidence and detail as possible as to why this funding is needed (if advice services are being proposed, please provide details of the relevant organisation who will deliver this).

4) How do residents access food from your organisation?

- Referral system
- Open access
- Other - please advise here:

5) Any other relevant information to support your application?

6) Declaration

Supporting information; please confirm that the following documents will be available to inspect upon request (You do not need to send these documents to us):

- I have all the **necessary and relevant** policies and procedures such as Child Protection, Safeguarding Adults, Public Liability Insurance, Access audit, Health & Safety and Environmental assessments in place and will make them available on request.
- The information on this form is correct, that any award received will be spent as specified.

Signature	Name	Position	Date

Cold home? High bills?

We're here to help ...



If our house is cold or you are struggling to pay your heating bills, please get in touch.

Warm & Safe Wiltshire offers **free advice and support** including:

- Grants for broken heating systems if you meet the criteria.
.....
- Vouchers to help pay your bills.
.....
- Other grants you may be entitled to.
.....

Call us free today

0800 038 5722

Email

warmandsafe@cse.org.uk



Working in partnership with

Wiltshire Council



Are you a frontline worker in Wiltshire?

Warm & Safe Wiltshire can help you help others stay warm this winter.

We offer free advice and support to Wiltshire residents to help lower their heating bills, stay warm and improve their health. This includes:

- Replacing broken heating systems.
- Accessing financial assistance – such as prepayment meter vouchers or discounts on bills.
- In-depth casework with a trained advisor.



Frontline workers can also explore our **FREE** training options, from a brief overview of our services and how clients are supported, to an in-depth look at how to identify potential clients needing support.

▶ You can refer Wiltshire residents to us quickly and easily using this online form: www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk/referral

Or call **0800 038 5722**

To book a FREE training session please email: warmandsafe@cse.org.uk



Charity Shops and Information Hubs:

We have now opened our new Charity shop in Salisbury. We were delighted to have the Older People's Champion for Salisbury, Irene Kohler, cutting the ribbon for us. Our shop is also an Information & Advice hub, offering the opportunity for older residents to have accessible, face-to-face advice, by an arranged appointment. Leaflets about a range of issues affecting older people and our services are available in the shop. Our Information & Advice service offers a free quality accredited information & advice service for older people, their families, and their carers. They cover a wide range of issues affecting older people, including welfare benefits and money, care and support, housing options, local services, and later life planning.

We are looking to open other shops, with information points across the county, including in Marlborough and Devizes, so watch this space! If anyone would like to get in touch or is aware of a need arising in their area, please do get in touch and we may be able to explore this.



There is information on how to make donations on our website: [Age UK Wiltshire | Charity Shops](#)

Fitness and Friendship:

Our Fitness & Friendship classes are ever popular and growing, with 17 clubs across the county, including some new clubs within sheltered housing schemes. These clubs provide seated exercise and activities. Members value the clubs as important places to make friends and connections which in turn reduces feelings of loneliness and isolation. The clubs are supported by 47 volunteers, many of whom started as members. A list of clubs is available on our website: [Fitness & Friendship Clubs | Age UK Wiltshire](#).

Meals+:

Our Meals+ service is a service that provides a visit to an older person and the delivery of a hot meal. It is a lunchtime delivery all year round, apart from Christmas day. Our drivers have a conversation with the older person and conduct a welfare check as a part of every visit. Often the driver will be the only person they see all day. We continue to receive positive feedback on this service, and the peace of mind that it provides to relatives/carers, as below.

"You are absolutely fab and I cannot thank you enough for the way you look after my Mum!"

Neighbourhood Collaboratives/Health:

Our Chief Executive, Sarah Cardy, is the voluntary sector representative on the Wiltshire Health & Wellbeing Board, and Age UK Wiltshire are involved with various ICA workstreams. We are part of the Neighbourhood Collaborative Pathfinder work in Melksham and have also been involved with work to improve the hospital discharge process. As an organisation we often speak to older people who have insight into how this process could be better, from lived experience.

We believe that co-production and lived experience insight are integral to shaping future service provision.

Our latest newsletter can be found here - <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/bp-assets/globalassets/wiltshire/about-us/november-external-newsletter.pdf>. Please email jasmine.forbes-lumby@ageukwiltshire.org.uk to be added to the mailing list.

A Unique Concert for Wiltshire

A Unique Concert for Wiltshire will be held at the historic Salisbury Cathedral on **Thursday 8th February 2024** to raise vital funds for key Wiltshire charities Youth Action Wiltshire, Wiltshire Air Ambulance and Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust.

Tickets are now on sale with prices starting from £15. More information about the event can be found in our blog post about the event:

<https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/news/a-unique-concert-for-wiltshire/>

Seats can be booked online from <https://tinyurl.com/uniquewiltshire> or by calling the Salisbury Cathedral box office on 01722 656 555.

We look forward to welcoming you to this very special event.

New website for Community Insurance

Community Insurance is a specialist insurance agent service from Community First. We work with leading provider Zurich to offer comprehensive insurance for village halls, community buildings, playing field associations and local councils.

We have recently launched a new website for Community Insurance with more information about insurance policies, claims information and online forms to request a free, no obligation quotation.

The website also features a series of useful guides.

For more information visit: www.communityinsurance.co.uk, telephone 01380 732809 or email: communityinsurance@communityfirst.org.uk.

Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre

Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre is now taking new bookings for 2024. The centre is fully equipped for day and residential bookings for schools and groups with a variety of adventure activities including archery, canoeing and climbing. Our Outdoor Education Team can also design and lead a bespoke heritage learning day for your school or group. This is a truly unique learning experience that everyone will enjoy! Some recent examples of heritage learning days designed and delivered by our team at Oxenwood include:

John of Gaunt School

Students from The John of Gaunt School recently attended a 'Living History Day' at Oxenwood. The students learned about British Army recruitment in 1914 and handled artefacts from the era. Some students were also kitted out as a soldier. The students formed battalion and learned how to fire a rifle and use a bayonet. The battalion then crossed 'no-man-land' whilst being fired at by the enemy (using a gel gun). The 'Living History Day' was delivered by the Oxenwood Outdoor Education Team who provided the trained re-enactor and led the safe handling of weaponry. Feedback was very positive:

"The days provided an enrichment opportunity for Year 9 students who have been studying the events of the First World War and how these shaped our island's history. An event like this really brings History alive as the students don't just learn about events but experience them. It's the next best thing to having a time machine!"

Cricklade Manor Prep School

Students at Cricklade Manor Prep School attended a learning day at Oxenwood, led by our Outdoor Education Team. The team designed an immersive experience which taught the students about life in the Stone Age. The school said:

“We were all blown away by your immersive experience and the children have been thoroughly inspired by their trip. Thanks must also go to Emily and Mo who led our group capably and who extended the warmth of Oxenwood to us all! We look forward to coming back and visiting again soon.”

We are delighted to hear that schools and groups are benefiting from the amazing opportunities for learning and adventure offered by our team at Oxenwood. A full list of pricing for 2024-2025 is now available on our website. For more information or to design your bespoke residential, day or learning experience contact: enquiries@oxenwoodcentre.com.

Oxenwood - First Aid Training Courses

We are now offering a range of first aid courses at Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre, led by Deputy Centre Manager & Outdoor Education Instructor Mo.

A list of available courses is included with this briefing pack.

Please email Mo: dmaloney@oxenwoodcentre.com for more information.

Vacancy - MiDAS Training Coordinator (Driver Assessor)

Community First is recruiting for a MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) Training Coordinator/Driver Assessor to support the delivery of our MiDAS training service.

- **Hours:** Flexible, in response to demand for training, including some evening/weekend working.
- **Salary:** £14.50 gross per hour. (Actual hours will vary by month according to training delivered).
- **Base:** Home-based, with hot desk at Community First as required. Will be expected to travel to venues across Wiltshire, Swindon and other areas as required to deliver MiDAS training (mileage expenses paid).

More information about the role, including a job description, person specification and application form can be found on our website: <https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/vacancies/>

If you would like to find out more about this position, please contact Harry Tipple, Head of Community and Partnership development on: 01380 732 824 or htipple@communityfirst.org.uk

Closing date: Midday on 15th of January 2024

Interview dates: 24th of January 2024

To download a job description, person specification and an application form for this post, please visit the links below. Please note we are unable to accept CVs for this position.

Community First is an equal opportunities employer.

Link Schemes and Community Transport

The Community Development team are currently involved in a project that will offer support to the Link Schemes to help with the recruitment of volunteers. The team have spent 5 days on the ground in 5 different areas across Wiltshire engaging with the community.

All primary schools in Wiltshire have been emailed with a flyer and many have been kind enough to share the recruitment flyer on their school newsletter. We have managed to recruit 16 volunteers. We have another 5 days available to offer to the Links, so if you would like help with volunteer recruitment, please do get in touch.

There are 42 Link Schemes in Wiltshire with approximately 1,600 volunteers who help to keep communities connected to vital local services by offering door-to-door transport to shops, lunch clubs and medical appointments. Volunteering with your local Link Scheme is a great way to meet new people, make friends and give something back to your community.

You can find your local Link Scheme by using our Community Transport Directory and there are several ways to be involved, including as a Link Driver or Link Coordinator. Link Drivers use their own cars and a mileage allowance is paid.

For more information or to enquire about volunteering with Link, please email: linkproject@communityfirst.org.uk

Building Bridges and Inspire Swindon (Employability Programmes)

Community First will soon launch a refreshed website for The Building Bridges and Inspire Swindon Programmes. We aim to have this online as soon as possible. In the meantime, please continue to use the referral form on the holding page (www.buildingbridgessw.org.uk/coming-soon) or contact the lead team by email: hello@buildingbridgessw.org.uk or telephone: 01380 732821.

Our two current employability programmes (Building Bridges in Wiltshire and Inspire Swindon for young people in Wiltshire) which started in July are both delivering strongly. Across the two programmes we are currently supporting a total of 75 participants with another 58 referrals currently being allocated out to Support Workers. The programmes are both already delivering fantastic outcomes - in Autumn 2023, 17 of the NEET/At Risk young people that we had been supporting moved on to college courses and with our support have sustained their attendance. We have also supported 6 participants into work and are currently supporting them to sustain their roles.

We are in discussions to build additional capacity into our Wiltshire programme to support more refugees and people affected by homelessness - we hope to be able to start this in early 2024.

We are pleased to announce that with funding from The National Lottery Community Fund we will be able to start a new programme to support adults in Swindon in mid-January 2024.

Briefing prepared by:

Ellie Ewing

Marketing and Communications Manager (Community First)

eeving@communityfirst.org.uk

Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre

First Aid Training

On Site Training

Delivered on site at Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre, Marlborough SN8 3NQ.

Course Name	Time
Activity First Aid - FAA Level 3 Award	2 day
Annual Refresher for First Aiders	Half day
Appointed Person	2 hour
Basic Life Support - FAA Level 2	3 hours
Emergency First Aid at Work - FAA Level 3 Award	1 day
First Aid at Work Re-qualification - FAA Level 3	2 day
First Aid at Work - FAA Level 3	3 day
First Aid for Mental Health - FAA Level 2 Award	1 day
First Aid for Mental Health Awareness - FAA Level 1 Award	4 hours
First Aid for Mental Health Supervising - FAA Level 3 Award	2 day
First Aid for <u>Youth</u> Mental Health - FAA Level 2 Award	1 day
First Aiders for Mental Health Annual Refresher	Half day
Paediatric Emergency First Aid - FAA Level 3	1 day
Paediatric First Aid - FAA Level 3	2 day

Distance Learning

Training delivered remotely.

Course Name	Time
First Aid for Mental Health - FAA Level 2 Award	1 day
First Aid for Mental Health Awareness - FAA Level 1 Award	4 hours
First Aid for Mental Health Supervising - FAA Level 3 Award	2 day
First Aid for Youth Mental Health - FAA Level 2 Award	1 day

For more information, please contact Mo: dmaloney@oxenwoodcentre.com or telephone 01380 732806.

Your feedback on prescription ordering revealed in new report

How people order their prescriptions is the focus of a new report from Healthwatch Wiltshire.

We worked with Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB) to find out which ordering service people liked to use, how easy they found the process, and how important the service was to them.

We received 380 responses to our short survey, which ran for two weeks in October. As well as an online survey, we took paper copies to several pharmacies across Wiltshire, where we talked to patients as they collected their prescriptions.

What did people tell us?

Most people told us they found ordering prescriptions easy, and used a variety of methods including SystemOnline, the NHS App and Prescription Ordering Direct.

The majority of respondents said being able to order repeat prescriptions was very important to them, but long waits for medication and shortages of preferred brands were among the concerns they raised.

Other issues included poor internet availability, or a lack of confidence in using online services, as well as a frustration at not being able to get repeat prescriptions for longer than one month, particularly when someone had a long term condition.

What happens next?

The feedback we received has been welcomed by BSW ICB, who said: "We are very grateful to everyone for taking time to either talk in person, or fill in this Healthwatch designed survey,

which helps inform us on the experiences of a range of repeat prescribing methods used across BSW and how they compare.

"We will be reviewing the feedback and using it to help inform our understanding. We recognise not just the different perspectives reflected in the report, but also the differing needs of our population with some patients potentially very well served by digital solutions and others where alternative access routes are more suitable.

"We have also been listening to a broad range of stakeholders and we will now bring all of the feedback together to help inform our planning. Should anything need to be undertaken differently we will be clearly communicating in a planned and considered way.

"We would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the Healthwatch Wiltshire staff and their volunteers in bringing these views and reflections to our attention. We look forward to continuing to work with all Healthwatch groups across BSW to ensure we hear from our population about their experiences."

Stacey Sims, Healthwatch Wiltshire Manager, said: "Thanks to all who shared their experiences and their ideas to improve prescription ordering services.

"We make a series of recommendations in our report, and we're pleased that these have been welcomed by the Integrated Care Board."

[Find out more in our report.](#)



Update for Wiltshire Area Boards

December 2023

System-wide Primary Care Access Recovery Plan (approved BSW ICB Board 16.11.23)

The Primary Care Access Recovery Plan for BSW has been developed following the publication of NHSE guidance earlier in the year and has been led by the BSW ICB Primary Care team working with all the GP practices across BSW and with system partners. The document format is based on a standard template provided by NHSE regional colleagues.

The context and content of the document was discussed in detail at the Board development session in October. Following the discussions, a final version of the document has now been produced with an associated communications plan.

The Board is now asked to approve the plan.

The following sets out a brief summary of the content of the document, however the full version is available to Board members and to the public via the ICB website, found [here](#)

The Primary Care Access Recovery Plan PCARP forms part of the operational planning guidance. The PCARP supports all three elements of the Fuller Stocktake vision and the development of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams but focusses on the first element of streamlining access to care and advice. The **national ambitions** for the PCARP are:

- To make it easier for patients to contact their practice and;
- For patients' requests to be managed on the same day, whether that is an urgent appointment, a non-urgent appointment within 2 weeks or signposting to another service.

The PCARP seeks to support recovery by focussing on four key areas:

Area	Focus
Empower Patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving information and NHS App functionality • Increasing self-directed care where clinically appropriate • Expanding community pharmacy services
Modern General Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing 'Modern General Practice Access' • Better digital telephony • Faster navigation, assessment and response
Build Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger multidisciplinary teams • More new doctors • Retention and return of experienced GP's. • Higher priority for primary care in housing developments
Cut Bureaucracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the primary – secondary care interface • Building on the 'Bureaucracy Busting Concordat'

Caring Steps Together

We are incredibly pleased to be sharing with you the outcome of more than a year of work to improve the way in which we share information with people who are discharged from our acute trusts into intermediate community-based services. We led this work from Wiltshire, but we've worked with colleagues across the BSW system in doing so, and it will be used by all of our services system-wide.



Resources to help patients, families, carers and colleagues working in health and care understand the discharge process and how to access onward care and support.

For more information:
www.bswtogether.org.uk/discharge

Giving you confidence to move forward

The programme was established as a response to the learning and insights we gathered from patients and their families / carers and colleagues working in and around these services – whilst they often told stories of feeling well supported, too often they were about feeling confused, worried and out of control about what was happening to them. So, we've worked with people to understand what they wanted to know (both from those who have gone through the pathway and those who haven't) and how they wanted to be given the information. We even got their views on language, colours, pace and the kind of people they wanted to see in the resources.

The Caring Steps Together web site is now available [here](#) and the websites of all our providers will point to this when referencing the discharge process. The site (which will also be accessible via QR codes on lanyards that we are handing out to colleagues across the system) is split into patient-facing and staff facing resources (though everything is open access). Our VCSE colleagues are also participating in the programme as well as providing information around the support they can offer outside of statutory services.

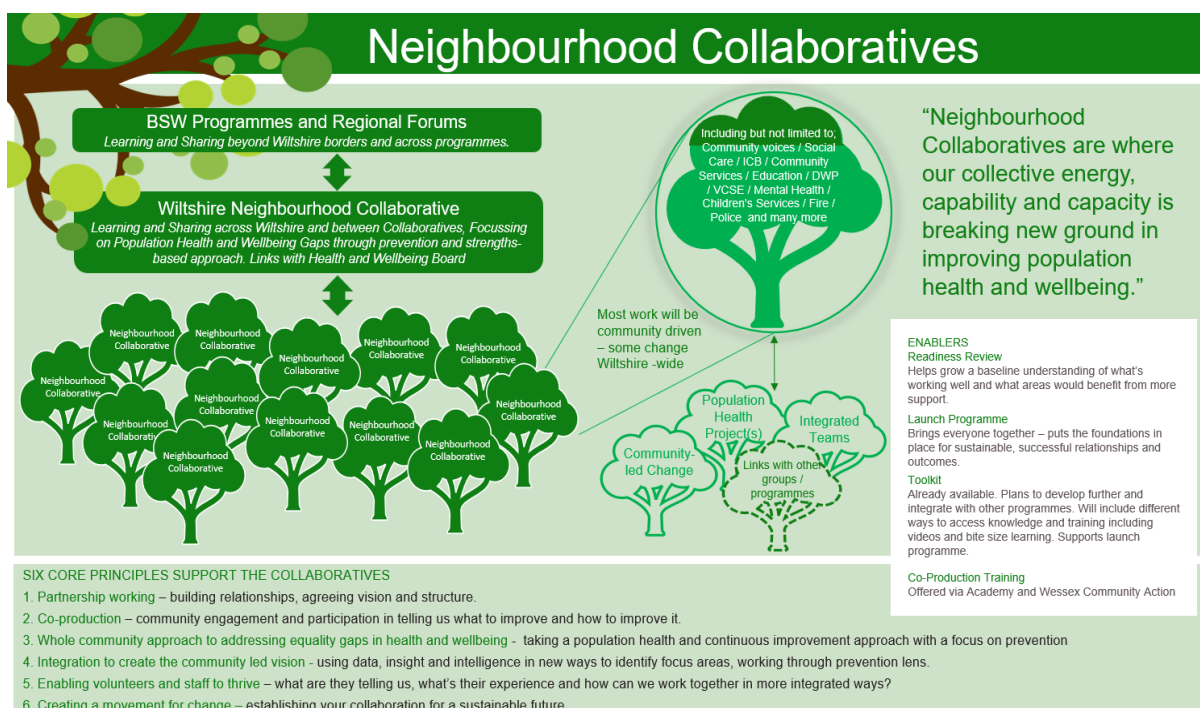
Neighbourhood Collaboratives

Aiming to reduce health and wellbeing inequality gaps within neighbourhoods across Wiltshire through partnership and a prevention focussed approach, we are continuing to make progress in our Neighbourhood Collaboratives which are part of the Implementation Plan of the Integrated Cared Strategy and the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Whilst recognising that this is a significant change to the way in which we work and takes time, we are on track to reach our aim of working with at least 5 areas by the end of March 2024. With strong links to the Fuller Stocktake and Integrated Teams, the Collaboratives Steering Group is now made up of over 30 partners across health, local authority, public service and the VCSE sectors and supports the development of each of the collaboratives. It is building links with other programmes of work such as Community Conversations, the Families and Childrens Transformation Programme and work in mental health.

The Collaboratives have recently been awarded £100,000 of Health Inequalities Funding to provide seeding for increased pace and scale of the Neighbourhood Collaboratives movement and to be able to develop and test an innovative model of community engagement and co-production principles. We will be working to deliver this during 2024.

There is a lot more information available in the form of newsletters, a web platform and things like recorded presentations – all of which are available on request. The two graphics below hopefully offer a high-level summary of the model and the current status:



Collaboratives in 2023

Neighbourhood	Highlights
Trowbridge	(initial pilot) continues with its work in preventing increases in the housebound population. Health Inequalities and Neighbourhood Collaboratives project teams met with Trowbridge and agreed a plan to establish a broader collaborative group and commence launch programme in early 2024.
Melksham and Bradford on Avon	<p>Pathfinder site – quick testing and learning from the model and will be able to share the learning to inform the tools and the approach that will be used by other sites.</p> <p>Coproduction training has taken across partners in this area. Feedback from the training will be used to help identify our baseline awareness of Co-production within the locality which should help to identify areas of future need.</p> <p>Cohort identified: Previously unidentified people as first of a first serious fall – aiming to reduce prevalence of serious first falls and subsequent ambulance attendances / hospital admissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mapped and collected existing falls prevention resources across MBoA – will share example• Engagement with the identified group of patients is nearing completion – utilising co-production• Delivery of the Development programme, (an adaptation of the Launch Programme), happened 27/11/23
Devizes	After a period of engagement with partners in this neighbourhood and plans to focus on children and young people, the support team stepped back whilst this area discussed and agreed it's way forward. This area will progress in early 2024 with the Readiness Review and launch programme.
Chippenham, Corsham & Box (CCB)	Areas of interest reviewed and undertaken data analysis with the Health Inequalities team. The early stages of this collaborative are progressing well and there is a structure of meetings in place. The Readiness Review has been completed – launch programme due early 2024. Reducing Hypertension is initial area of focus.
Salisbury – area wide	Three of the four Salisbury PCNs (offer to join will be extended to the 4 th PCN area) have proposed a Salisbury-wide approach to developing a Collaborative. This will be taken forward – next step is to undertake the Readiness Review. Plans also in place to work with farmers and support a dementia network approach.

Holiday Season

We would like to wish all of our partners a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2024. Thank you for your support, hard work and commitment to the ongoing priorities. We hope you have a lovely break over the holidays with your nearest and dearest.



Fiona Selvin-Brown, Director of Place - Wiltshire



FACT Family Help Programme

Update November 2023

Background

In early 2023, the Wiltshire Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Partnership launched its Family Help project to enhance the local arrangements for the delivery of early intervention and prevention services for children, young people and families.

What do we mean by 'Family Help'?

Wiltshire's multi-agency Family Help arrangements enable children, young people and families to access the right help at the right time through a co-ordinated approach to prevention and early intervention through:

- a co-ordinated approach at a whole population/universal level to prevent needs from arising and to build resilience across all residents
- a robust multi-agency approach to identifying any additional needs at the earliest point and providing effective joined-up support that prevents the needs from escalating further

We use the term 'Family Help' to stress that the focus is on working with families and to avoid historical confusion associated with the term 'Early Help'.

Autumn Update

Autumn has been a busy time for the partners particularly with the launch of the All Together website and brand as well as progress with commissioning Family Hubs.

We hope you find the updates below helpful, please do contact fact@wiltshire.gov.uk if you'd like to find out more or get involved.

Branding

With input from local families, FACT partners have collaborated to create a cohesive brand for Family Help following feedback from families and professionals that the existing system was hard to navigate and appeared relatively confusing, fragmented, and disjointed. This new umbrella brand, called All Together, covers all services providing early intervention and prevention, communicating to families, schools, and other relevant organisations that these services and organisations are working in tandem to deliver a more collective and connected system across the County.



Online Platform

Feedback from families and professionals also informed the partnership that finding information about and getting in touch with Early Help services was not easy.

The All Together platform hosted on Wessex Community Action's Wiltshire Together website has been launched alongside the wider branding activity and this will enable families and practitioners/organisations to easily find out about the Family Help Offer in Wiltshire.

The webpages can be accessed via [All Together - Wiltshire Together](https://wiltshiretogether.org.uk/AllTogether) or <https://wiltshiretogether.org.uk/AllTogether>

Family Hubs

We are developing Family Hubs to respond to the Government 2019 manifesto pledge. Family Hubs are a place-based way of joining up locally in the planning and delivery of services for children and young people aged 0-19 and their parents/carers. This approach will provide families with a single point of access to early support services and will include online/digital presence as well as physical locations to access services.

This initiative is being led by the Council's Commissioning Team with services scheduled to go live across Wiltshire from April '24.

Locality Pilot

A key element of the project is a specific pilot in the Warminster and Westbury area that is seeking to develop, implement and evaluate new ways of working in the context of early intervention and prevention for children, young people and families.

The two new Family Help Champions and Early Intervention Family Mental Health Champion posts are now fully embedded and working intensively with a number of local families to address specific issues with supervision from the Pilot Area Co-ordinator.

Other key developments in the pilot area include:

- Introduction of drop-ins for families at a number of schools, early years settings and other venues enabling them to easily access support and advice on a wide range of topics

- Delivery of 'Picnic on the Pitch' Summer holiday activities programme

- Development of responses to the agreed local priority issues:

 - Emotional well-being

 - Support for parents

 - Impact of the cost of living crisis



Development and delivery of group work activity focussed on specific issues including helping parents cope with challenging behaviour, working with children with autism and wider parenting support strategies

Piloting of Restorative Approaches in a number of schools

An interim evaluation will be produced by Oxford Brookes University during the early part of 2024 and shared in our next update.

Workforce Development

The project is also developing a Family Help workforce development offer building on the existing SVPP-led training activity to ensure that we have a system-wide approach to training and development that will be accessible to those working in schools, settings, VCS groups and the wider group of partner agencies.

The framework will set out a series of aligned modules based around Relational Practice that will build on the existing Five to Thrive training that has been extensively rolled out across the system and led by Public Health. The offer is under development but will initially include training on:

- Trauma informed practice
- Understanding adolescence
- Making Every Contact Count (MECC)
- Motivational Interviewing
- Emotion Coaching

The workforce development offer will be available to all agencies that deliver Family Help in Wiltshire via the SVPP website.

Outcomes Framework

FACT partners have contributed to and agreed a system-wide framework that will enable the partnership to monitor a range of short, medium and long term indicators to enable a shared understanding of needs and impact related to early intervention and prevention activity.

The indicators combine quantitative measures alongside qualitative measures and process indicators thus providing a balanced scorecard that aligns with the strategic vision for Family Help in Wiltshire and its three key strands:

- Health – child development, physical health, mental health and emotional well-being
- Wealth – education, employment, finance, home
- Wellbeing – safety, inclusive communities, positive relationships

Please contact fact@wiltshire.gov.uk if you'd like to find out more or get involved.

ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

WELCOME TO WILTSHIRE COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE'S FIRST ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

The Archaeology Service identifies, records and protects the archaeology of all of Wiltshire, including Swindon wshc.org.uk. We provide archaeological advice mostly through the planning system, but also to landowners, universities, local groups and societies, and to the public. We also seek to inform on and promote the archaeology of the County. Our newsletter therefore aims to provide accessible and readable information about the work of the Service and some of the more notable archaeological and historical discoveries within the County in the last 18 months or so. There is also an annual Archaeology in Wiltshire conference in the spring. Keep an eye on the Wiltshire Museum's website for further details.

In this edition we have included recent archaeological projects in the County and within Swindon Borough Council that have resulted from our advice and guidance, as well as information about our Historic Environment Record, the Wiltshire Buildings Record, the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site Co-ordination Unit and the work of Wiltshire's Finds Liaison Officer.

Our team is based in the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham. This state-of-the-art, purpose-built, records office was opened in 2007 and cost £11 million, but it has brought together the archives service, local studies library, conservation and museums advisory service, archaeology and Wiltshire Buildings Record under one, modernist, roof.

The Archaeology Service holds thousands of archaeological reports, aerial photographs and other records, all of which may be accessed by prior appointment. Just email us in advance at archaeology@wiltshire.gov.uk
We hope you enjoy our newsletter.

Archaeology Service
Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre
Cocklebury Road
Chippenham
Wiltshire SN15 3QN



TOP
The Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Chippenham. Home of the Archaeology Service. © Wiltshire Council



LEFT
Some of the Archaeology Service team at Stonehenge. © Wiltshire Council



BOTTOM
The fine farmhouse at 41 Green Road, Swindon. © Wiltshire Buildings Record

'SEEING THE MONUMENTS FOR THE TREES' – A PROJECT TO CLEAR VEGETATION FROM THREE OF WILTSHIRE'S ANCIENT MONUMENTS.



TOP: Cam's Hill ringwork before clearance looking towards Malmesbury. © Aerial-Cam. Reproduced with kind permission.

BOTTOM: Cam's Hill ringwork after clearance. © Aerial-Cam. Reproduced with kind permission.

Wiltshire has some of England's most important and well-known ancient monuments. Many are designated as Scheduled Monuments, meaning they are legally protected due to their historical and archaeological importance. However, sometimes they can be harmed by natural processes such as tree and scrub growth, and burrowing animals, which can damage important buried archaeological remains and hide our history from view.

Last winter a community project, funded by Historic England, was organised by the Archaeology Service to remove the scrub over three of Wiltshire's ancient monuments. The first monument was an Early Bronze Age (1,800 – 1,500 BC) disc barrow, a rare monument type, on Burderop Down, near Chiseldon, Swindon. Large hawthorn bushes were removed from the monument so that it can now be seen in all its glory.

The second monument was a ringwork at Cam's Hill which is thought to be one of several siegeworks around the town of Malmesbury during the 'Anarchy' period, when Stephen and Matilda contested the succession to Henry I in the 12th-century. The monument has a 1.5m deep and 4m wide external ditch and a distinctive horseshoe shaped internal bank, 18m wide and around 1.8m high. It has never been excavated, although it bears close similarity to other monuments of this period in the south of England. Vegetation was cleared by volunteers in January and March 2023 and so the monument is now far more visible to those passing by on the adjacent public footpath. It is now hoped that livestock will graze the monument and deter re-growth.

The third monument was a group of four medieval lynchets at Southmill Hill, Amesbury, which survive remarkably well and are prominent features on the periphery of Amesbury. The lynchets are medieval in date and result from deliberate terracing of the steep hillslope for cultivation. The monument has been in steady decline for several decades due to unchecked scrub and tree growth, so over two days in February, volunteers, including the local scout group, cleared the scrub from one of the lynchets. It is hoped that the clearance work will recommence in autumn 2023.

The project was a great success and achieved what it set to do. As well as removing the risk of damage to these monuments from unruly scrub, all three monuments are now significantly more visible to those using public footpaths and other public rights of way. Thirty-eight volunteers participated in the project, and they all enjoyed the experience. The Archaeology Service therefore hopes to identify further monuments for clearance in the next few years...so if you would like to volunteer, we would love to hear from you!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Archaeology Service at archaeology@wiltshire.gov.uk

BELOW: Volunteers at Southmill Hill, Amesbury. © Wiltshire Council.



THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE MARKET TOWN OF CALNE IS REVEALED.

Wiltshire is blessed with many historic towns and Calne is a particularly interesting example, lying on the A4, a major route to the west country before the M4 was built. The town was probably best known until the late 20th-century as the home of Harris' bacon factory which dominated the centre of the town until it was demolished in the mid-1980s. Documentary sources indicate that the town probably had Saxon origins and was a borough by the time of the Domesday Book in the 11th-century. It was an established town by the medieval period.

Archaeological evidence for the origins and historic development of the town has proved to be elusive, partly because there have been few opportunities for larger-scale archaeological investigations within the town. The demolition and redevelopment of Harris's bacon factory in the 1980s was not accompanied by any archaeological investigation, despite its location in the heart of the town.

The proposed redevelopment of a parcel of land to the rear of the Nos 8 – 13 High Street therefore provided just that opportunity. Exploratory archaeological investigation in 2016 demonstrated that medieval remains survived on the site and a detailed archaeological excavation was undertaken late in 2021 by Worcestershire Archaeology on behalf of Churchill Retirement Living.

The excavation identified a large Late Saxon (9th – 10th-century) boundary ditch, along with some lesser ditches. These are notable discoveries as it was presumed that the focus of the Saxon settlement lay around the Church of St Mary. Probably in the 11th-century, the boundaries within the site were re-aligned with the laying out of burgage plots for the medieval town, running back from the High Street. The site lay too far to the rear of the High Street to reveal the properties that the burgage plots served, but these back plots did reveal rubbish pits filled with medieval waste material. This included sherds of medieval pottery dating from the 11th- to the 15th-century and probably all locally made at kilns in Minety, Lacock and Crockerton. A notable find was a lead seal matrix, used for sealing important documents, probably reflecting the commercial use of the properties on the High Street. The remains of a lime kiln were also revealed and probably served in the construction of stone properties on the High Street.

The site was remodelled again in the 17th- and 18th-century as the fortunes of the town improved, largely based on the weaving industry, until the town became synonymous with pork and bacon with the opening of the Harris factories in the 19th- and 20th -centuries.



TOP RIGHT: Harris' bacon factory, Calne in 1924. © Historic England.

RIGHT: General view of the excavation at 8 – 13 High Street. © Worcestershire Archaeology, reproduced with kind permission.

ABOVE: The medieval lime kiln under excavation. © Worcestershire Archaeology, reproduced with kind permission.

TREE-RING DATING - THE HIGHS AND THE LOWS

With every historic building, the same question comes up at the end, how do you date it? When Wiltshire Buildings Record started in 1979 there was little to go on. The few books about vernacular architecture covered buildings in other parts of the country. We had help from the Salisbury office of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments but apart from emergencies they were recording only in the south-east of Wiltshire and buildings there had different characteristics from the north and west of the County. Since then, studies of vernacular architecture have increased enormously, especially, since 2009, with the assistance of tree-ring dating or dendrochronology.

The Wiltshire Dendrochronological Project started through funding provided by English Heritage (now Historic England) to train someone in the work. There were existing projects in Hampshire and Somerset which were well advanced, and Wiltshire was known to have similarly early buildings worth sampling. We already had a list of suitable medieval buildings and the project aimed to concentrate on base cruck, cruck and other early carpentry methods. This was Phase 1 of the project and we have now reached Phase 5 thanks to funding from various sources.

The results have been interesting. Overall, they have confirmed the dates we had assigned based on stylistic and documentary grounds. But they have often narrowed them down and highlighted the significance of small changes of carpentry method. There have been disappointments where the timber turned out to be elm rather than oak or came from fast-grown oak trees with a small number of wide rings which could not be matched with the master sequence.



Two former farmhouses in the Swindon area, both cruck-built, illustrate the highs and lows of the outcomes. Studley Grange Farm, Lydiard Tregoze, was brought to our attention in 2021 in a derelict state. Three of our members had a look at it and reported finding a cruck truss despite its listing as late 18th-century. As a threatened building we gave it priority. Robert Howard and Alison Arnold from the Nottingham Lab gamely tackled it for us bringing a generator to power their drills. Sadly, the oak timbers of the crucks were quick grown though dates were provided for the addition of a dairy wing in 1606 and a re-used collar of 1559-84 looked likely to come from the initial ceiling of the open hall. There is documentary evidence that the farm was a grange of Stanley Abbey at Bremhill and it was first mentioned in 1460. Robert and Alison had managed to get into the roof on the far side of the cruck truss and their photo of the joint at the apex suggests construction in the 15th-century is likely.

No. 41 Green Road, Stratton St. Margaret, was a reserve building on the day that Studley Grange was sampled so for that reason it was high on the list for future sampling. This former farmhouse had been visited briefly by our Principal Buildings Historian, Dorothy Treasure. We were not very hopeful of a good result as crucks in the Swindon area have proved before to be of elm or quick-grown oak. To our (and the owner's) amazement the lower parts of two cruck trusses dated from 1271-1296. They had been used again in a wider building with new upper parts and purlins etc in 1339-1355. This is a star building, quite exceptional, and shows just how valuable tree-ring dating can be.



TOP RIGHT: The derelict Studley Grange farmhouse, Lydiard Tregoze. © Wiltshire Buildings Record.



TOP LEFT: Cruck visible on the landing of Studley Grange farmhouse. © Wiltshire Buildings Record.

LEFT: Joint where 14th-century upper timbers cap a 13th-century cruck, all smoke-blackened, at 41 Green Road, Swindon. © Wiltshire Buildings Record.



The Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (HER) consists of a database with integrated digital mapping that holds information on all the currently known archaeological and historical monuments for the County – a fantastic resource. It contains records of over 50,000 monuments, including earthworks, finds spots, and historic buildings, and contains information about all types of archaeological investigations, as well as various sources such as aerial photographs.

To give a taste of what the HER holds, this article explores some of the notable records for the town of Corsham. Starting in the centre of the town at The Corsham School, aerial photographs of 1946 show the current School playing fields under allotments (HER record MWI74074), created as part of the 'Digging for Victory' campaign introduced in 1940. To the west of the School is Hatton Way, named after Sir Christopher Hatton, a favourite courtier of Elizabeth I. Sir Christopher, when expressing devotion for his queen, always signed his letters with a hat drawn over the word 'on'. Hatton spent about four years at Corsham House (MWI34260), now Corsham Court, a Grade I listed Elizabethan country house. Unfortunately, financial problems caused him to sell up!



TOP RIGHT: Corsham Court. Image reproduced by kind permission of the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre.

LEFT: The Grade II listed 'Pepper Pot', an 18th-century toll house. © Wiltshire Council.

RIGHT: A ventilation shaft serving the underground Pickwick Quarry. © Wiltshire Council.

WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON'S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

Halfway down Hatton Way is the site of Purleigh Barn (MWI65896), a demolished 19th-century outfarm of regular courtyard plan. The farmstead and all its historic buildings have been lost. The Wiltshire and Swindon Farmsteads and Landscapes Project Report summarises the results of mapping the historic character and survival of more than 4,000 farmsteads and 2,700 outfarms and field barns in Wiltshire, all mapped onto the HER. Knowledge and protection of the surviving historic farmsteads is essential if they are to be retained as a distinctive part of the rural landscape of the County.

Another notable Corsham building is the 'Pepper Pot', a Grade II listed toll house (MWI34400) on the A4 Bath Road. This pretty building was also once a sweet shop and is now a summerhouse. To the north of the A4 Bath Road, exploratory archaeological investigation in 2016 found a Neolithic (4,000 – 2,000 BC) pit (MWI76326), containing fragments of pottery. The field also contains evidence of ponds but the most exciting feature here lies underground. This is the former stone quarrying tunnel which probably ran from Hartham Park Quarry, sometimes known as the Pickwick Quarry. Bath Stone, a warm, honey-coloured limestone, has been desirable since Roman times and Brunel's cutting of the Box Railway Tunnel, close to Corsham, revealed a rich seam of high-quality stone. The Corsham mines were extensively worked with miles of tunnels, chambers, and air shafts, and became the ideal underground storage location for the War Office during the Second World War and of further use during the Cold War (MWI31707). One of the ventilation shafts for the tunnels can still be seen above ground. So why not explore our HER for the area around where you live in Wiltshire. Visit our [website](#) or contact us at archaeology@wiltshire.gov.uk for more information.

AN IMPORTANT BRONZE AGE BURIAL GROUND AT NETHERHAMPTON ROAD, SALISBURY



Aerial photography has shown that several ring ditches exist in a short stretch of the Nadder Valley between Harnham and Netherhampton. Some 35 ring ditches have been identified, and more are sure to exist, located both on the valley floor, as well as the valley slopes. Their mounds have long since been denuded, but what survives still retains valuable archaeological information about the practice of burial in the earlier Bronze Age (2,200 – 1,500 BC).

Proposed residential development immediately west of West Harnham has provided the opportunity to investigate archaeologically several of these barrows and Cotswold Archaeology and Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) have been doing just that over the winter of 2022 and into early 2023.

MOLA excavated a double ring-ditch and a second adjoining ring-ditch. Interestingly these monuments were located on the floor of the Nadder Valley. In the heavy winter rain, the barrow got close to being flooded but it seemed to occupy, probably intentionally, a slight gravel rise so that it stayed just above the flood level. The excavations revealed large graves in the centre of each ring-ditch, both of which contained the skeleton of an individual. The graves were of considerable size, far larger than was needed to bury the one individual. Samples from the fill of the grave may tell us if there was a reason for that and if there was other material buried in the grave that has not survived to the present day, such as wood or organic material.



However, one of the burials was accompanied by a very fine pottery vessel, a highly decorated Beaker. These vessels are attributed to a migrant population that arrived in Britain around 4,500 years ago bringing with them new burial practices and these distinctive pottery vessels. It is hoped that this particularly fine example will go on display in Salisbury Museum.

Meanwhile on the opposite side of the Netherhampton Road, Cotswold Archaeology on behalf of their client, Vistry Group, has been excavating a group of five ring-ditches or barrows that form a barrow cemetery just at the base of the valley side. The barrows are marked by their different size, the width and depth of the ring-ditches, and the presence or absence of graves within or adjacent to the barrows. One grave within one of the barrows contained a fine and rare food vessel with a small handle, while one grave just outside of one barrow contained five individuals, an adult and four infants, all very tightly grouped. The implication is that they died in a single catastrophic event and analysis of the human remains will elucidate why they died and

their relationship to each other, as well as to other individuals buried in the other barrows.

Most unexpectedly, the excavation has also revealed an Early Saxon (5th – 7th-century AD) waterhole, as well as a smattering of Saxon pottery. It is not unusual for later Saxon burials to be inserted into or around the mounds of Bronze Age barrows, although at Netherhampton Road, it is not clear why this functional feature should have been placed here. That there were Saxons living nearby is attested by a very famous Saxon inhumation cemetery found in Harnham in the 19th-century. For the time being, the excavations at Netherhampton Road have been concluded. The long process of analysing the results is underway and will result in a publication that will reveal the details of this important excavation.

TOP LEFT: The Bronze Age barrows under excavation south of Netherhampton Road. © Cotswold Archaeology, reproduced with kind permission.

BOTTOM LEFT: The central grave and burial from one of the barrows north of Netherhampton Road. © MOLA, reproduced with kind permission.

ABOVE: A double-ditched barrow before excavation south of Netherhampton Road. © Cotswold Archaeology, reproduced with kind permission.

MIDDLE LEFT: Beaker vessel grave good from one of the burials north of Netherhampton Road. © MOLA, reproduced with kind permission.

BELOW: The Saxon waterhole with waterlogged timbers south of Netherhampton Road. © Cotswold Archaeology, reproduced with kind permission.

Bronze Age burial mounds or barrows are one of the most common monument types to be found in Wiltshire, which, along with Dorset, probably has some of the densest concentrations of such monuments in the country. Many people will be familiar with the prominent barrow cemeteries set out on the chalk ridges all around Stonehenge which only add to the atmosphere of this most prehistoric of landscapes. Those barrows, with upstanding mounds still surviving, represent only the most visible of this monument type. Many more survive only as ring-ditches, the quarries from which the mounds were constructed, but where the mounds have long since been denuded by ploughing over centuries. Aerial photography and fortuitous discoveries have shown that these barrows, in the form of surviving ring-ditches, were constructed on a wider range of geologies and topographies and not just on the chalk downland.





**A MYSTERY HOLE IN EAST KENNETT:
A PREHISTORIC OR ROMAN OPENING INTO
THE UNDERWORLD?**

The site was of sufficient interest that Professor Josh Pollard of the University of Southampton's Department of Archaeology organised an exploratory excavation of the site in late summer 2022. Much interest centred on discovering the purpose of the feature that had created the mystery hole two years earlier. The excavations stripped an area around the hole and revealed the sarsen stones surrounding the rim and slumped into the pit. At this stage, the only way to find out what lay below the sarsen stones was to carefully lift and remove them. By this stage, interest in the story was such that it attracted the attention of Professor Alice Roberts and the 'Digging for Britain' team, who filmed the lifting of the sarsen stones (Series 10, Episode 4).

Once removed and after some more careful excavation down to a depth of 2m, it became clear that this feature was not in fact a prehistoric burial chamber but a natural sink hole, the upper portions of which had been modified in the Roman period. A sink hole is formed from the natural dissolving of the soluble chalk bedrock, creating a deep fissure or hole in the bedrock. The Romans had erected the sarsens on the inner edge of this natural feature perhaps partly to form a barrier to stop livestock and children from falling into it, but perhaps also to emphasise it, as an opening into the underworld. The project emphasises the uncertainty of archaeology. As Professor Pollard so eloquently put it, it is 'what makes archaeology a vibrant and unpredictable subject!'

In summer 2020 a mysterious hole appeared in a field close to the village of East Kennett, within the Avebury World Heritage Site, and was reported to the Archaeology Service. Being archaeologists, we are always fascinated to explore any such phenomena and so members of our team quickly went to the site and undertook an initial exploration. This found that the hole comprised a substantial pit, roughly circular, around 1m in diameter, and lined by four large blocks of unworked sarsen stone. The feature appeared to have a deliberate void, and was capped by other sarsens, two of which remained in place, while a third appeared to have collapsed into the pit, so revealing the presence of the feature. A flint blade and a rim of Roman greyware were recovered from the collapsed fill but were assumed to be incidental. The initial interpretation was that this was a prehistoric cist or burial chamber. Similar examples of sarsen-capped burials are known from the wider region.

Consequently, Historic England undertook geophysical survey of the site of the 'hole' and its surroundings in 2021 and identified other possible chambered features, along with several ditches belonging to a field or enclosure system, and two possible rectilinear buildings. Along with the possible cist, the possible buildings were of interest as they bore some resemblance to the plans of Early Neolithic houses.



TOP: The mystery hole at East Kennett as it first appeared in 2020. © Wiltshire Council.

LEFT: The sarsen stones after initial excavation by the University of Southampton. © University of Southampton. Reproduced with kind permission.

RIGHT: The 'sink hole' after excavation. © University of Southampton. Reproduced with kind permission.



**SOME FINDS REPORTED TO
WILTSHIRE'S FINDS LIAISON OFFICER**



Locally, the work of the PAS is overseen by Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) who receive, identify and record archaeological objects, plus deal with Treasure finds from England and Wales. Wiltshire has its own FLO and Sophie Hawke is based at Salisbury Museum and would be very glad to hear from you if you have any objects that you would like identified and reported on (pas@salisbury-museum.org.uk).

These are some typical finds from Wiltshire that have been reported over the last 18 months or so and they show the variety in age, type and material of object that are recorded. This complete gold or gold-plated penannular ring is of Late Bronze Age date (1150-750 BC). The object is oval and about 1.5cm across. The ring is mostly gold in colour, except for a brown band that appears to wrap around it. It is likely that this is the core of the object that has been heavily coated in gold and then filed away to leave the band. The ring's function remains uncertain, although it is likely that they were personal adornments, possibly worn on the ears or nose, rather than being hair-ornaments or items of exchange.

A notable feature of the Covid-19 pandemic was the increase in the number of people who took up metal-detecting as they sought new interests that could be undertaken individually and outdoors. Everyone taking up the pastime is encouraged to follow the Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales (2017), which sets out the legal requirements as well as more general guidance on accepted best practice [finds.org.uk](https://www.finds.org.uk). There is no doubt that the results of metal detecting have contributed significantly to our knowledge of the heritage of England and Wales. Much of this is due to the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) which was established in the late 1990s. The PAS encourages the reporting of all finds of archaeological objects, whether through metal detecting or not and is not limited to items of precious metal. To date, the PAS has recorded over 1.6 million objects, which has provided an extraordinary insight into the study of archaeological objects and their distribution.

Not all objects reported are of metal. This beautiful, complete, annular, blue glass bead, around 1cm in diameter, dating from the Iron Age to early Medieval period c. 100 BC to AD 750, was found near Alderbury. This last object, found near Wroughton, is a silver cufflink, one element of a pair that would have been linked together. The cufflink, which is around 1.5cm in diameter, has stamped decoration of a pair of hearts side by side with a crown above. Cufflinks were introduced in England in the latter half of the 17th-century and those with this design are considered to have originally been produced to commemorate the marriage of Charles II to Catherine of Braganza in 1662 but continued to be used as a general symbol of love or marriage.



TOP: Late Bronze Age gold penannular ring. Reproduced by kind permission of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.
TOP RIGHT: Blue glass bead dating from anytime between the Iron Age and Late Saxon period. Reproduced by kind permission of the Sussex Archaeological Society.
RIGHT: 17th-century silver cufflink. Reproduced by permission of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.



THE REMAINS OF OLD SARUM'S CATHEDRAL FOUND IN NEW SARUM'S CATHEDRAL CLOSE WALL

The Grade I Cathedral Close Wall in Salisbury started to be constructed in the later 13th-century but was not completed until the 15th- or 16th-century. It was built both as a defensive structure but also as a symbol of the status of the clergy and their lordship of the Close. It is known that permission was given in the 14th-century for stone from the Cathedral at Old Sarum to be used in the construction of the Close Wall and carved stone from the Cathedral can be seen on the Exeter Street face of the Close Wall in the form of stylised flowerheads.

The repair in 2022 of a short, leaning section of the Close Wall within the grounds of Bishop Wordsworth School along Exeter Street therefore provided the opportunity to examine its masonry makeup and to identify other masonry that might have been purloined from the old Cathedral at Old Sarum. The repair work was undertaken by the stonemasons of the Salisbury Cathedral Works Department under the watchful eye of Graham Keevil, Salisbury's Cathedral Archaeologist.

The exercise proved to be worthwhile as several pieces of very fine carved masonry were identified, mostly hidden and not visible on the face of the Wall. It also seems likely that even plain ashlar blocks came from the old Cathedral at Old Sarum. It seems odd today that, despite all the effort put into constructing a fine cathedral at Old Sarum, within a hundred years or so it was used as little more than a quarry for the construction of the Close Wall. However, it does add to the historical and archaeological importance of the Close Wall, which is also a strong architectural and aesthetic feature of the Close and the city landscape.



TOP LEFT: Salisbury Cathedral Close Wall under repair. © Wiltshire Council

TOP RIGHT: Carved stone, formerly part of the Cathedral at Old Sarum, built into the Close Wall along Exeter Street. © Wiltshire Council

MIDDLE RIGHT: Carved stone, formerly part of the Cathedral at Old Sarum, built into the Close Wall along Exeter Street. © Wiltshire Council

BOTTOM RIGHT: Carved stonework from Old Sarum Cathedral built into the Close Wall. © Wiltshire Council

Stonehenge, Avebury & Associated Sites were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) List in 1986 and was one of the UK's very first World Heritage Sites. Stonehenge is the most sophisticated prehistoric stone circle in the world, and Avebury is the largest. Both stone circles lie at the heart of prehistoric landscapes containing numerous impressive and amazingly well-preserved ceremonial monuments dating back over 5,000 years to the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Together they form a landscape without parallel.

To achieve World Heritage status, sites must define what makes them to be of Outstanding Universal Value, or internationally significant, and how they intend to protect and enhance this. This is achieved through the adoption of a WHS Management Plan. In December 2022 Claire Selman joined the Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Coordination Unit within the Wiltshire Council Archaeology team. The primary aim of the unit is to coordinate the delivery of the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan. To do so, Claire works with over 25 partners, including national organisations such as the National Trust and English Heritage, and farmers and communities living within and surrounding the WHS.

Priorities within the [Management Plan](#) cover what may at first seem a surprising span of topics extending beyond archaeology to subjects including woodland management, dark skies preservation and arts projects. Together, the Management Plan's actions work to preserve the site's buried archaeology, relationship with the landscape and accessibility for visitors. No two days within the Coordination Unit are the same from meeting with partners viewing activity on site, to engaging with visitors at local events and organising Partnership Panel and Steering Committee meetings.

Claire recently spent some time exploring the WHS through the range of services available at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, which you can read about in a blog post [here](#). Her discoveries included viewing some of the 1,114 entries on the Historic Environment Record from Stonehenge and Avebury. Each record builds a picture of life across the ages on this site, from Neolithic flint tools to Bronze Age round barrows, Saxon pottery and more.

TOP: Stonehenge with a near Winter Solstice alignment, December 2022. © Wiltshire Council.

RIGHT: Attending Open Farm Sunday on the edge of Avebury WHS, June 2023. © Wiltshire Council.



The opportunity to support the management of these iconic sites has led Claire to discover even more about our County and its heritage, and there's a wealth of monuments to explore beyond the stone circles themselves. To help plan a visit to the World Heritage Site, Claire recommends the walking trails on National Trust's Avebury and Stonehenge Landscape pages and the historical information on English Heritage's Stonehenge pages.

There are currently 33 UK World Heritage Sites, and 1,157 in total globally. The UK's World Heritage Sites demonstrate the breadth of what World Heritage can be, from natural sites like the Lake District to industrial sites such as The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales and even an entire city, Bath. Discover them all at: [UNESCO World Heritage Centre - World Heritage List](#) To find out more about the Stonehenge, Avebury & Associated Sites World Heritage Sites, visit our [website](#) and follow @StoneAveWHS on Twitter.



PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES – AN IMPORTANT SITE OF SWINDON'S 20TH-CENTURY INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE REVEALS ITS ANCIENT PAST.

In 1985 Honda started work on building their new car plant at South Marston, Swindon, providing a much-needed boost to the local economy and employment. The car plant itself replaced the site of an aircraft factory, first developed in the late 1930s as a 'shadow' aircraft factory, and then as an active manufacturing facility from 1940. South Marston Aerodrome was constructed at this time to serve in the Second World War. Phillips & Powis Aircraft Ltd, Short Brothers, and Vickers-Armstrong-Supermarine all produced aircraft at the site, including the iconic Supermarine Spitfire. Having been considered but been rejected as a possible municipal airport serving Swindon in the 1960s, the airfield came to end when Honda bought the site for their new venture. However, the runway still exists, running through the site, and was used by Honda as a test track. One of the attractions to Honda was the skilled engineer workforce of Swindon arising from its role in the railway industry. However, after 35 years, the Honda factory itself came to an end and the site is now being redeveloped again.

This redevelopment has provided the opportunity to explore the archaeology of the site preceding its 20th-century history. Remarkably, despite two significant phases of development to construct South Marston Airfield and then the Honda works, evidence for Late Iron Age (200 BC – AD 43) and Roman settlement, surrounded by extensive field systems, has come to light, some surviving under the airfield runway! Oxford Archaeology has been undertaking exploratory investigations and more detailed excavation at the site prior to development.

The evidence points to a small rural settlement that lies just off Ermine Street, the Roman road that links the local small town of Durocornovium (Wanborough) with the important regional centre of Corinium (Cirencester). The buildings might have been of slight construction and left little trace but finds of box tile, brick and tegula suggest a significant building lay nearby. A corn drier was found alongside some stone-lined pits, suggesting an area devoted to crop processing. Finds from the settlement include quern stones from grinding corn, whetstones for sharpening tools and two Roman shoes! The excavations are on-going and further discoveries are expected. The results will continue to add to the extraordinary history of this site on the edge of Swindon.



TOP: Newspaper cutting from 1965 about South Marston Airfield. © Swindon Echo, 8 January 1965. Reproduced by kind permission of the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, document reference 2753FL.

LEFT: Aerial view of Iron Age and Roman deposits under the runway. © Oxford Archaeology. Reproduced with kind permission.

ABOVE: Excavating an Iron Age feature. © Oxford Archaeology. Reproduced with kind permission.

Update for Corsham Area Board

Name of Parish/Town Council	Corsham Town Council
Date of Area Board Meeting	11 January 2024

Headlines/Key successes

- The Christmas Lights Switch On took place on Friday 1 December, with a huge crowd enjoying the Christmas Market, live music, and Father Christmas' grotto.

- The Town Council's recent Transport Plan Survey gained over 270 responses from local people. These have been analysed and will help with the drawing up of a new Transport Plan.

- This year's Community Awards launch at the end of January as the Town Council seeks to celebrate the unsung heroes of our community. Full details will be available on our website.

Projects

- The Skatepark Project Group have lots of ideas to raise funds for a proposed new skatepark to replace the current one at Springfield. Watch out for more details coming soon. The Group will also help the Town Council choose the design of the new facility.

- Detached Youth Work – The Town Council continues to fund The RISE Trust's detached youth work in the town. On Wednesday and Friday evenings, members of the RISE team can be spotted at various locations around Corsham, chatting with the young people they meet and offering help, advice, and snacks and warm drinks to those who need them. It is hoped that a 'warm space' can be arranged for the winter months.

- The Town Council continues to recruit volunteers to assist with wildlife projects in its open spaces, following the production of its Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). Project areas include tree planting, establishing new wildflower areas, planting and managing hedges, creating new ponds, making bug hotels and hibernacula and installing bird, bat and dormouse boxes. We hope that local residents will want to get involved and help us deliver it all. Anyone interested, can contact Garry Ford, Environmental Project Officer: gford@corsham.gov.uk.

- The next play areas to be improved, following the Town Council taking them over from Wiltshire Council, will be those on Pockeridge Road. Local residents have already been consulted on what equipment they would like to see at the two sites.

Update for Corsham Area Board

Forthcoming events/Diary dates

- 19 January – Business Breakfast, 8-10am, The Pound Arts Centre. The Town Council's latest Business Breakfast takes place at The Pound and has a 'Creative Goals for 2024' theme. To register, contact Charlotte Phillips at the Town Hall: cphillips@corsham.gov.uk.
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- 20 April – Eco Fair, 10am-2pm, in the town centre and at Digital Mansion Corsham. Stalls, information and advice, plus veggie food and more, brought to you by the Town Council and Corsham Climate Action.
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Signed:



Date:

19th December 2023