

Officers Response to comments received from Avebury Parish Council invited by 12 November

In Wiltshire, Atkins undertakes technical speed limit assessments following Department for Transport Circular 01/13, 'Setting local speed limits'.

Residents' requests to reduce speed and perceptions that the A4361 is unsafe are not based on technical assessment. The collision on 27 October this year would have been within the 30mph limit. A speed limit is assessed on the existing road geometry and environment and not the status of World Heritage Site.

Injury collision data on the A4361 from 2017 to 2019 (before the COVID 19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions) between the Beckhampton Roundabout and up to and including Winterbourne Monkton shows that there were five injury collisions. Two were in the 30mph restriction within Avebury, one near the boundary of the 30mph limit north of Avebury and two between the Beckhampton Roundabout and the 30mph limit to the south of Avebury.

The Avebury World Heritage Site Transport Strategy issued in January 2015 had an aim to encourage slower vehicle speeds and to consider a 40mph restriction to the Beckhampton Roundabout from Avebury. Whilst this was the aim of the Transport Strategy, it was always expected that consideration of any speed limit change would have to be based upon a technical assessment in line with the guidance on setting of speed limits.

The observation that the carriageway surface on the approach southwards along the A4361 towards the Beckhampton Roundabout is 'seriously delaminated' is not a material consideration for the alteration of a speed limit. Issues such as this require engineering solutions to resolve the underlying problem and this can be achieved through the completion of carriageway maintenance.