

**TRANSCRIPT OF BROAD TOWN WHITE HORSE RESTORATION GROUP INTERVIEW WITH ANDREW LAW**

**SUBJECT: ANDREW LAW**

**PLACE: PYE LANE, BROAD TOWN**

**DATE: 28 SEP 2025, 2030**

**REF: BTWHRG 2**

**080209-000**

**INTERVIEWER Andrew Law, Broad Town White Horse Restoration Group, 07841381301, andrewlaw456@gmail.com**

**00:00:04,260 --> 00:11:43,172 [Andrew Law]**

My name is Andrew Law. I'm a member of the Broad Town White Horse Restoration Group. Phone number 07841381301. Email andrewlaw456@gmail.com. This is being recorded at Pye Lane, Broad Town on the 28th of September 2025 and the reference is Broad Town White Horse Restoration Group number two.

So, my name is Andrew Law. I'm 70 years old, born and bred in North London but resident in Broad Town since 2003. How did I first become involved in White Horse activities? Well, I can't remember the first time, obviously the White Horse was here when we moved into this house, but the first evidence I have of actually being involved in liming was in 2007, where there's a picture featuring me. I was obviously involved in liming through to, I think, about 2014.

In 2015 there were a few issues, I think. We'd had the land slips a year or two earlier and I know that we went and did a reconnaissance to look at the White Horse and see what state it was in. This was done by Rupert Bastin, myself and Simon Billis on the 14th of June 2015. We concluded there was a moderate amount of weed growth over the entire area of the horse. The profile of the horse was no longer fully defined at the margins. Part of the tail was missing. The growth of vegetation in the margins obscured the outline. The lower edges of the horse were becoming destabilized and surrounding trees and shrubs obscured the view. However, we did feel the horse was in reasonable condition. However, the notes we made concluded by saying that "we just received an email from Wiltshire Council suggesting that the site may still be unstable following the land slips two years previously. It's fair to say that until such time as the site is declared safe to access, no work should be carried out". It may well be that the site is now safe, but unless someone gives us that assurance, we cannot proceed. So, following on from that, there was a meeting on the 23rd of June 2015 which was attended by Jim Brierley, Bob Clark, who both had been involved in the White Horse for a while previously. Betty Bastin, Rupert Bastin, Nigel Crocker, Darren Bowes, Louise Hinson, Stuart Hinson, Simon Parkin, Emma Rant, myself, and Simon Billis. Now at the meeting, there were no minutes but the discussion was on the future maintenance of the horse, its renovation and also, organizational changes in that I know both Jim Brierley and Bob Clark wanted to back out of their roles in the leadership of the White Horse group - but there were no volunteers for leadership. On the 18th of July I know that we weed-killed the horse and on the 10th of August there was a briefing to the Parish Council meeting by Bob Clark who said that, "The weed-killer trials are in the early stages but results look encouraging. The hope is that a number of sprays with contact chemicals throughout the year, with a rake over it may negate the requirement to cover the hill figure in lime. Removal of the requirements to lime would be of major benefit, especially when considering the health and safety aspects. Discussions are ongoing with local contractors to understand the requirements for site consolidation and yearly maintenance. The thoughts are that an area of five meters around the monument should be cleared back, removing all saplings and scrub and we would like the parish council to explore whether voluntary work on the horse will come under the council's

insurance. In the meantime, we are scoping out quotes to ascertain a cost should we have to shoulder the cost from horse funds."

So, from 2016, liming carried on and I seemed to become more involved and Simon Billis seemed to be taking the lead of the actual operations with me doing some admin and planning work. 2017, limed and we also created terms of reference for the White Horse Preservation Society. It starts off with the paragraph, "The White Horse Preservation Society exists to ensure one of Wiltshire's famous white horses and a symbol of Broad Town's identity prevails for the enjoyment of villagers, visitors, and future generations. The current team has been operating since 1991". I've noted here that in 2017, we were able to get funding from the Good Energy fund, the solar farm in Broad Town, and were also using commercial insurance. Then 2020, there was the big COVID epidemic and so therefore, I believe in 2020, no liming was done. 2021 sponsorship of liming was performed by Jason Bayliff of the Broad Town Brewery. This carried on for a number of years and still does. Numbers obviously increase because there's inevitably free beer after each of the limings. At that stage in 2021, I know that I took over the lead of organizing the White Horse Liming. 2022 was an important liming because of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and in 2023 it was again important because of the coronation. In 2024 we limed it and I know this was the last year of Bob Clark's involvement. Derek Grier was learning the ropes and for the first year our liming came under the auspices of the Parish Council and so we were able to use their insurance policy and to dispense with commercial insurance. In 2025, this year, myself and Derek led and organized the liming.

So, what do we do? When we lime the horse, first of all we have to get permission to access the horse and to do that we will go to the Horton Brothers at Cockroost Farm. They are very good to us because they also order lime for us, on repayment obviously, and they will normally get for us one and a half tons which we find covers the horse quite reasonably. We bid for the money to pay for that lime through The Good Energy Fund or Bluestone as it's called now, via the Parish Council. We obviously have to create a risk assessment; it is fairly risky out there. It's a very steep slope, it can be slippery and so we need to make sure people are correctly dressed, correctly briefed and they wear safety equipment, so, we make sure that everybody is provided with a face mask, gloves and something else. Can't think what - goggles. We will then advertise for people to volunteer and assist and we'll do that through the Broad Town News although we've got a fairly hardcore of volunteers who we can fairly well count upon each year. On the chosen date, and we've been doing it recently - it used to be in April and it used to be done to be complete just before the White Horse Cycle Challenge. But because of the adverse weather, or possible adverse weather in April, it tends to have dropped back now to May and we will pick a weekend and on the first day of the weekend we will, on the Saturday, we will strim round the White Horse. We try and separate that activity from the actual liming for safety reasons. We don't want stones being thrown up and hitting people who are weeding or doing whatever. We will then go up on the Sunday to actually do the liming. The Hortons are again very good to us. They will deliver the lime, a ton and a half of it, and dump it at the top of the horse. We normally get about 18 volunteers which is probably more than we need but it's a nice social occasion and we will walk up to the horse. We will commence by weeding it, going over it, making sure the edges are well defined, pulling any weeds out from the face of the horse and then we'll spread the lime and the way we will do that is by positioning the bags equally over the whole area of the horse. What we don't want is to have loads of lime on the bottom of the horse and then find there's none left for the top, so before we split the bags open, we will pre-position them across the face of the horse so we know we've got a nice equal spread. The bags are, let me think, 25 kilos so they're fairly heavy, so you've got to be careful moving them around. Occasionally I've seen them run away, roll down the hill and then burst at the bottom. You wouldn't want to be in the way of a 25-kilogram lime bag going down the hill. We'll split the bags open. We will then rake the lime over the horse until we've got a nice even cover all over the horse and then we will

retreat up to the top of the horse and conclude our day's activities. So that's it really. That's my involvement. It's always fun, people do enjoy doing it, I enjoy doing it. It's good to see the horse when it's been done. We will get various comments from people in the village saying how well it's been done, how good it looks and that is a real bonus and makes it all worthwhile. Obviously over the last year or two we've had some land slips, one in particular below the horse which has put the horse at some level of risk. However, that will be covered and the measures we've taken to respond to that, will be covered in a separate recording by Derek Grier. Okay, that's all I have to say. Thank you.