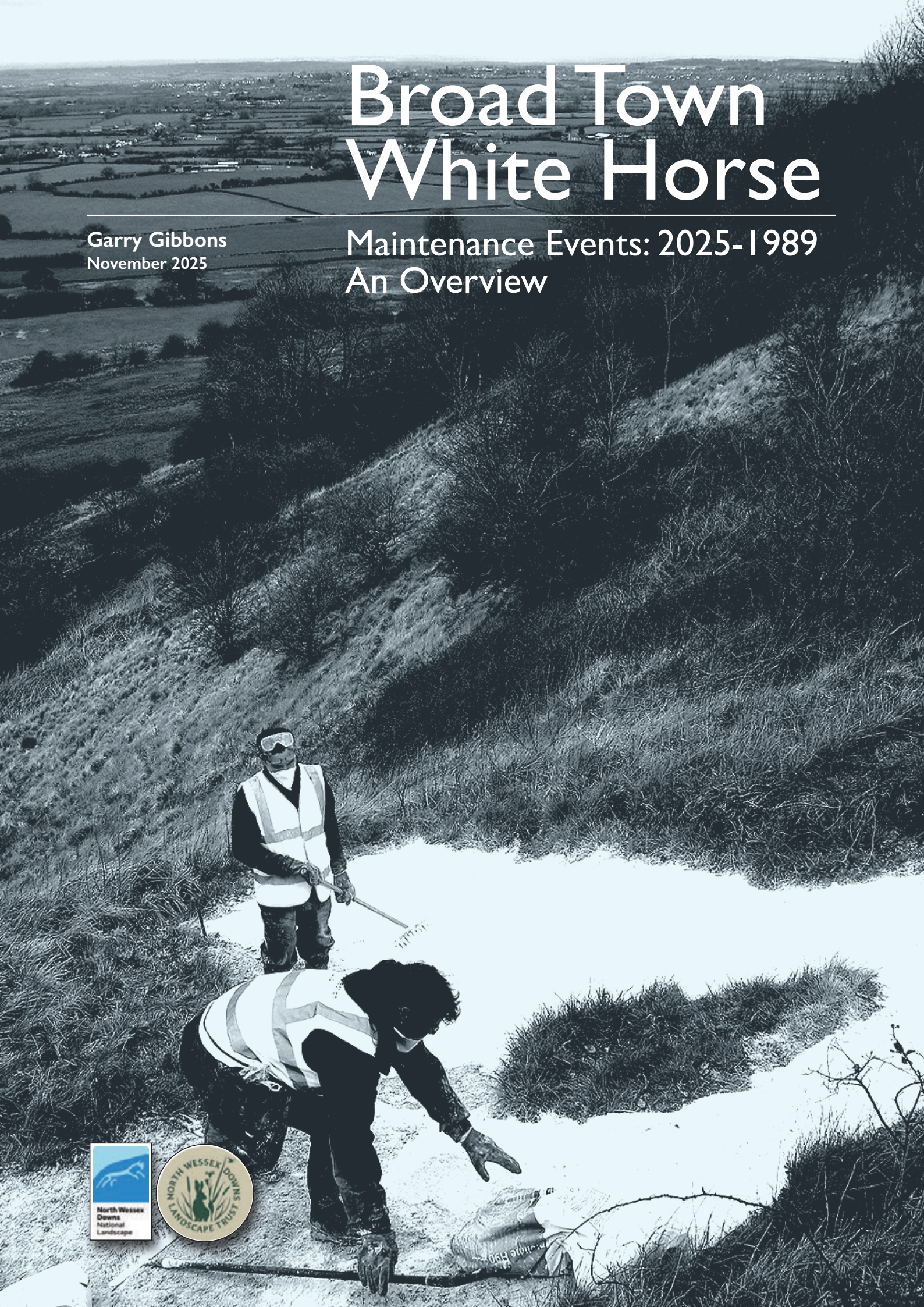


Broad Town White Horse

Garry Gibbons
November 2025

Maintenance Events: 2025-1989
An Overview



Broad Town White Horse

Maintenance Events: 2025-1989

In keeping with most other of Wiltshire's chalk horse group, Broad Town's white horse is poorly documented or, when they exist, records are often dispersed and fragmented across the local community and/or held in multiple archives.

The aim of this activity, which was undertaken within the Broad Town white horse project, was to start the process of assembling into a single body all available records relating to the maintenance and upkeep of the hill figure by the local community.

The resulting archive covers the years 1989 to 2025, although information for a number of years have not, as yet, come to light. Similarly, some years that are covered are poorly recorded, missing elements that are lost or which remain 'hidden' within the community.

Bringing together the information has also brought together the community in a shared undertaking to collect, organise and identify the material. The resulting digital archive has been structured around three core themes:

1 The Community

For the period covered by the archive, episodes of maintenance work by teams of volunteers were mostly carried out on an annual basis. The archive sought to identify those volunteers year-on-year through documentation and photographs and, where possible, by contemporary community members identifying past volunteers by name.

2 Maintenance Work

A photographic record has been created showing volunteers working on-site, the condition of the hill figure, and the work undertaken to mitigate the negative effects of vegetation encroachment and the weather.

3 Documentation

Paperwork generated by successive restoration groups relating to the management and upkeep of the hill figure has been collated, alongside reports to the parish council, and announcements in local newsletters.

It is hoped the digital archive will also shape and encourage the future collection and deposition of material relating to the community's engagement with their hill figure. The archive will also provide a vital source of information which will inform future restoration work and act as an invaluable resource for hill figure research.

This document is intended to provide a background to the creation of the digital archive; the following pages illustrate the archive covering the year 2025.



Broad Town White Horse



Maintenance Events: 2025-1989

Maintenance

Identify and list community members who care for the hill figure.

Photographs

Volunteers recorded working on the chalk horse.

Documents

Archived material relating to the management of Broad Town's horse.

2025

Maintenance

- 1 The Team
- 2 The Team Identified

Photographs

- 3 The Team
- 4 At Work
- 5 Drone

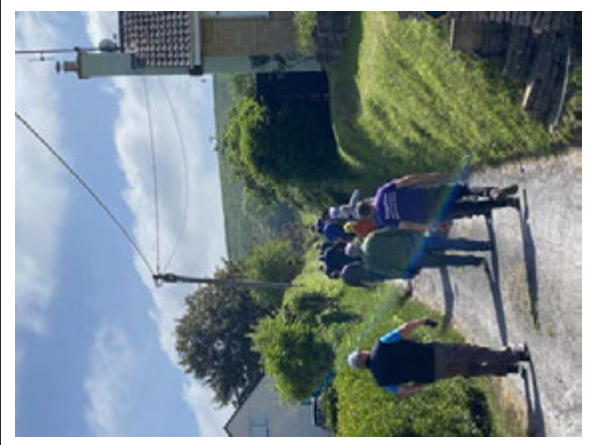
Documents

- 6 BTWHRG
- 7 Parish Council
- 8 BT Newsletter

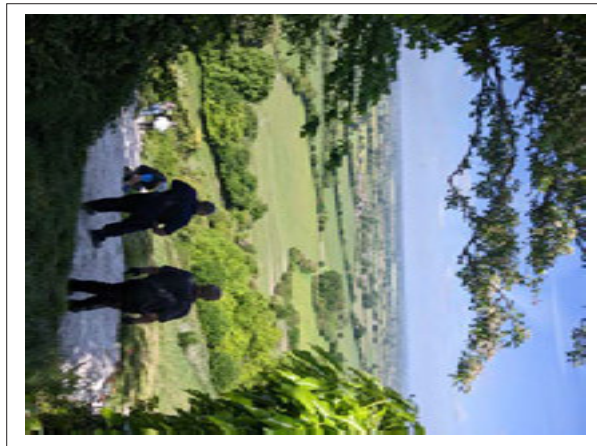


NUMBER	YEAR	SURNAME	FORENAME
1	2025	BEARD	Emma
2	2025	BEARD	Tom
3	2025	BEARD	Alan
4	2025	PEARCE	Rupert
5	2025	HARDY	Russell
6	2025	UNKNOWN	
7	2025	BRAZIER	Richard
8	2025	WALKER	David
9	2025	GREER	Derek
10	2025	UNKNOWN	
11	2025	BASTIN	Rupert
12	2025	BASTIN	Tom
13	2025	BOYLE	Sean
14	2025	MORSE	Ade
15	2025	STUART	Amy
16	2025	WOODHOUSE	Chris
17	2025	STUART	Chris
P	2025	LAW	Andrew

2025 Photographs: The Team



2025 Photographs: The Work





BROAD TOWN WHITE HORSE

I'm sure everyone in the Village has noticed the slip below the White Horse dating back to last September. At the time there were worries that the ongoing rain might cause further deterioration; however, fingers crossed and touching wood, there appears to have been no further slippage.

Concerns within the White Horse Restoration Group led to the feeling that the problem should be recognized and addressed, resulting in the development of the following project:

Our iconic White Horse is important to the community. The horse is threatened by recent and possible future landslips so we want to record, safeguard and create a historical record for future generations.

Subject to funding, it is planned that the task of recording the shape and condition of the Horse should be done professionally.

We already have a dedicated set of volunteers who lime the Horse annually who can take on the task of maintaining and thereby safeguarding the Horse.

It is in the last task of creating a historical record for future generations that assistance is needed. This could include carrying out research and investigation into the history of the Horse using sources such as Aerial Photographs, Post Cards, Council Records, Newspapers and oral reminiscences. No formal knowledge is needed, just the enthusiasm to delve into history and uncover previously unknown facts. Volunteers would work within a team and their output would be developed into a report style and format suitable for archiving and future reference.

If anyone is interested in their involvement in this important project, would they please contact Andrew Law on andrewlaw456@gmail.com.

As an example, the aerial photographs below show the Horse in 1947 and 2024. Why has the Horse changed so much in the intervening 77 years?



Broad Town White Horse Restoration Risk Assessment

Activity	Scouring and Liming the White Horse
Date	18 May 2025
Personnel	

Task	Hazards involved	Measures to reduce hazards	Precaution applicable to Activity	Precaution in place for Activity
Accessing the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falls and trips Cuts and abrasions caused by brambles. Slipping on muddy paths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons working on the site should be physically fit and in good health. All persons attending the site should wear the appropriate PPE i.e. stout treaded footwear (no trainers or sandals), hi-vis. jacket, gloves. Work on the site should always be carried out with two or more persons in attendance. A fully charged up mobile phone should always be available to call the emergency services A first aid kit shall always be kept at the muster point which is on the field side of the stile leading to the White Horse. No dogs are allowed on the working site. Washing water should be available at all times. The grid reference and postcode should be displayed at the muster point on the site. The site should not be accessed after a period of rain or if the surface is found to be slippery – eg early morning dew 	Yes	Yes
Moving around the site	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Tripping and falling as the site is steeply sloped. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Firm and treaded footwear should be worn at all times. Position of retaining structures should be made known to all accessing the site 	Yes	Yes

Task	Hazards involved	Measures to reduce hazards	Precaution applicable to Activity	Precaution in place for Activity
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Site contains some low retaining structures which could be a trip hazard Steepest parts of site are hard to access 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The use of harnesses and anchors has been considered but may introduce a risk of strangulation 		
Working on the site cutting and removing vegetation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Accidents arising from the use of hand tools to both the operative and adjacent persons 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> All operatives should work in a clear space of at least three metres radius from other operatives using hand tools 	Yes	Yes
Handling lime	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Handling and spreading lime 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> All persons handling and spreading lime should wear a suitable eye (goggles), hand (gloves), and body protection (fully clothed). A suitable dust mask should be worn to avoid the inhalation of dust. Eye washing facility should be available at all times and will be kept at the muster point which is on the field side of the stile leading to the white horse. (Contact lenses should be removed before eye-washing). All clothing worn on site should be either disposed of following work on site or thoroughly washed A copy of the lime product Safety Data sheet is attached to this assessment and also kept on site. Lime should be washed off all tools and equipment after use. 	Yes	Yes
Handling and distributing Lime sacks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Danger from split bags Danger from sliding bags colliding with operatives. Cutting open the bags. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> All persons handling lime should observe the precautions as listed above in Handling and Spreading. Bags to be carefully manhandled into position before they are cut open and the lime is spread. All persons involved in the moving of sacks around the site and all other operatives. should remain on the upward side of the hill above the bags at all times. 	Yes	Yes

Task	Hazards involved	Measures to reduce hazards	Precaution applicable to Activity	Precaution in place for Activity
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The sacks should be cut open only with a "Stanley" knife with a retractable blade. The blade should be retracted immediately after cutting open a sack. 		

BROAD TOWN WHITE HORSE LIMING – 18 MAY 2025

Liming of the White Horse will take place on Sunday 18 May 2025. The names that I have so far are:

Richard Green
Chris Stuart
Andrew Law
Chris Woodhouse
Rupert Pearce
Sean Boyle
Richard Brazier
Alan Beard Family
Caroline White
Russell Hardy
Jason Bayliffe
Rupert Bastin
Tom Bastin
Roy Dinsmore

- If there is anyone missing that you are aware is coming and who I have omitted, please let me know.
- If anyone is no longer available, please let me know.

We will meet at the junction of Chapel and Horns Lane at 10am, outside Rupert Bastin's house. Rupert Pearce has offered to take any personal kit to the top whilst we walk up and he will meet us at Chapel Lane. Hopefully Rupert Pearce will also call at my house beforehand to collect group kit.

Please wear appropriate clothes and footwear. I will provide safety equipment in the form of gloves, eye protection and breathing masks. If possible, please bring an implement for weeding and a rake for spreading the lime.

Clearly the event is weather dependent and I will be monitoring the forecast and will do a site check in advance. If there is a need to postpone the liming for safety reasons, I will notify everyone by email no later than the day before. Please check your inbox.


David Walker and I will be going up to the Horse in advance on the morning of Wed 14 May to strim round the figure. If anyone wishes to join us, please let me know.

We will be covered by Parish Council insurance and I will ask you to sign on the day to confirm your attendance and to acknowledge that you have read the attached risk assessment.

I'm pleased to see that Jason will be joining us and it would be great if he could bring a few cans of beer for our refreshment. I will bring up some water and other soft drinks in addition.

I look forward to seeing you Sunday week.

Andrew Law
07841381301

From: Andrew Law andrewlaw456@gmail.com 
Subject: WHITE HORSE LIMING 18 MAY 25
Date: 9 May 2025 at 18:18
To: Andrew Law andrewlaw456@gmail.com, Derek Greer dgreer05@gmail.com

AL

Please find attached details for next week's liming. Hopefully the weather stays good.

Andrew Law

20250505 Admin Order.docx




20250502 BTWH Scouring Risk
Assessment.docx



hydrated-lime-health-safety-
datasheet-2019.pdf



From: Andrew Law andrewlaw456@gmail.com 
Subject: WHITE HORSE 14 MAY
Date: 14 May 2025 at 20:49
To: Derek Greer dgreer05@gmail.com, garry.gibbons@btinternet.com

AL

We strimmed the Horse today, a task made easy by the very dry conditions.

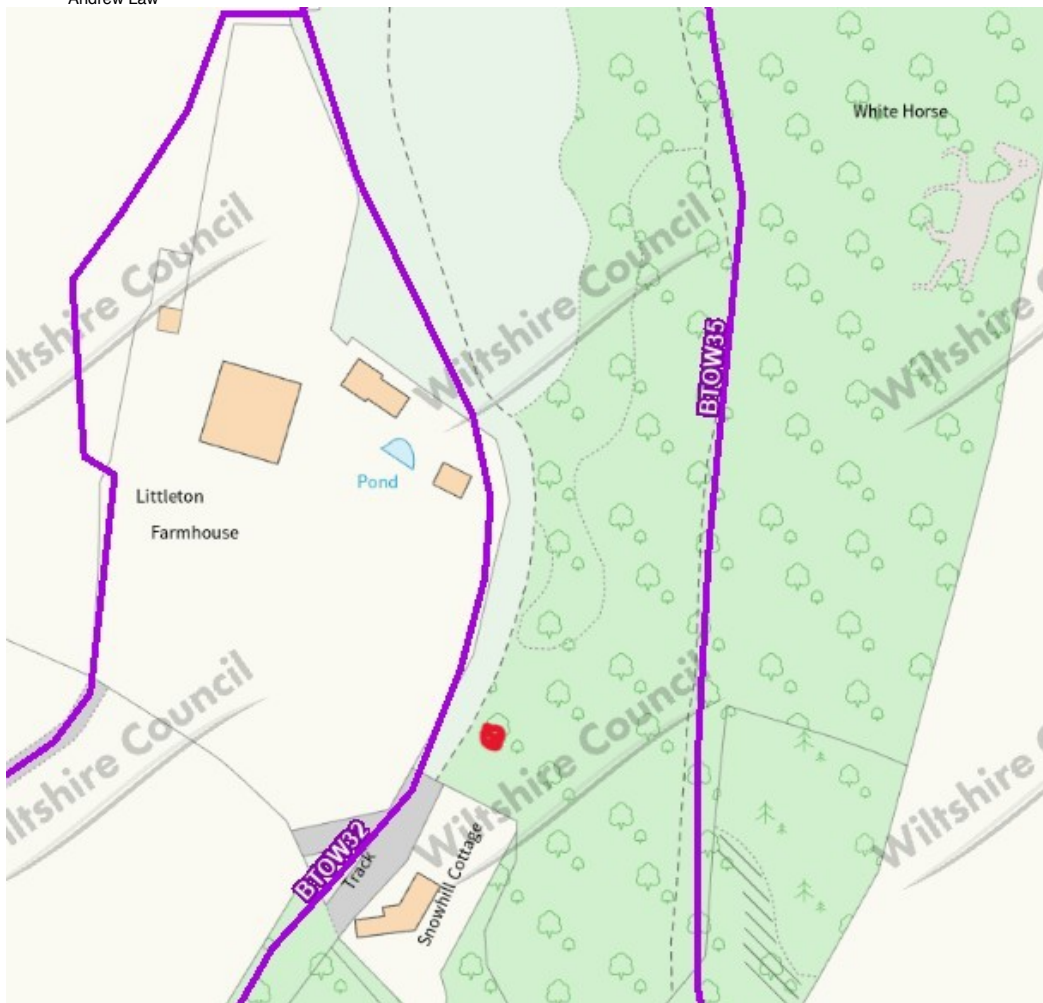
On the way up we noticed a new slip which I have tried to depict on the attached map. It is on a very steep bank at the very foot of the slope and measures about 3mx2m.

The cane is still located where we positioned it on our first post-slip visit but the slip has extended laterally. I don't know what the future holds there.

Up on the Horse there are a number of saplings growing directly below the Horse's muzzle which have reached a height of about 4'. I didn't remove them but we will need to make a decision on Sunday. There is also a lot of ivy strangling the hawthorns directly above the Horse where the stile is located. Again I don't know if we should endeavour to remove it.

Having said all that, it was lovely up there today. The conditions and the forecast suggest we should be OK for Sunday but I will send out a confirmatory instruction on Friday or Saturday.

Andrew Law



BROAD TOWN WHITE HORSE RESTORATION GROUP

LIMING 2025

A belated thanks to all of those volunteers from the community who turned out on 18 May to weed and lime the White Horse. Blessed with good weather, a thorough job was carried out that left the Horse looking better than it has for a long time. Comments have been received from a number of sources complimenting the horse's appearance and as a village, we can be proud of our efforts.



Thanks are also due to the Horton Brothers at Cockroost Farm for procuring and delivering the lime, Broad Town Brewery for supporting the event and the Bluestone Solar Farm for granting the funding necessary to buy the associated resources.

SURVEY PROJECT

Hopefully readers are aware of the survey project that has been initiated to record the White Horse in response to the threat posed by last year's landslip. Guided by local chalk figure expert Garry Gibbons, requests for grants have been submitted to the Bluestone Solar Farm and to the North Wessex Downs National Landscape to fund the professional support necessary to complete the task to archaeological data standards. The five elements of the project are:

Task 1. A topographic survey using drones and GPS.

Task 2. An assessment of land slip risk and hill figure condition including an augur survey and a specialist survey of slope and land slip activity.

Task 3. A historic review of the hill figure involving the exploration of existing records and their expansion through the collection of new information and oral testimony from the Community.

Task 4. Preparation of the data sets for curation in the Archaeology Data Service, the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record and the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre.

Task 5. Dissemination of results through talks, exhibitions and information panels. This will include a presentation to the Broad Town community on the evening of Wednesday 30 July.

The good news is that our requests have been met and funding is now in place to initiate the work. It is intended that work on Tasks 1 and 2 will start imminently.

All of the funding is conditional on volunteer input throughout the project and we will be looking for helpers to assist in the work. As the tasks and timings are confirmed, requests for assistance will be promulgated to regular helpers directly and to the wider community via Facebook. **The chance to work on original archaeological research on your own doorstep rarely arises so please volunteer.**



HYDRATED LIME

PACKED

SECTION 1: IDENTIFICATION OF THE SUBSTANCE/MIXTURE AND OF THE COMPANY/UNDERTAKING

1.1 PRODUCT IDENTIFIER

Products	Calcium dihydroxide
Synonyms	Hydrated lime, Slaked lime, Air slaked lime, Building lime, Fat lime, Chemical lime, Finishing lime, Mason's lime, Calcium dihydroxide, Calcium hydroxide, Calcium hydrate, Lime, Lime water. Please note that this list may not be exhaustive.
Trade Names	Calcium dihydroxide

SUBSTANCE	EC	CAS	MOLECULAR WEIGHT	REACH REGISTRATION NUMBER
Calcium di-hydroxide - Ca(OH) ₂	215-137-3	1305-62-0	74,09 g/mol	01-2119475151-45-0053

1.2 RELEVANT IDENTIFIED USES OF THE SUBSTANCE OR MIXTURE AND USES ADVISED AGAINST

Find hereunder a general description of uses. All the identified combinations of use descriptors are listed in Table 1 of the Annex.

Building and construction work
 Manufacture of chemical products
 Manufacture of basic metals, including alloys
 Agriculture, forestry, fishery
 Biocidal product
 Environmental protection
 Food/ feedstuff additives
 Manufacture of food products
 Pharmaceuticals
 Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products, e.g. plasters, cement
 Paper articles
 Manufacture of paints, varnishes and similar coatings, printing ink and mastics
 Stone, plaster, cement, glass and ceramic articles
 Mining, (including offshore industries)
 Water treatment chemicals

No uses identified in Table 1 of the Annex are advised against.



BRIEF TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 19 MAY 2025

The White Horse Restoration Group undertook the first of its 2025 maintenance tasks when David Walker and myself strimmed around the perimeter of the Horse on 14 May followed by the liming on Sunday 18th May. The liming group numbered 18 with ages spanning from teens to ancient and was representative of the Broad Town community. Post liming refreshment was offered by Jason Bayliffe on behalf of the Broad Town Brewery and was a just reward for a couple of hours of hot and hard work. The Hortons at Cockroost Farm were of great assistance in purchasing and delivering the lime and deserve our thanks. Thanks are also due to the Bluestone Solar farm for having approved a grant which will cover this year's liming and the next.

The Parish Council has previously been briefed by Derek Greer on the project that has been set up in response to the slip that developed below the horse. You will recollect that this consisted of a number of tasks:

1. Task 1. A topographic survey including a GPS survey and a photogrammetric modelling of the figure by a UAV.
2. Task 2. An assessment of land slip risk and hill figure condition including an augur survey.
3. Task 3. A historic review of the Broad Town Chalk Horse including a collection of oral testimony of community members.

In setting this up as a costed project we have been assisted by Garry Gibbon who is a local expert on Chalk Figures and who has performed a similar survey on the Marlborough White Horse. He has been able to identify professionals who can assist us in this project and we have now moved forward to the point where we are in the process of bidding for grants to cover the tasks. We have approached the North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust to cover Tasks 2 and 3 with grants from their Farming in Protected Landscape Programme and their Sustainable Development Fund. Garry Gibbon has been in contact with the Project Director and we are reasonably optimistic about obtaining the funding. We are also preparing an application to our own Bluestone Solar Farm fund in respect of Task 1 and the Parish Council can expect our submission in the very near future - we keep our fingers crossed. This work is best done during the summer months when the weather is good and it is our aim to complete the practical work during the remainder of this year.

The bids for funding are costed with the incorporation of work days from volunteers which reduces costs and also demonstrates a community involvement to the funding organisations. To that end there is always room for volunteers to be involved in survey work or historical research and recording under the guidance of professional archaeologists. The experience should be interesting as well as of value to the project. Hopefully the community will respond.

Broad Town News

January 2025

BROAD TOWN WHITE HORSE

I'm sure everyone in the Village has noticed the landslip below the White Horse dating back to last September. There are worries that more heavy rain might cause further deterioration; however, fingers crossed and touching wood, there appears to have been no further slippage yet. Concerns within the White Horse Restoration Group led to the feeling that the problem should be recognized and addressed, resulting in the development of the following project: Our iconic White Horse is important to the community. The horse is threatened by recent and possible future landslips so we want to record, safeguard and create a historical record for future generations. Subject to funding, it is planned that the task of recording the shape and condition of the Horse should be done professionally. We already have a dedicated set of volunteers who lime the Horse annually who can take on the task of maintaining and thereby safeguarding the Horse. It is in the last task of creating a historical record for future generations that assistance is now needed. This could include carrying out research and investigation into the history of the Horse using sources such as Aerial Photographs, Post Cards, Council Records, Newspapers and oral reminiscences. No formal knowledge is needed, just the enthusiasm to delve into history and uncover previously unknown facts. Volunteers would work within a team and their output would be developed into a report style and format suitable for archiving and future reference. If anyone is interested in their involvement in this important project, would they please contact Andrew Law on andrewlaw456@gmail.com.

Broad Town News

April 2025

WHITE HORSE LIMING

Weather permitting, White Horse liming will take place on the morning of Sunday 18 May. It should be assumed that we will start at around 10am and conclude before lunchtime. Protective equipment will be available at the site in the form of eye protection and face masks. All participants are requested to wear appropriate footwear and work gloves. If possible, they should also bring a tool that can be used for removing weeds or for spreading the lime. The event will be open to all those who wish to be involved with the only stipulation being that participants should be physically fit and in good health. Would anyone who wishes to be involved please contact Andrew Law on 07841 381301 or andrewlaw456@gmail.com. Fuller details will be provided to all volunteers. Individuals who have already declared their availability to the organizer need not do so again. Andrew Law.

Broad Town News

July 2025

BROAD TOWN WHITE HORSE RESTORATION GROUP LIMING 2025

A belated thanks to all of those volunteers from the community who turned out on 18 May to weed and lime the White Horse. Blessed with good weather, a thorough job was carried out that left the Horse looking better than it has for a long time.

Comments have been received from a number of sources complimenting the horse's appearance and as a village, we can be proud of our efforts. Thanks are also due to the Horton Brothers at Cockroost Farm for procuring and delivering the lime, Broad Town Brewery for supporting the event and the Bluefield Solar Farm for granting the funding necessary to buy the associated resources.

SURVEY PROJECT Hopefully readers are aware of the survey project that has been initiated to record the White Horse in response to the threat posed by last year's landslip. Guided by local chalk figure expert Garry Gibbons, requests for grants have been submitted to the Bluefield Solar Farm and to the North Wessex Downs National Landscape to fund the professional support necessary to complete the task to archaeological data standards. The five elements of the project are: Task 1. A topographic survey using drones and GPS. Task 2. An assessment of land slip risk and hill figure condition including an auger survey and a specialist survey of slope and land slip activity. Task 3. A historic review of the hill figure involving the exploration of existing records and their expansion through the collection of new information and oral testimony from the Community. Task 4. Preparation of the data sets for curation in the Archaeology Data Service, the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record and the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. Task 5. Dissemination of results through talks, exhibitions and information panels. This will include a presentation to the Broad Town community on the evening of Wednesday 30 July. The good news is that our requests have been met, and funding is now in place to initiate the work. It is intended that work on Tasks 1 and 2 will start imminently. All of the funding is conditional on volunteer input throughout the project, and we will be looking for helpers to assist in the work. As the tasks and timings are confirmed, requests for assistance will be sent directly to regular helpers and via Facebook to the wider community. The chance to work on original archaeological research on your own doorstep rarely arises so please volunteer. Please contact Andrew Law or Derek Greer if you have any queries about the project: Andrewlaw456@gmail.com; dgreer05@gmail.com

Broad Town News

August 2025

DISCOVERING BROAD TOWN'S WHITE HORSE - Wednesday 30 July - 7.30pm
Village Hall

Join us as we journey through the creation, the upkeep and, at times, loss of Wiltshire's white horses and hear about a new project to better understand Broad Town's white horse. The talk will start with Garry Gibbons giving an overview of the county's chalk horses before exploring how research can reveal fresh insights. We then move onto an exciting project at Broad Town's white horse, as a response to landslip activity close to the hill figure. The project will carry out archaeological surveys, track historical changes to the horse, and unearth stories by capturing memories from the community.

Free admission, Doors open 7pm, Refreshments available.

CALLING ALL DETECTIVES

It is believed that the above drawing was used by William Simmonds in 1864 to cut the White Horse. The drawing was found by Mrs Reeves and Mrs Telling when clearing out some cupboards in the old shop (behind the village hall) and at a later date inherited by Mary Hacker (Miss Reeves/Nora Little's cousin). The White Horse project would very much like to look at this drawing so please get in touch with Andrew Law if you know Mary Hacker or any of her relatives. Andrew can be contacted on 07841381301 or andrewlaw456@gmail.com

Broad Town News

September 2025

BROAD TOWN WHITE HORSE

Thank you to everyone who attended the Broad Town White Horse talk on Wednesday 30 July. The hall has rarely been seen so full and those attending were treated to a series of fascinating talks about chalk figures and in particular the Broad Town horse. The evening was introduced by Jemima Sellwood representing the North Wessex Down National Landscape, a major sponsor of the ongoing survey project. Second up was Dr Mike Allan who spoke on chalk figures, focussing on the Cerne Abbas Giant. Mike was followed by Garry Gibbons who gave an overview of the Wiltshire White Horses. After a break for refreshments the evening continued with Andrew Law talking about the history of the Broad Town White Horse whilst Derek Greer concluded the evening with an explanation of the project that has been initiated to survey the White Horse to archaeological standards as a record for future generations. The topics clearly stimulated a lot of interest from the audience judging by the questions raised and the post-presentation conversations.

The topographic survey has now been concluded and we are in possession of a draft report from our archaeologist surveyor. The second part of the project to assess land slip risk and hill figure condition is underway and a day was spent auguring the Horse on Thursday 21 August. Time precluded completion of the task and so it is planned to have a second work day on a weekend for which volunteers will be needed. Please look out for further information. As we move into autumn, we are embarking on the third part of the project which includes a historic review of the White Horse including the collection of oral testimony. Project staff will be inviting members of the community to record their memories of the Horse and their involvement in its maintenance. We look forward to interviewing some of the Broad Town News readership.



Contact details:
garry.gibbons@btinternet.com