

Highways Improvement Request Form

Contact Details

Name:	Derry Hill & Studley Parish Council	Date:	21/02/2026
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Issue Details

Location of Issue:	A4 at Studley
Community Area:	Calne
Parish or Town Council:	Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council

Nature of Issue:

Hazardous Footpath.

The eastern area of Studley (approximately 60 homes or 8% of the population) is isolated from Studley Village and Derry Hill by the absence of any safe walking route.

The three routes available, the A4, Norley Lane and Old Road are hazardous walking routes, Norley Lane and Old Road are country lanes not wide enough for pedestrians and vehicles to pass, with no safe refuges in parts of their route.

Thus the A4 footpath is the only public footpath for 8% of Studley's population to reach the local school, churches, shop and post office in Derry Hill.

In reverse the issue also prohibits safe walking from Derry Hill to the community facilities in the east namely the Football Club and the Black Dog Pub and Restaurant.

The Highway Authority, under the Highways Act 1980, specifically Section 41, have a mandatory duty to maintain public footpaths in a safe condition for public use.

Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council have the power, under Section 43, to maintain local footpaths.

Under Section 56 of the Act a member of the public can initiate legal action to compel repairs.

The A4 footway is unsafe, because of its condition, by anyone with a mobility impediment, walking in a family group, running or jogging.

The A4 is a fast flowing highway in this area (40 and 50 mph speed limits), the principal issues are a loss of surface and a breakdown of the subbase creating an uneven surface.

However there are also hazards associated with no discernible kerb face to the edge of the highway, the interface is demarked by weeds in the highway channel.

No white line at the edge of the highway to mitigate for the lack of kerb face which raises the prospects vehicles easily straying onto the footway, or pedestrians straying onto the highway.

An absence of street lighting.

The deterioration of this walking route has now reached a point that the village is divided preventing each area from safely crossing to the other without using a vehicle. This situation is at odds with our aspirations for the environment and the enjoyment of the countryside.

This situation fractures our community causing unnecessary division and diminishes the use of facilities that are vital in the creation and maintenance of a vibrant village community.

For those with mobility issues and without access to a vehicle this situation imprisons them into their neighbourhood without safe access to the village's facilities.

Consequently the village community cannot achieve its aims of enhancing our local environment, creating a place for a healthy lifestyle and contributing to the reduction harmful emissions from very local journeys.

How long has it been an issue?	Ongoing deterioration has taken this public footway infrastructure beyond safe use for any user irrespective of mobility.
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What would you like done to resolve this issue?

The principal length of footway (Studley Crossroads to Crewes Cottages) needs reconstructing. Historic highway improvements have raised the carriageway level eroding the kerb height and removing any effective delineation of the footway.

The footway requires reconstruction being beyond any serviceable state anywhere along its length. It also needs widening to provide a safe route for family groups or mobility aid users, a crossover into farmland needs to be provided for pedestrians to pass the field entrance.

A white line installed at the carriageway edge to delineate the footway/highway interface, in the absence of street lighting, from the Studley Crossroads to the east bound village bus stop just east of the Football Club.

Beyond the Black Dog to the Football Club and the east village bus stop, a narrow footway is further reduced by the accumulation of leaves and road silt that has over the years become a verge of growth at the back of the footway, The footway needs widening, reconstructing and restoring to a safe usable width.

Have you been in touch with your local Wiltshire Councillor? (Yes/No)	No
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This form needs to be completed and e-mailed or sent to your local Town or Parish Council. Town and Parish contact details are available via the link below:

<https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/mgParishCouncilDetails.aspx>

Town or Parish Council Comments: (To be completed by Town or Parish Council only)

Footpath - Studley Crossroads to Crewe's Cottages

Caine Without

Author: G. McHale

Date: 08/10/2025

