

Historic Milford Mill Bridge: Campaign Update

The Launch of Lorry Watch

Firstly, very many thanks to the hundreds of residents who signed our petition to 'Save Our Historic Milford Mill Bridge.' Your support meant that our campaign to protect the Bridge had to be taken seriously by the many and various official bodies involved – not least Wiltshire Council and Highways.



Picture courtesy of Salisbury Journal

Repeated and serious damage to the 500-year old Grade 1 Listed Bridge was the consequence of huge HGVs seeking a short-cut to the Southampton Road.

There were directly related concerns for pedestrian safety on the dangerously over-used 15th Century Bridge and surrounding roads.

The Milford Preservation Group urged consideration of various ameliorating measures: vehicle weight restriction on Milford Mill Road cut to 3.5 tons from 7.5 tons; CCTV at Milford Bridge; physical barriers at start of Milford Mill Road.

On detailed investigation these proposals were proven to be too costly, likely to be ineffective or unrealistic.

We have therefore decided to start a Lorry Watch scheme to monitor and where necessary record excessively heavy vehicles using or approaching Milford Bridge. The scheme is expected to have the full support of the police and Trading Standards. Wiltshire Council will erect warning Lorry Watch signs at either end of Milford Mill Road. Full training together with recording equipment will be provided.

All we need now are the volunteers to help run the scheme. The amount of time volunteers give to the scheme is entirely flexible. The key points are a commitment to get this enduring problem resolved and a willingness to offer practical help.

Anyone interested to learn more about the scheme and how they can help protect our Bridge, should contact:

Peter Hicks, Milford Mill Bridge Lorry Watch coordinator:

peteredhicks@gmail.com

Milford Preservation Group Work Programme

- We are preparing an Information Board to be placed on the grass verge immediately east of Milford Bridge. The board will provide a history of Milford, an interpretation of the local landscape, and a description of the wildlife value of the immediate area – and of course of the River Bourne (which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest).
- With the help and guidance of Wiltshire Wildlife we are to undertake a major project to provide a haven for river-based fauna and flora on the 'island' below Milford Bridge. We will be asking for volunteers to help with the challenging work this project involves.

Residents are invited to become actively involved in the work of Milford Preservation Group. If interested please contact: David Lovibond, Honorary Secretary:

david@monumentpr.com



John Constable's etching of Milford Mill Bridge c. 1826