



Update from the National Trust – December 2021

Visitor offer and opening arrangements

Our Christmas offer in the Manor and across the site will run until Sunday 2 January 2022.

The whole site will be closed on 24, 25, 26 December.

The High Street toilets are now closed and will reopen in March next year. Signage at the toilet gate directs visitors to the Farmyard toilets.

For our full offer and opening times please see www.nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury

Winter Solstice (21/22 December)

There will be no camping for Winter Solstice. The car park will be opened early for sunrise on the 21 and 22 December to accommodate those wishing to enjoy the Winter Solstice sunrise at Avebury. The height barrier will be put in place to the main car park from the evening of Sunday 19 to the morning of Thursday 23 – details are still to be finalised. There will be signage and a modest security provision on the nights preceding the 21 and 22 to discourage 'overnighting'. We are regularly reviewing our plans in respect of the Covid situation. Access arrangements at Stonehenge over Winter Solstice may affect numbers at Avebury. We are in contact with our colleagues at EHT at Stonehenge.

Avebury Chapel

A partnership proposal between NT and APC to run Avebury Chapel was discussed with interested parties/organisations at meetings held in the Chapel in summer and autumn 2021. There is interest from 14 different organisations to be involved under the overarching theme of 'The Living Landscape'. A draft contract/licence between NT and APC will shortly be drawn up.

Projects

Potting Shed - We have started the refurbishment of the Potting Shed in Avebury Manor Garden, for which we raised funds through our property Raffle a few years ago. We hope to complete the works by end February 2022.

Barn clear out - The Great Barn in the Old Farmyard has now been cleared of its former museum infrastructure. It continues to house our visitor reception, with the rest of the building being an open / programmable space for visitors, that showcases the beautiful structure and interesting history of the building, whilst we consider and consult on the longer-term use of the space.

Thatch repair - Parts of the roof of the Great Barn in the Old Farmyard are currently being re-thatched to repair the damage caused by Jackdaws. We are considering longer-term solutions to prevent future damage.

Countryside update

Storm Arwen – Countryside staff carried out inspections on 27 November but did not encounter any significant damage to trees on NT areas in the Avebury Landscape but did see some damage further south at Stonehenge and our other sites.

Wildlife – Two stoats were seen fighting/playing on the henge bank of the NW sector. The rangers are seeing murmuration of starlings in the Avebury landscape and especially over the Faulkner’s footpath. We see them gather at dusk and then fly off in large flocks in a South-westerly direction to roosting areas believed to be on Salisbury Plain. The barn owl(s) at West Kennett Farm can be regularly seen over West Kennett Avenue at dusk.

Windmill Hill – Evidence of ‘trials’ bikes or ‘motorbikes’ causing surface damage to the woodland area on the NW side of Windmill Hill. The whole of the hill including this woodland is a Scheduled Monument. The rangers are undertaking some work to repair fences where they adjoin the byways to stop this happening.

Erosion management – The weather has been moderately dry (with exceptions) and any surface damage to the henge is being carefully monitored. Some areas are roped off for recovery and to prepare them for Winter Solstice and Christmas visitors. The turf repairs undertaken at Avebury and in other locations have taken very well with the mild weather.

Licensing of commercial and other organised activities on National Trust land

We will shortly be adding a section to our website and producing a flyer that can be handed to people that clarifies that the following activities require National Trust permission and may also require a licence before they can proceed:

1. All commercial activities.
2. All organised events.
3. All commercial - and other organised - photography and filming, including student projects.
4. All guided tours and walks.
5. All workshop activities including arts, crafts and drumming workshops.
6. All fundraising activities.
7. All flying of drones from or over National Trust land.

Any activity that involves fires, ground penetration or subsurface damage will not be permitted under any circumstances, as well as any activity that involves displaying posters, banners or any other signage.

The website/flyer will ask people to get in touch with avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk, allowing at least one month’s notice prior to the proposed activity taking place.

Planning applications

Advertisement Consent Application for interpretation panels at Avebury PL/2021/10084

We've submitted advertisement consent application for the installation of 4 new interpretation panels along the visitor route from our main car park. This is in response to increasing visitor comments about a lack of interpretation on site, particularly outside the opening hours of our visitor reception and museum. The panels will provide archaeological and historical information about Avebury and the WHS.

Consultation deadline 14.12.21

06/12/2021