



Update from the National Trust – February 2022

Visitor operations, opening times, programming/events

- Avebury Manor is currently closed for conservation cleaning until 19 February.
- Avebury Manor Garden remains open throughout winter.
- Summer opening hours start on 27 March. High Street toilets will be re-opened then.
- We will be running some small-scale family activities in February and March.
- We'll be hosting an Easter trail in the Manor Garden from 9-24 April.
- We are currently planning our involvement in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 2-3 June in cooperation with the local community (we will be meeting with Maggie Lewis on 2 February to discuss).

Art installation, Tom Lawson's 'Wonder' 5 March – 3 April, Avebury Great Barn

With the Great Barn now cleared of the former museum infrastructure, we are very excited to launch the building as a multi-purpose space, with the exhibition of a stunning piece of art by Tom Lawson, called 'Wonder'. This is a unique piece of constantly rotating sculpture, designed to *"bring an ethereal and calming presence to space, creating an atmosphere and focal point for relaxation, contemplation and mediation"*.

INVITATION – Avebury residents are invited to the preview event of 'Wonder' on Friday 4 March, 5pm-6pm, to meet the artist and enjoy some refreshments.

RSVP to avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk.

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

Observances

We have started talking to the community and relevant stakeholders about our approach to managing Observances, including Summer Solstice and Winter Solstice, throughout the year. More info to follow.

Avebury Chapel

We are currently drawing up a licence agreement between NT and APC, to run Avebury Chapel as an exhibition space for local organisations under the overarching theme of 'The Living Landscape'. Aim is to agree a final licence in March 2022.

Projects

Potting Shed - We are close to completing the refurbishment of the Potting Shed in Avebury Manor Garden, for which we raised funds through our property Raffle a few years ago.

Garden Wall thatch – We are carrying out re-thatching work on the Garden Wall between the Monks/Church Garden and the churchyard of St James' Church. Like the above, this project has been part-funded through income from our property Raffle.

Great Barn thatch – We are in the process of repairing the damage caused by Jackdaws on the roof of the Great Barn. We are trialing a new type of netting to protect the roof from future damage.

Interpretation panels - Having been granted advertisement consent for the installation of interpretation panels on the visitor route from the main car park, we will shortly be installing 4 new panels and relocating the existing welcome panel. This is in response to visitor feedback asking for more interpretation about the site.

Car park maintenance - we'll be carrying out some repair/maintenance work in the main visitor car park mid-February, this includes resurfacing of the main drive into the car park and filling in potholes.

Countryside update

Tree safety works West Kennett – Ash Dieback tree safety works are substantially complete at West Kennett (A4 and other locations).

Tree safety works Avebury Village – These are scheduled from Tuesday 15 - Friday 18 February, Monday 21 - Friday 25 February, and Monday 28 February. These works are throughout the village and include works adjacent to the High Street car park; areas around the NT shop and restaurant, some tenanted properties, works adjacent to Sports Field/SW sector of henge, and some modest tree safety (reduction) works to the beech woodland adjacent to Rawlins Park. We will have to close half the High Street carpark for two to three days and will post relevant signs forewarning of this occurrence in advance of this happening (exact dates TBC). We will notify other stakeholders who may be directly affected as appropriate. Much of this work has already come before APC as part of the Conservation Area consent process.

Avebury Henge – We continue to rotate and replace erosion controls. The dry weather is helping. A number of areas, including the area adjacent to the southern portal stones, are looking very bare and compacted and we will start aeration and reseedling as soon as the conditions are right.

River Kennet Winterbourne – Flowing but very low for the time of year.

Windmill Hill – Fencing works to discourage off-roading in plantation nearly complete.

New additions to Countryside team - We have recently welcomed a new Ranger to our Countryside team and are recruiting for additional Assistant Ranger support to help us look after all the sites in our portfolio.

28/01/2022