



Update from the National Trust – July 2021

Site re-opening plans

From 19 July, with the expected further ease of restrictions (subject to Gov. and NT guidelines), we will return to the familiar free-flow model at Avebury Manor, which will allow many more people to visit the house again. Due to their success, the guided tours to the house will remain part of our offer.

Guided tours to the henge will resume mid-July, adding one of the final elements to our pre-Covid visitor offer.

Due to significant staff shortages, in line with the whole hospitality sector, our Circles Restaurant will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays for the foreseeable future, until we can recruit a full team again.

Avebury residents have free access to all elements of our offer.

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

Summer activities at Avebury (24 July – 31 August)

During the summer holidays there will be daily activities for all the family at Avebury Farmyard, from 11am-3pm. Activities range from traditional play days, to exploring wild habitats, doing mini digs or participating in healthy exercise. Some small charges apply. To find out more please visit our website.

Summer Solstice

Solstice at Avebury was relatively quiet and without any significant incidents in the village, but some disruptions and concerns in the surrounding areas. We are currently reviewing the event with all relevant stakeholders.

Avebury Chapel

There'll be a meeting on Tuesday 20 July at Avebury Chapel, to discuss a partnership proposal between NT and APC, with interested parties. Details to follow from APC.

Works at Green Street

There will be some disruptions and expected road closures at Green Street, to carry out works to re-lay a waterpipe. Timings and details have to be confirmed, but it is expected that works will start end July.

Living with Monuments Project

The Living with Monuments Project team of archaeologists are beginning a new season of excavations in the Avebury Parish from 19 July for 3 weeks, in what will be the final year of excavations for this 5-year project. The interim report for the dig will be available online later in the year.

News from the Countryside team

- Chalk repairs are now completed to entrance at Windmill Hill. We hope that the chalk will bed down and compact over the summer before next winter.
- Look out for Barn owl activity at West Kennett and on the Avenue. Barn owls can usually be seen hunting at dusk and dawn. We have also seen them hunting during the day and they appear to be taking their catch away rather than finding a perch and eating it themselves. We suspect they are feeding young somewhere very nearby.
- Grass, thistles, brambles and nettles are growing very quickly with the warm wet weather and the rangers have been out strimming and topping to try and keep paths clear in the wider Avebury landscape. *“Cut thistles in May and they will grow in a day; Cut thistles in June and it’s still too soon; cut thistles in July and they will die”* (we hope).
- Solstice has kept the team busy!
- June/July Ash Dieback Surveys are underway. We carry these out during the summer months to determine how much the crown and foliage on Ash trees are declining. There are a number of Ash trees that are looking like they are declining quite rapidly including the Ash tree immediately to the west of the NT shop.
- The rangers don’t like the humid weather – especially when they have to put on pesticide suits and PPE. Still – evenings are drawing in!

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