

Update from the National Trust – July 2022

Visitor operations

- There are no changes to our standard opening times in July. For daily opening times visit our [website](#).

Programming

- We are running various small-scale events throughout July, including landscape walks, watercolour and print workshops, yoga sessions and our monthly Trust10 run. For full details visit our [website](#).
- We are offering summer holiday activities from 25 July to 31 August, Monday to Friday, with different activities each day.
- We are hosting the screening of a film produced by Wessex Archaeology, marking the 35th anniversary of the Stonehenge & Avebury World Heritage site. 'Beyond the stones' focusses on our connection to the World Heritage Site landscape through people, communities and journeys – both now and in the past. The film premiere will be on the first day of the Festival of Archaeology, on Saturday 16 July, from 6pm at the Great Barn at Avebury, for invited guests. Following the premier, the film will be shown to the public daily, in the Great Barn, until Friday 22 July. On the day of the premiere a link to the film will be released and shared on Wessex Archaeology and NT social media channels.
- 'Lost' tours have now started as part of our visitor offer, daily at 12noon and 2pm (subject to volunteer availability on the day). These are tours to some of the Manor attic rooms, which are usually not open to the public; the tours are looking at some interesting items that were found in the rooms when carrying out some floor repairs and 'excavations' in 2017/18.

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

Summer Solstice

- We are still in the process of gathering and disseminating feedback from colleagues, partners, and contractors. The initial assessment from NT side is that Summer Solstice 2022 at Avebury was quieter and friendlier than in recent years (except during lockdown). The byway restrictions and TTROs put in place by Wiltshire Council did not appear to cause the wider landscape disruption as anticipated or significant disruption in the village.
- Estimated numbers of people in the henge on the evening of 20 June were 2,000-3,000 people and up to 2,000 people on the morning of 21 June. There was a generally positive and friendly atmosphere of 'celebration', with no major incidents to report.

Avebury Chapel

- The terms of the lease for Avebury Chapel to APC are currently being finalised and the lease is expected to commence shortly on a 3-year term, for the use of the building as an exhibition space for local organisations under the overarching theme of 'The Living Landscape'.
- Ceiling repairs are scheduled for w/c 4 July 2022.
- We are finalising the content of the two outside glass panels that are talking about the new use of the building, and it being made available to the community by the NT.

Projects

- **Improving connectivity:** We are currently working with Cisco to improve connectivity across the site and wider Avebury area through an 'Ultra Reliable Wireless Network' (Fluid Mesh). If successful, this should provide better network connection to the wider Avebury community.
- **Audience insight work:** We will shortly be starting audience insight work across the site to get a better understanding of our visitor demographics and expectations post pandemic.
- **New gate on South Drive:** The installation of a beautifully new hand-crafted gate along the South Drive into the farmyard has been completed. The gate is accessible for pedestrians.
- **New orientation sign:** We replaced the large A-board leading from the High Street into the farmyard with a much simpler and smaller sign, directing visitors to NT facilities.

Countryside & Archaeology update

- **B4003:** We are waiting to hear from Wiltshire Council Highways regarding the proposed works to protect part of the verge of the B4003 from vehicle damage.

04/07/2022