



## Update from the National Trust – June 2021

### Site re-opening plans

Most elements of our visitor offer are now open again, albeit with different operating models and opening times compared to previous years.

The Manor Garden can be pre-booked, all other elements are on a walk-up only basis and subject to availability, with capacity limits in place.

Avebury Manor is open Fridays to Sundays with 3 guided tours per day.

Guided henge tours will resume shortly.

The Barn Gallery of the Alexander Keiller Museum will remain closed for the foreseeable future (although the Visitor Reception in the Barn is open) whilst we are reviewing our offer for the Barn. We would welcome thoughts from the community as to what it would like to see in this prominent Grade I Listed building.

We are constantly reviewing our opening arrangements in line with government and Trust guidelines and are likely to adjust them in line with possible further easing of restrictions on 21 June.

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

### Half term activities

There will be nature themes activities for children in the Old Farmyard throughout half term. For more info visit our [website](#).

### Summer Solstice

There will be no extended or overnight opening of facilities provided by the National Trust over the Summer Solstice weekend (19 - 21 June 2021).

The visitor car park, toilets, and catering outlets will only open for their standard daytime opening hours. There will be no camping facilities in the village.

We have issued a press release and updated our [website](#) on 26 May with this message, which was agreed in consultation with Avebury Parish Council, the Police and Wiltshire Council.

From Friday 18 to Tuesday 22 June NT staff and private security will be on site 24/7 as will the police, who will be based at the Education Centre.

### Accessibility improvements

We are improving our offer for people with accessibility needs, to ensure everyone can visit and enjoy Avebury. We will purchase a countryside tramper (electric buggy-style vehicle) and

produce video material of the new manor tour for people with mobility issues or visual or hearing impairments.

## Standing consents

The National Trust is working with Historic England and will be applying for consents to carry out works on legally protected Scheduled Monuments in, or partially in, the National Trust Avebury Estate, or those monuments managed by National Trust. The works being applied for will be regular maintenance tasks such as fence and gate repairs/like-for-like replacements, repairs where damage has occurred (for example, areas of erosion), etc. to conserve and protect the Scheduled Monuments in our care.

## Avebury Chapel

We have started conversations about offering Avebury Chapel to Avebury Parish Council, as representative of the local community, for use within the remit of a not-for-profit engagement space about the natural and historic environment.

APC is seeking expression of interest from relevant organisations / exhibitors.

## Countryside Updates

- Former Area Ranger Peter Oliver has been appointed new Countryside Manager for the Wiltshire Landscape portfolio, with immediate effect. Peter will be leading the Countryside team and our countryside work across all 13 sites in the portfolio and will also be the NT lead on Solstice.
- **Chalk repairs to sheep scrapes up on the barrows at the start of the ridgeway on Overton Hill.** You may note some loose pieces of heras fencing laid on the ground over the white chalk repairs. This is a deliberate and temporary measure intended to allow time for the chalk to bed in and not be immediately displaced by the sheep. Also chalk repairs are currently underway at Windmill Hill.
- **Sacrificial turf repairs to areas in the henge that have been eroded by a combination of footfall and winter weather.** The timing was critical in order to get the turf laid between Easter and solstice whilst the ground was still wet but without damaging other areas in the process. Thank you to the villagers who stopped and offered help when a pallet of turf became 'misplaced' on the A4361 opposite the pub!
- **Great crested newt count in the Farmyard and Manor Garden Pond.** Sixty-six GCN have been recorded in the Manor garden Pond but only six in the farmyard pond. There are probably a lot more present in this pond, but a heavy algal bloom obscured the view. The countryside team would be very interested to know if there are any other breeding sites for GCN in the parish.
- A bat of unknown species was seen taking insects off the surface of the Farmyard Pond. Further investigation required.
- The team are undertaking regular strimming and topping of paths in the wider Avebury landscape.
- We hope to restart butterfly transect species counts on Green Street and Waden Hill in June.