

Update from the National Trust – June 2022

Visitor operations

- Avebury Manor is usually open 6 days/week (closed Wednesdays), but opening hours currently vary due to staff sickness. Please check our [website](#) before visiting.
- The Circles Restaurant is open 6 days/week (closed Tuesdays). We are still recruiting for various Food & Beverage roles to enable us to open 7 days/week. Please see [website](#) for latest vacancies.

Programming

- From 1-7 June we are celebrating [National Volunteers' Week](#) to highlight the incredible contributions our volunteers are making to our work across Avebury and our wider portfolio. Anybody interested in volunteering with the Trust please contact emma.talbot@nationaltrust.org.uk
- June half term focusses on family activities in the Manor Garden, which is starting to come into its best season.
- We are running some small-scale events throughout June, including landscape walks, a print workshop, yoga sessions and our monthly Trust10 run. For full details visit our [website](#).
- 'Lost' tours: Our volunteers are currently doing practice runs of our new 'Lost' tours, which we hope to offer to the public from later this month. 'Lost' tours are guided tours to three of the Manor attic rooms, which are usually not open to the public. The tours are looking at items that were found in the rooms when carrying out some floor repairs and 'excavations' in 2017/18, and that reveal fascinating facts about lost things, lost pastimes, lost believes. **We would like to invite the local community to experience the tours in their trial stage and are offering two sessions on Monday 13 June at 12noon and 2pm for locals to attend and provide some feedback. Maximum number per tour is 10 people; RSVP is required to amelia.bryan@nationaltrust.org.uk**

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

Summer Solstice

See Appendix 1: Upper Kennet News update from the National Trust – June 2022

See Appendix 2: NT website [Visiting Avebury between 13 – 23 June \(Summer Solstice\)](#)

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'.
- 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

- **Manor ceiling works:** We are starting detailed survey and repair/stabilisation works to the ceiling in the Manor Kitchen in w/c 13 June. Similar to previous works done in the attic rooms, we will be lifting and 'excavating' under the floorboards above the Kitchen and expect to discover some interesting finds, that could tell us more about the history of the house (this might well lead to a sequel of our new 'Lost' tours – see information above).
- **Access improvement works:** We have applied for funding to carry out some access improvement works to the main visitor car park and farmyard, to make the site more accessible for all. If successful, we'll be submitting planning applications for these works in due course.
- **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.

Road safety

- **Car park entrance:** We are pleased to see the double yellow lines instated on the visibility splay to the main visitor car park. This will hopefully prevent cars from parking in this area and improve safe entrance to and exit from the car park.
- **Footfall on road:** We are concerned about increasing footfall on and along the main road through Avebury and have started to talk to APC and the Police how best to address this.

Countryside & Archaeology update

- No news this month.

And to finish...

Following a beautiful weekend of jubilee celebrations please find below an image we recently discovered, showing a picnic in the Manor Parkland held in June 1887 to celebrate Queen Victoria's golden jubilee. In it, you can see the local vicar at the head of a long table; behind him, you can just make out the picture of Queen Victoria. An image that is an apt reminder that though so much changes, some things remain pretty constant (**for larger image see Appendix 3**).



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Upper Kennet News update from the National Trust – June 2022

Summer Solstice 2022

The Summer Solstice will soon be here again, and this will be the first 'normal' Solstice since 2019. As usual we have been working closely with the Police, Wiltshire Council, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue, St John Ambulance, Avebury Parish Council and local Pagan groups to ensure a safe and peaceful Solstice for everyone.

We'll have **staff on duty** over the weekend before Solstice (18/19 June) and then we'll start the usual 24-hour shift system at 8am on Monday 20 June, which will continue until 6.30pm on Wednesday 22 June.

The small National Trust **campsite** will be open from 10am on Monday 20 June until 2pm on Wednesday 22 June.

The **main car park** will be open as usual with extended hours on 20 June to accommodate evening visitors. However, the Planning Condition preventing us from allowing vehicles built or adapted for sleeping to stay overnight (including coaches and high-sided vehicles), will still be in force, so we will not be admitting these vehicles from Monday 13 June to Thursday 23 June, with a 2.1m height barrier in place on the entrance to the car park.

Due to an increased chance of people arriving early and wanting to stay for the duration, security staff will be clearing and closing the car park at the normal time of 6.30pm on 17, 18, 19 and 22 June.

We will also be providing **additional car parking** in our manor parkland on the evening of Monday 20 June through to the morning of Tuesday 21 June.

The location of **additional toilets, waste and recycle bins in the National Trust High Street car park** worked well in previous years, so we'll be doing the same again. This means fencing off a section to create a compound and ensure safe pedestrian access. There will be some parking restrictions in place from Friday 17 June to enable the Rangers to install the fencing. As usual, parking will be limited during this period, so if you have alternative means of travel please do consider using it. Valid residents permits or Blue Badges will be required to park in the High Street car park.

Wiltshire Police will have a base in the village and will be out patrolling the site with National Trust staff, volunteers and St John Ambulance. National Trust staff and volunteers, along with St John Ambulance and security staff, will be based in the Chapel on Green Street.

There will be a **Temporary Traffic Regulation Order** in place over Solstice. Avebury Parish Council and Wiltshire Council are finalising the details of the permit system this year, and more information will be available via the Parish Council soon.

Food and drinks over the Solstice period will be available as follows:

Date	Circles Restaurant	Coach House Café
Mon 20 June	10.30am-4.30pm	6.00pm-midnight
Tue 21 June	9.00am-4.30pm	Midnight until 9.00am
Wed 22 June	Closed	Closed
Thu 23 June	Closed	Closed
Fr 24 June	10.30am-4.30pm	Closed

The overnight offer in the Coach House will be simple, with filter coffee, other hot and cold drinks and a range of pasties, sandwiches, bakes, crisps and confectionary.

Avebury Manor and Garden will be closed from Monday 20 to Wednesday 22 June inclusive.

Main contact telephone numbers during Solstice for any urgent issues or queries is 01672 539126; enquiries will be directed to the relevant shift leader.

Visiting Avebury between 13 – 23 June (Summer Solstice)

This year Summer Solstice falls on Tuesday 21 June and the days either side of this will be extremely busy. Please read through the information below before visiting.

Parking

Between Monday 20 and Wednesday 22 June please consider using public transport or visiting another time. The National Trust car park will be open as usual with extended hours on the night of 20 June to accommodate evening visitors.

However, please note that vehicles built or adapted for sleeping (including coaches and high-sided vehicles), will not be admitted from Monday 13 June to Thursday 23 June, with a 2.1m height barrier in place on the entrance to the car park.

From 8:00pm on the evening of Monday 20 June there will be additional car parking in the manor parkland. The cost to park is £5.00 per car (cash only please, we have no facilities to pay by card) and this additional facility will be charged to all users including National Trust members. This car park will also have a 2.1m height restriction and vehicles adapted for sleeping will not be permitted. Cars must be removed by 10:00am on Tuesday 21 June. Blue Badge parking for cars will be available in the High Street car park.

Links to local public transport can be found here [Plan a Journey | Directions & Best Routes | Connecting Wiltshire](#) and there are also a number of local taxi firms available.

Camping facilities

The small National Trust campsite will be open from 10am on Monday 20 June until 2pm on Wednesday 22 June. All tents, belongings and rubbish must be removed by 2pm on 22 June. Admission will be on a first come-first served basis. The campsite is free of charge but vehicles must have a valid car parking ticket.

There are other campsites within a few miles of Avebury.

Toilets

Portaloo accessible toilets will be located on the campsite and in the High Street car park with other accessible toilets adjacent to the Coach House Café and in the Old Farmyard.

Food and drink

The Coach House Café will be open overnight from Monday 20 to Tuesday 21 June for hot and cold drinks and a range of pasties, sandwiches, bakes, crisps and confectionary.

Please respect this special site and the local community by adhering to the following rules

- No fires or barbecues are allowed anywhere on National Trust land, including the henge, stone circles, parkland and West Kennet Avenue (with the exception of the campsite where very small barbecues are allowed as long as they placed off the ground on the bricks provided).
- Do not dig or insert spikes/poles into the ground, this is a sensitive archaeological site.
- No tents are allowed other than on the National Trust campsite.
- Please do not use amplified music on National Trust land.

We wish you a very happy and peaceful Solstice.



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