



## Update from the National Trust – October 2020

### Reset programme

The 45-day consultation period for the National Trust's Reset programme proposals closed on 11 September. The Reset programme reviewed how and where we can reduce operating and project costs. This week, on 8 October, the outcomes of this consultation will be published, outlining the final decisions on what the impacts of this programme will be for the National Trust. We will at that stage know what exactly this means for our team across the Wiltshire Landscape portfolio and will be sharing this with you as soon as we can.

### Re-opening

Across the National Trust we've now re-opened more than 135 gardens and parks, 50 houses, and more than 200 of our coast and countryside car parks in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Our plans for re-opening at Avebury are as follows:

- Already open: visitor car park (daily 11-5pm), toilets in the farmyard (daily 11-5pm), Circles Restaurant (daily 11-4pm), NT Shop (Wednesday-Sunday 11-4pm).
- Future openings: Cobblestones second-hand bookshop will re-open on Wednesday 14 October (Wednesday-Sunday 11-3pm).
- Winter opening hours will remain unchanged from our current opening hours.
- Going forward: we are looking into the possibility of opening a visitor reception area and are reviewing when is the right time to open any other elements of our offer.

As an organisation we are closely following updates on local lockdowns and changes in guidance and have plans in place to re-close and re-open places as necessary.

### Volunteers

Across the National Trust almost 25% of volunteers have returned to active volunteering either at our places or remotely from home and this number continues to rise each week.

At Avebury we have brought back a small group of volunteers in the Manor Garden; this will shortly be followed by some volunteers in the Countryside, NT Shop, and our biggest group in Cobblestones second-hand bookshop.

## **Tree works to Avebury Conservation Area & West Kennett Conservation Area**

We are submitting a Conservation Area application to Wiltshire Council this week (w/c 05.10.20) for tree works at 10 locations across Avebury. This will include the collapsed Willow pollard that's partially obstructing the Winterbourne.

Works on the tree overgrowing the salt bin at the entrance to Avebury Chapel have already got consent and will commence shortly.

We are also submitting a separate Conservation Area Application to Wiltshire Council this week for tree works at West Kennett, including A4 roadside tree safety works and tree works around West Kennett Farm where trees are growing close to buildings.

## **Heritage Alliance report**

We have been involved in a report that has recently been published by the Heritage Alliance on "Heritage, Health and Wellbeing". The report is available online, under

<https://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/blog/2020/09/21/heritage-health-and-wellbeing-report-launch/>

It includes some work we've been contributing to at Stonehenge and Avebury in case studies "Human Henge" on pages 24/25 and "Places of joy" on pages 74/75 (full report on the latter still to be published).