

## Update from the National Trust – October 2022

### Site operations and programming

- The site is changing to shorter winter opening hours on Sunday 30 October.
- Our High Street toilets will then be closed until Sat 25 March 2023.
- October events:
  - Sculpture exhibition still ongoing until Sun 9 October.
  - Other events during October include Landscape Walk 1 October, Printing workshop 8 October, Apple Day 15/16 October, Half-term activities 22-30 October, Trust10 23 October, Dark Skies Walk 30 October
- For our full offer and opening times please visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury)

### Observance Management

- Hazel Barry-Scott, Experience & Visitor Programming Manager, has now taken over the lead on Observance management from Peter Oliver, Countryside Manager. The official hand-over took place at the last Avebury Sacred Site Forum (ASSF) on 8 September.
- The next ASSF meeting will take place on 10 November 2pm when next year's camping dates will be discussed.
- We provided camping over Autumn Equinox from 23 – 25 September.
- The remaining camping dates for 2022 are: Samhain 29 October – 1 November, Winter Solstice 21 – 22 December.

### Avebury Chapel

- Lease to commence on 1 October 22, 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'.

### Access Improvements

- **Resurfacing works car park, farmyard, kitchen garden**  
The Trust has an ambition to make its places more accessible for everyone. In this context we have received some funding for access improvements in the form of resurfacing works in our main visitor car park, farmyard and kitchen garden. We will be submitting the necessary consents for these works in due course and would like to share our plans with APC in more detail at the meeting on 4 October.
- **Bench along visitor route**  
We will be installing a wooden bench along the visitor route from the visitor car park, so people have an opportunity to rest on the walk from the car park to the village. The bench will be installed in October, next to the recently installed interpretation panels.

- **Electrical Vehicle Charging points**

As part of a central initiative, Avebury is included in a survey to assess suitability of its car parks for electrical vehicle charging points.

### **Experience Design**

- Experience Design is a process which helps properties to develop a long-term plan for the visitor experience and visitor business whilst protecting what makes a place special. It identifies where investment is required and what changes need to be made however big or small.
- We are soon to start ED at Avebury WHS and would like to engage and work in partnership with the community from the early stages of this project. More info to follow.
- As part of this project, we are carrying out some audience insight work, to establish visitor demographics post Covid and what visitors expect from a site like Avebury. So far, we have had nearly 400 survey questionnaires completed and carried out around 20 in-depth interviews. If anybody in the local community would like to take part, please let Abby know, [abby.george@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:abby.george@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### **Road safety concerns**

- We are receiving regular concerns and complaints from visitors about increased footfall on the A4361. The key issue raised is about the safety of pedestrians walking from the Sports & Social Club car park, east on the grass verge or along the edge of the A4361 to access the Henge. As this is a critical safety issue, we are raising our concerns formally through the APC and ask for the issue to be addressed with the relevant stakeholders; we are happy to provide support if and where we can.

28/09/2022