



Update from the National Trust – August 2021

Visitor offer and opening arrangements

Following a busy summer, we are now entering into our autumn period (1 Sep – 31 Oct). Opening arrangements and hours will remain the same as during summer.

All elements of our offer are open, and the manor (open Thu – Sun) has successfully returned to a free-flow model. The restaurant remains closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, due to staff shortages.

Our daily volunteer-led guided tours to the stone circle have resumed successfully, and we will shortly introduce a new guided tour of the manor attic rooms, which are currently not accessible to the public.

We have ordered a mobility scooter, for visitors to hire, to make the site more accessible for all.

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

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

Autumn activities at Avebury

We will be offering a wide range of activities throughout the autumn period; these include:

- Sculpture exhibition, Manor Garden, Fr 10 Sep – Sun 10 Oct (pre-view event Thu 9 Sep)
- Heritage Open Day – Fr 10, Sat 11, Sun 12 Sep (free stone circle tours)
- Storytelling – Sat 25 Sep and Sat 23 Oct
- Trust10 run – Sun 26 Sep and Sun 24 Oct
- Apple celebrations – Sat 16 and Sun 17 Oct
- Half term family activities – Mo 25 Oct – Fr 29 Oct
- Dark Skies Walk – Sat 30 Oct
- Harvest Displays across the site throughout Sep and Oct

Sculpture exhibition, pre-view, Thursday 9 Sep, 5-7pm

Members of Avebury Parish Council are warmly invited to the pre-view event of the sculpture exhibition at Avebury Manor Garden on Thursday 9 Sep, 5-7pm.

RSVP: diana.lage@nationaltrust.org.uk

For full details of our programme of events visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury

Avebury Chapel

A meeting in the chapel was held on Tuesday 20 July to discuss a partnership proposal between NT and APC, with interested parties. A follow up meeting will be held in autumn (date tbc) to discuss details and firm up plans.

Works at Green Street

The pipe replacement works at Green Street are complete and the NE sector pedestrian gate access crossover from the SE sector to NE sector has re-opened.

Camping over observances

We are planning to provide camping in the NT overflow car park at Autumn Equinox, for one night, on Saturday 18 September.

Further possible camping dates are being discussed. All dates are subject to possible change in accordance with Government or Trust guidance.

Living with Monuments Project

The Living with Monuments Project summer excavation took place from the end of July through to mid-August 2021 in the Avebury part of the WHS. The site - the West Kennet palisade enclosures – is full of interesting and complex archaeology, and the main trench contained many features such as post holes, pits and ditches. Some of these features were constructed later than others and so had cut into the earlier features. Several antlers were found which will hopefully help to date some of these features, and there was also some worked flint and a small amount of pottery. The post-excavation analysis will reveal more as the data is processed and this will aid interpretation of the site. We will alert you to the report when it is released and hope to be able to organise some talks about the project in due course.

For details of previous excavations, please visit www.livingwithmonuments.org

News from the Countryside team

- Chalk repairs are planned for a scrape on a Bronze age Barrow at Overton Hill.
- Replacement fence works are being planned for the fence behind the Community Shop and the fences behind the Estate Office.
- We are not seeing as much grass sward erosion in gateways and other areas of the henge but are concerned that areas will be compacted where footfall has been heaviest, so we will be carrying out some aeration, minor turf repairs and reseeding over the next couple of months before the cold and wet weather sets in.
- Avebury Sacred Sites Forum have met on Thursday 2 September.
- We will be putting in 2 x Conservation Area applications for tree safety works (some ash dieback and some other tree safety work). One for work at Avebury and one for work at West Kennett Farm.
- A car went through the fence in the SE sector on the bend opposite the social centre. We will claim on the driver's insurance and get repairs underway as soon as possible.
- Look out for bats flying around the Old Farmyard in the late summer evenings. Believed to be Serotine and Brown long-eared as well Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle.

06.09.2021