



ENGLISH HERITAGE

# SUMMER SOLSTICE 2009

## CONDITIONS OF ENTRY AND INFORMATION

Stonehenge is an ancient pre-historic site. It has been a place of worship and celebration at the time of Summer Solstice since time immemorial.

English Heritage is pleased to be providing Managed Open Access to Stonehenge for the Summer Solstice. Please help us to create a peaceful occasion by taking personal responsibility and following the Conditions of Entry and guidelines set out below. We have a duty of care to ensure public safety and are responsible for the protection of Stonehenge and its surrounding Monuments. If we are to ensure that future access is sustainable, it is essential that everyone observes and abides by these Conditions of Entry.

During the Summer Solstice access to Stonehenge, we support all individuals and groups conducting their own forms of ceremony and celebration providing that they are mutually respectful and tolerant of one another. It is a place seen by many as a sacred site – therefore please respect it and those attending.

English Heritage continues to work closely with the many agencies and people from all sectors of the community and would like to thank them for their help and support.

*Parking and entry to the Monument will be free, subject to the Conditions of Entry. Please do not arrive at the Solstice Car Park or Stonehenge in advance of the opening times listed below:*

SOLSTICE CAR PARK OPENS	1900 hours (7pm) Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> June
ACCESS TO STONEHENGE	1900 hours (7pm) Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> June
LAST ADMISSION TO SOLSTICE CAR PARK	0600 hours (6am) Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> June
STONEHENGE CLOSES	0800 hours (8am) Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> June
SOLSTICE CAR PARK TO BE VACATED	1200 hours (12 Noon) Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> June

Sunset on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009 is at 2126 hrs (9.26pm)

Sunrise on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2009 is at 0458 hrs (4.58am)

**WE HOPE THE WEATHER WILL BE KIND  
AND WISH YOU A PEACEFUL AND CELEBRATORY SOLSTICE**

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## SECTION I – PLANNING YOUR VISIT

### In this section:

- **What (and what not!) to bring with you**
- **Travelling to Stonehenge**
- **Parking facilities**

### What (and what not!) to bring with you

- When thinking about what to bring with you, remember your personal possessions are your responsibility and you will have to carry them with you at all times. Therefore, travel as light as you can. Large bags or large rucksacks will not be allowed at the Monument although small bags/rucksacks (similar size to hand luggage on airlines) will be permitted.
- Think carefully about what valuables you normally carry and leave all non-essential items at home. Whilst there is a lost property system, the nature of the access means that if you drop/mislay something in the Solstice Car Park or at Stonehenge it might not easily be found or handed in. If you are bringing your mobile phone with you keep it safe. Think of the hassle you would have if you lost it, or it was stolen.
- Glass is not allowed at the Monument as many people walk barefoot and, in addition, livestock and wildlife also graze in the area. If you bring any glass items with you, they will be confiscated. This also includes any other objects that could cause damage to the Monument or people there. No plastic bottles will be available for decanting purposes.
- Please do not bring dogs, pets or other creatures – they are not permitted into Stonehenge, with the exception of registered assistance dogs. Apart from potentially upsetting wildlife and stock in the area, animal faeces present a health risk to children and also to people walking barefoot.
- Due to the large number of people in attendance, naked flame is extremely dangerous and it infringes local bylaws/regulations and constitutes a potential fire hazard, so please do not light any fires – this includes BBQs, flaming torches, candles, night-lights or fireworks.
- The Solstice Car Park and Stonehenge are ‘fields’ so sensible footwear is essential.
- Make sure you wear and bring with you warm clothing, as despite the time of the year, the weather at Stonehenge can be very cold and damp. Please do not wear a hi-viz jacket as this can cause confusion with the officials undertaking a safety role.
- In the interests of safety, sleeping bags or duvets will not be allowed on site. Sleeping on the ground can create a trip hazard especially as much of the access is during the hours of darkness. Also, people asleep on the ground could interfere with the work of the emergency services and hinder their ability to attend an incident. Small ground sheets and blankets will be permitted for people to sit on. If

you do want to sleep during the access period, it is strongly recommended that you either return to your vehicle in the Solstice Car Park or go to one of the public gathering areas outside the Monument.

- Camping is NOT permitted at Stonehenge, in the Solstice Car Park, or anywhere in the surrounding National Trust land.
- Stonehenge is a world renowned historic Monument and it is seen by many who attend the access as a sacred site. Amplified Music is inappropriate and will not be permitted at the Monument, in the surrounding landscape or Solstice Car Park, so please do not bring any sound systems or portable amplifiers. Acoustic instruments will be permitted.
- Drunken, disorderly, and anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated; ejection, possibly by the Police without return, will be the outcome.
- Illegal drugs are still illegal at Stonehenge as they are anywhere else. The police will be on site during the access period and will take immediate action against anyone flouting the law. Summer Solstice is not a good time to experiment with drugs - the crowd, the noise and the sheer size of the place are likely to make any bad reaction much, much worse. As much of the access is at night, if you had a bad reaction it may be difficult to locate you to administer treatment.
- Only small amounts of alcohol for personal use will be permitted on to site. Alcohol is limited to no more than the equivalent of four 500ml cans of beer/cider or 75cl of wine. No further alcohol will be permitted on subsequent re-entry. Be warned, drug/alcohol cocktails can be lethal, so please be fully of aware of what you are doing.

### **Travelling to Stonehenge**

- Stonehenge is located approximately 2½ miles (4 kms) from the town of Amesbury. The nearest bus and railway stations are in Salisbury, which is 12 miles (19 kms) away from Stonehenge.
- As the roads around Stonehenge will be very busy, it is recommended that you leave your car at home and travel to Stonehenge using public transport. Trains run regularly to Salisbury from London, Bristol/Bath and Southampton and the local bus company, Wilts & Dorset, will running a special service, number 333, from Salisbury railway and bus stations to a drop-off point near Stonehenge. The buses will also stop at any recognised bus stop along the line of the route, which is via Amesbury.
- This bus service will commence at 1830 hours (6.30pm) on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June and run regularly until 0115 hours (1.15am) on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June. After sunrise, a service taking people back to Salisbury will start again at 0500 hours (5am) and run frequently until 0945 hours (9.45am). The collection point for the return service is in the same location as the drop-off point.
- The walk to Stonehenge from the bus drop-off/collection point is 1½ miles (approximately 2½ kms) (about 20-30 minutes) and is through National Trust

farmland. Sensible footwear might not be fashionable but is definitely advisable. Also the route is not lit and you may wish to bring a small torch (not naked flame though!).

- To help you plan your journey to Stonehenge, further details on train and bus timetables and fares are available from the following links:

For bus service information:

Wilts & Dorset Bus Company  
[www.wdbus.co.uk](http://www.wdbus.co.uk)  
Tel: 01983 827 005

For train information:

South West Trains  
[www.southwesttrains.co.uk](http://www.southwesttrains.co.uk)  
Tel: 0845 6000 650

First Great Western  
[www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk](http://www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk)  
Tel: 0845 7000 125

National Rail Enquiries  
[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)  
Tel: 08457 48 49 50

- It is not advisable to bring cycles to Stonehenge as they cannot be accommodated at the Monument and they will not be permitted beyond the Solstice Car Park. Please bring your own locking device and park your cycle in the designated area in the Solstice Car Park. Ask a steward at the Solstice Car Park entrance for assistance.
- A high volume of traffic is anticipated in the Stonehenge area on the evening of Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June. The Summer Solstice parking facilities close to Stonehenge are extensive but also finite. Although traffic, as you approach Stonehenge, maybe slow, please do not be tempted to abandon your vehicle and park it either on the A303 or other neighbouring roads and public rights of way. Cars parked illegally will be towed away by the Police.
- Please also be aware that a number of road closures will be in operation to ensure safe pedestrian passage to Stonehenge and to allow unimpeded access in the event of an emergency. As you approach Stonehenge, signage will be in place to direct you to the Solstice Car Park.

## **Parking Facilities**

- The Solstice Car Park is located close to Airman's Cross just off the A303, (adjacent the A344/A360 junction) and will be clearly sign-posted. People will be able to walk to Stonehenge along a designated route which is a little over ½ a mile (approximately 1 km) (15-20 min walk). This route is through National Trust farmland, so please wear sensible footwear. Although the route will be partially lit you may wish to bring a small torch.
- The Stonehenge visitor centre car park next to the Monument will be closed to the public for the Solstice access, as will the connecting road (A344).

- If the weather and ground conditions are particularly poor, coaches and other large vehicles may need to be directed to a hard standing parking area.
- In order to ensure that there is sufficient space available for everyone who wishes to attend, please park sensibly and only where directed by a steward or police officer. This will help us to fully use the Solstice Car Park area as there is limited space available. Do not park on the A303 or other neighbouring roads and public rights of way. Cars parked illegally will be towed away by the Police.
- There will be a designated area within the Solstice Car Park for motorbikes and bicycles. Do not chain or padlock your motorbike or bicycle to any of the gates – the gates are for use by the emergency services and any motorbikes or bicycles causing an obstruction will be removed.
- There is a dedicated parking area in the Solstice Car Park for people with disabilities. Please ask the staff as you enter the Solstice Car Park and you will be shown where to park. There will also be a taxi service between the Solstice Car Park and Stonehenge for people who are wheelchair-bound, have mobility difficulties or are infirm. The taxis will be available from 1900 hrs (7pm) on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June to 0830 hours (8.30am) on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June. Visitors wishing to make use of the service should note that the parking area and pick-up point is located on the right hand side as you enter the Solstice Car Park. For further information, please ask the staff as you enter the Solstice Car Park.
- Wheelchair users, accompanied by one carer, will be given access to Stonehenge via the Visitor Centre entry point and the pedestrian walkway under the A344. This access route will be closed to the general public.
- Wheelchairs will not be provided by English Heritage.
- Please note that absolutely NO camping or fires/BBQs are permitted in the Solstice Car Park as these activities can create a major safety risk. The stewards and security teams will be taking positive action to prevent them happening.
- If you do decide to travel by car to Stonehenge, please ensure you nominate someone who will take responsibility for driving home. ‘Drink driving’ is illegal and ‘tiredness can kill’.

## SECTION 2 – ONCE YOU ARE AT STONEHENGE

### In this section:

- Conditions of Entry
- Admission to Stonehenge
- Facilities
- Welfare
- Rubbish disposal
- For your safety
- In case of emergency

### Conditions of Entry

- These Conditions of Entry are written to ensure enjoyment and public safety for everyone. Contravention of any of these conditions may result in entry being refused or removal from Stonehenge. **English Heritage reserves the right to refuse entry.**
- Stonehenge is seen by many as a sacred site – please respect it and please respect each other.
- Drunken, disorderly, and anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated; ejection, possibly by the Police without return, will be the outcome.
- Illegal drugs are still illegal at Stonehenge as they are anywhere else. The police will be on site during the access period and will take immediate action against anyone flouting the law. Summer Solstice is not a good time to experiment with drugs - the crowd, the noise and the sheer size of the place are likely to make any bad reaction much, much worse. As much of the access is at night, if you had a bad reaction it may be difficult to locate you to administer treatment.
- Only small amounts of alcohol for personal use will be permitted on to site. Alcohol is limited to no more than the equivalent of four 500ml cans of beer/cider or 75cl of wine. No further alcohol will be permitted on subsequent re-entry. Be warned, drug/alcohol cocktails can be lethal, so please be fully of aware of what you are doing.
- Please do not climb or stand on any of the stones – this includes the stones that have fallen. This is in the interest of personal safety, the protection of this special site and respect for those attending. As well as putting the stones themselves at risk, climbing on them can damage the delicate lichens.
- In order to ensure personal safety, random searching may be undertaken, but we hope that self-policing and personal responsibility will prevail. Any items that might be used in an illegal or offensive manner will be confiscated.

## Admission to Stonehenge

- Admission to the Summer Solstice at Stonehenge is free of charge.
- Children under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Please remember that you will not be allowed access to the Monument with the following items:
  - Large quantities of alcohol
  - Drugs
  - Large bags or rucksacks (or similar items)
  - Sleeping bags or duvets
  - Flaming torches or candles
  - Dogs (with the exception of registered assistance dogs), pets or other creatures
  - Camping equipment, including foldaway chairs, garden furniture
  - BBQs or gas cylinders
  - Glass/bottles or other glass objects
  - Trolleys, wheel barrows or any other form of portorage
  - Pushchairs or buggies that are not exclusively used for a child

## Facilities

- Close to the Monument, there will be several areas for people to gather, two of which will have braziers provided. Please use the areas for your own enjoyment, such as poetry readings, meditation or playing of acoustic instruments.
- There are portaloos, including disabled toilets, in both the Monument Field and Solstice Car Park – please use them!! Do not desecrate the Monument or surrounding land. It's bad for the wildlife and makes the site dirtier for everyone, including you.
- Authorised catering points selling hot and cold refreshments, will be available throughout the access period and these will be clearly indicated. Please do not purchase refreshments from any unauthorised outlets.
- There is a tap for drinking water close to the Monument which will be clearly marked. However, there is no similar supply of drinking water available in the Solstice Car Park. The authorised catering units will be selling bottled drinking water as well as other hot and cold drinks.

## Welfare

- Parents/Guardians are requested that children are not left unattended at any time. Children under 16 will be refused entry unless accompanied by an adult.
- There will be two clearly marked information / meeting points, one in the Solstice Car Park and one close to the entrance to the Monument. These provide experienced, caring and confidential help for all kinds of practical and personal problems.

## **Rubbish Disposal**

- Visitors are requested to dispose of their rubbish carefully at the designated recycling and rubbish points located in the Solstice Car Park and at Stonehenge. Every effort is being made to create a more sustainable, environmentally friendly Solstice. To help with the recycling process, clear bags will be handed out on arrival and after sunrise. Do not drop litter. Please bag and bin your rubbish so the recycling team can collect it. You are visiting a very sensitive landscape which is still in agricultural use – please respect the local farmers’ crops and livestock.
- All visitors are encouraged to ‘think green’ and improve on the already successful waste management programme. We aim to further reduce the amount of rubbish that goes to land fill and to increase the recycling rates. So please help us to make this year a cleaner Summer Solstice.

## **For your safety**

- If weather conditions leading up to 20<sup>th</sup> June are particularly hot and dry, it may be necessary to ask people not to smoke. This will be subject to advice from the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service.
- The Solstice Car Park will be lit and there will be ambient lighting at the Monument throughout the night. These lights will be systematically turned off as dawn approaches but only when it is operationally safe to do so. Please do not tamper with any of the lighting towers – it can be dangerous.
- There will be stewards on duty to assist with the smooth and successful running of the Solstice access. They are also there to answer your questions so please do not hesitate to approach them, they are there to help. If you notice anything that concerns you please report it, so that appropriate action can be taken.
- No unlicensed, non-invited traders will be permitted access. This applies to the Monument area, the surrounding landscape and Solstice Car Park.

## **In case of emergency**

- The Great Western Ambulance Service, St John Ambulance Service and Wiltshire Constabulary will be in attendance. If you, or someone you are with, needs medical attention, please seek help from one of the security or stewards on duty.
- If you get lost, or lose track of your friends or children, don’t panic. Locate a member of the security/stewarding team. Alternatively go to the Info/Welfare/Meeting point and report the situation to the Welfare team.
- In the unlikely event of an incident that requires the evacuation of Stonehenge or the Solstice Car Park, we would ask that members of the public respond quickly to instructions given by stewarding staff, the Police or other Emergency Service personnel. PA announcements for your safety and information may be necessary

during the access period.

**Disclaimer**

English Heritage will do everything it can to make your visit a safe and enjoyable experience. However, English Heritage accepts no liability for any injury to persons or loss of, or damage to, property arising in any way whatsoever whilst at Stonehenge or the Solstice Car Park, and entry is at people's own risk. Although stewards and security will be present at both Stonehenge and the Solstice Car Park, please note that any people entering these areas do so at their own risk.

## SECTION 3 – OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

### In this section:

- Visit Wiltshire Tourism Website
- Local Camping Facilities
- Tourist Information Centres
- Stonehenge Summer Solstice Website
- Stonehenge Summer Solstice Information Hotline
- Map

### Visit Wiltshire Tourism Website

For information on accommodation providers in the county of Wiltshire and other attractions/services in the area, please visit the Visit Wiltshire website:

[www.visitwiltshire.co.uk](http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk)

### Local Camping Facilities

- Please remember camping is NOT permitted at Stonehenge, in the Solstice Car Park, or anywhere in the surrounding National Trust land
- There are three local campsites. Please check availability and entry conditions in advance.

Stonehenge Touring Park	Orcheston, Nr Shrewton, SP3 4SH	01980 620304
Salisbury Camping & Caravanning Club Site	Hudson's Field, Castle Road, Salisbury, SPI 3RR	01722 320713
Coombe Caravan Park	Coombe Nurseries, The Race Plain, Netherhampton, Salisbury, SP2 8PN	01722 328451

### Tourist Information Centres

Tourist Information Centres for local area are:

**Amesbury** Tel: 01980 622833

**Salisbury** Tel: 01722 334956 [www.visitsalisbury.com](http://www.visitsalisbury.com)

**Devizes** Tel: 01380 729408

**Andover** Tel: 01264 324320 [www.touruk.co.uk/hamp/ham\\_and.htm](http://www.touruk.co.uk/hamp/ham_and.htm)

### Stonehenge Summer Solstice Website

The English Heritage Stonehenge Summer Solstice website can be found at:

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/summersolstice](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/summersolstice)

### Stonehenge Summer Solstice Information Hotline

For further information about the Summer Solstice at Stonehenge, please telephone English Heritage Customer Services Solstice Information Hotline on **0870 333 1186**.

### Map

A map will be posted on the website before Solstice and will also be handed out on the night.

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact  
our Customer Services department:  
Telephone: 0870 333 1181  
Fax: 01793 414926  
Textphone: 01793 414878  
E-mail: [customers@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:customers@english-heritage.org.uk)