

REMINDER ABOUT SUMMER SOLSTICE 2017

STONEHENGE

English Heritage is pleased to welcome people to Stonehenge to celebrate Summer Solstice once again. Over the years we have seen a huge increase in the numbers of people and cars coming to the World Heritage Site at Summer Solstice, and last year we introduced two changes to protect Stonehenge, look after the people attending and keep Solstice special.

We are writing to you ahead of Summer Solstice this year to ask for your help in reminding the community of these changes, and to alert you to our updated security arrangements.

- 1. The monument field is an alcohol-free zone.
- 2. We are encouraging car sharing and the use of public transport. There is very limited parking and charges apply.
- 3. Following recent terrorist related incidents across the UK, additional security measures will be in place at Summer Solstice this year. We are working closely with Wiltshire Police to ensure the safety of all visitors and, as a result, only small bags (30 x 25 x 15cm) will be allowed into the Monument Field and searches will be conducted. We are strongly advising visitors to only bring essential items with them and leave valuables at home.

We would also like to take the opportunity to remind people that under 16s are only allowed into the monument field during summer solstice if accompanied by a responsible adult.

Stonehenge is an ancient monument protected by law and also a World Heritage Site and as such drunken behaviour is not appropriate within or around the monument. We believe an alcohol-free Solstice makes it more enjoyable and peaceful for more people, including the increasing numbers of families and young people who attend. We received a lot of positive feedback last year about how peaceful, more family-oriented the occasion felt, and what a great atmosphere there was with no alcohol around.

We would be grateful if you could remind any young people you feel this will impact upon. We are delighted that more young people want to come to experience the stone circle up close at Summer Solstice but we think that it is important that they understand the significance of the monument, are aware of the Conditions of Entry, and that their expectations are managed.

Thank you very much for your help in getting this message out. We believe the changes introduced last year make Solstice more enjoyable and peaceful for the majority of people attending, including the increasing numbers of families and young people.

For the Conditions of Entry and other useful information, please check the English Heritage website.