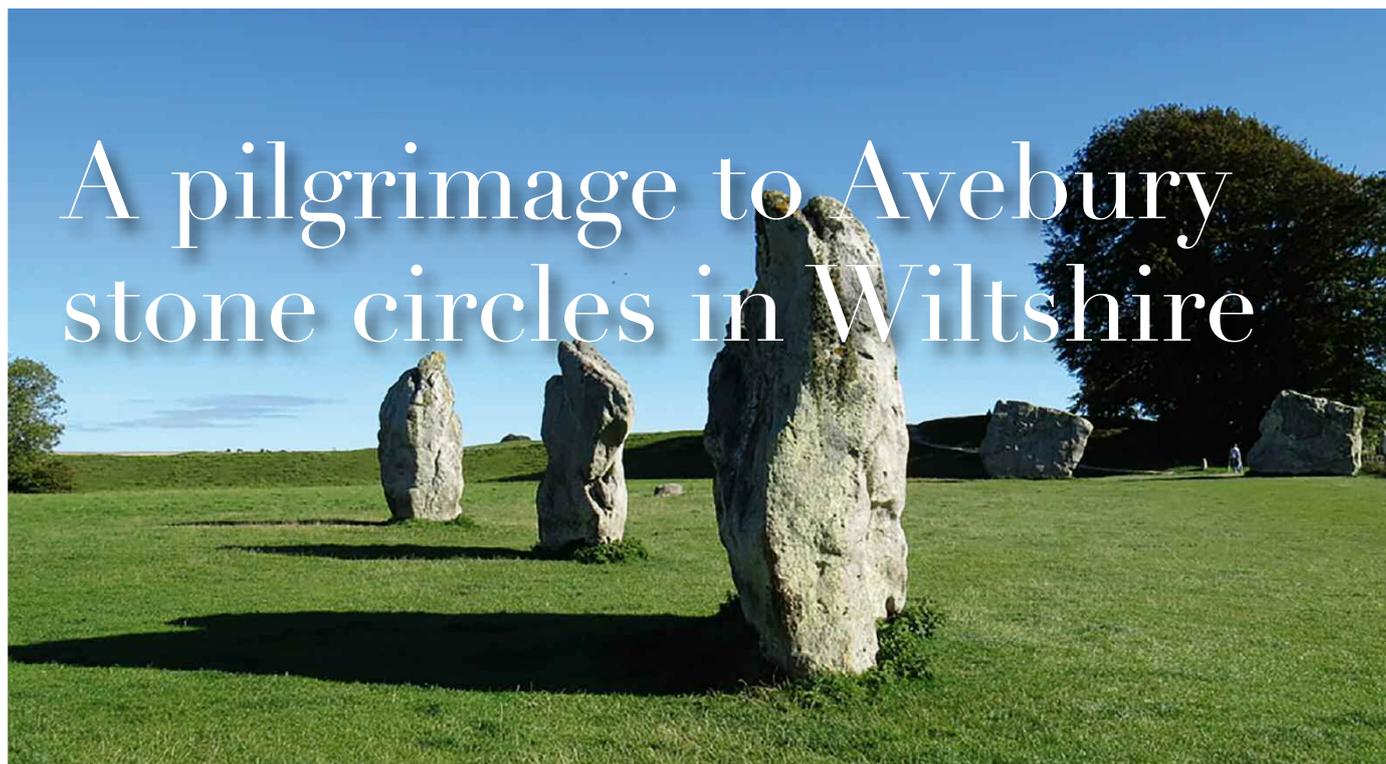


# A pilgrimage to Avebury stone circles in Wiltshire



There are famous religious pilgrimages, there are also the pilgrimages that one does for oneself. It doesn't have to be on foot or by any particular mode of transport. It is nothing more than the journey of getting to the desired destination, in any way or form. For me, that desired destination was the stone circles of Avebury in Wiltshire, for years I've been yearning to sit in stone circles and visit the sacred sites of Europe. So, why visit Avebury, a place that is often sold to us as the poor cousin of the ever-famous Stonehenge? In reality, it is not less but much more.

## Why Avebury?

This sacred Neolithic site is the largest set of stone circles out of the thousands in the United Kingdom and in the world. It is older than other sites, although the dating is sketchy. I've heard everything from 2600BC to 4500BC and it's still up for discussion.

Despite being a World Heritage site, Avebury is fully open to the public. Unlike Stonehenge, you can walk in and around the stones. It is accessible by public transport, buses stop in the middle of the village, and the entrance is free. As well as the stone circles, there is also an avenue of stones that take you down to the West Kennet Long Barrow and Silbury Hill. Onsite for a small fee you can visit the museum and manor that are run by the National Trust.

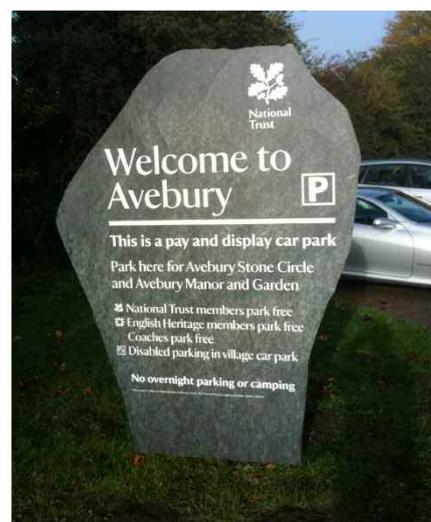
## What you may not know about Avebury

Avebury is worth visiting for the energies alone. Avebury and Stonehenge are both situated on St. Michael's ley lines. These ley lines hold sacred energy and run over and through the earth. Both of sites have avenues and were used for ceremonies. Many of England's crop circles also appear between these two sacred sites.

In one experiment, researchers planted electrodes and tested the earth's telluric energy field at various times of the day. It showed that the ditch around the site harnesses the earth's ground current and sends it back through to the entrance of the site. When the late John Burke tested the magnetism of Avebury, it showed that the large stones on the outer circle are magnetically facing north and that each magnetic orientation leads on and connects it to the next stone. As a stone's magnetic energy occurs naturally when the stone is made, it is incredible that the builders were not only aware of this magnetic field but also used those measurements to bring the stones together in such a precise alignment.

## Avebury from yesterday to today

Avebury has had an interesting past. As with many sacred sites, we can only guess who





built it, why it was made and its true purpose. There is a myriad of theories of how the stones were transported and then so precisely leveraged into place. There are those who believe that it was sound, others believe that it would have been a system of pulleys, while others believe giants may have built it. Like many of life's mysteries, at this point we can only theorise as to what the truth may be.

During medieval and religious times, people removed the stones, believing that the stones had been a place of heathen worship and were put there by the devil. The site later went through a period of restoration and put back together, with some in different spots. Stone markers replaced missing stones. While it's not exactly clear how it was done, it is still impressive.

Has all this interference affected the power of this sacred site?

### The energies at Avebury

There have been tests on the energy and the acoustics but how tangible is that for everyday people? I can't speak for you but for me, the energy at Avebury was both tangible and phenomenal. I could feel it the moment I got off the bus. As I wandered about and touched all the stones, I noticed that when I sat in the centre or was in-between the stones there was a resonance of their energy working together. It was an incredible experience and was well worth my four-month pilgrimage across land and sea to finally come to the heart of hearts of European sacred sites and stone circles.

### What to know before you go

As with many sacred sites, I recommend you do some research before going, as you may not always find up-to-date information in the tourist office. Give yourself enough time to explore the area. Be prepared to eat when everyone else does or bring a packed lunch. There are not many eating spots and the village pub stops serving food after lunch.

As with most sacred sites, take some quiet time, centre yourself and be open to the energies that are there. Sit somewhere quiet and ponder, or meditate, and just be. Each site can set a spark in us if we allow it to, especially in a site where people selected stones that have been put in place to bring together the strongest of energies. We do others and ourselves a favour when visiting the site in a respectful way, with reverence and good intentions.

For me, the pilgrimage goes on. I hear that there are more than 1,000 stone circles in the United Kingdom, so Avebury isn't the last on my list. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and sacred sites like Avebury make the journey that we are on all the more magic.



Avebury courtesy of English Heritage



**National  
Trust**

**Michelle van den Hout**, an avid traveller and perpetual nomad, can be found sitting somewhere in a stone circle somewhere in England or over on [www.travelmovelive.com](http://www.travelmovelive.com) or [@travelmovelive](https://www.instagram.com/travelmovelive) on Instagram.