

# Ancient Britain

## 3

### Neolithic Ways of Life: Shaping the Landscape

## Early Neolithic Britain: Clearings in the Wildwood





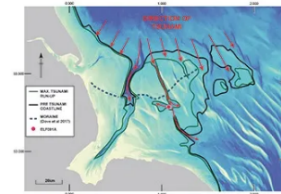
# More on the Storegga Slide—

## Comments by a knowledgeable class member—

### Searching for the Storegga tsunami in Doggerland

September 2, 2020 · 5 mins read

The Storegga tsunami, caused by the sudden shift of a Scotland-sized section of the seabed off the coast of modern-day Norway, raged across the North Sea approximately 8,150 years ago (see CA 179). Archaeological evidence for this event has been found in onshore sediments across western Scandinavia, in parts of north-east Britain, and even as far away as Greenland. But, although models of the tsunami suggest that it possibly affected parts of the southern North Sea, no concrete evidence for it had been found in this region – until now.



A reconstruction of the Doggerland coastline approximately 8,150 years ago; the red lines show the hypothesised direction of the tsunami and the red dot indicates the location of the analysed sediment core. [Image: Gaffney et al.]

The 'Europe's Lost Frontiers' project, led by researchers from the

the slippage event with the tsunami may have occurred not from a seismic event but as a result from uplift as the glacial ice melted. After tons of ice gradually melted, the pressure on the ground rebounded an uplift event that may have caused movement or slippage of previously covered disconformities. The huge waves of water that inundated eastern England may have been a byproduct of the uplift events that followed the glacier meltdown.

The Truth



about Doggerland—



....named after these dogs, on the North Sea shore.



# ....from Francis Pryor, Britain BC (2003)

## DATES AND PERIODS

| <i>Date*</i>     | <i>Period</i>            | <i>British Isles:<br/>main events</i>                             | <i>British Isles:<br/>technological innovations</i>  | <i>Events and innovations elsewhere</i>   | <i>Chapter in<br/>this book</i> |
|------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Fifth century AD | Early (or Pagan) Saxon   | Main period of folk movements from the Continent                  |  | Migration period in Europe (fourth and fifth centuries AD)  |                                 |
| AD 410           | Roman                    | Official withdrawal of Rome from Britain                          | Factory production                                   |   | Afterword                       |
| AD 43            | Late Iron Age            | Roman legions land near Richborough, Kent                         | Wheel-made pottery                                   | Caesar conquers Gaul (60–50 BC)   | 12                              |
| 150 BC           | Middle Iron Age          | Rise of larger tribal 'kingdoms'                                  | Widespread use of iron                               |   |                                 |
| 450 BC           | Early Iron Age           | Fiskerton   |  | Classical Greece flourishes   | 11                              |
| 750 BC           | Late Bronze Age          |   | First use of iron                                    |   |                                 |
| 1250 BC          | Middle Bronze Age        | Flag Fen built  |  | Tutankhamen (1333–1323 BC)  | 10                              |
| 1500 BC          | Early Bronze Age         |   |  |   |                                 |
| 2150 BC          | Metal-using Neolithic    |   | Earliest use of metal                                | Indus Valley civilisation   |                                 |
| 2500 BC          | Late Neolithic           | Stonehenge, Avebury, Orcadian and Boyne passage tombs             |  |   | 9                               |
| 3000 BC          | Middle Neolithic         | Causewayed enclosures, long barrows etc.                          | Stone axe 'trade'                                    |   | 8<br>7                          |
| 3500 BC          | Early Neolithic          | Sweet Track and first farmers                                     | First use of pottery. Polished flint and stone tools |   | 6<br>5                          |
| 5000 BC          | Mesolithic               | Britain separates from mainland Europe (6500 BC)<br>'Cheddar Man' | Introduction of microlithic flint tools and weapons  | Neolithic Jericho (7500 BC)   | 4                               |
| 10,000 BP        | Late Upper Palaeolithic  | Ice Age ends  |  | Jomon culture in Japan makes first pottery (12000 BC)   |                                 |
| 13,000 BP        | Early Upper Palaeolithic | Burial of the Red 'Lady' of Paviland Cave                         | Introduction and widespread use of blade-based tools | Very cold. Northern Europe abandoned<br>Modern man (Crô-Magnon man)<br>Transition between Neanderthals and modern man | 3<br>2                          |
| 40,000 BP        | Middle Palaeolithic      | Mousterian culture  | Sophisticated, flat-based hand-axes                  | Era of the Neanderthals   |                                 |
| 130,000 BP       | Lower Palaeolithic       | First humans in what was to become Britain                        | Boxgrove, West Sussex. Hand-axes                     | Evolution of various forms of hominids  | 1                               |
| 500,000 BP       |                          |   |  | Earliest humans (in Africa)   |                                 |
| 2,500,000 BP     |                          |   |  |   |                                 |

\*Note that 'BP' refers to *Before Present*.



## Early Neolithic Britain: Clearings in the Wildwood







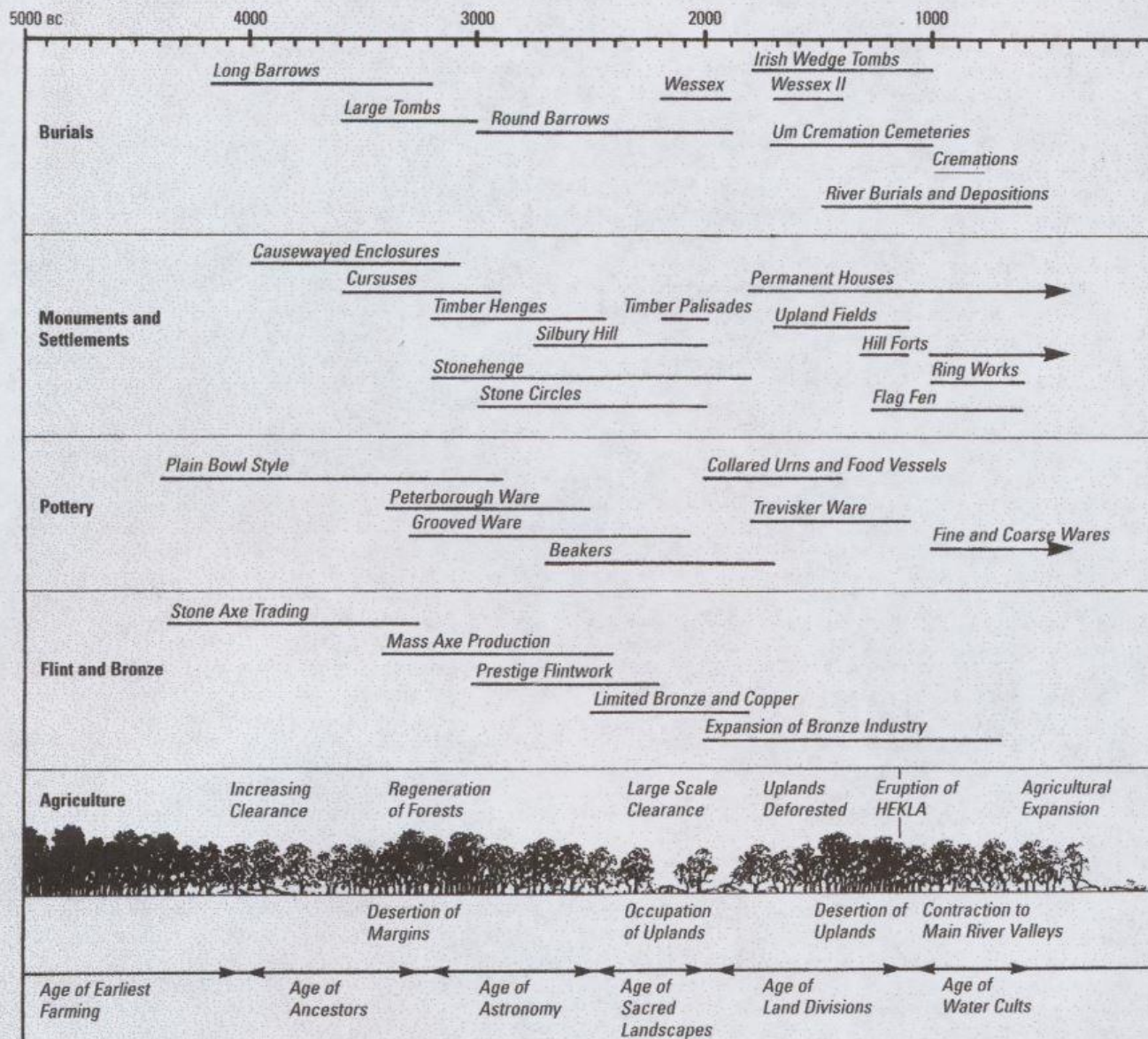


We can identify three great traditions, each replacing the other. Our technological framework of stone (Neolithic) and bronze has obscured these three ages, which may be defined in different terms. The first was the age of the ancestors, when communal tombs were built to consolidate the agricultural expansion and ensure continued fertility. The second age was the age of astronomy when great monuments were built to map the heavens. The third was the age of water cults, when weapons and wealth were destroyed in quantity.

—Michael Parker Pearson, Bronze Age Britain (2005)



# Timeline: Neolithic and Bronze Age



79 (above) Time chart showing main trends and changes.



remnant upper palaeolithic area

URALIANS

LAPPS

INDO-EUROPEANS

classical mesolithic cultures

CAUCASIANS

ELAMO-DRAVIDIANS

proto-agricultural zone

AFRO-ASIATICS

NILO-SAHARANS

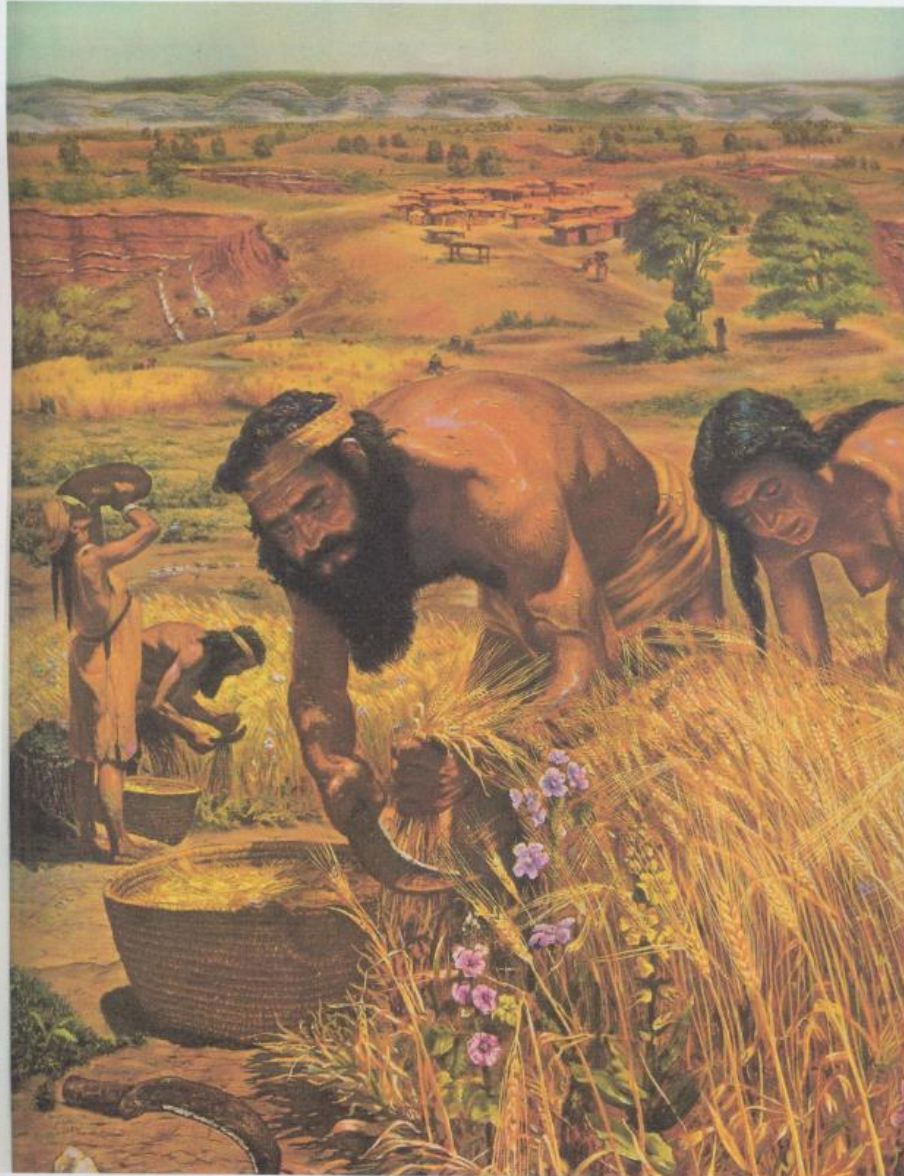
WEST MEDITERRANEANS

9000 BC  
settlements harvesting cereals

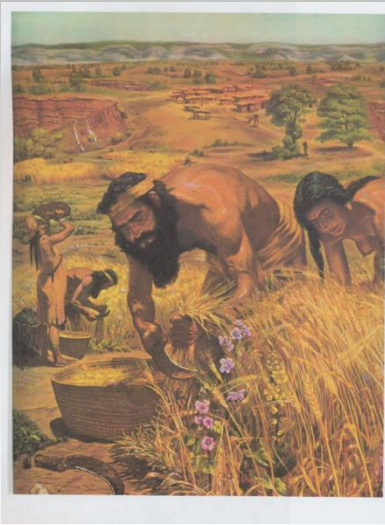
NIGER-CONGOLESE



**“By the sweat of thy brow....”**



**Less fun than hunting, but far more productive.**



**Important note for the OLLI class! Remember this.**

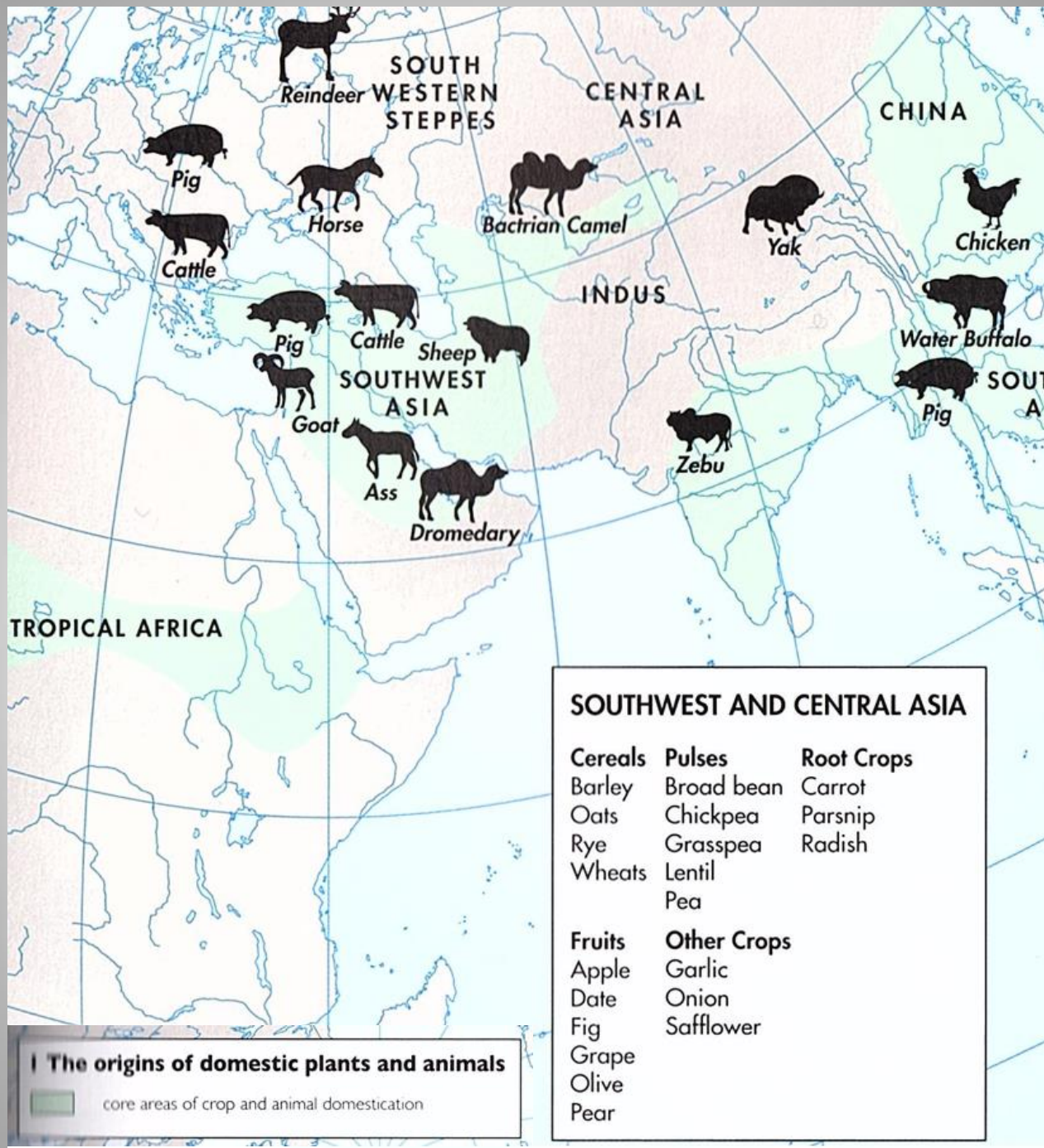
—In British English, the word “corn” has a different meaning.

**Corn = Grain (wheat, barley, rye, oats)**

....not just **maize**, which is the American English use of the word!

So if you’re reading about the British “Corn Laws” of the 1830s, or a British book describing the ancient Roman army’s corn rations, don’t think about maize.










### 1 The spread of agricultural settlement

 main routes of agrarian expansion  
 dates of agricultural settlement (based on tree-ring corrected radiocarbon dating)  
 by 7000 BC  
 7000-6000 BC  
 6000-5000 BC  
 5000-3000 BC  
 3000-2000 BC  
 bowl early farming groups  
 cultures  
 ● site of excavated farming village  
 Hembury  
 SPAIN modern state names







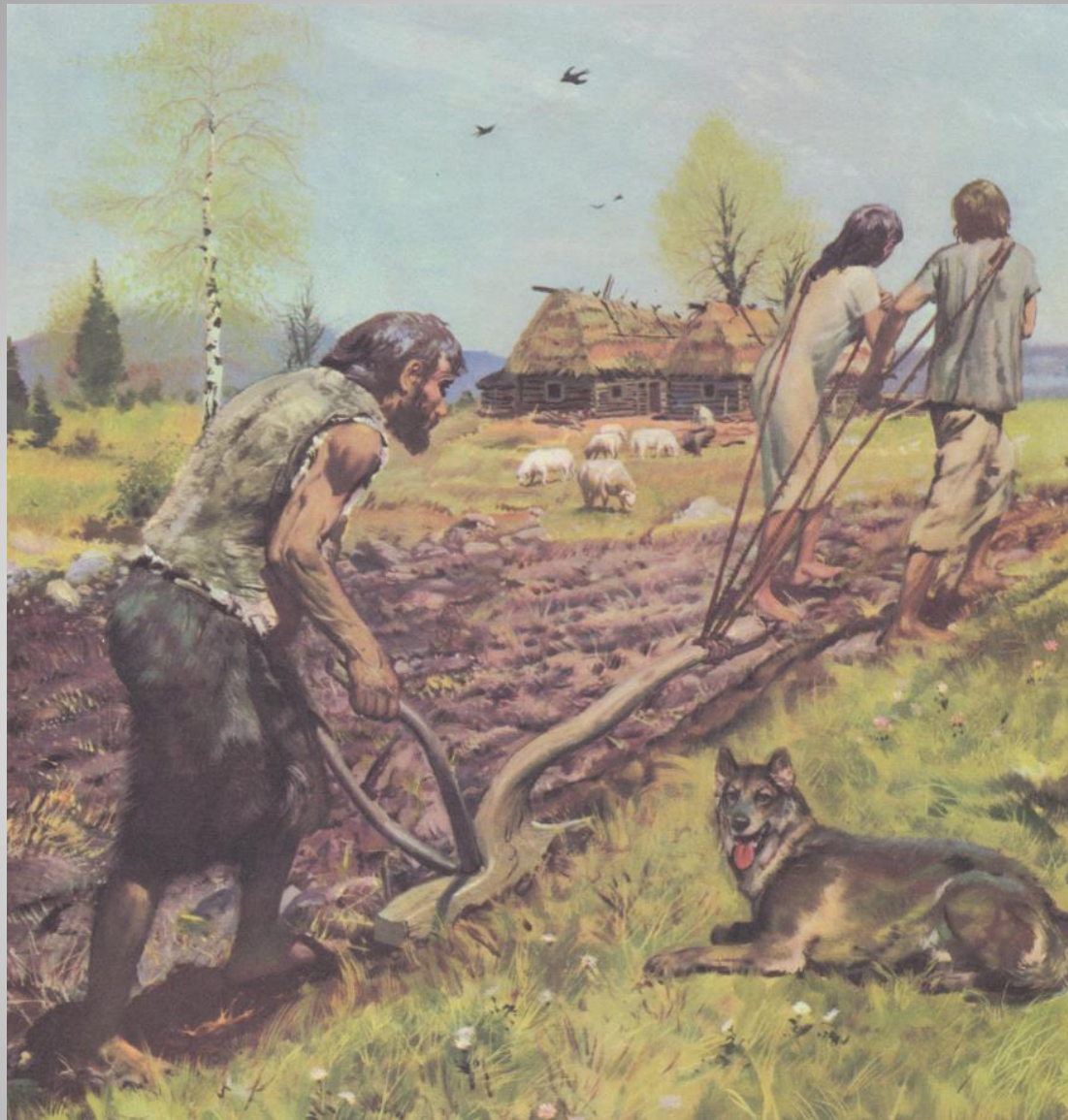
5500 BC

NIGER-CONGOLESE

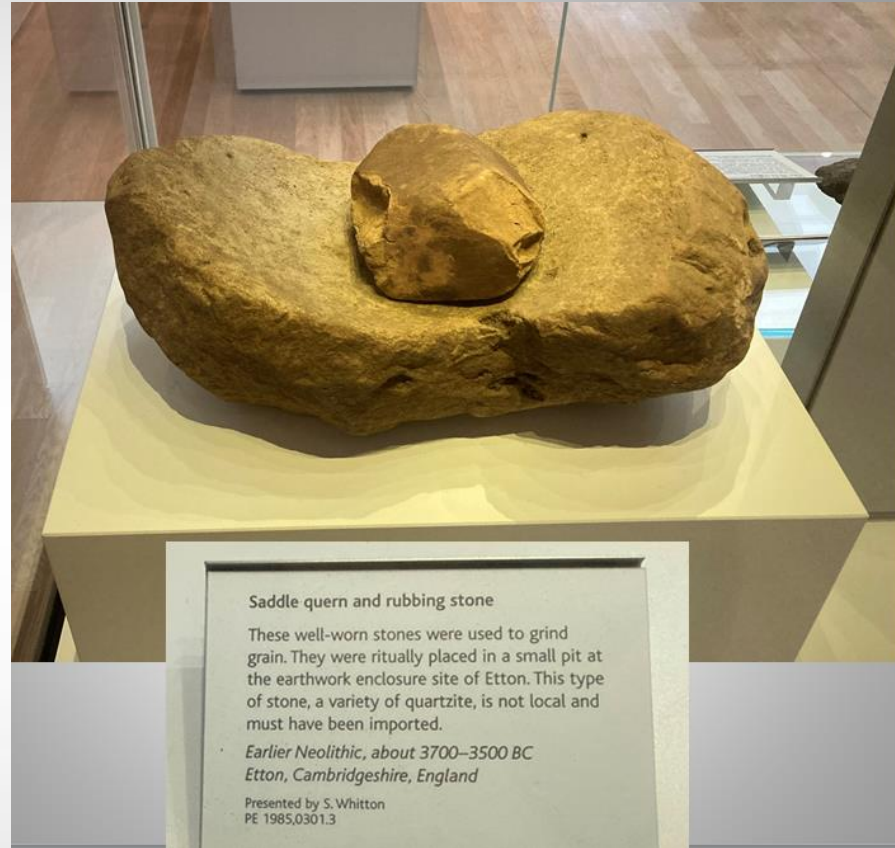








The ard is a simple light plough without a mouldboard.  
It scratches the surface and does not turn a furrow.



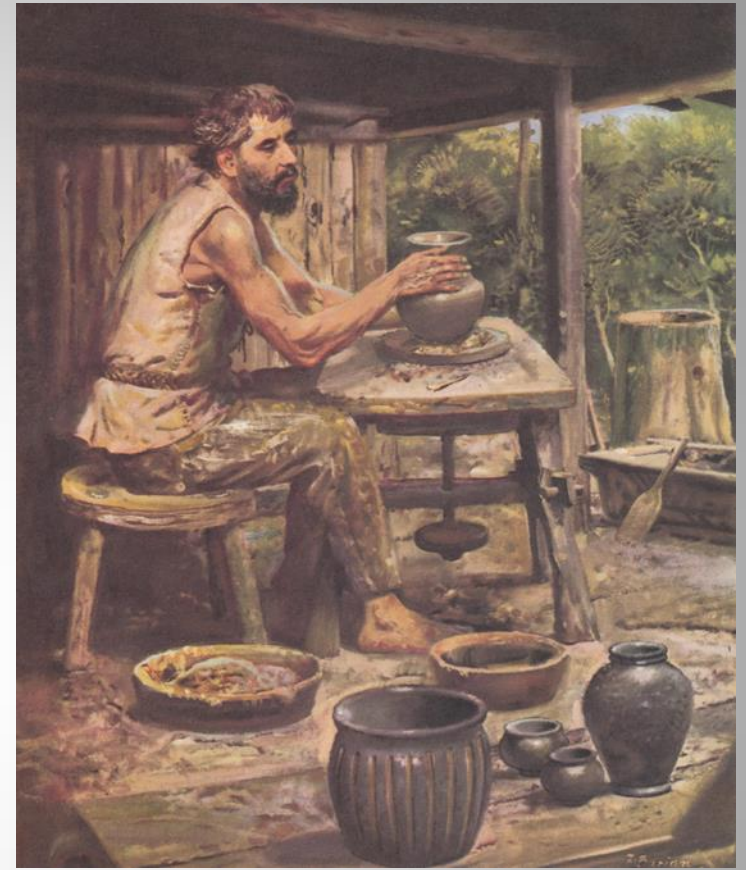
**Saddle quern and rubbing stone**

These well-worn stones were used to grind grain. They were ritually placed in a small pit at the earthwork enclosure site of Etton. This type of stone, a variety of quartzite, is not local and must have been imported.

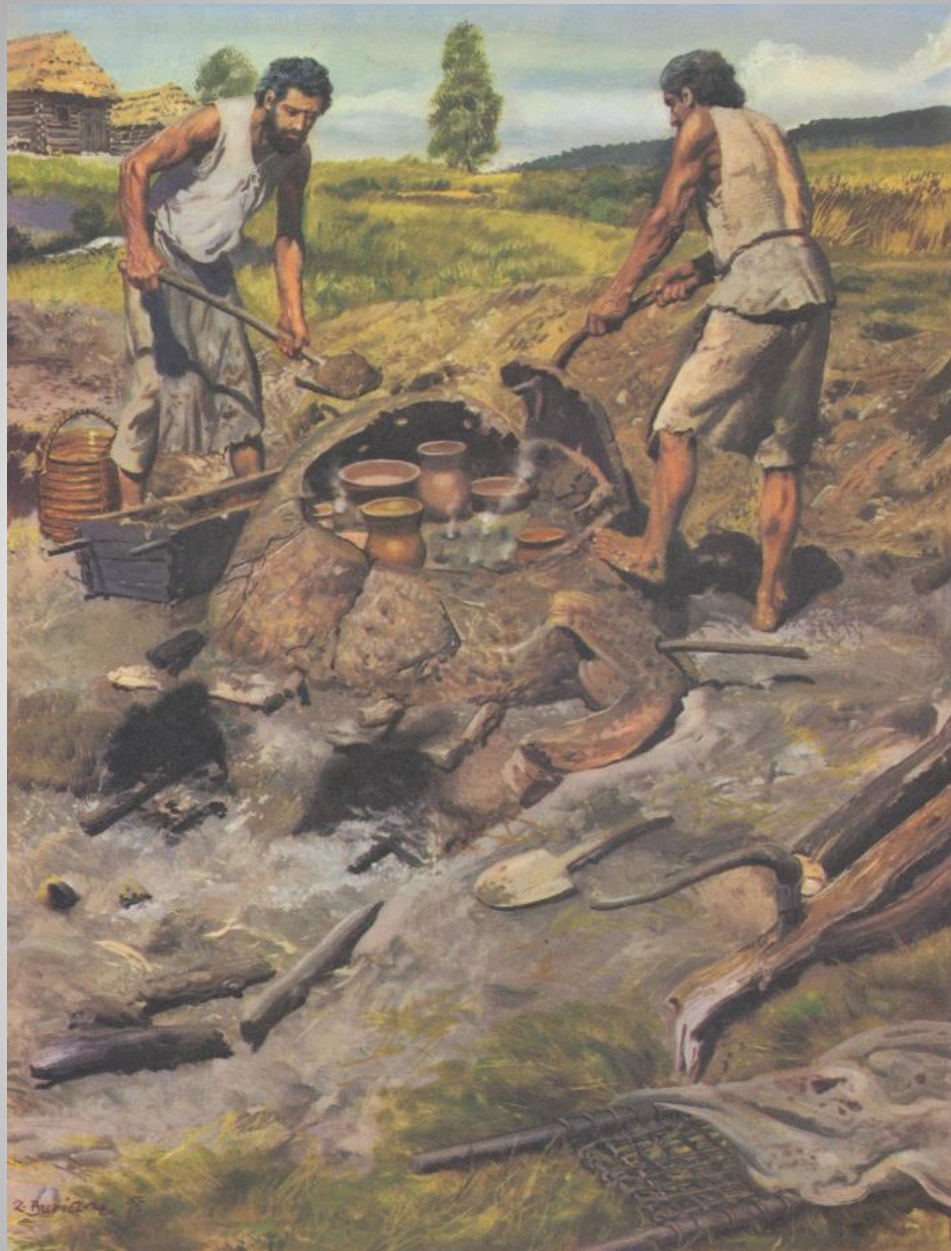
*Earlier Neolithic, about 3700–3500 BC  
Etton, Cambridgeshire, England*

Presented by S. Whitton  
PE 1985.0301.3





Pottery was made by hand; the potter's wheel was invented in the ancient Near East, but did not reach Britain until the late Iron Age.



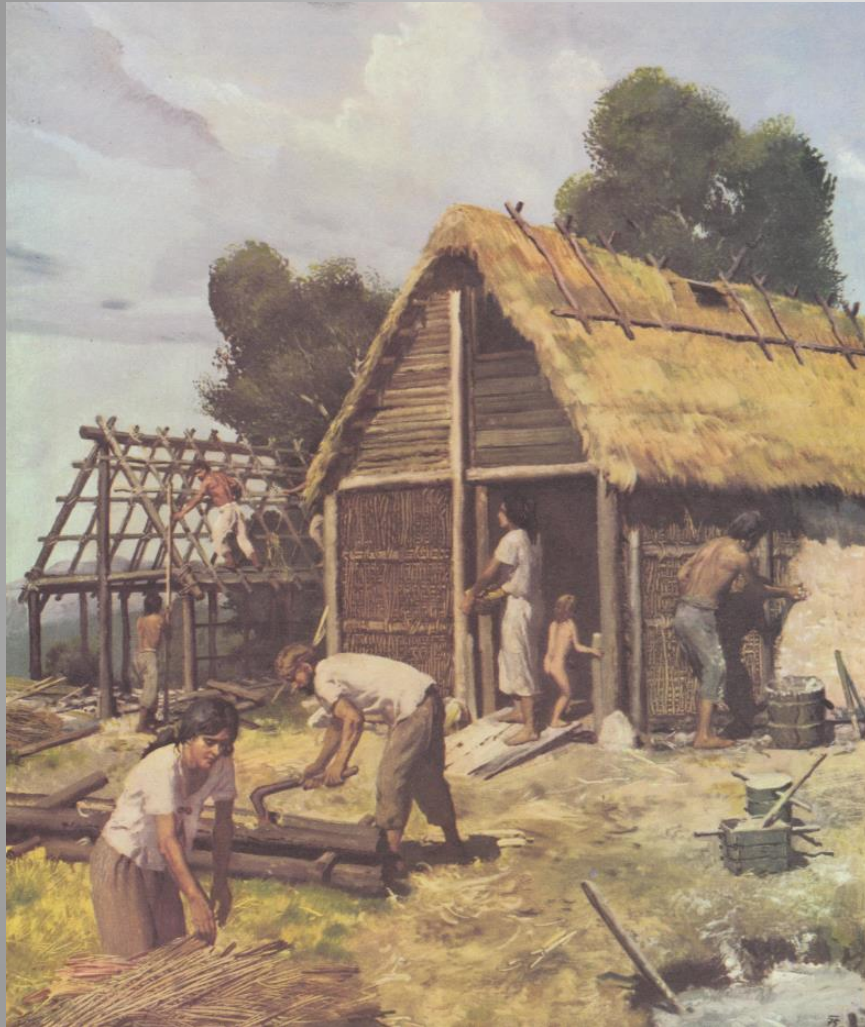
Early potter's kilns produced the necessary temperature.





Weaving may have been practiced in Paleolithic (Ice Age) times, and was widely practiced in the Neolithic period.





*House-building in prehistoric Europe: pitched roofs and wattle-and-daub walls were necessary to withstand a rainy climate.*



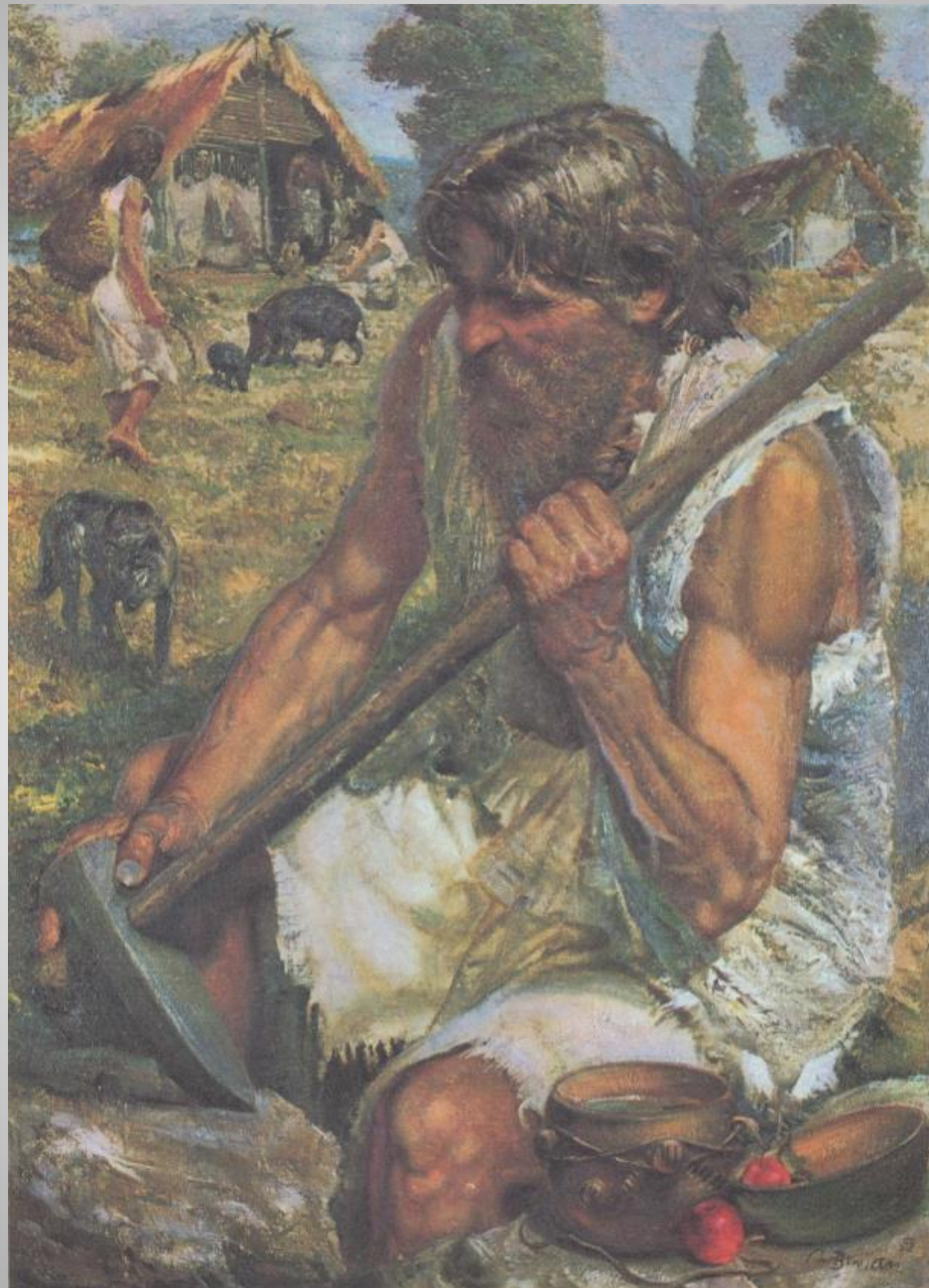
*In the Danubian Neolithic, decoration, on pottery and textiles as well as on walls, suggest that thought was beginning to be exercised beyond the bare necessities of existence.*

**In Neolithic Europe, house construction made use of wood, mud, and thatch.**






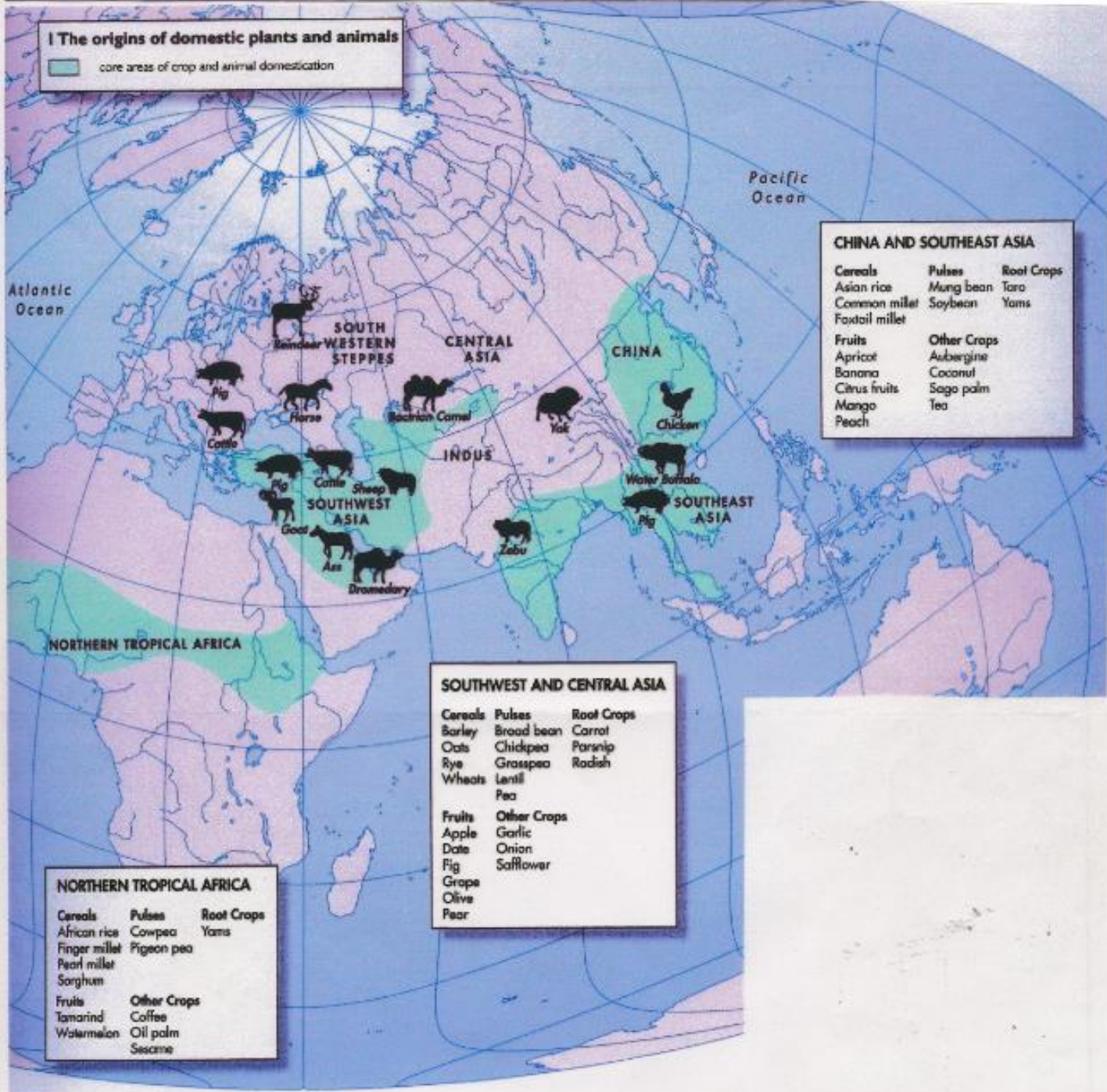
**The herding of livestock was as important as the growing of crops.**





# I The origins of domestic plants and animals

 core areas of crop and animal domestication



## CHINA AND SOUTHWEST ASIA

| Cereals        | Pulses      | Root Crops |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| Asian rice     | Mung bean   | Taro       |
| Common millet  | Soybean     | Yams       |
| Foxtail millet |             |            |
| Fruits         | Other Crops |            |
| Apricot        | Aubergine   |            |
| Banana         | Coconut     |            |
| Citrus fruits  | Sago palm   |            |
| Mango          | Tea         |            |
| Peach          |             |            |

## SOUTHWEST AND CENTRAL ASIA


| Cereals | Pulses      | Root Crops |
|---------|-------------|------------|
| Barley  | Broad bean  | Carrot     |
| Oats    | Chickpea    | Parsnip    |
| Rye     | Grasspea    | Radish     |
| Wheats  | Lentil      |            |
|         | Pea         |            |
| Fruits  | Other Crops |            |
| Apple   | Garlic      |            |
| Date    | Onion       |            |
| Fig     | Safflower   |            |
| Grape   |             |            |
| Olive   |             |            |
| Pear    |             |            |

## NORTHERN TROPICAL AFRICA

| Cereals       | Pulses      | Root Crops |
|---------------|-------------|------------|
| African rice  | Cowpea      | Yams       |
| Finger millet | Pigeon pea  |            |
| Pearl millet  |             |            |
| Sorghum       |             |            |
| Fruits        | Other Crops |            |
| Tamarind      | Coffee      |            |
| Watermelon    | Oil palm    |            |
|               | Secame      |            |



# 1 The origins of domestic plants and animals to 4000 bc

 the origins of domestic plants and animals to 4000 bc

**MESOAMERICA**

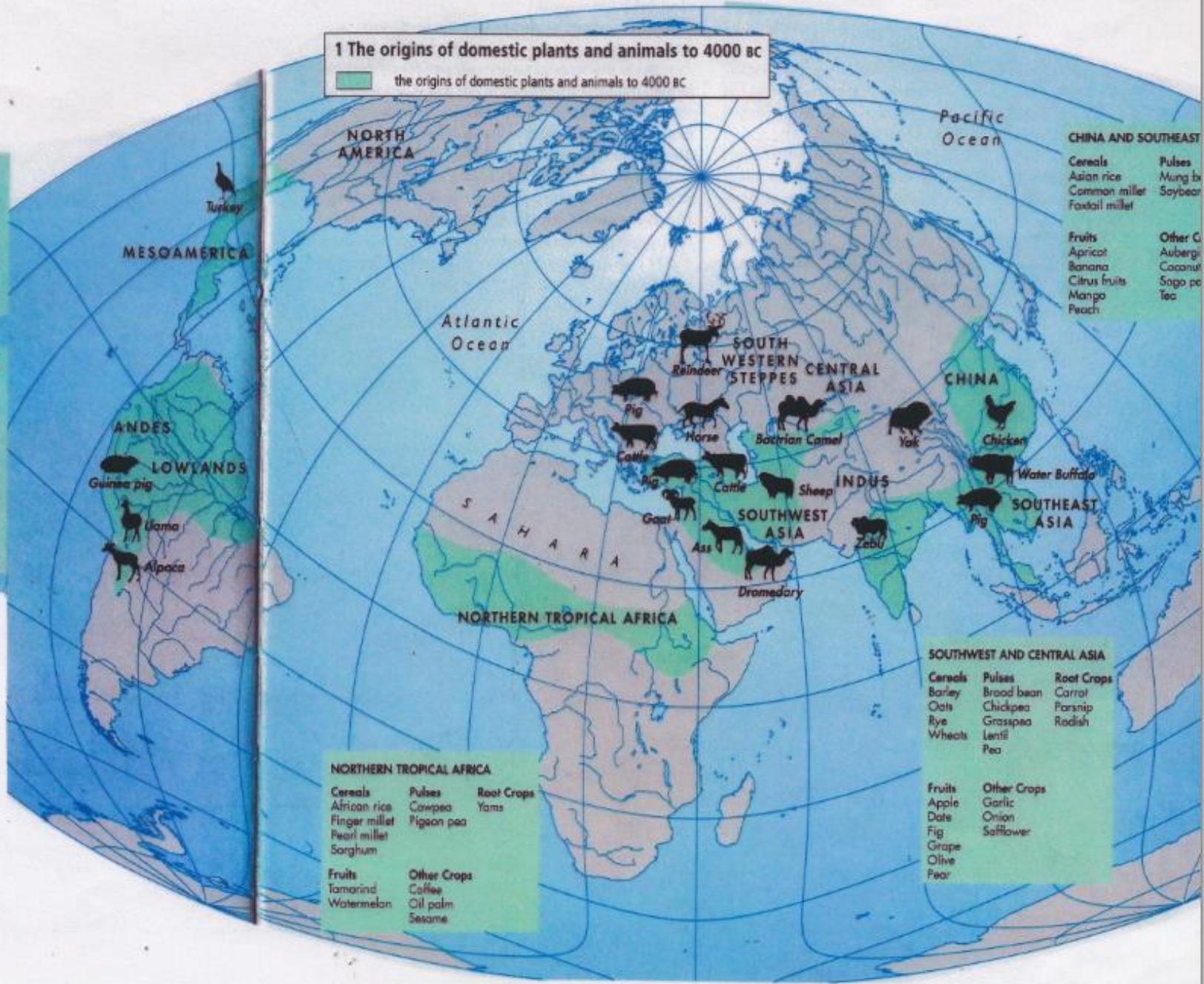
|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Cereals</b> | <b>Pulses</b>      |
| Maize          | Common bean        |
| Teosinte       | Runner bean        |
|                | Tepary bean        |
| <b>Fruits</b>  | <b>Other Crops</b> |
| Avocado        | Chilli pepper      |
| Tomato         | Squashes           |

**NORTHERN SOUTH AMERICA**

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| <b>Pulses</b> | <b>Root Crops</b>  |
| Common bean   | Manioc             |
| Lima bean     | Potato             |
|               | Sweet Potato       |
|               | Yam                |
| <b>Fruits</b> | <b>Other Crops</b> |
| Guava         | Cashew             |
| Pineapple     | Chilli pepper      |
| Soursop       | Cocoa              |
| Sweetpot      | Peanut             |
|               | Quinoa             |
|               | Squashes           |

**CHINA AND SOUTHEAST**

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Cereals</b> | <b>Pulses</b>  |
| Asian rice     | Mung bean      |
| Common millet  | Soybean        |
| Foxtail millet |                |
| <b>Fruits</b>  | <b>Other C</b> |
| Apricot        | Aubergine      |
| Banana         | Coconut        |
| Citrus fruits  | Sago palm      |
| Mango          | Tea            |
| Peach          |                |



Atlantic Ocean

Pacific Ocean

**NORTH AMERICA**

**MESOAMERICA**

**ANDES**

**LOWLANDS**

**S A H A R A**

**NORTHERN TROPICAL AFRICA**

**SOUTH WESTERN STEPPES**

**CENTRAL ASIA**

**CHINA**

**SOUTHEAST ASIA**

**INDUS**

**SOUTHWEST ASIA**

**SOUTHWEST AND CENTRAL ASIA**

**NORTHERN TROPICAL AFRICA**

|                |                    |                   |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Cereals</b> | <b>Pulses</b>      | <b>Root Crops</b> |
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| Pearl millet   |                    |                   |
| Sorghum        |                    |                   |
| <b>Fruits</b>  | <b>Other Crops</b> |                   |
| Tamarind       | Coffee             |                   |
| Watermelon     | Oil palm           |                   |
|                | Sesame             |                   |

|                |               |                   |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
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|                | Pea           |                   |

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
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| Apple         | Garlic             |
| Date          | Onion              |
| Fig           | Safflower          |
| Grape         |                    |
| Olive         |                    |
| Pear          |                    |

Turkey

Guinea pig

Ulama

Alpaca

Pig

Cattle

Pig

Goat

Horse

Cattle

Sheep

Reindeer

Pig

Cattle

Ass

Dromedary

Bactrian Camel

Sheep

Yak

Chicken

Water Buffalo

Pig

Zebu



# 1 The origins of domestic plants and animals to 4000 BC



the origins of domestic plants and animals to 4000 BC

## MESOAMERICA

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Cereals</b> | <b>Pulses</b> |
| Maize          | Common bean   |
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|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
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## NORTHERN SOUTH AMERICA

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|               |                    |
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| Pineapple     | Chili pepper       |
| Soursop       | Cocoa              |
| Sweetsop      | Peanut             |
|               | Quinoa             |
|               | Squashes           |



**Forms of Biological Life Going From:**

**Old World to New World:**

**New World to Old World:**

**Diseases:**

Smallpox  
 Measles  
 Chicken Pox  
 Malaria  
 Yellow Fever  
 Influenza  
 The Common Cold

Syphilis

**Animals:**

Horses  
 Cattle  
 Pigs  
 Sheep  
 Goats  
 Chickens

Turkeys  
 Llamas  
 Alpacas  
 Guinea Pigs

**Plants:**

Rice  
 Wheat  
 Barley  
 Oats  
 Coffee  
 Sugarcane  
 Bananas  
 Melons  
 Olives  
 Dandelions  
 Daisies  
 Clover  
 Ragweed  
 Kentucky Bluegrass

Corn (Maize)  
 Potatoes (White & Sweet Varieties)  
 Beans (Snap, Kidney, & Lima Varieties)  
 Tobacco  
 Peanuts  
 Squash  
 Peppers  
 Tomatoes  
 Pumpkins  
 Pineapples  
 Cacao (Source of Chocolate)  
 Chicle (Source of Chewing Gum)  
 Papayas  
 Manioc (Tapioca)  
 Guavas  
 Avocados



The  
**GREAT DIVIDE**




*Nature and Human Nature  
in the Old World and the New*






**PETER WATSON**




### 1 The spread of agricultural settlement

 main routes of agrarian expansion

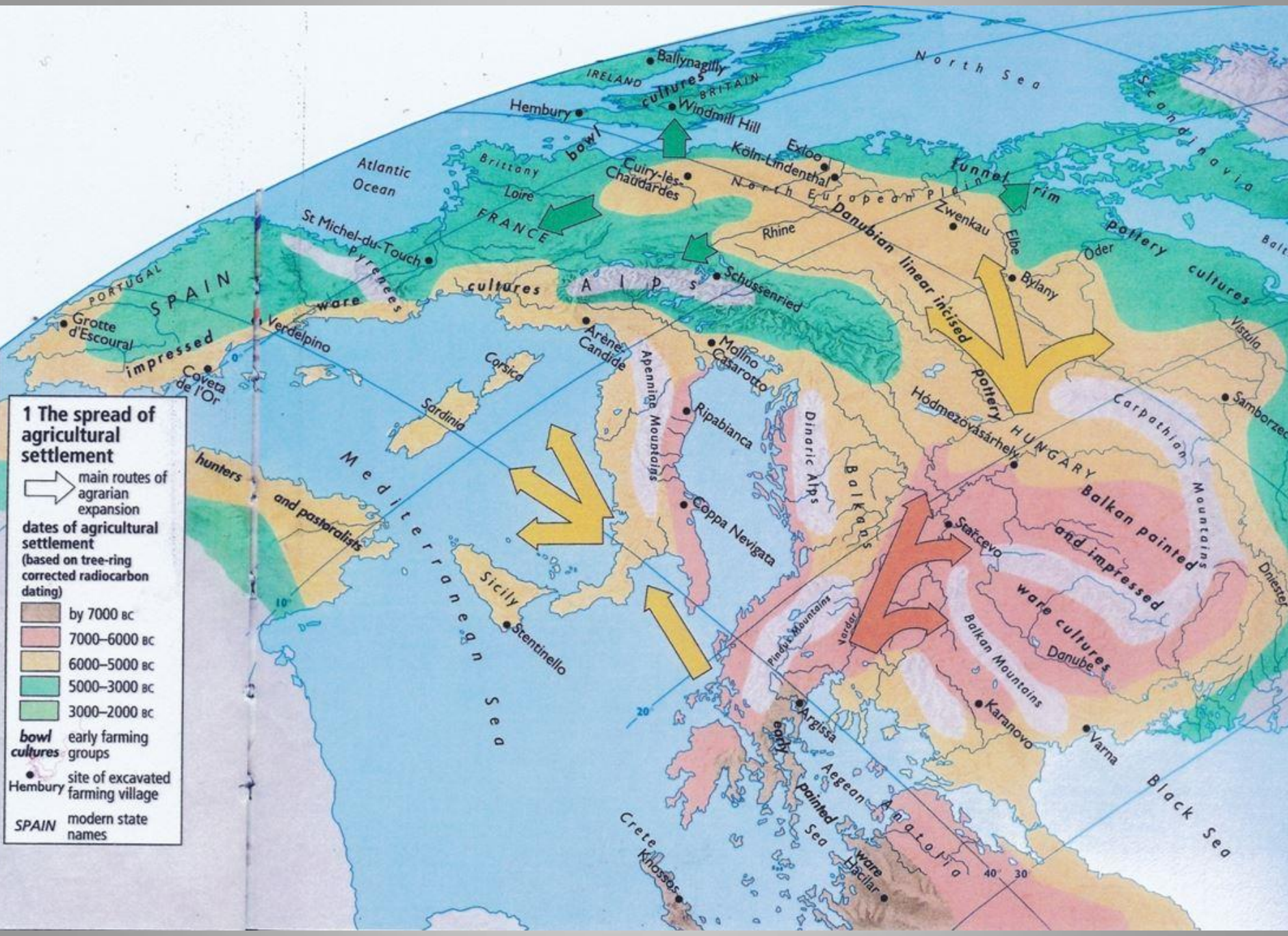
**dates of agricultural settlement**  
 (based on tree-ring corrected radiocarbon dating)

-  by 7000 BC
-  7000-6000 BC
-  6000-5000 BC
-  5000-3000 BC
-  3000-2000 BC

**bowl cultures** early farming groups

 site of excavated farming village  
 Hembury

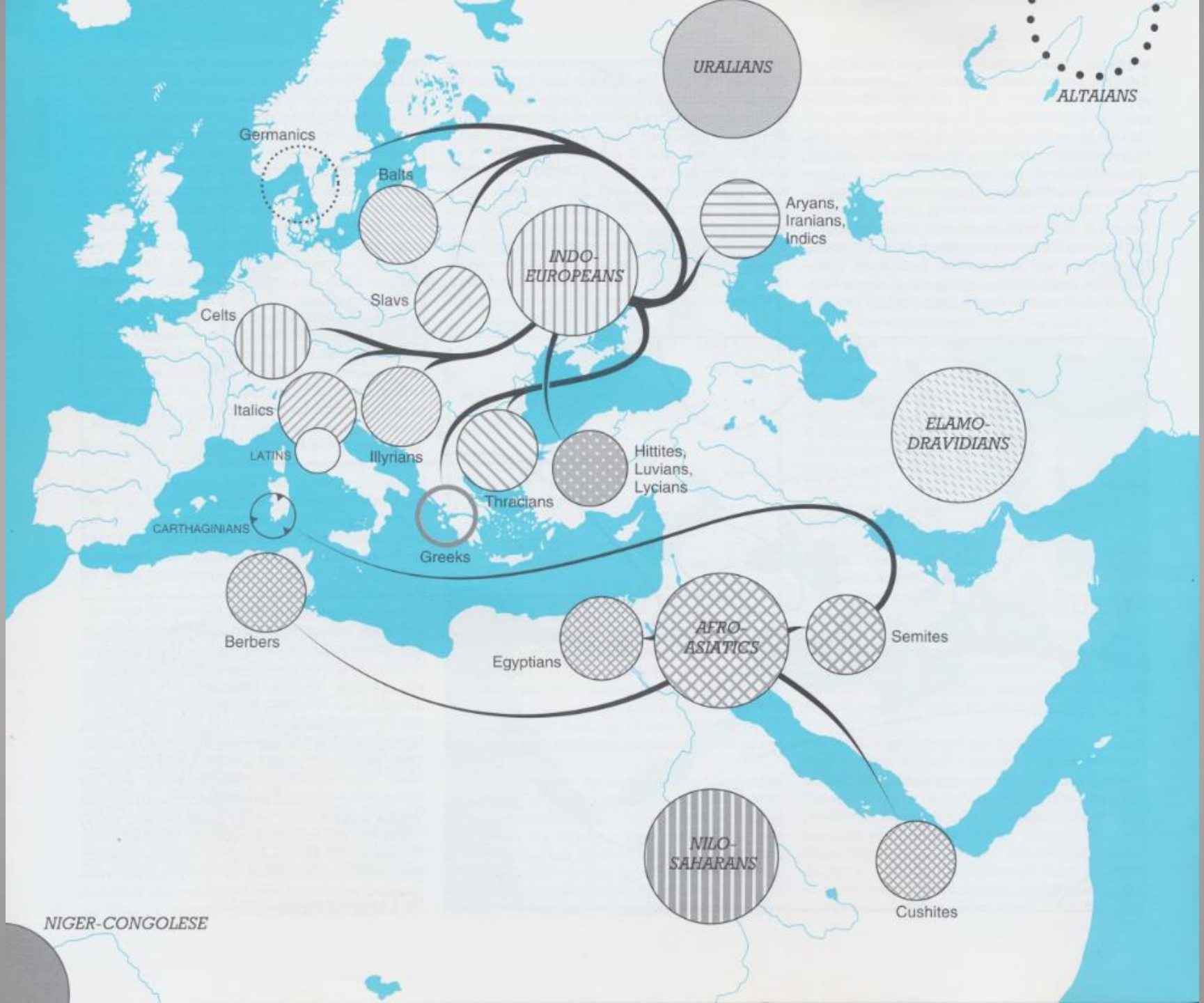
**SPAIN** modern state names







4000 BC



URALIANS

ALTAIANS

Germanics

Balts

INDO-EUROPEANS

Aryans, Iranians, Indics

Slavs

Celts

Italics

LATINS

Illyrians

Hittites, Luvians, Lycians

ELAMO-DRAVIDIANS

CARTHAGINIANS

Thracians

Greeks

Berbers

AFRO-ASIATICS

Semites

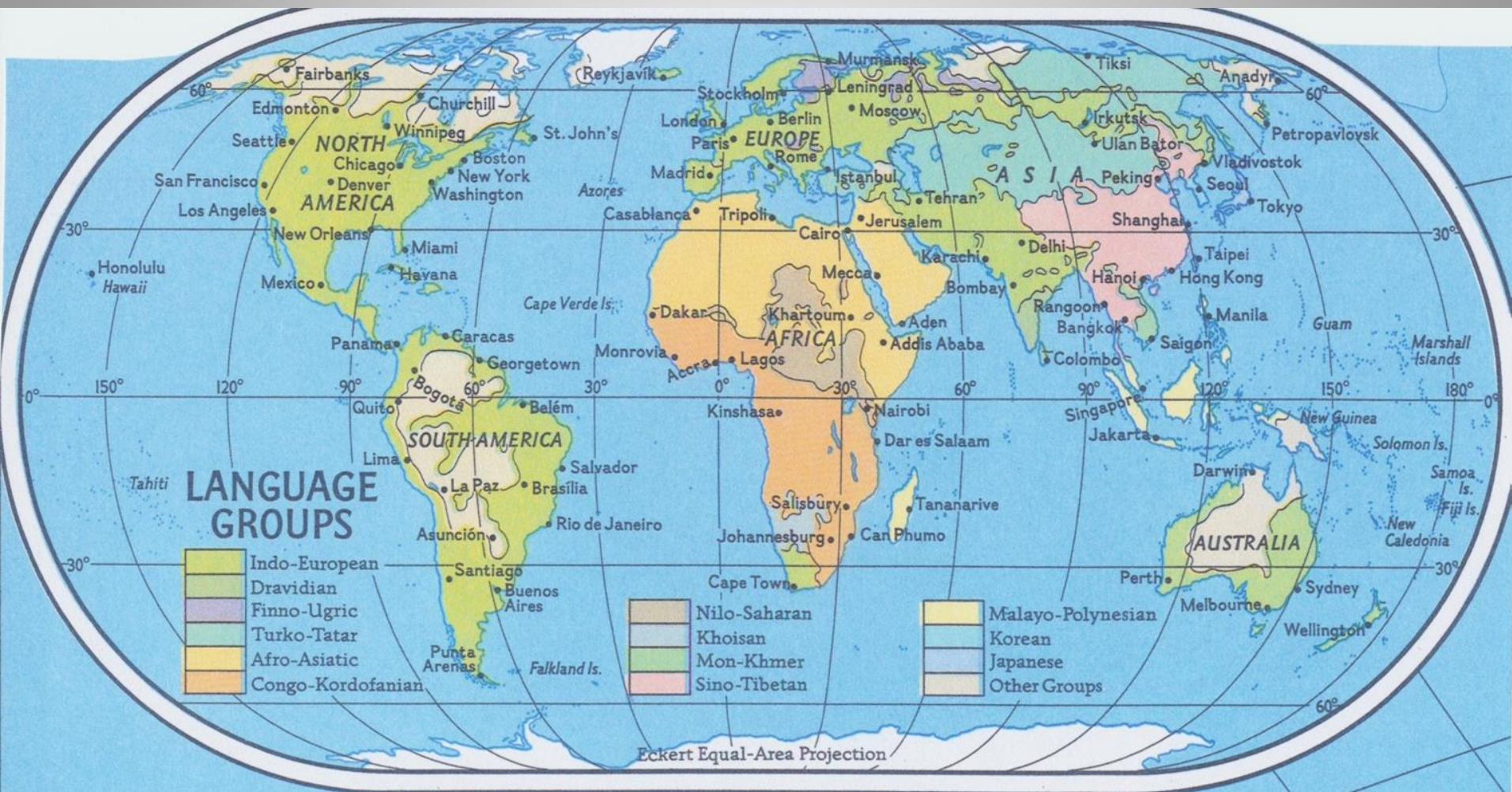
Egyptians

NILO-SAHARANS

Cushites

NIGER-CONGOLESE









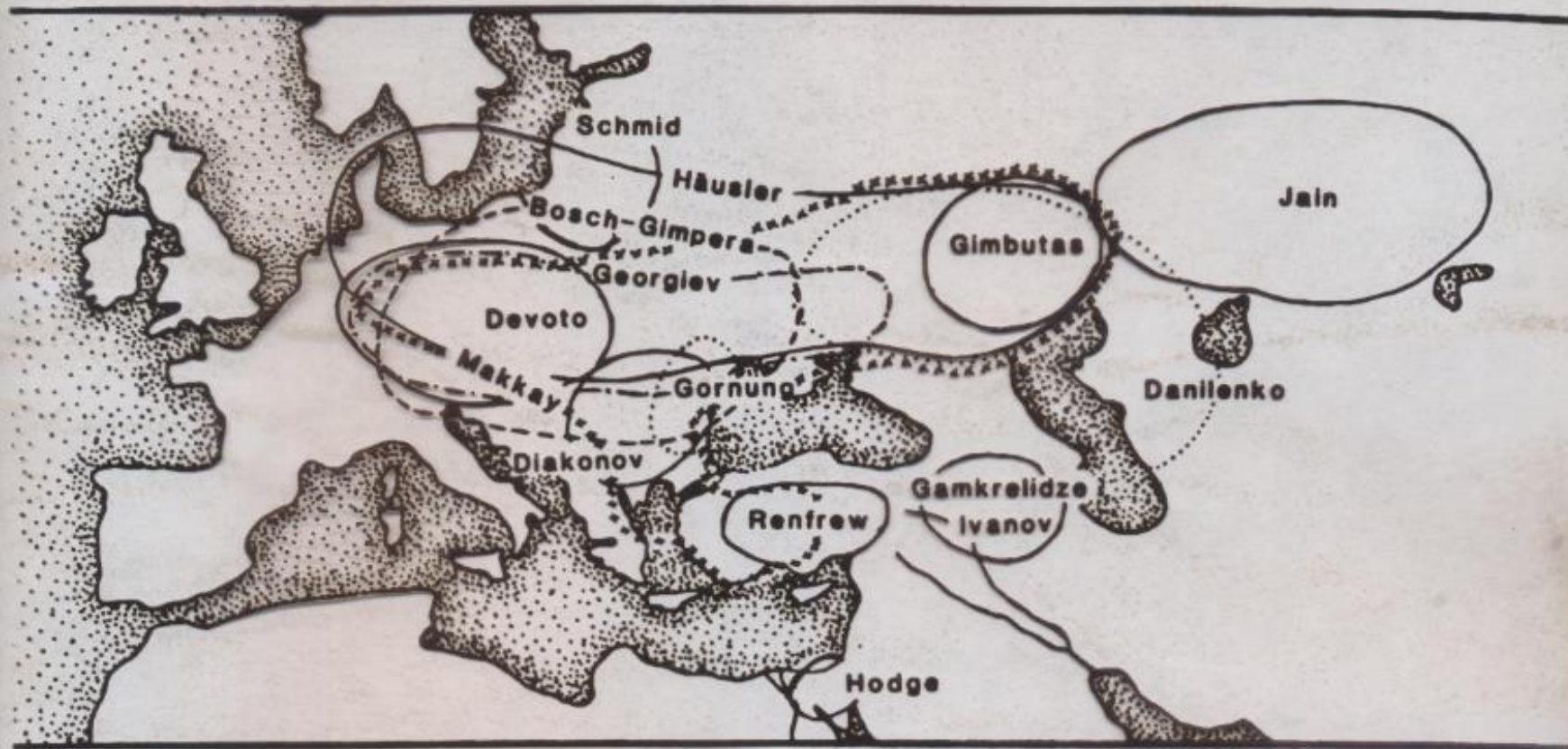


81 The historical expansion of the highly mobile Turks indicates how fast a language group might spread.



82 Distribution of the Uralic languages and their probable homeland.

# THE INDO-EUROPEAN HOMELAND PROBLEM



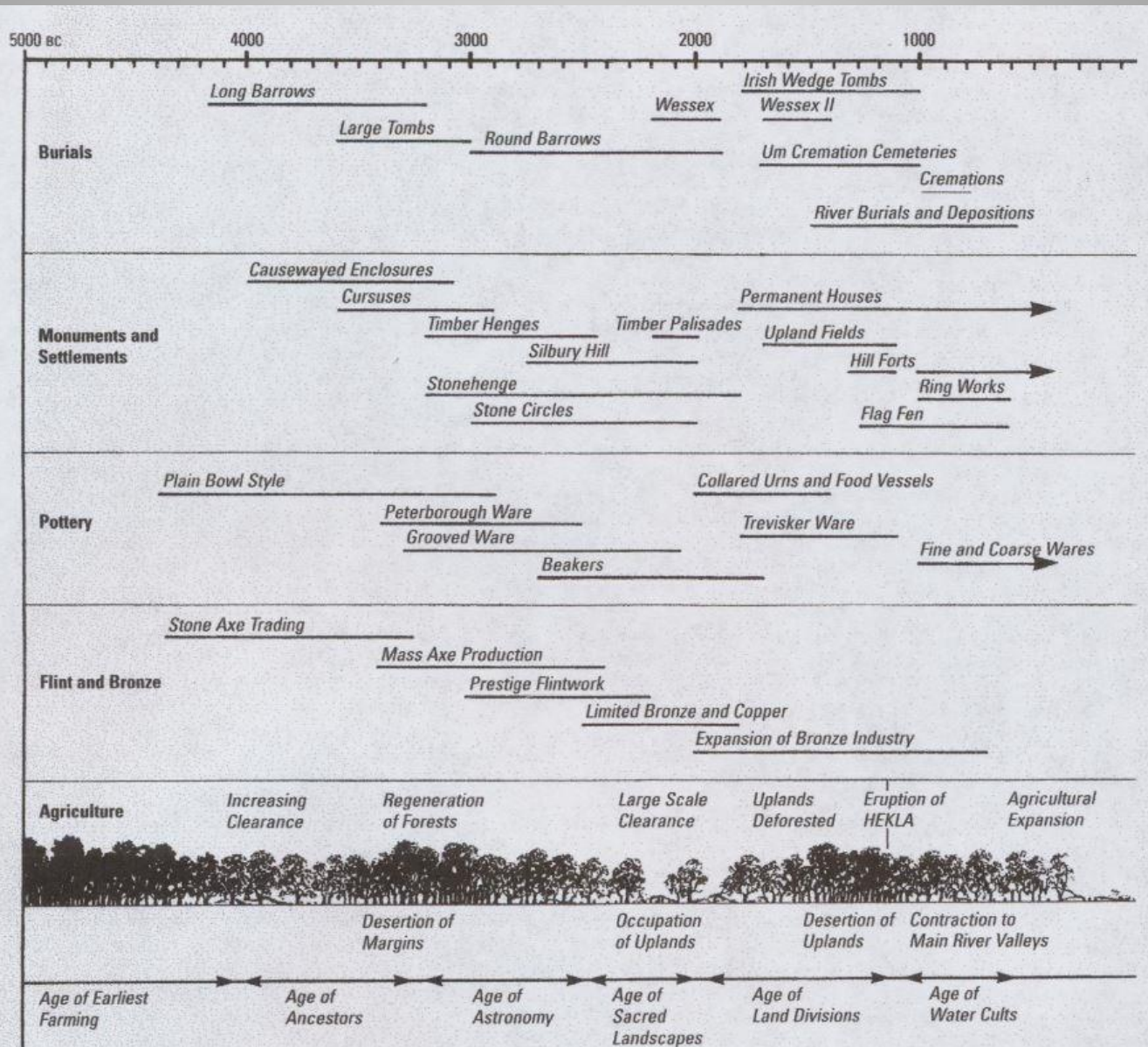
80 *The modern 'consensus': A map of some of the solutions to the Indo-European homeland problem proposed since 1960.*





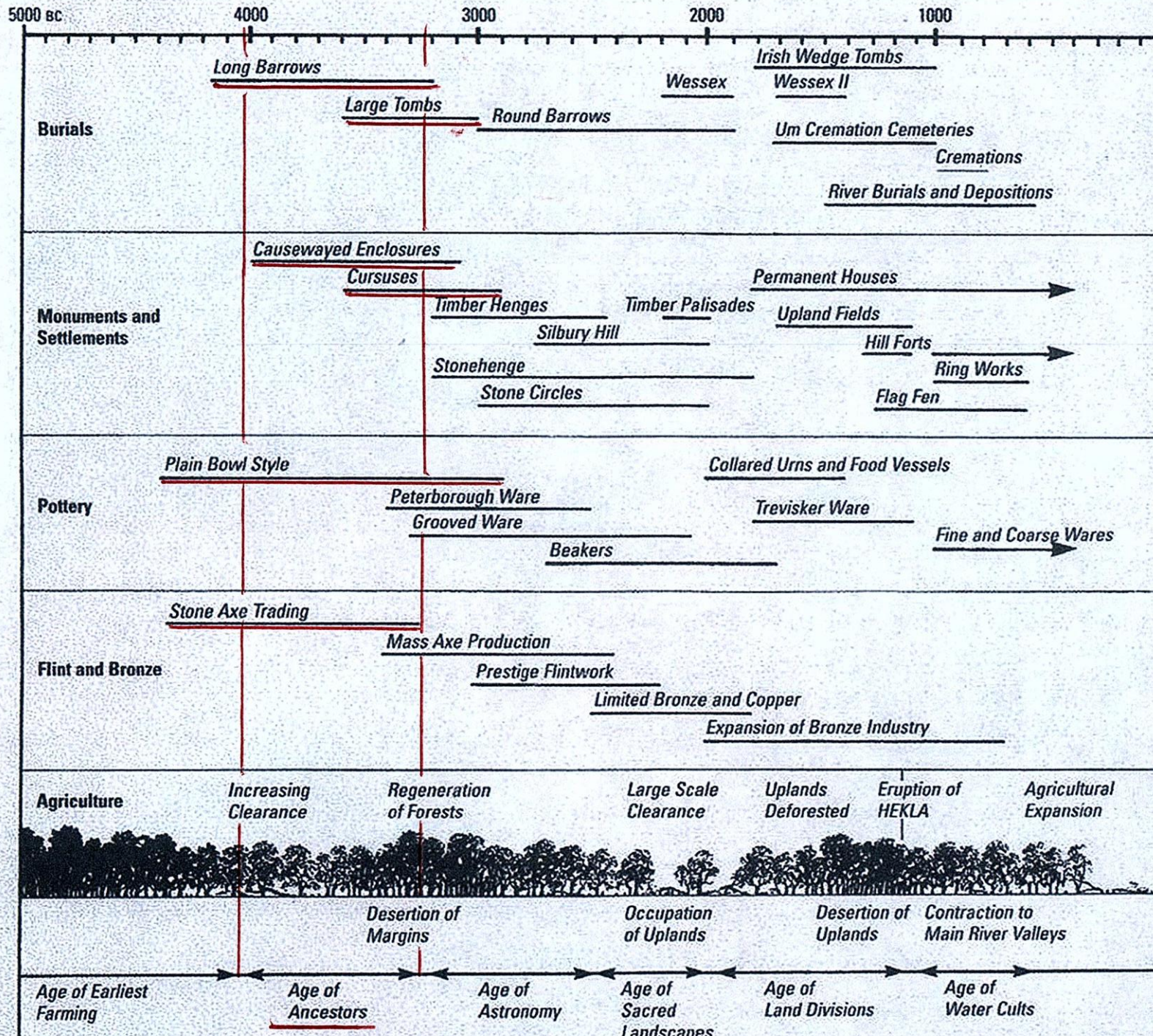
4000 BC

# Timeline: Neolithic and Bronze Age



79 (above) Time chart showing main trends and changes.







# Ancient Europe

4500–2500BC

## Making and shaping

Across Neolithic Europe people expressed themselves by decorating pottery in different ways.

In parts of eastern Europe painted styles of pottery appeared. Clay models of humans and animals played an important part in regional traditions.

Further west, for example in Britain and Ireland, people decorated their pots by incising and impressing marks into soft clay with a range of tools before it was fired. Although there are no clay models of humans or animals, a few examples of simple human figures in other materials, such as wood, survive from this period.





# Britain's first farmers

Farming arrived in Britain around 4000 BC. Small migrant groups of people moved west across Europe bringing the knowledge of farming with them.

The first farmers brought a package of new technologies including the making of pottery and polished stone axes. The newcomers also brought seed corn and the first domesticated animals to these islands. About 200 years after their arrival farmers began building substantial houses, suggesting that a settled way of life was taking hold.

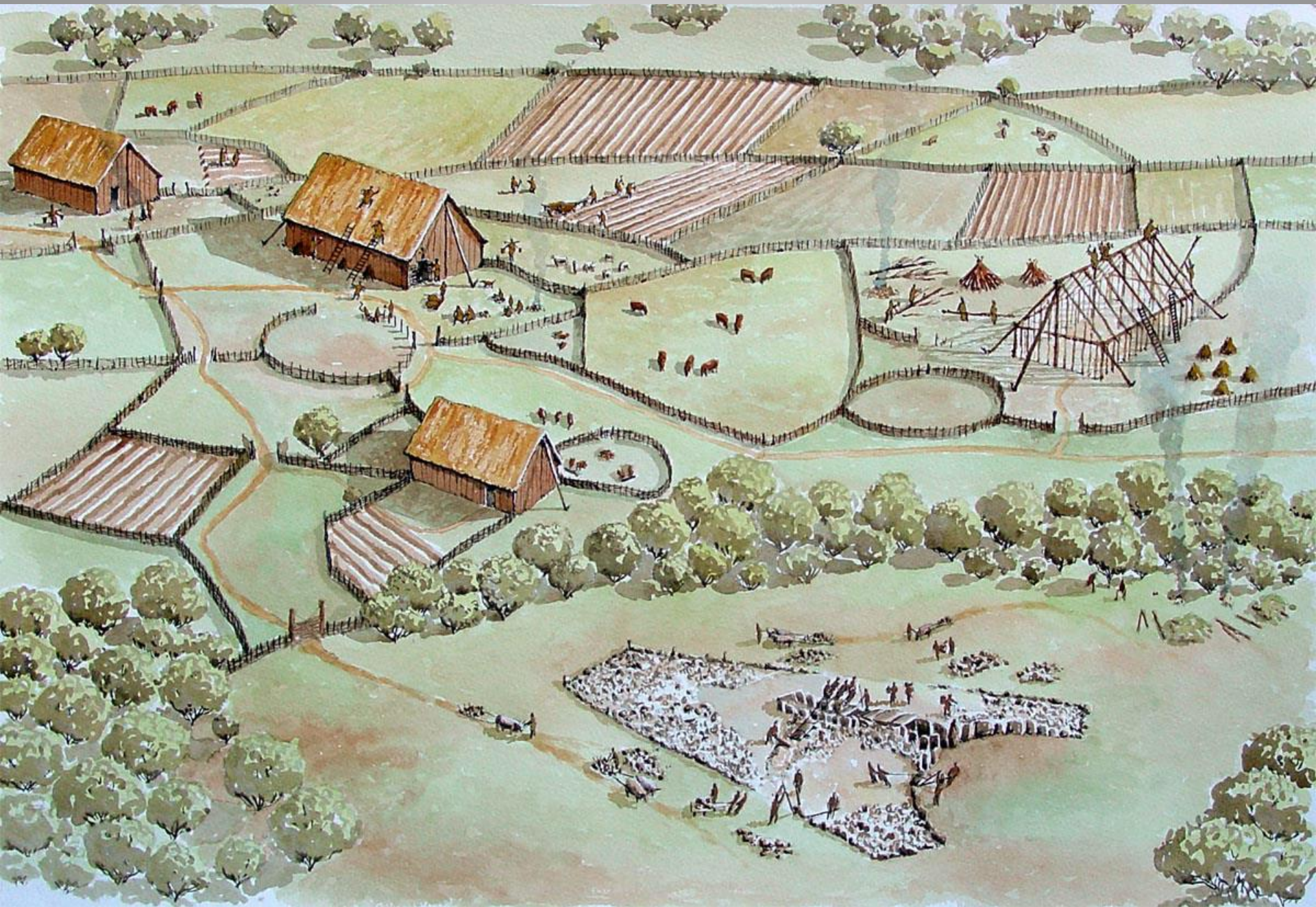
Archaeologists refer to the time of early farming as the Neolithic period.



Reconstruction of the timber building at Balbridie, near Aberdeen, Scotland as it might have looked at the time of the early farmers

Drawing by David Hogg, courtesy of Gordon Barclay









### Decorated vessels

The decoration of British Neolithic pottery relied on techniques other than painting. Some later styles have heavy rims and richly textured decoration executed before firing. Distinctive styles reflect regional preferences.

*Earlier Neolithic, about 3700–3300 BC;*

*Later Neolithic, about 3300–2700 BC;*

*Lion Point, Clacton, Essex; Etton, Cambridgeshire;*

*River Thames at Hedsor, Buckinghamshire, England*

PE 1958,0506.210 presented by S. Hazzledine Warren;  
1985,0301.2 presented by S. Whitton; 1921,0315.1  
presented by Lord Boston

3

### Axes

Axes were useful tools as well as powerful symbols of maleness and social standing. Fine axes were traded and gifted across long distances because of their desirability and the status they conferred. Their meaning can change through time and space as they are worked into the myths and histories of individuals and communities.



Distinctive axeheads with pointed butts and wide blades carved on upright slabs in the chambered tomb at Gavrinis, Morbihan, Brittany, France, about 4000–3500 BC  
akg-images/Erich Lessing

### 3 Axehead with button-shaped butt

This axe type is alien to Britain and must have been imported. It probably originated from a production area near Sélédin, Brittany where such axes were manufactured from about 3300 BC. This axe was found deeply buried during construction work. Like the jade examples, it was not meant for practical use and its function was symbolic or ceremonial.

*Date of deposition uncertain  
Pulborough, Sussex, England*

PE 1959,0211.1

### 4 Stone and flint axes

These axes were robust working tools. Experiments have shown that tools like these were efficient in the felling and working of timber. They came in various shapes and sizes, from heavy-duty axes and adzes to more slender, chisel-like shapes.

*Neolithic, about 4000–2500 BC  
Westmoreland, Cumbria; Southwold, Suffolk;  
Grantchester, Cambridgeshire, England*

*St. 104.P presented by the Christy Fund; PE 1928,0412.1  
presented by E.H. Runnacles; Sturge 242 Sturge Bequest*

4







Object removed for exhibition preparations.

**The world of Stonehenge**

Exhibition / 17 Feb 2022 - 17 Jul 2022

**Early stage axe roughout, hammerstone, flakes and axe roughout**

The large number of roughly shaped axes found here, and the manufacturing debris, indicate this was an important Neolithic quarry site. Axes from this source were heavily used locally, but some reached other regions, notably the Peak District, Yorkshire and the Midlands.

*Neolithic, from about 3900 BC,  
Graig Lwyd, Caernarvonshire, Gwynedd, Wales*

Bequeathed by S. Hazledine Warren  
PE 1958,0506.5513, 5429, 5344, 5345, 5556



### Saddle quern and rubbing stone

These well-worn stones were used to grind grain. They were ritually placed in a small pit at the earthwork enclosure site of Etton. This type of stone, a variety of quartzite, is not local and must have been imported.

*Earlier Neolithic, about 3700–3500 BC  
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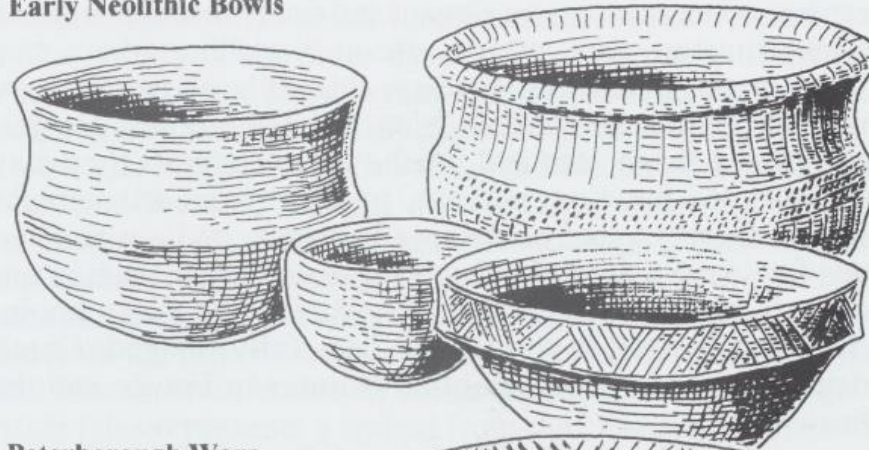
Presented by S. Whitton  
PE 1985,0301.3



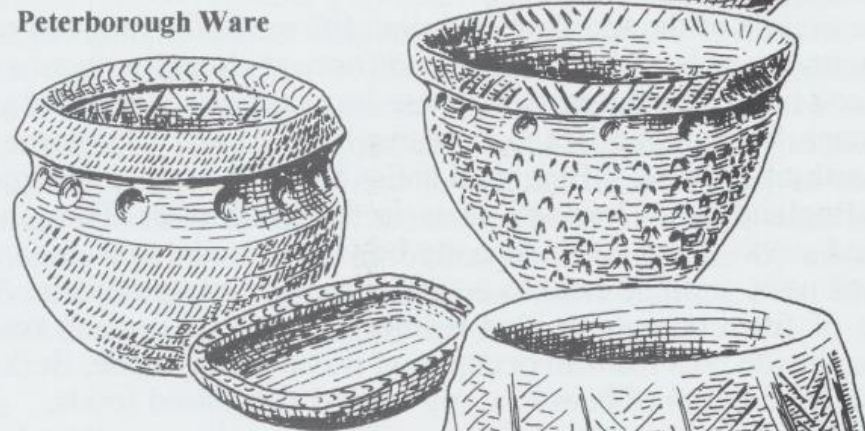


*Pottery and tools of the period before Stonehenge. The pottery (top) imitates earlier leather vessels (Devizes Museum). Axes were usually made of polished flint (bottom), but could also be of imported volcanic stone (centre) from western Britain (Salisbury Museum). Tools for working leather and textiles (lower right) were carved from antler or bone (Avebury Museum)*

### Early Neolithic Bowls



### Peterborough Ware



### Grooved Ware







**6.12** The two maps display contrasting distributions. The left-hand map shows the distribution of stone circles, while the right-hand map shows the distribution of the highly distinctive Grooved Ware. The two are broadly contemporary and suggest an east–west divide in Britain at this time

**Ulster** Major centre of Earlier Neolithic activity

— Main distribution of long mounds and cairns

— Main distribution of passage graves

■ Burial monument

☼ Rock art

□ Main distribution of causewayed enclosures

● Flint mine

**Anglesey** Major centre of Later Neolithic activity

⌒ Settlement

≡ Linear monument

■ Main distribution of henge monuments


⊕ Enclosure or stone circle

⚒ Axe quarry

**WESSEX** Major centre throughout the Neolithic



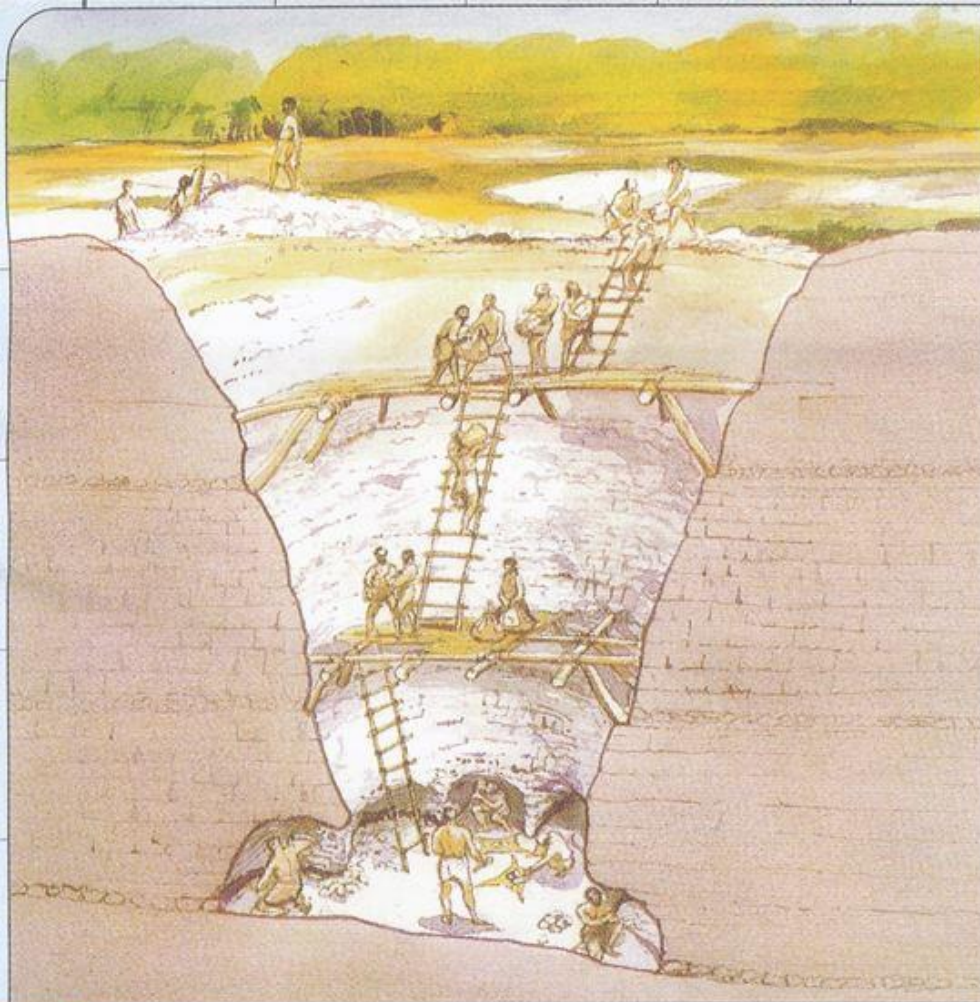


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- ◻ Main distribution of causewayed enclosures
- 🪨 Flint mine 

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- ▨ Main distribution of henge monuments
- 🌀 Enclosure or stone circle
- 🪨 Axe quarry
- WESSEX** Major centre throughout the Neolithic







### **Grime's Graves** (*English Heritage*)

Grime's Graves is one of just 11 Neolithic flint mines known in the British Isles, and the only one where visitors can descend into a mine shaft for a glimpse underground. Dating from 4,000 to 5,000 years ago, the shafts were dug with antler picks to reach flint seams buried beneath up to 13 metres (40 feet) of sand and chalk. The remains of over 430 shafts have so far been recognised at the site.

Artwork: © English Heritage



YouTube: “Grimes Graves, Neolithic Flint Mine”







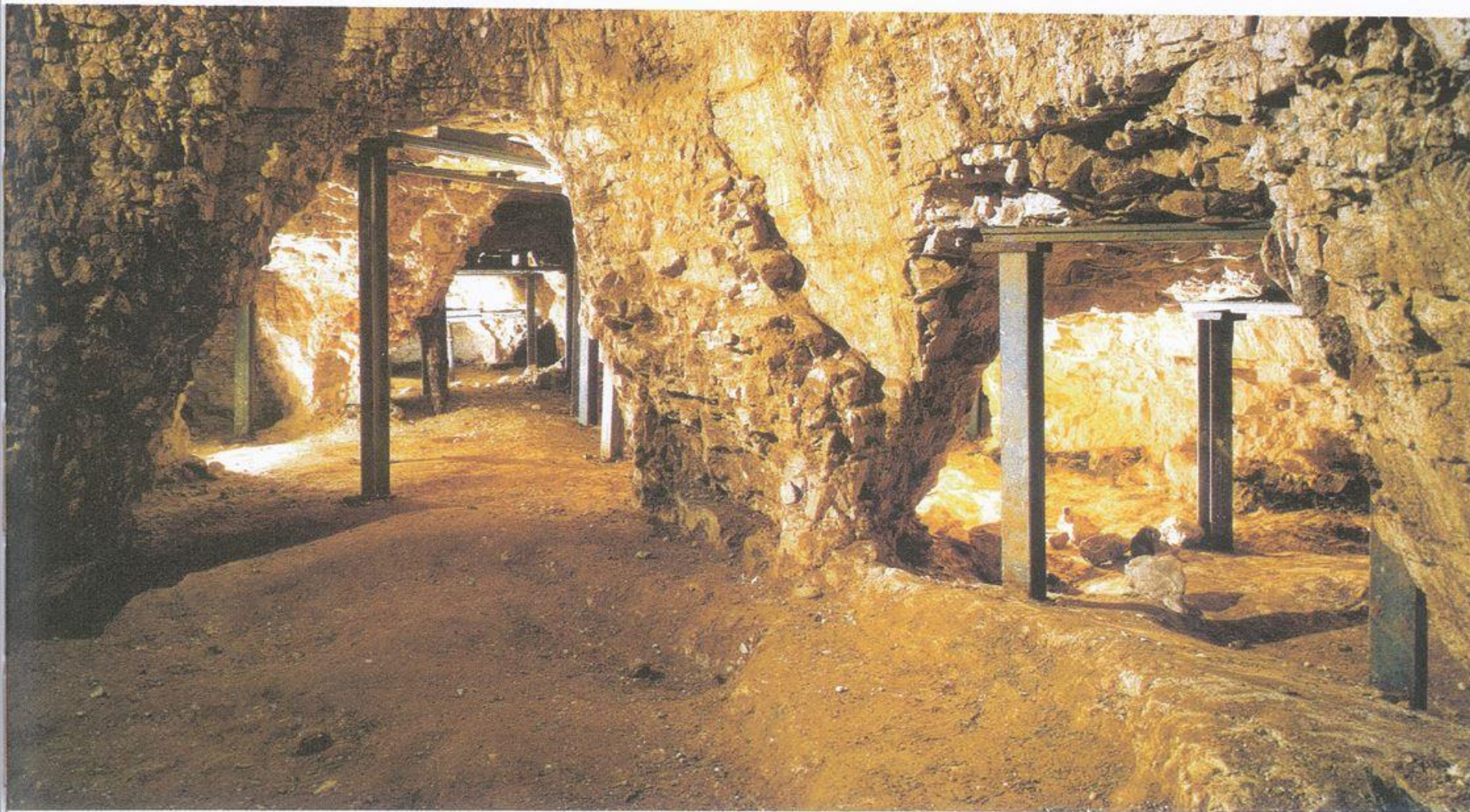










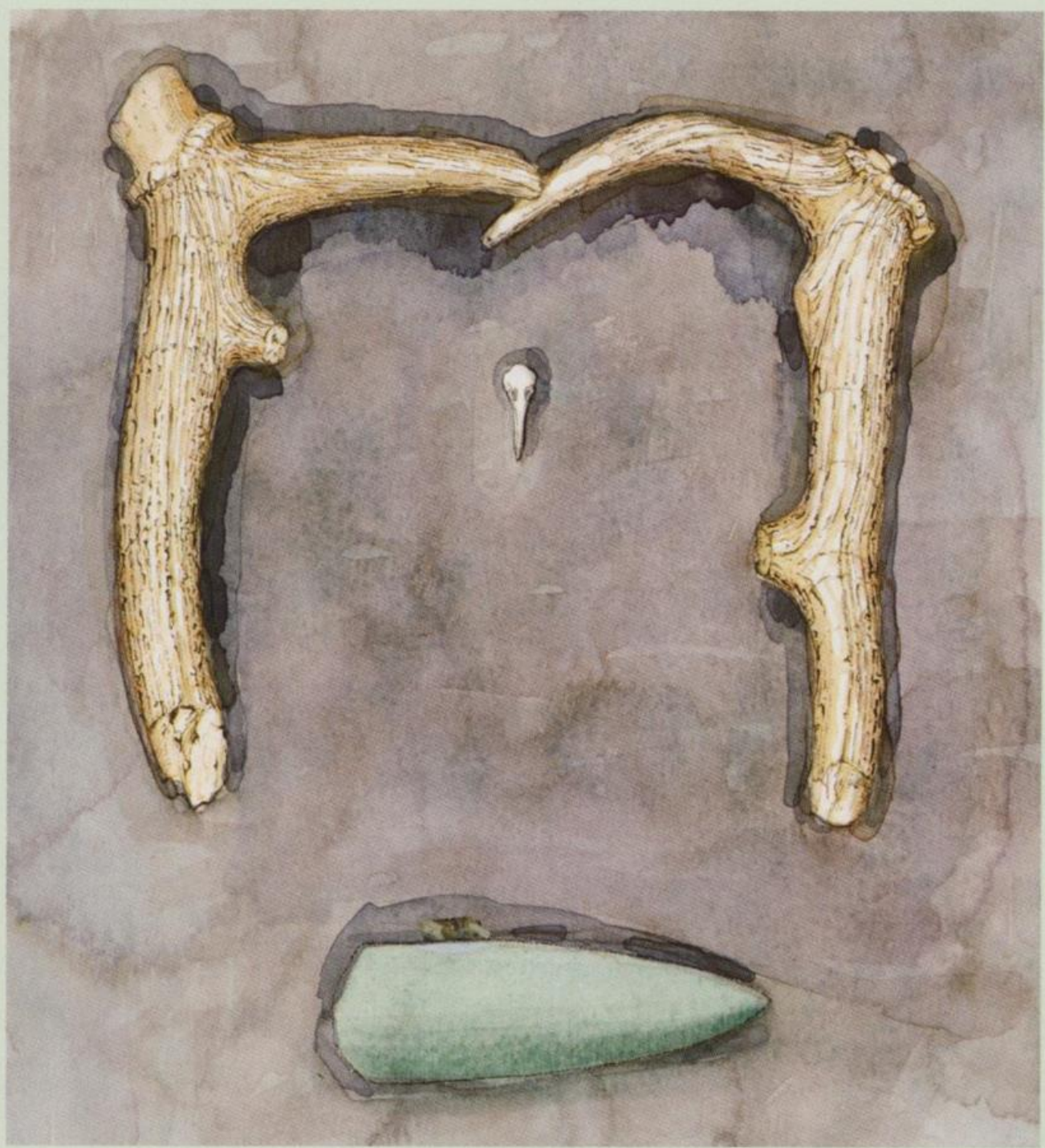


20 (above) The galleries running off from an excavated shaft at Grimes Graves. The bars and props are modern.





*Above: A reconstruction of the abandonment ceremony in Greenwell's Pit, where a Comish greenstone axe and the skull of a rare wading bird were placed between two antler picks, perhaps as part of a renewal ritual*



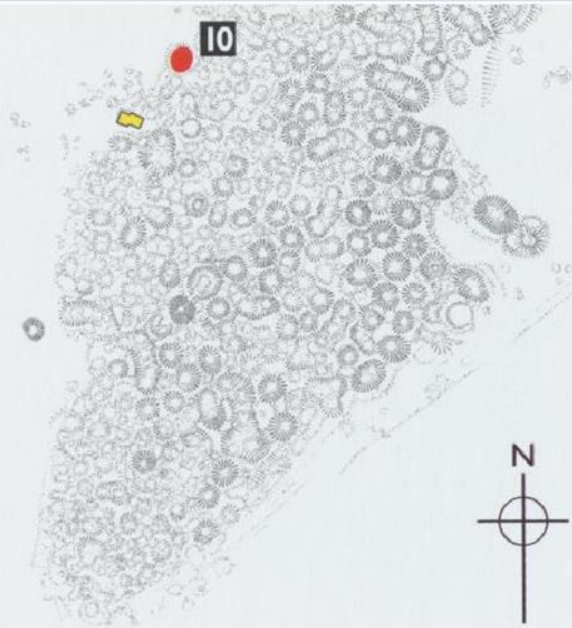




**Above:** A red deer antler pick from Grime's Graves. The uppermost tine, which formed the pick, shows signs of damage from mining use



**Above:** The greenstone axe found in the ritual group at Greenwell's Pit.



*Right: A photograph taken during the excavation of Pit 1 in 1914, showing some of the antler picks discovered in the mine*



The British  
Museum

The British  
Museum

### Title

Object: The Grimes Graves Goddess

---

### Description

Carved chalk female figurine, naively executed. Lumpy and lopsided in appearance. Finished with a flint blade, leaving striations. The formless head has eyes, nose and mouth crudely rendered. There is no neck, the front of the head being separated from the body by a groove. The breasts are lumpish, with nipples perhaps indicated by slight pits, as is the navel. Two crude arms rest on a protuberant belly. Possible modern forgery?



*Above: The controversial 'goddess' discovered during the excavation of Pit 15 in 1939. Stylistically it is unlike any other Palaeolithic or Neolithic carving, and its authenticity has always been disputed*



*Above: Three flint arrowheads found at Grime's Graves: (from top) an Early Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead, a Late Neolithic oblique arrowhead, and an Early Bronze Age barbed-and-tanged arrowhead*







ENGLISH HERITAGE

# Grime's Graves

English Heritage Guidebooks







- Ulster** Major centre of Earlier Neolithic activity
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- Main distribution of passage graves
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- Rock art
- Main distribution of causewayed enclosures
- Flint mine
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- Settlement
- Linear monument
- Main distribution of henge monuments
- Enclosure or stone circle
- Axe quarry
- WESSEX** Major centre throughout the Neolithic

rish  
a)

Thornborough

Kilham  
YORKSHIRE

LAKE DISTRICT Field boundaries



INSET (above right): North Lincolnshire Museum, courtesy of the Portable Antiquities Scheme



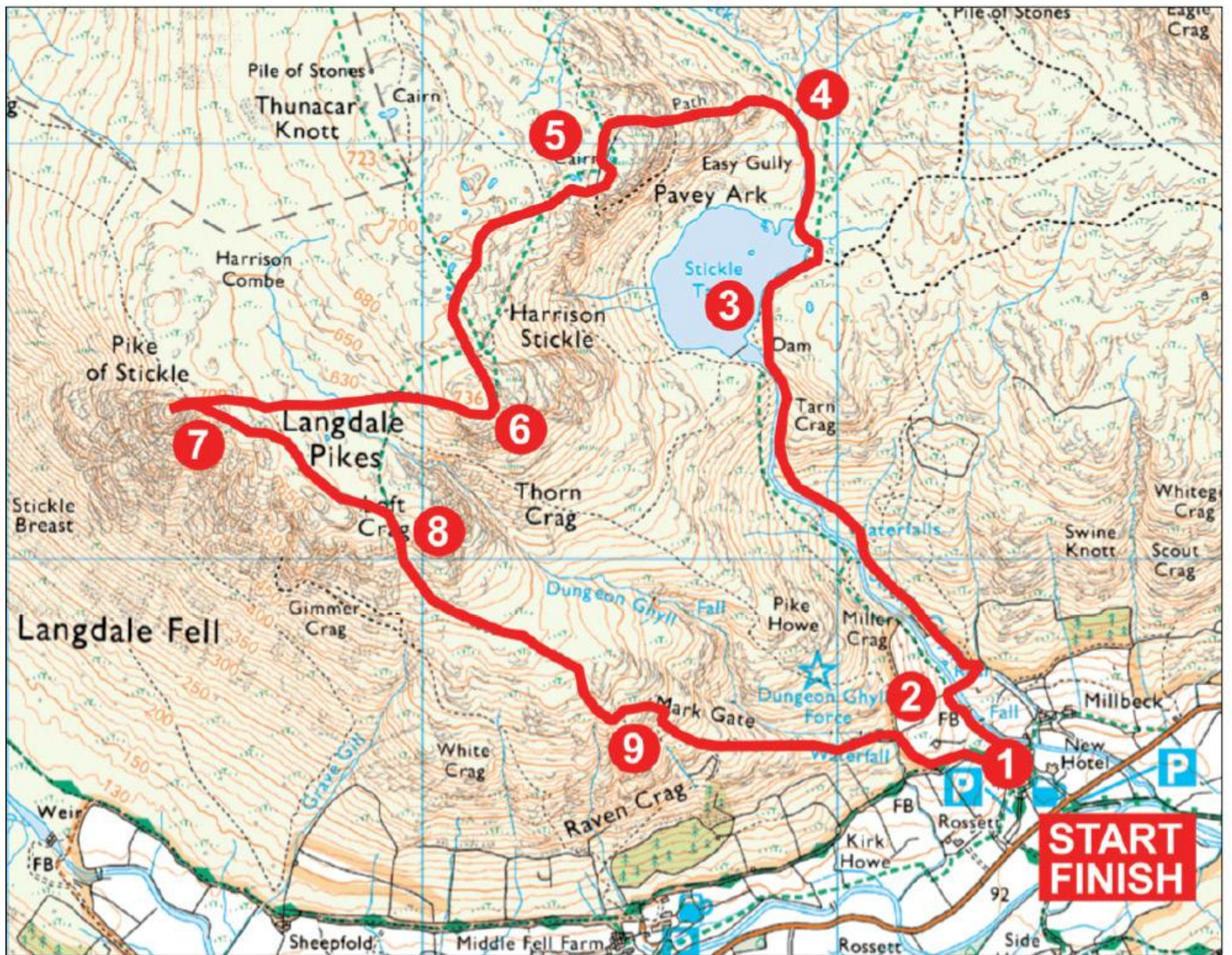
ABOVE The Great Langdale axe-production site, used by Neolithic people as a source of fine-grain tuff from which beautiful polished green hand-axes (INSET) were made.





Great Langdale







YouTube: “Langdale Pike, Neolithic Axe Factory”













POLISHED STONE AXEHEAD  
from the Great Longdale axe factory  
Neolithic

The haft is copied from a contemporaneous  
specimen found at the lakeside settle-  
ment at Thoresby Tarn, Cumberland

WYMAN GILBERT                      Ca. 2500

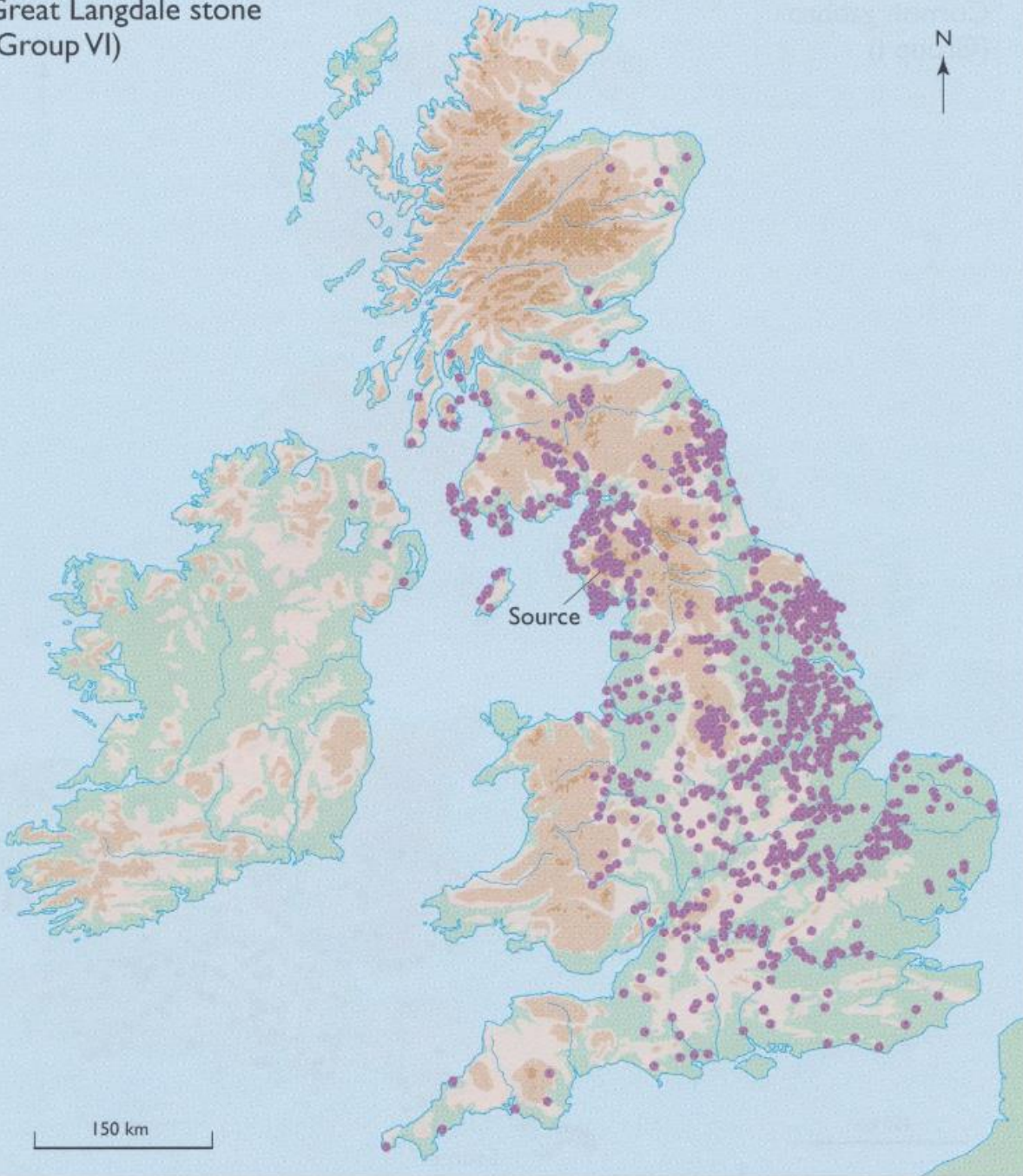


Great Langdale stone  
(Group VI)

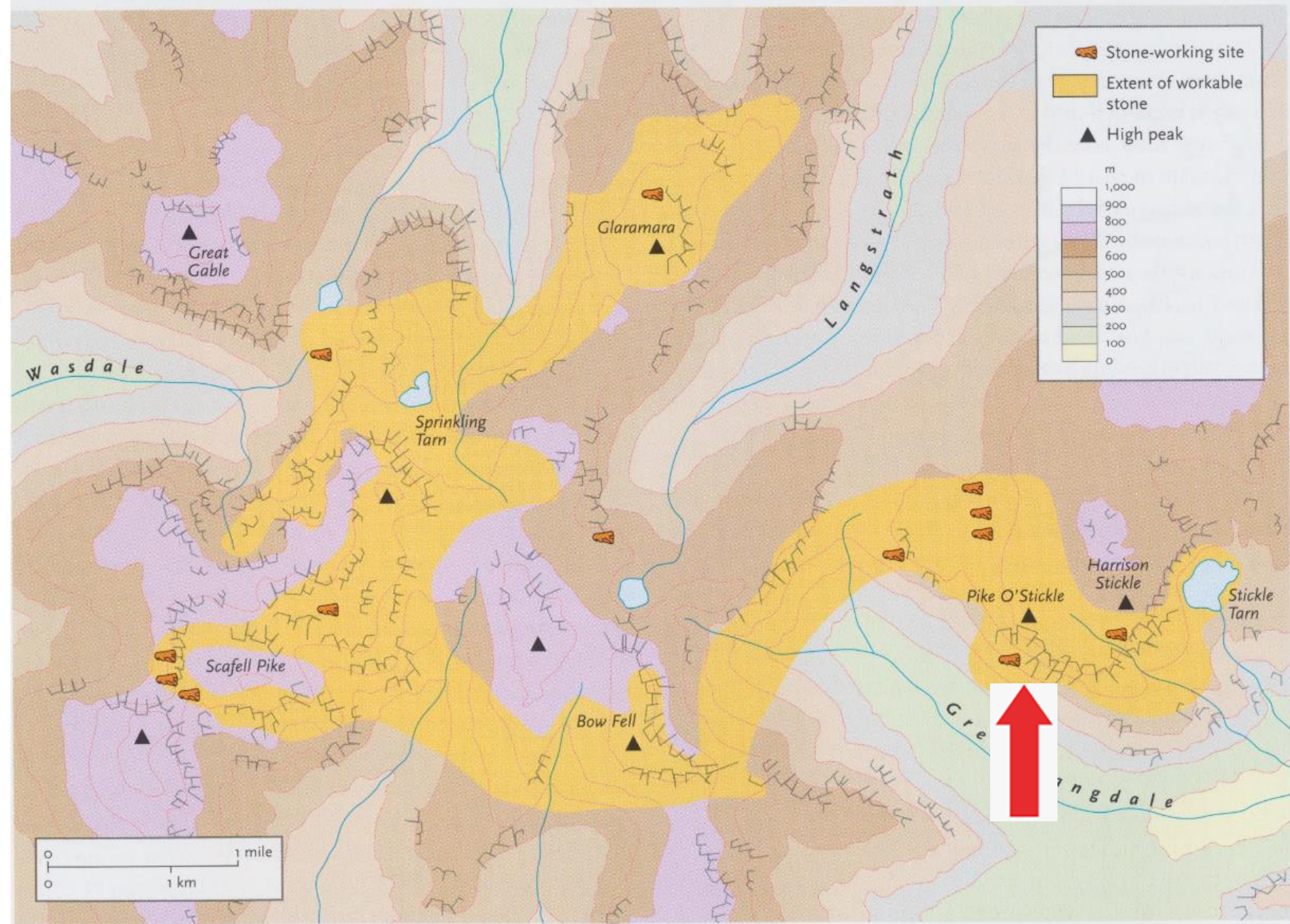
N  
↑

Source

150 km





















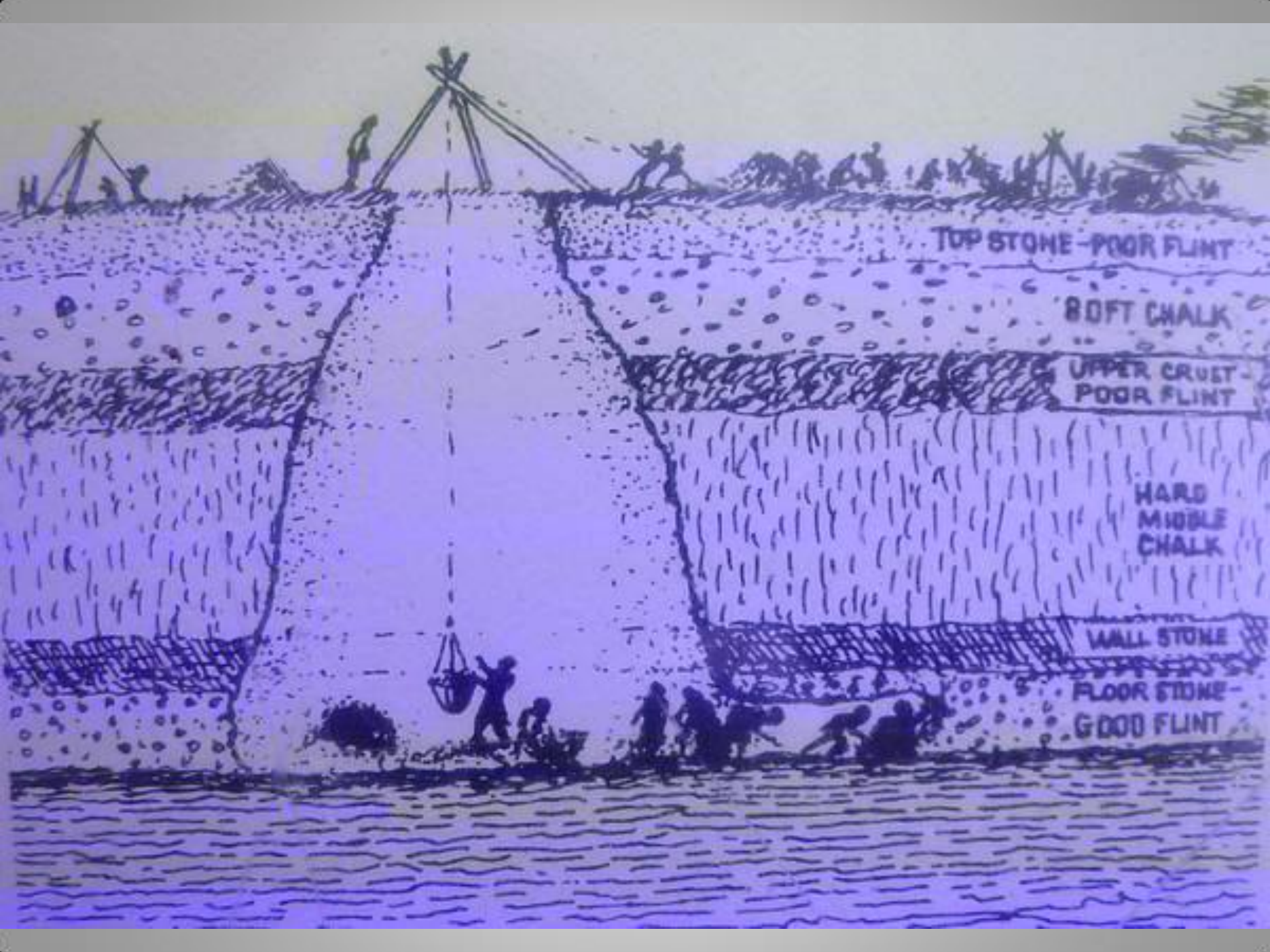
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TOP STONE - POOR FLINT

SOFT CHALK

UPPER CRUST - POOR FLINT

HARD MIDDLE CHALK

WALL STONE

FLOOR STONE - GOOD FLINT

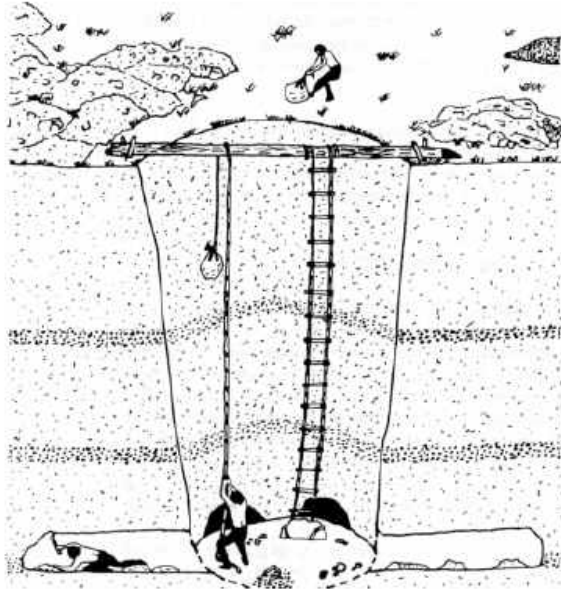
GOOD FLINT



Unpolished flint axes from cissbury



*Cissbury Ring, a hill-top near Findon, Sussex, is indented with infilled Neolithic flint mines. It was one of the major commercial and industrial nerve centres of the Neolithic world, and supplies of Cissbury flints have turned up in northern England and all over Europe. A teacher at school once mentioned that flint arrowheads can still sometimes be picked up on the South Downs. Ever since, I've kept my eyes peeled, but to no avail.*



The flint miners of Cissbury were tough and hardy bands.  
Five thousand years ago with red deer antler picks and hands  
They dug straight down into the Chalk, some forty feet or more,  
Then hacked out spoke-like tunnels on the bell-pit's flinty floor.

The flint was what they'd come to get: black, hard, and good for knapping.  
Once out, each nodule would be flaked on site, by deft and skilful tapping.  
A flake of flint is hard and sharp, but a practised stone-age hand  
Could fashion tools and arrowheads for trade across the land.

It's said that flinty arrowheads can still be found today,  
In northern parts of England, and in Europe – far away  
From Sussex, where those miners left, as far as I can see,  
Just dents on Cissbury's summit – and no arrowheads for me!

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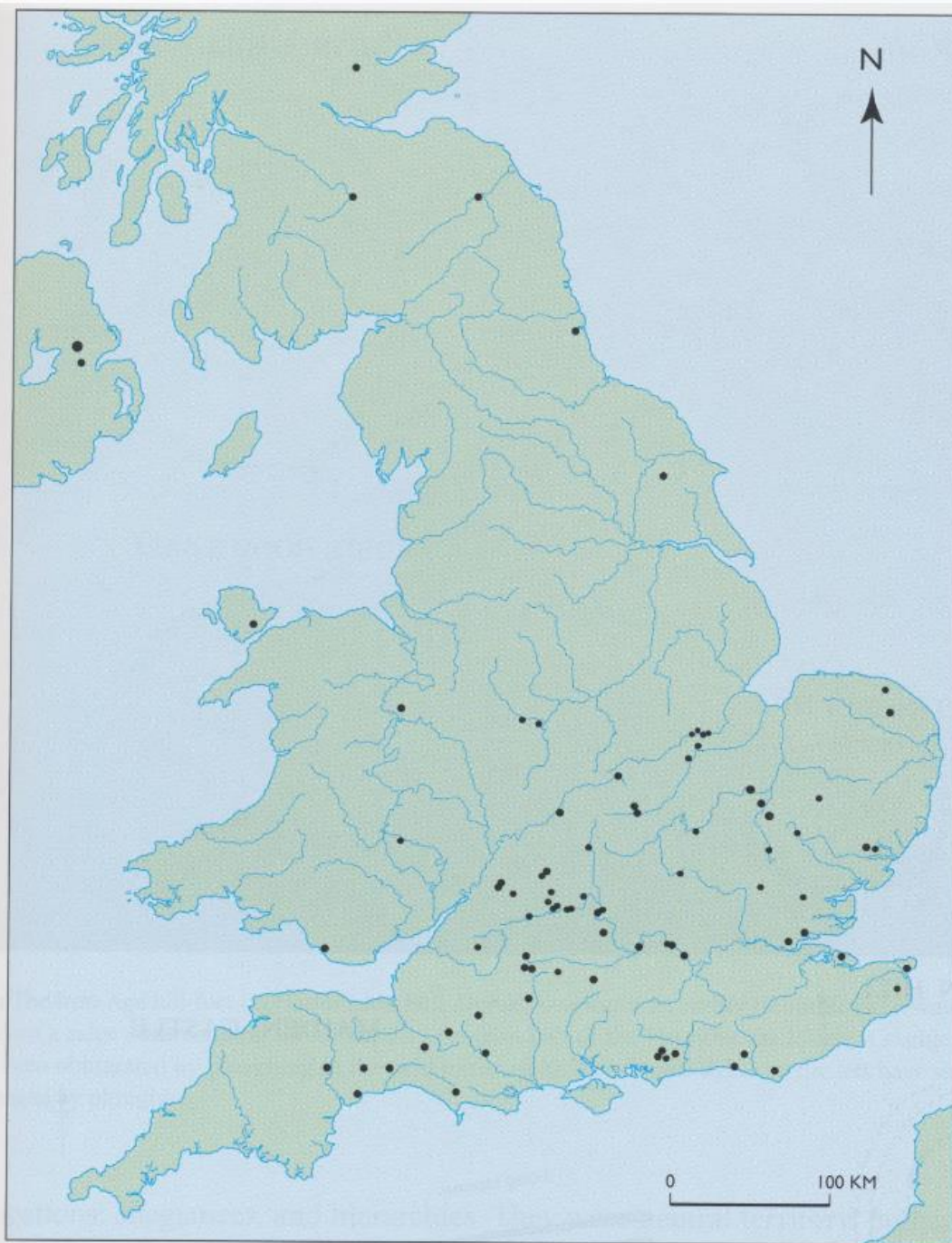






IAN DENNIS/CARDIFF UNIVERSITY

A reconstruction of the Whitehawk causewayed enclosure in the South Downs, Sussex



Distribution of causewayed camps of the early fourth millennium in Britain and Ireland





ENGLISH HERITAGE

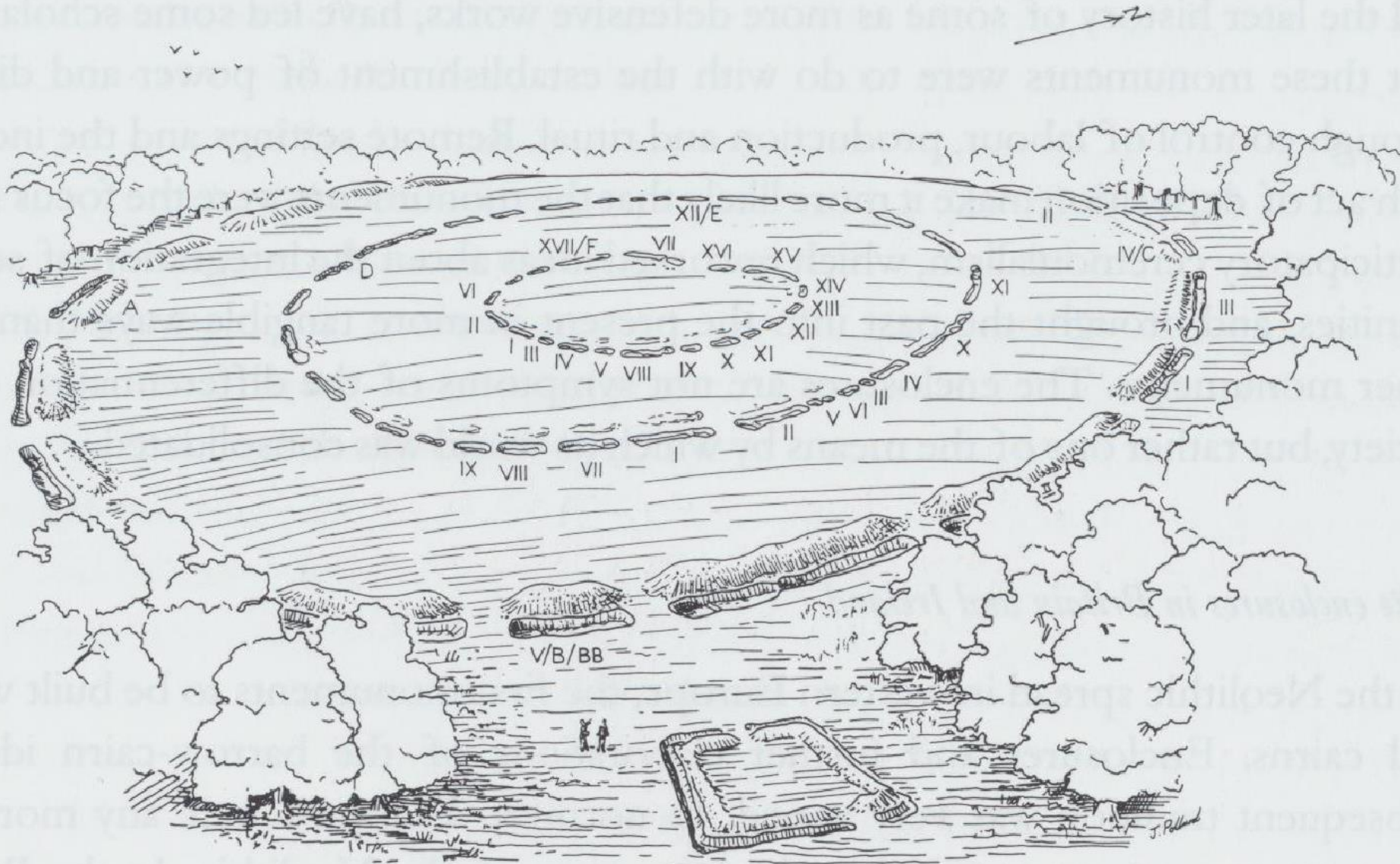
Windmill Hill, a large Neolithic causewayed enclosure in Avebury, was previously thought to have been built around 3700-3100 BC. The new dating shows it was built in 3700-3640 BC

YouTube: “Windmill Hill Causewayed Enclosure”



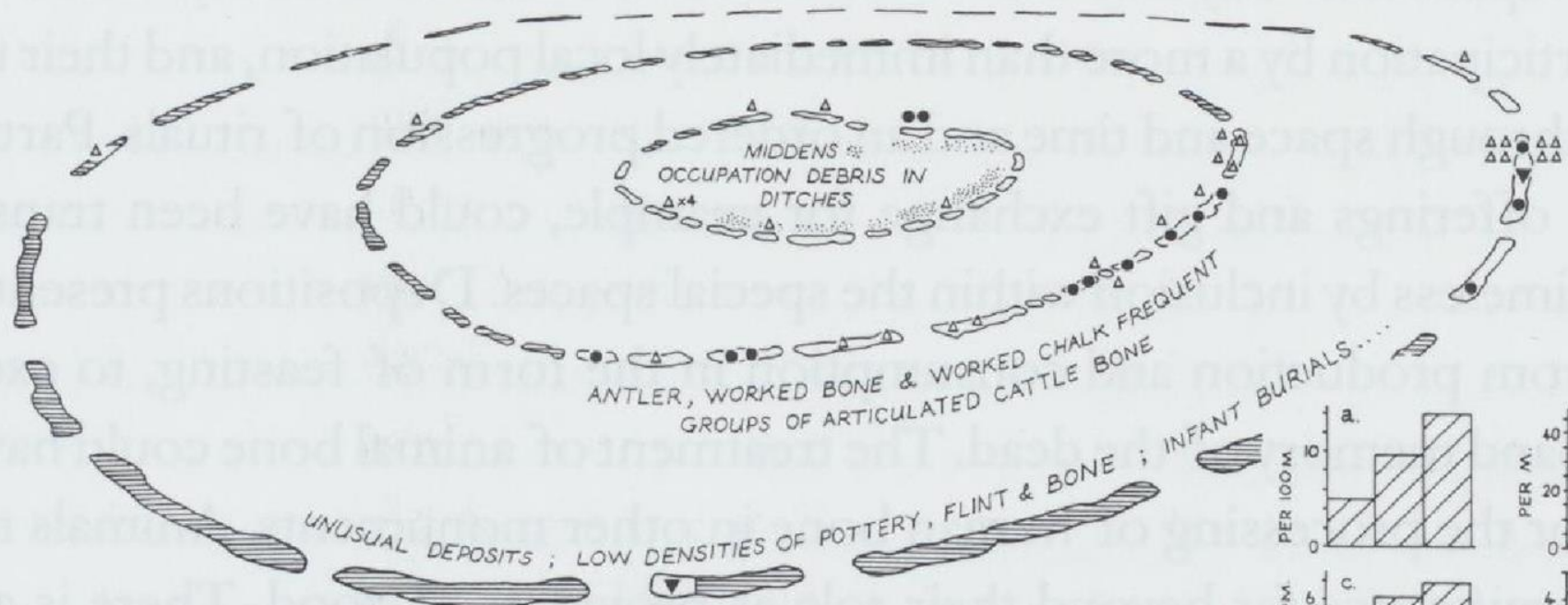


# THE MONUMENT AND ITS SETTING



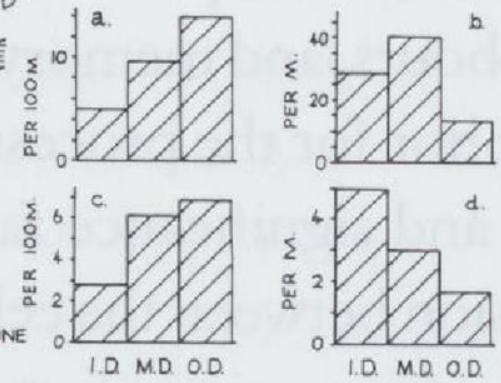


# DEPOSITS IN THE DITCHES



- SELECTED DEPOSITS**
- ARTICULATED ANIMAL BONE & ANIMAL BURIALS
  - △ HUMAN BONE
  - ▼ INFANT BURIALS
- (UNEXCAVATED DITCHES SHADED)

- a. HUMAN BONE
- b. POTTERY (SHERDS)
- c. ARTICULATED ANIMAL BONE
- d. FLINT IMPLEMENTS

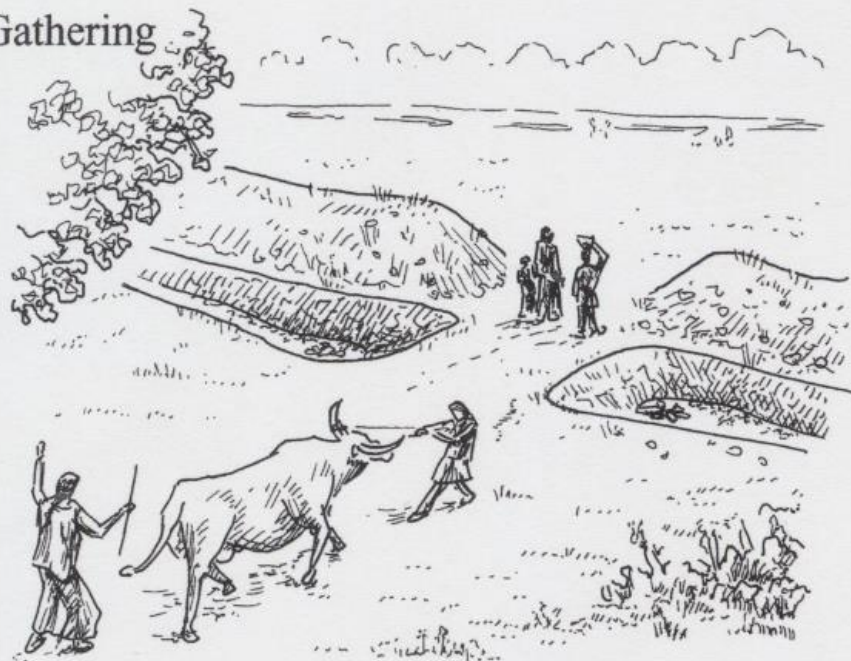




**Neolithic Pot from Windmill Hill**

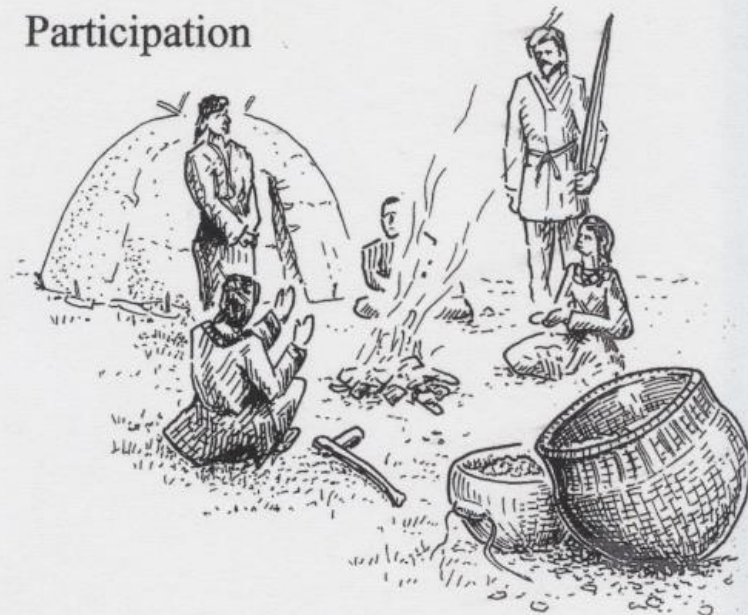


## Gathering



Periodic gathering of dispersed communities;  
collective values enhanced through construction  
& participation

## Participation

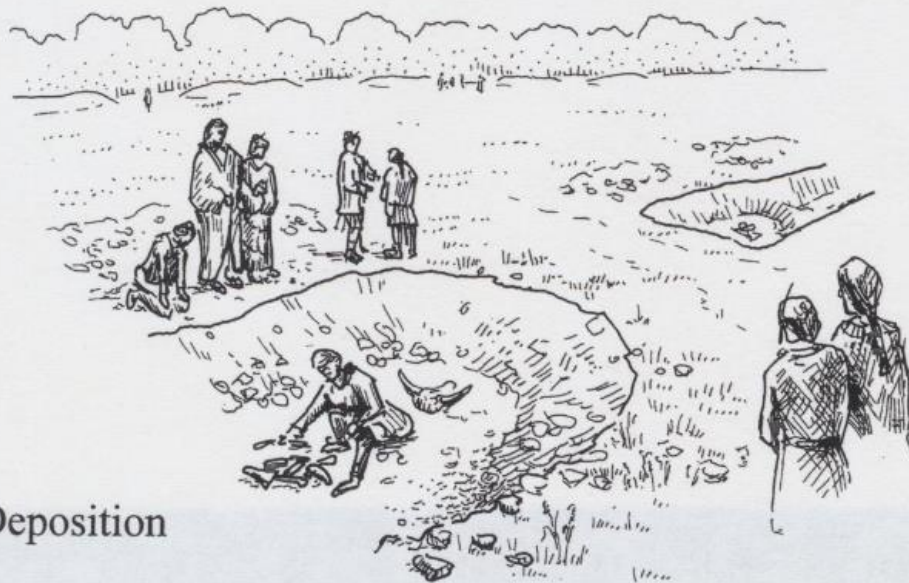


Formation of alliances; settling of disputes;  
exchange; collective ritual; feasting

Sacrifice, transformation (of people, animals  
& objects)

Deposition, renewal & regeneration

## Deposition







**Drawing 1. A seasonal gathering at Windmill Hill. (David Alexovich)**



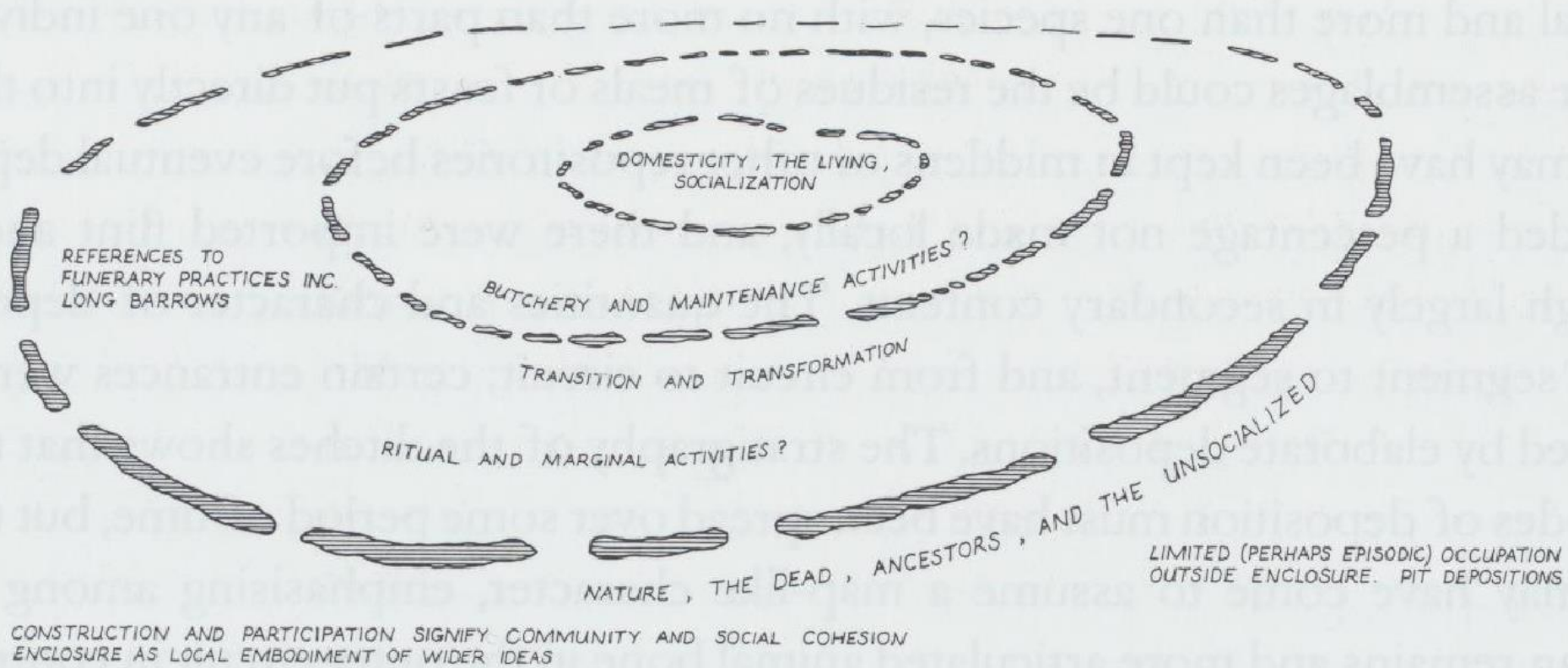


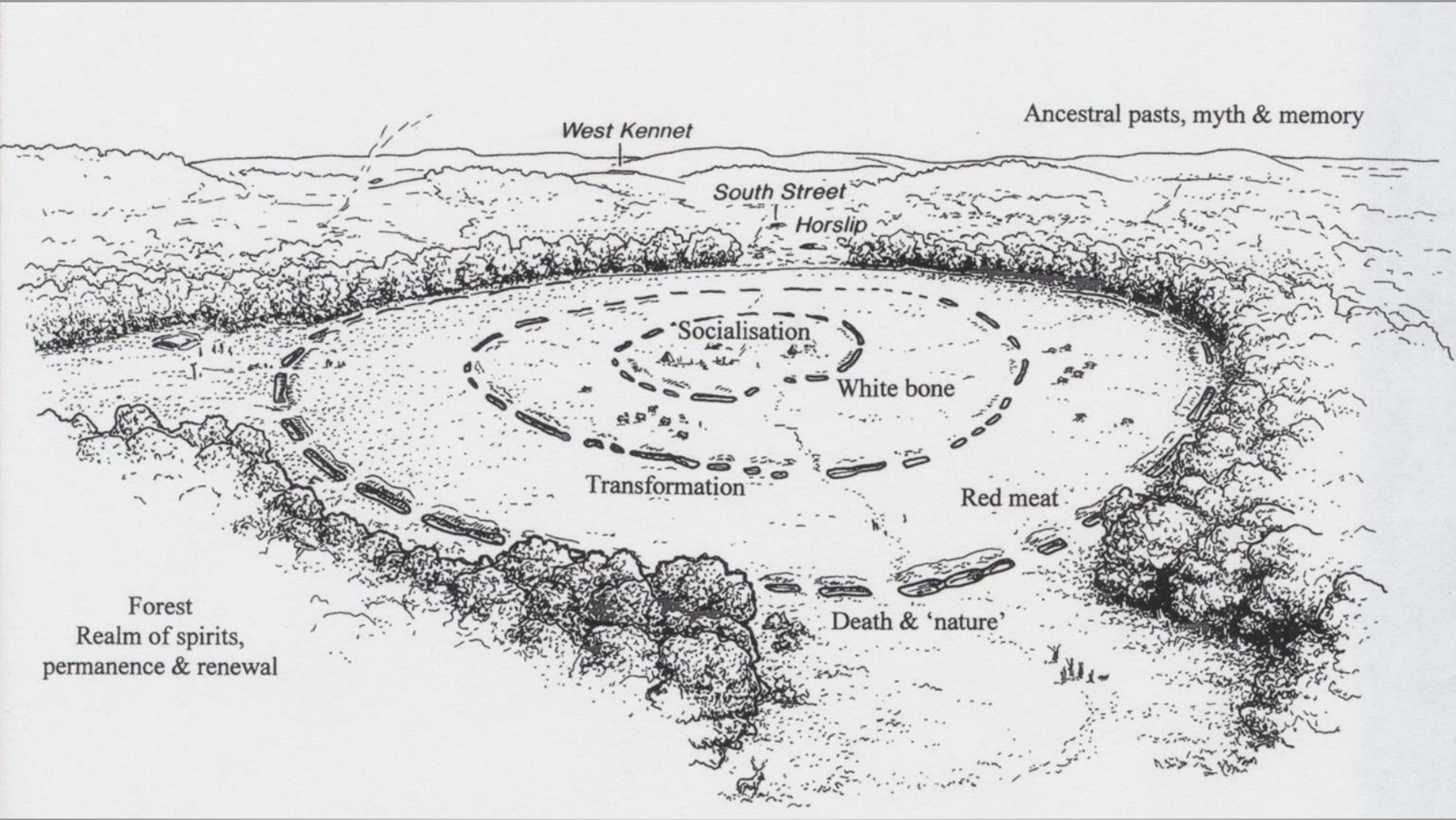






# POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES AND SYMBOLIC REFERENCES





West Kennet

Ancestral pasts, myth & memory

South Street

Horslip

Socialisation

White bone

Transformation

Red meat

Death & 'nature'

Forest

Realm of spirits,  
permanence & renewal

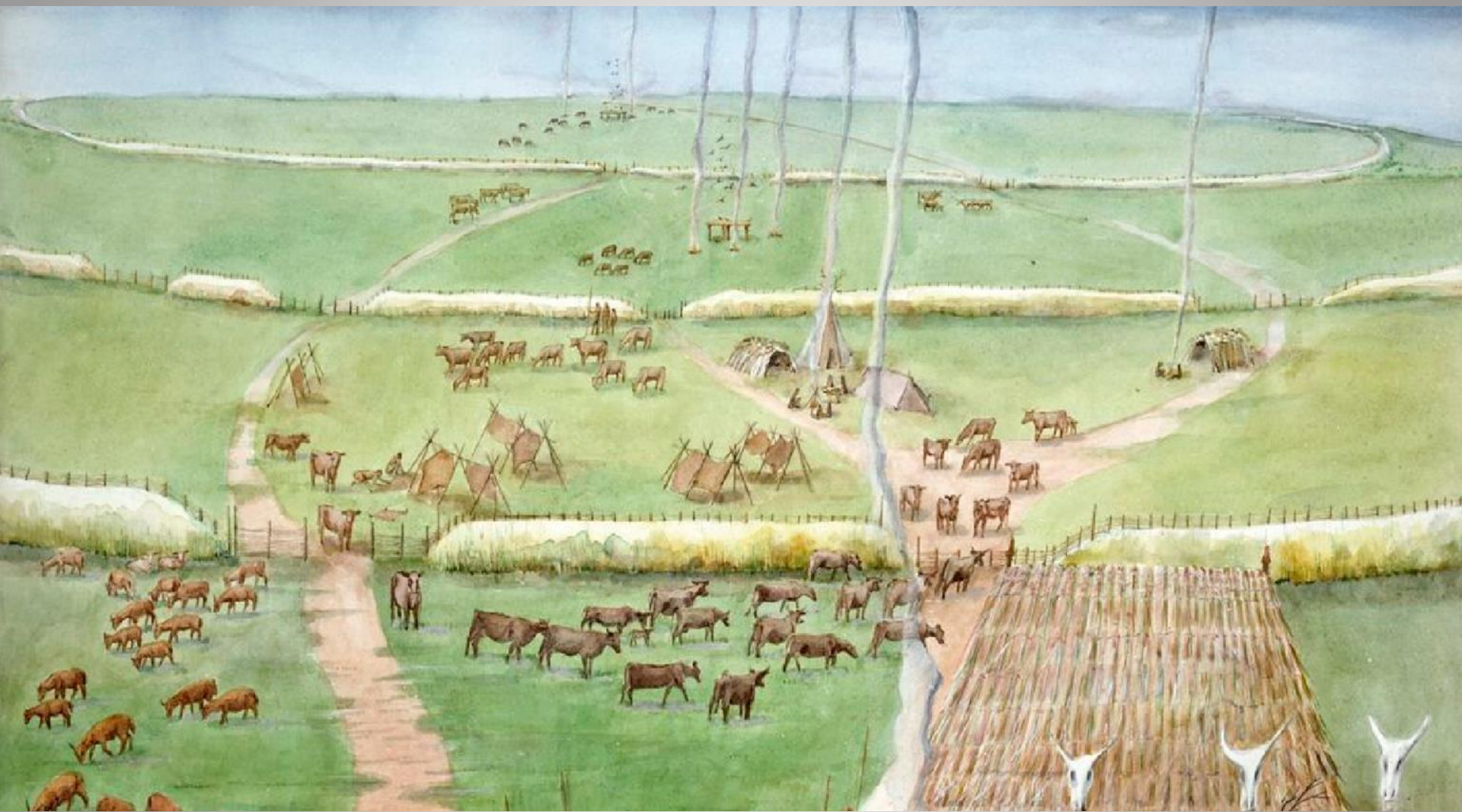


















# Megalithic Tombs and Long Barrows

in Britain

Frances Lynch



A Shire Archaeology book

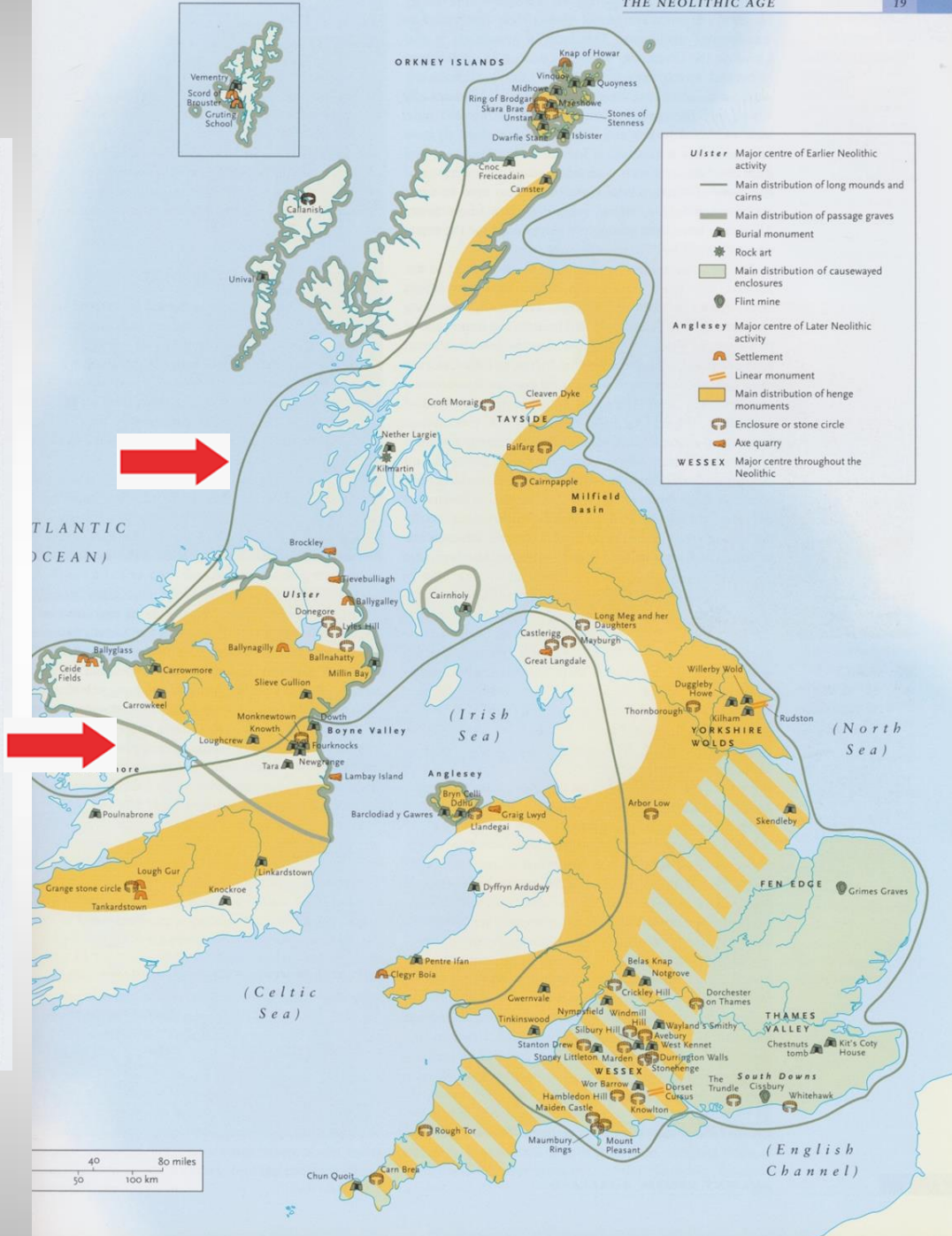
**Ulster** Major centre of Earlier Neolithic activity

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**Anglesey** Major centre of Later Neolithic activity

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- Enclosure or stone circle
- Axe quarry

**WESSEX** Major centre throughout the Neolithic



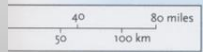
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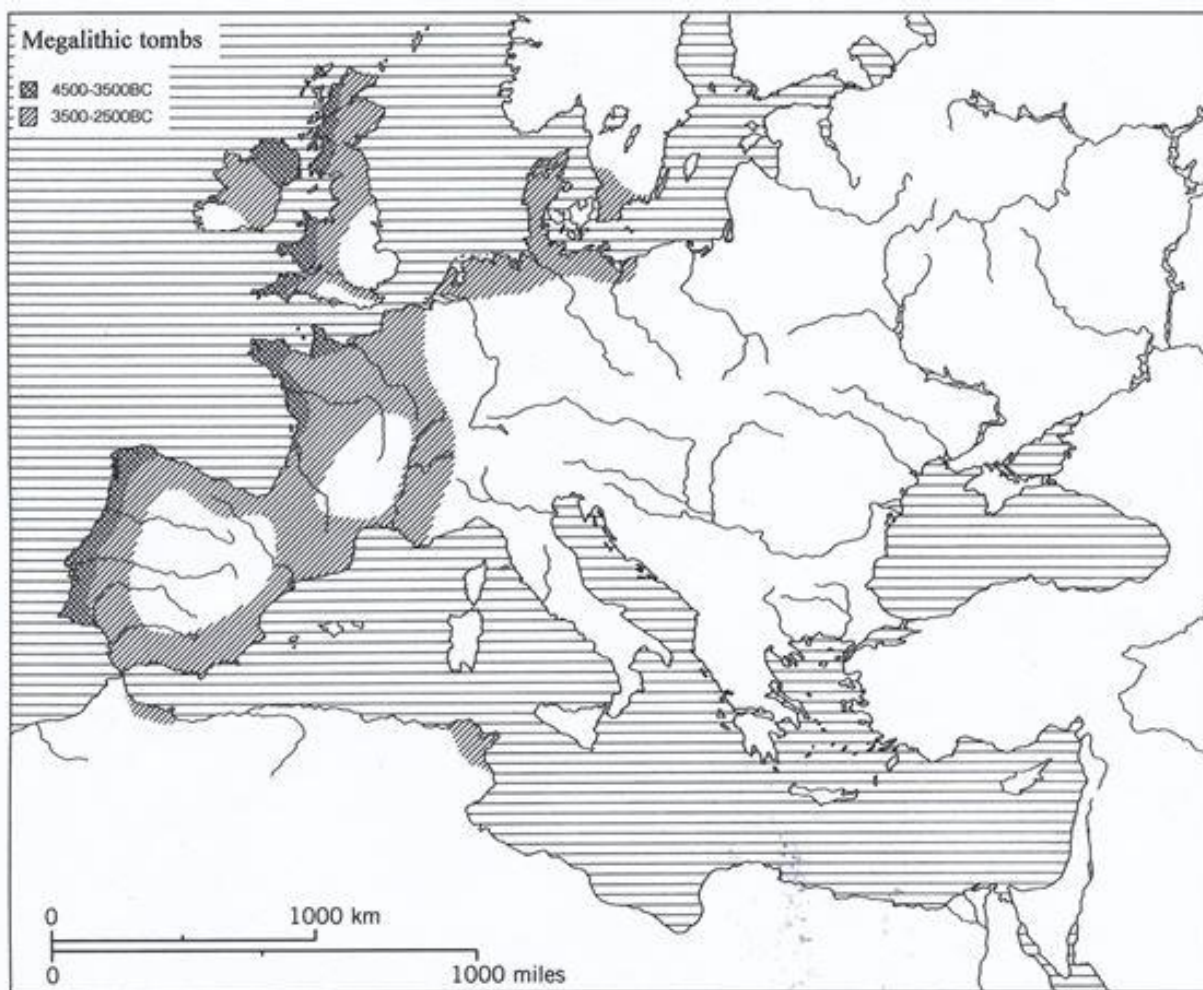
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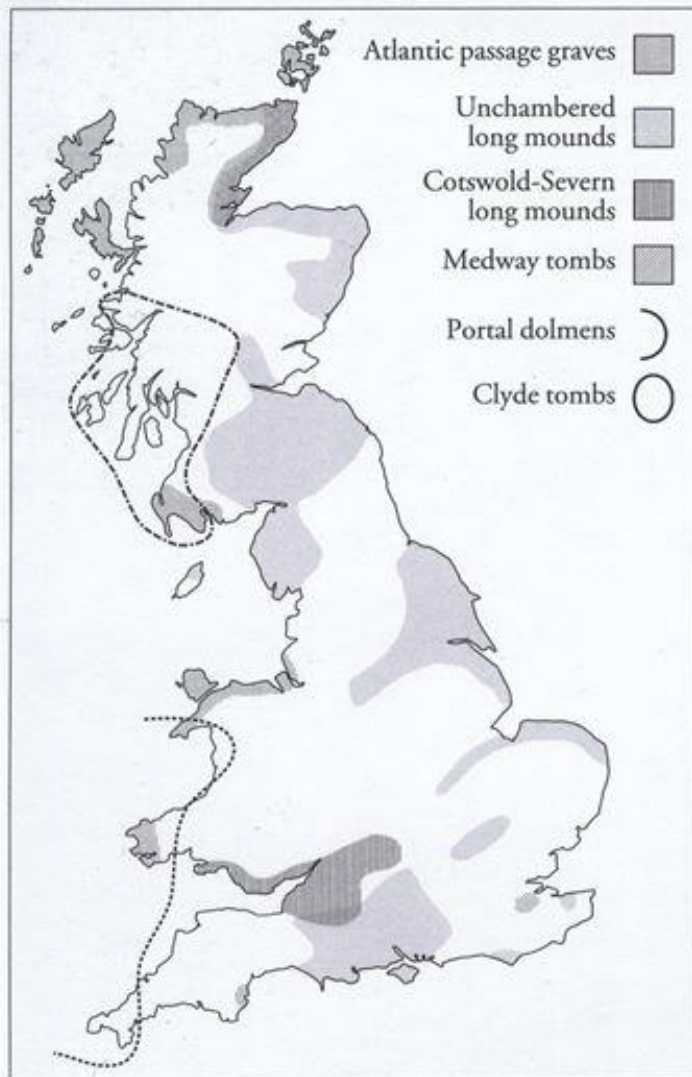






6.15 The distribution of megalithic tombs shows them to be essentially an Atlantic phenomenon. The earliest of the tombs – passage graves dating c.4500–3500 bc – have a maritime distribution, suggesting that the beliefs and technologies behind their construction were communicated along the Atlantic seaways.

*Distribution of the principal types of Neolithic funerary monument in Great Britain.*











5.12 The portal dolmen at Ballykeel, County Armagh





5.13 Distribution of portal dolmens in Britain and Ireland. These simple mortuary structures are among the earliest megalithic tombs in the islands



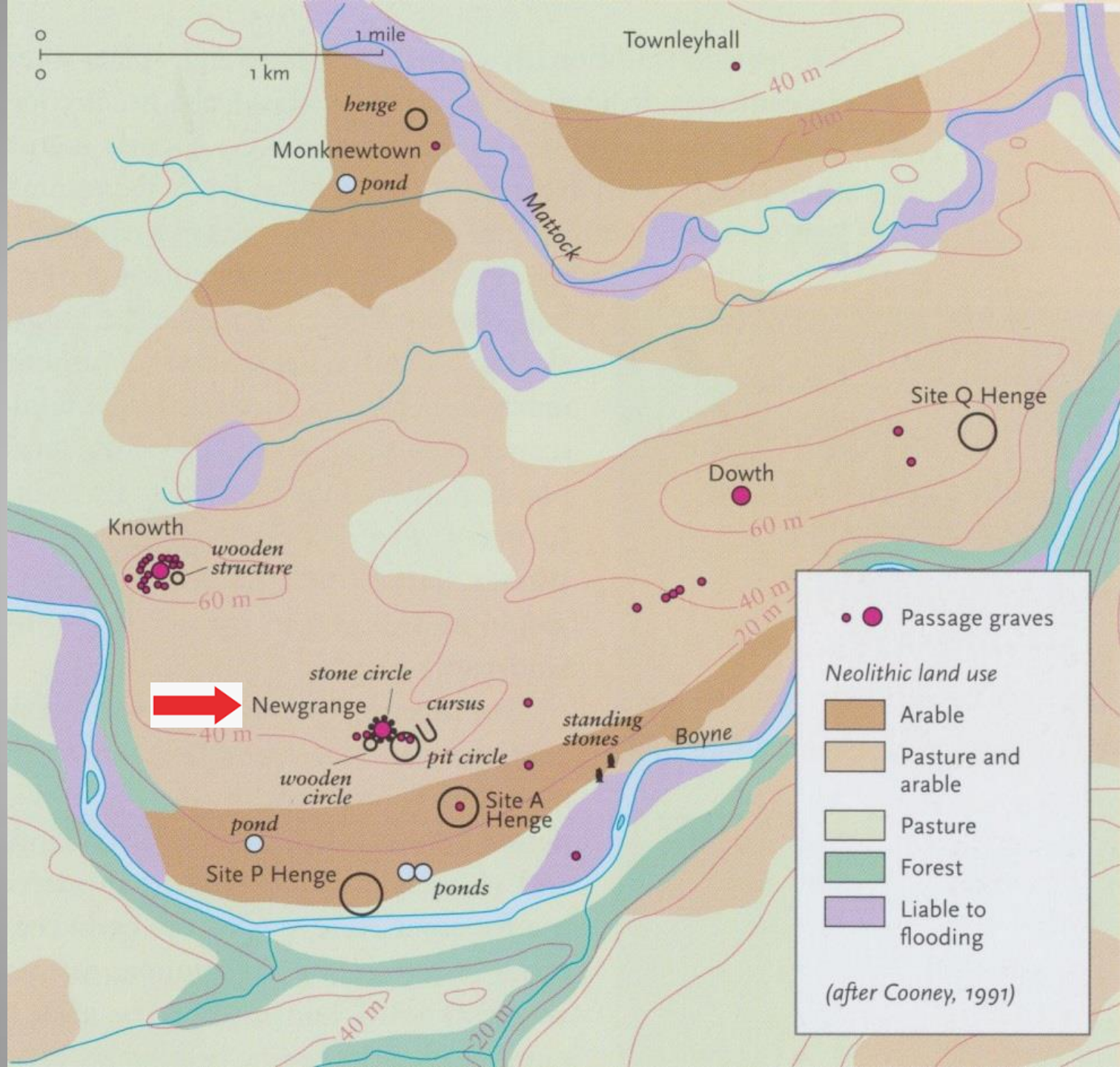




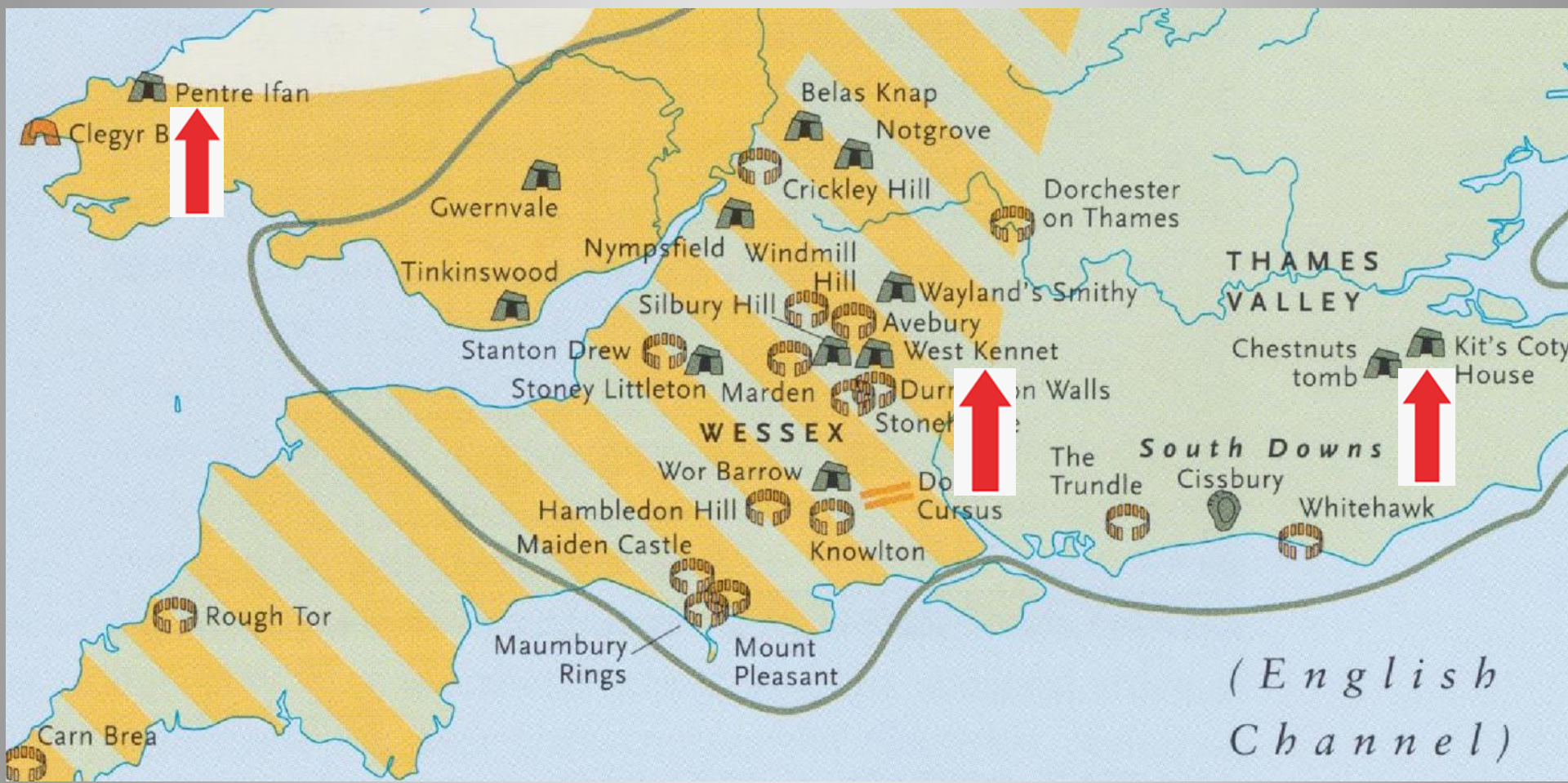
# Newgrange



**Newgrange** (Irish: *Sí an Bhrú*<sup>[1]</sup>) is a prehistoric monument in County Meath in Ireland, located on a rise overlooking the River Boyne, 8 kilometres (5.0 mi) west of Drogheda.<sup>[2]</sup> It is an exceptionally grand passage tomb built during the Neolithic Period, around 3200 BC, making it older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids. It is aligned on the winter solstice sunrise. Newgrange is the main monument in the Brú na Bóinne complex, a World Heritage Site that also includes the passage tombs of Knowth and Dowth, as well as other henges, burial mounds and standing stones.<sup>[3]</sup>







Pentre Ifan  
Clegyr B



Gwernvale  
Tinkinswood  
Nymphsfield  
Windmill Hill  
Silbury Hill  
Stanton Drew  
Stoney Littleton  
Marden  
Wor Barrow  
Hambleton Hill  
Maiden Castle  
Maumbury Rings  
Mount Pleasant

Belas Knap  
Notgrove  
Crickley Hill  
Wayland's Smithy  
Avebury  
West Kennet  
Durrington Walls  
Stoney  
Knowlton

Dorchester on Thames

THAMES VALLEY

Chestnuts tomb  
Kit's Coty House



WESSEX

South Downs

The Trundle  
Cissbury  
Whitehawk

(English Channel)

Carn Brea

Rough Tor

Maumbury Rings

Mount Pleasant







West Kennet Long Barrow

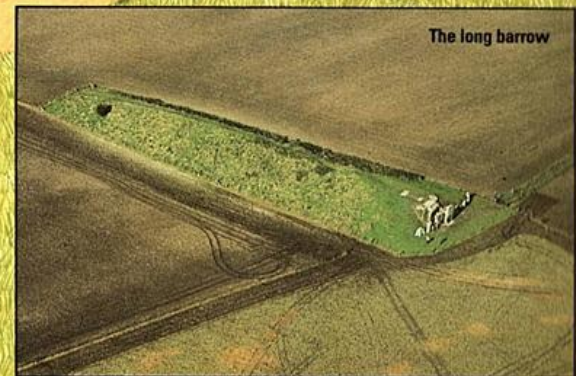
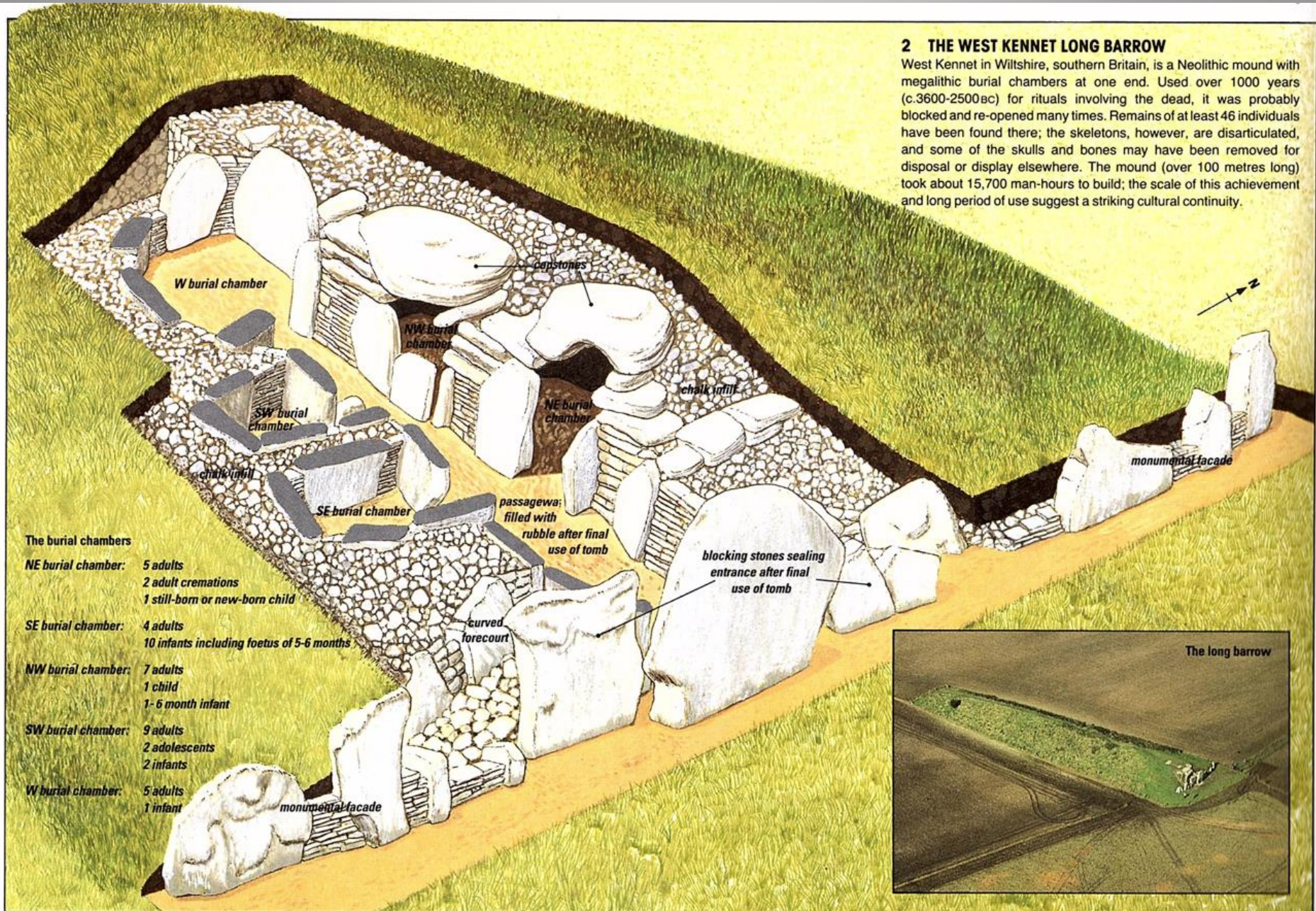


YouTube: "West Kennet Long Barrow"



## 2 THE WEST KENNET LONG BARROW

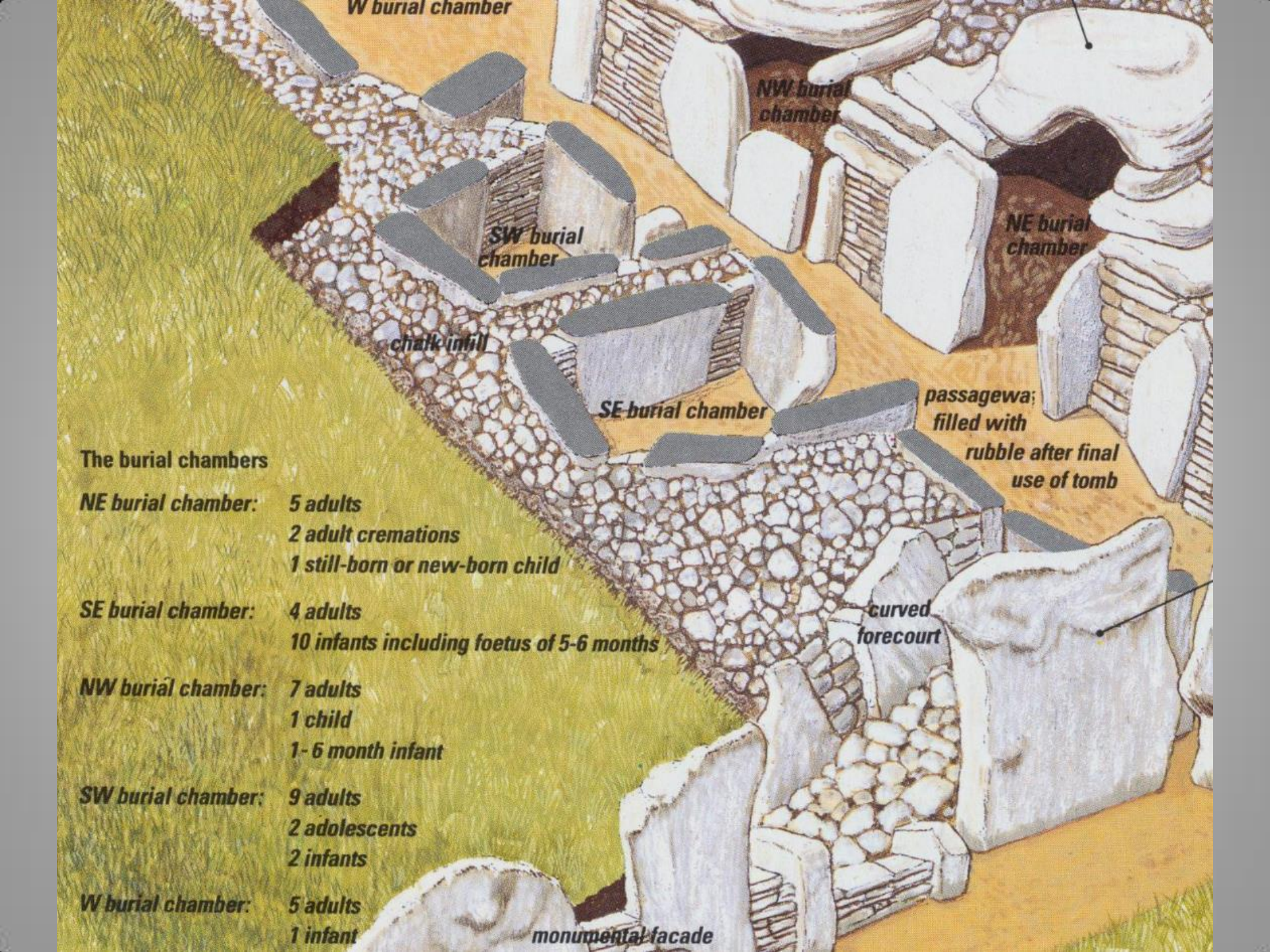
West Kennet in Wiltshire, southern Britain, is a Neolithic mound with megalithic burial chambers at one end. Used over 1000 years (c.3600-2500bc) for rituals involving the dead, it was probably blocked and re-opened many times. Remains of at least 46 individuals have been found there; the skeletons, however, are disarticulated, and some of the skulls and bones may have been removed for disposal or display elsewhere. The mound (over 100 metres long) took about 15,700 man-hours to build; the scale of this achievement and long period of use suggest a striking cultural continuity.











W burial chamber

NW burial chamber

SW burial chamber

NE burial chamber

chalk infill

SE burial chamber

passageway;  
filled with  
rubble after final  
use of tomb

curved  
forecourt

monumental facade

**The burial chambers**

- NE burial chamber:** 5 adults  
2 adult cremations  
1 still-born or new-born child
- SE burial chamber:** 4 adults  
10 infants including foetus of 5-6 months
- NW burial chamber:** 7 adults  
1 child  
1- 6 month infant
- SW burial chamber:** 9 adults  
2 adolescents  
2 infants
- W burial chamber:** 5 adults  
1 infant



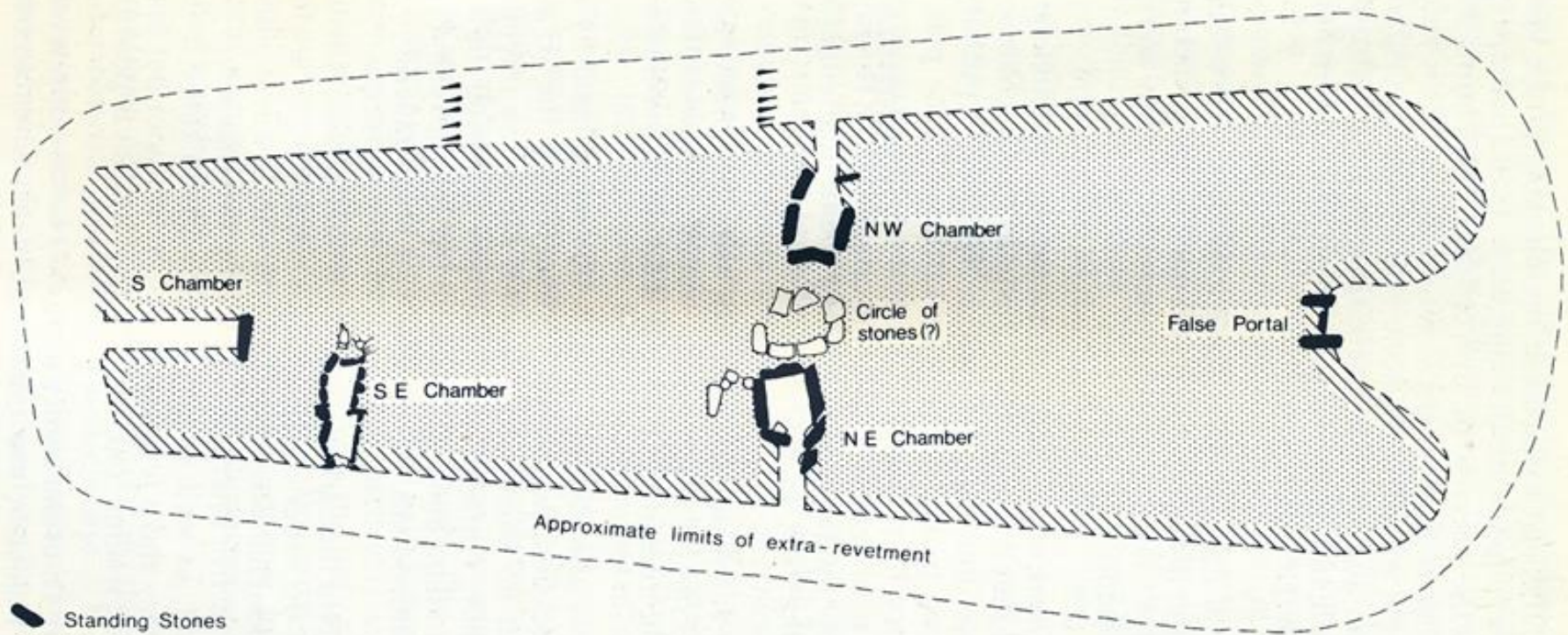









21 (above) The long barrow at Belas Knap, Gloucestershire. There is a false entrance at the front and access to the interior was by a side passage.





-  Standing Stones
-  Flat Stones
-  Dry-Stone-walling



4









**Hetty Pegler's Tump**



Ford & West, Lith<sup>rs</sup>

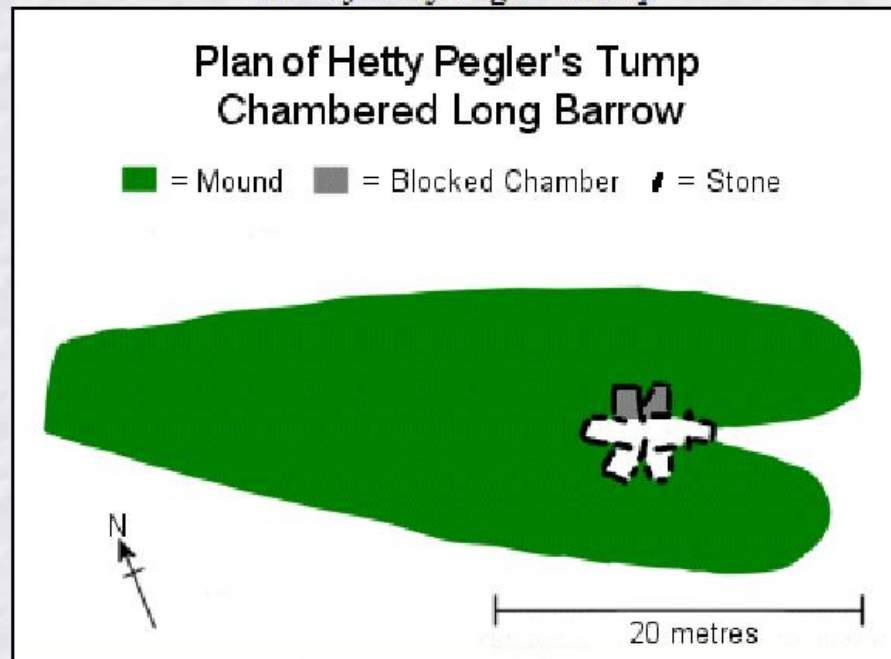
East end of the Chambered Tumulus, near Uley, Gloucestershire,  
shewing the Entrance.



*The inside of the chamber*



*Plan of Hetty Pegler's Tump*



Glos.  
1937.65

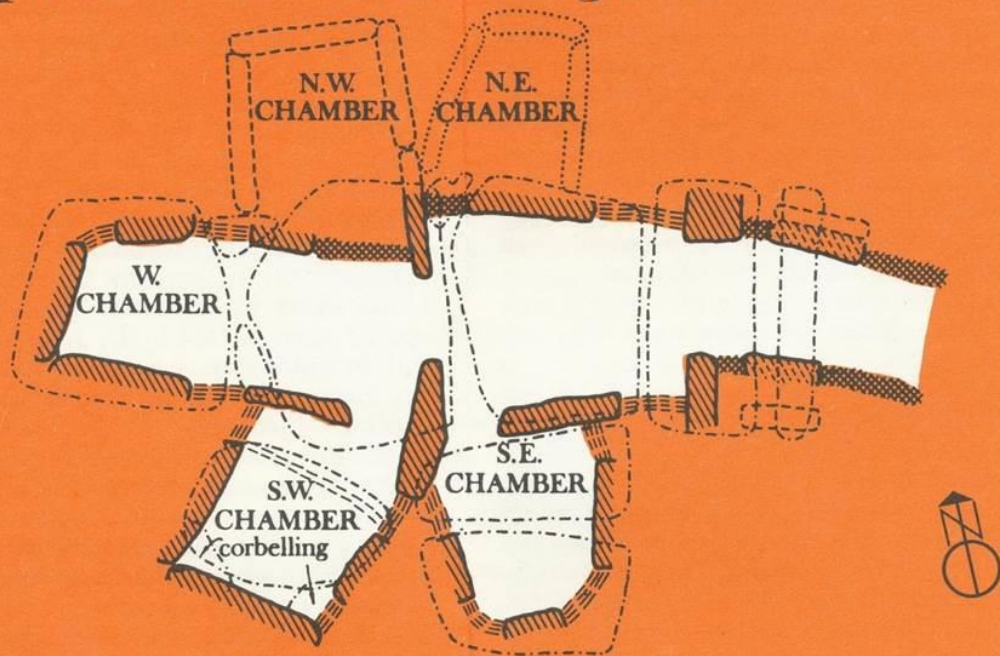


**A polished flint axe-head**, found near Hetty Pegler's Tump (Uley long barrow), Uley, Gloucestershire.

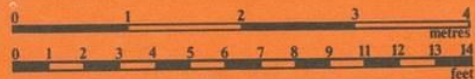
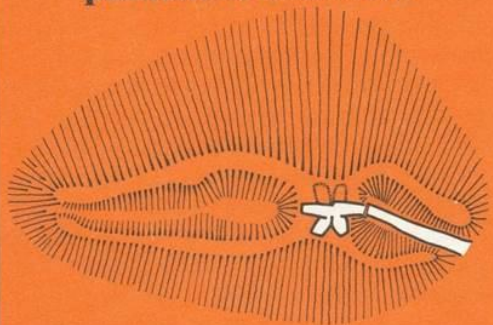
*Given by Miss M A Reid*  
1926.10











## plan of chambers at ground level



## plan of long barrow showing position of chambers



-  upright slab
-  upright slab (modern)
-  upright slab (concealed)
-  upright slab (conjectural)
-  dry stone walling
-  dry stone walling (modern)
-  sealing of dry stone walling found 1821
-  cover slab



Hetty Pegler's Tump

interior





**Hetty Pegler's Tump**

interior



Hetty Pegler's Tump

interior



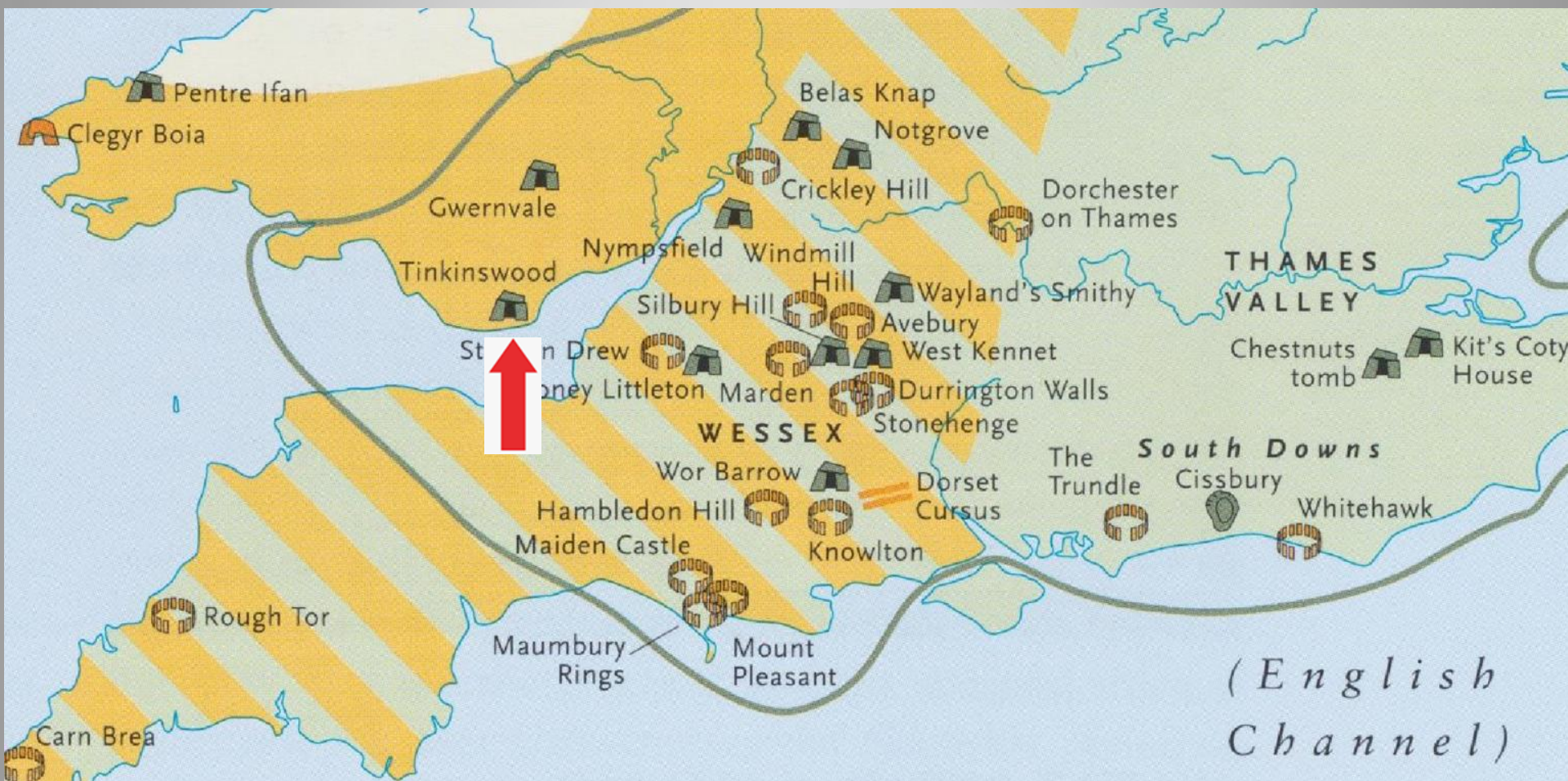


**Hetty Pegler's Tump**

rear stone







*(English Channel)*





**Tinkinswood Burial Chamber, Wales**



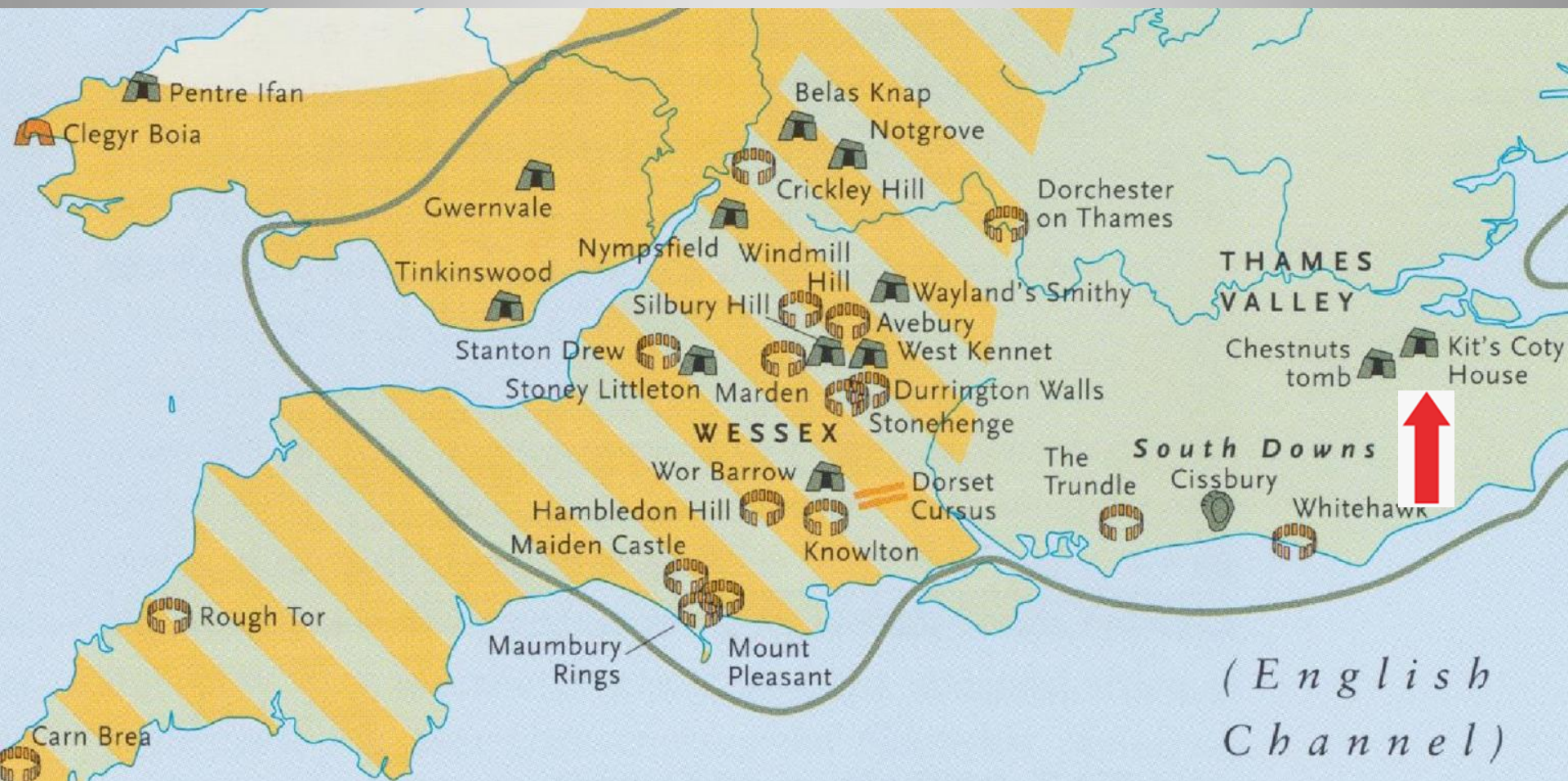






**Pentre Ifan, Wales**









**Kit's Coty House**





**Kit's Coty House**



## Little Kir's Coty House

Little Kir's Coty, also known as the Countless Stones, is believed to be the collapsed remains of a Neolithic stone burial chamber. It is part of a group of these monuments spread along the Medway valley.

It comprises a group of twenty sarsen boulders and would originally have been partially or completely covered by a large earthen mound, although excavations here did not reveal any traces of one. The mound

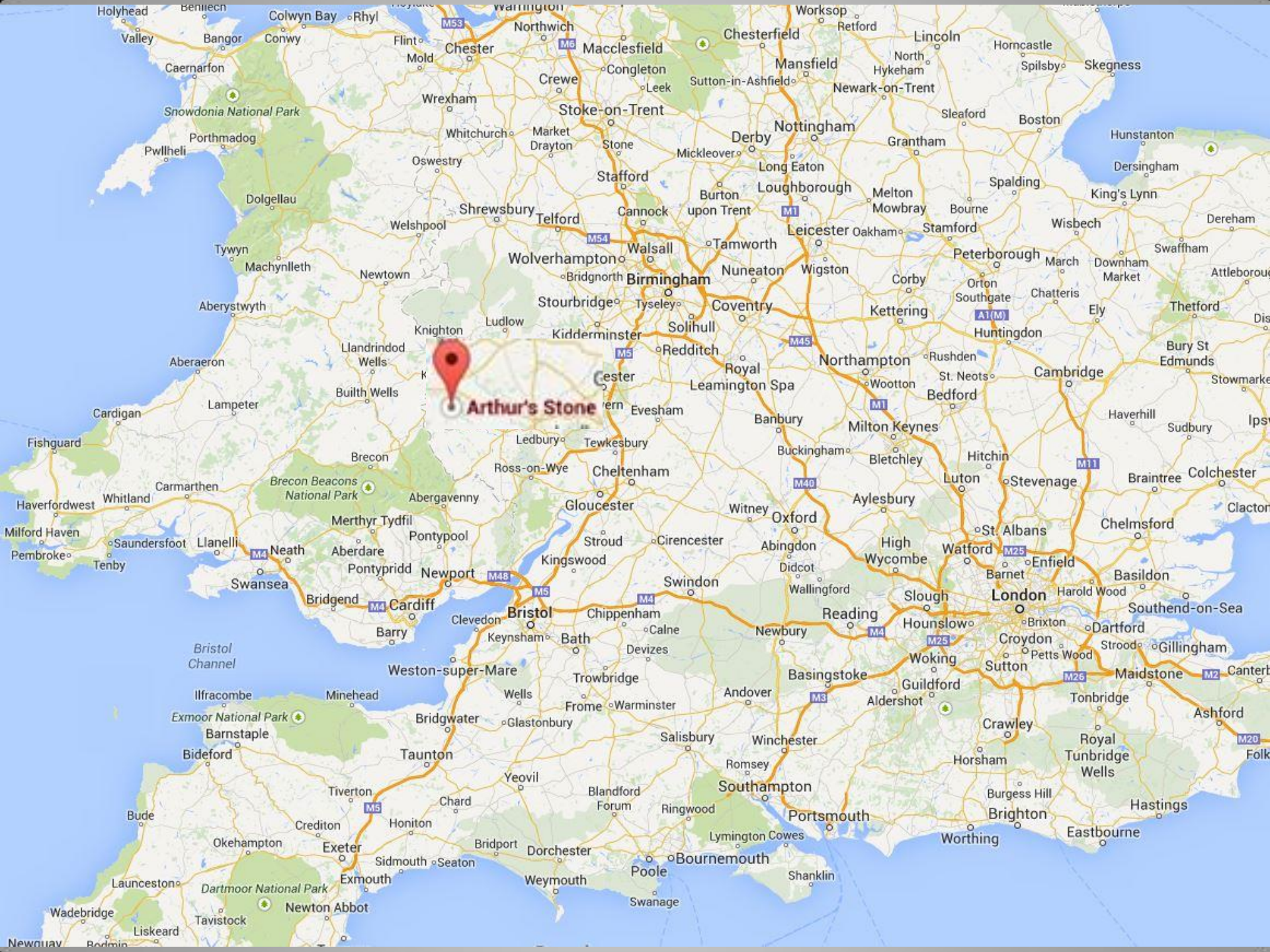
may also have been surrounded by a further ring of stones.

### For your safety

- Please take care as there is a steep slope.
- Children should be kept under close supervision.
- Do not touch the stones as they may be hot.
- For more information on this site, visit [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

EXOTIC







out similar  
id to  
several  
heads and

solely  
h  
ould  
in an  
could  
is.

- Chambered tomb
- Standing stone
- Axe find
- Flint scatter or find
- Settlement







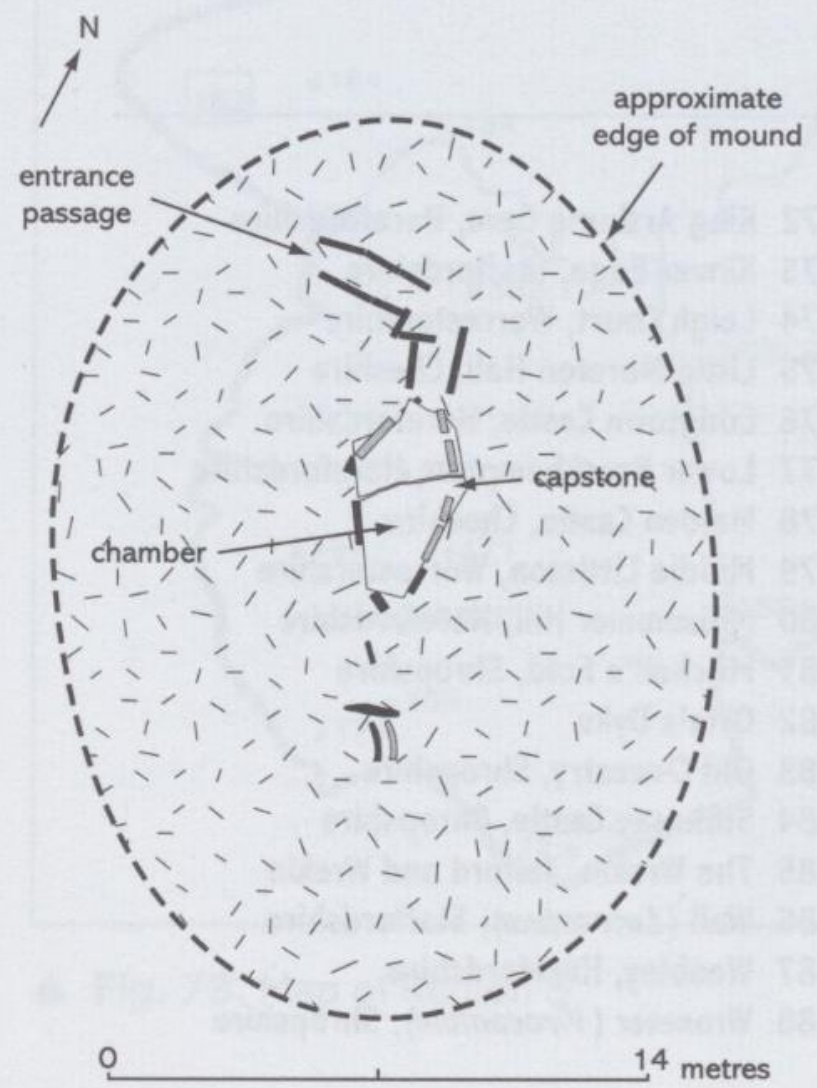
Arthur's Stone, Herefordshire







▼ Fig. 74. Plan of the Neolithic long barrow known as Arthur's Stone, near Bredwardine, Dorstone, Hereford and Worcester (after Hemp)

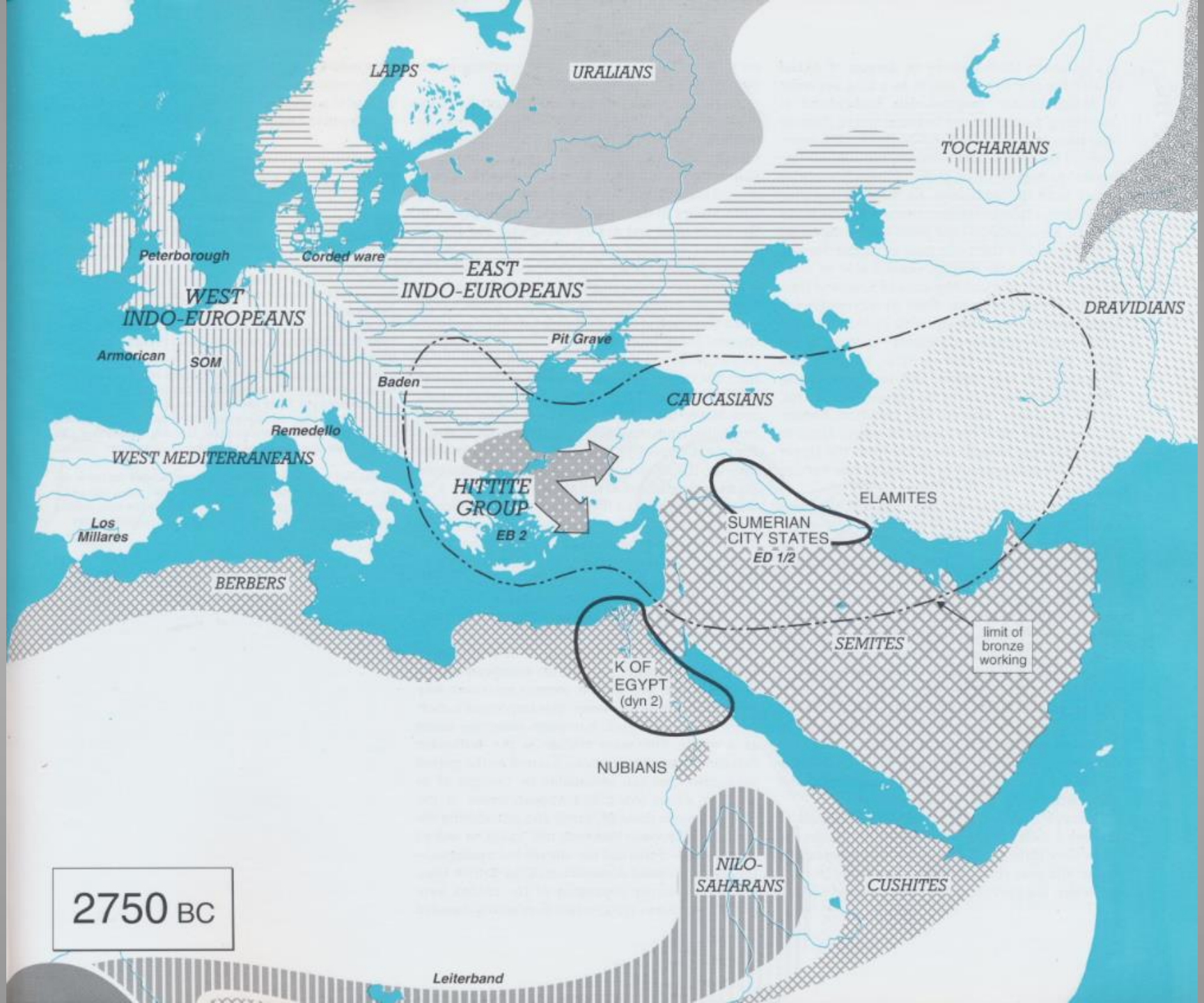


...it was accessed through the side of the covering mound, via the right-angled passage. The isolated stone to your right probably formed part of a false entrance, perhaps providing a visual focus for ceremonies.

...claim to a particular area of land could be staked, may have taken place here. Built in an area of summer pastures, Neolithic people could have gathered at the cairn on a seasonal basis.

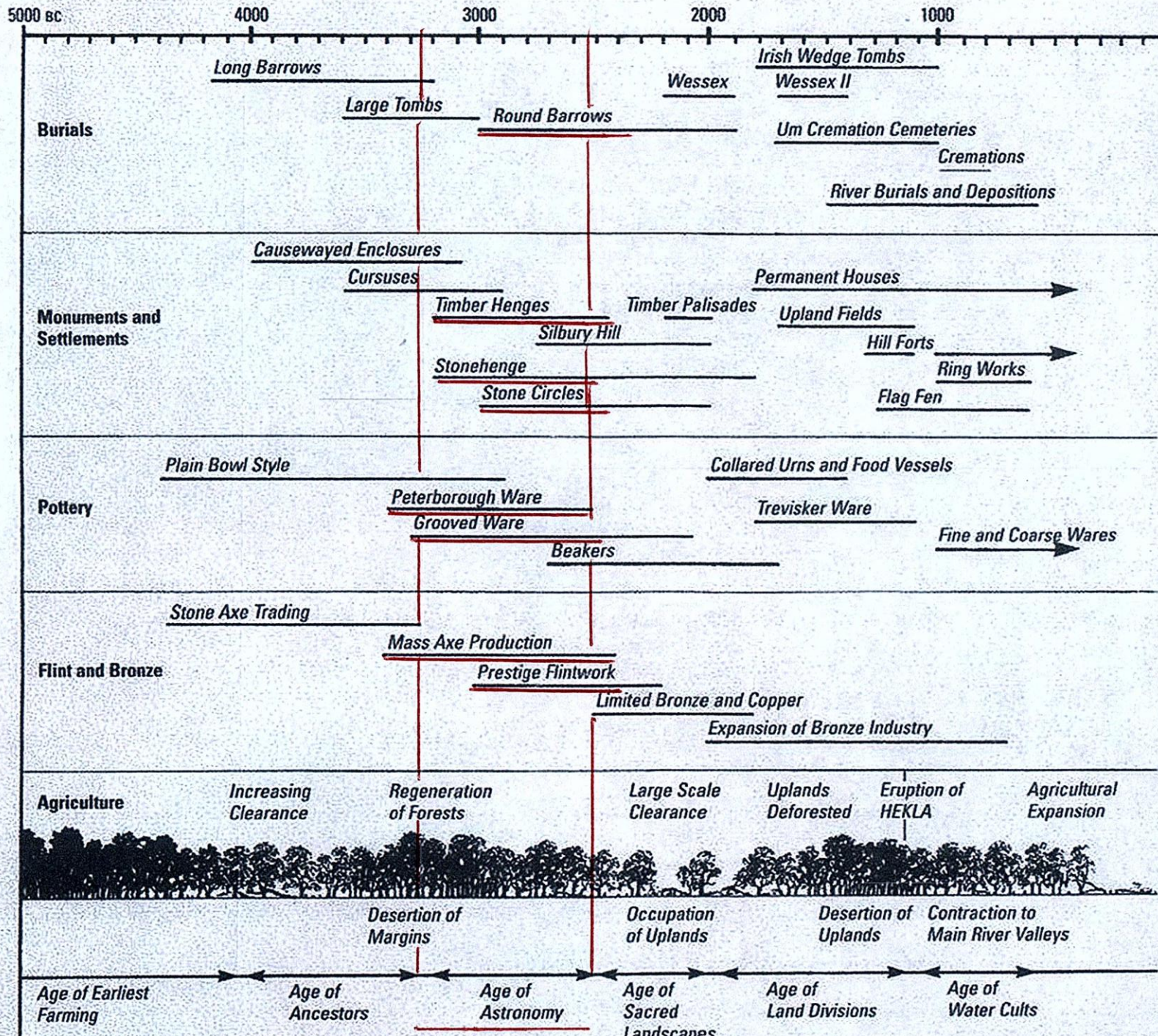






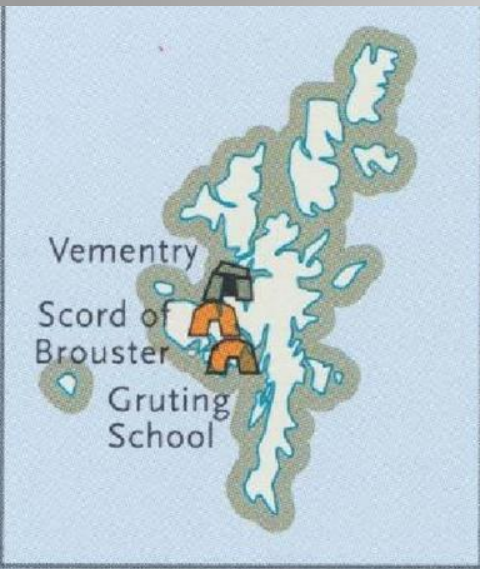
2750 BC











ORKNEY ISLANDS





# ORKNEY ISLANDS



**Ulster** Major centre of Earlier Neolithic activity

— Main distribution of long mounds and cairns

— Main distribution of passage graves

■ Burial monument

☼ Rock art

— Main distribution of causewayed enclosures

● Flint mine

**Anglesey** Major centre of Later Neolithic activity

■ Settlement

|| Linear monument

■ Main distribution of henge monuments

○ Enclosure or stone circle

■ Axe quarry

**WESSEX** Major centre throughout the Neolithic

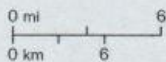


# Neolithic Orkney

Dotted with megaliths, settlements, and tombs, Stone Age Orkney was well connected to the rest of its world, a religious complex and pilgrimage site whose cultural influence stretched far beyond its shores.

## Known Neolithic sites of Orkney

- ◆ Settlement
- ▲ Tomb
- Ceremonial ground

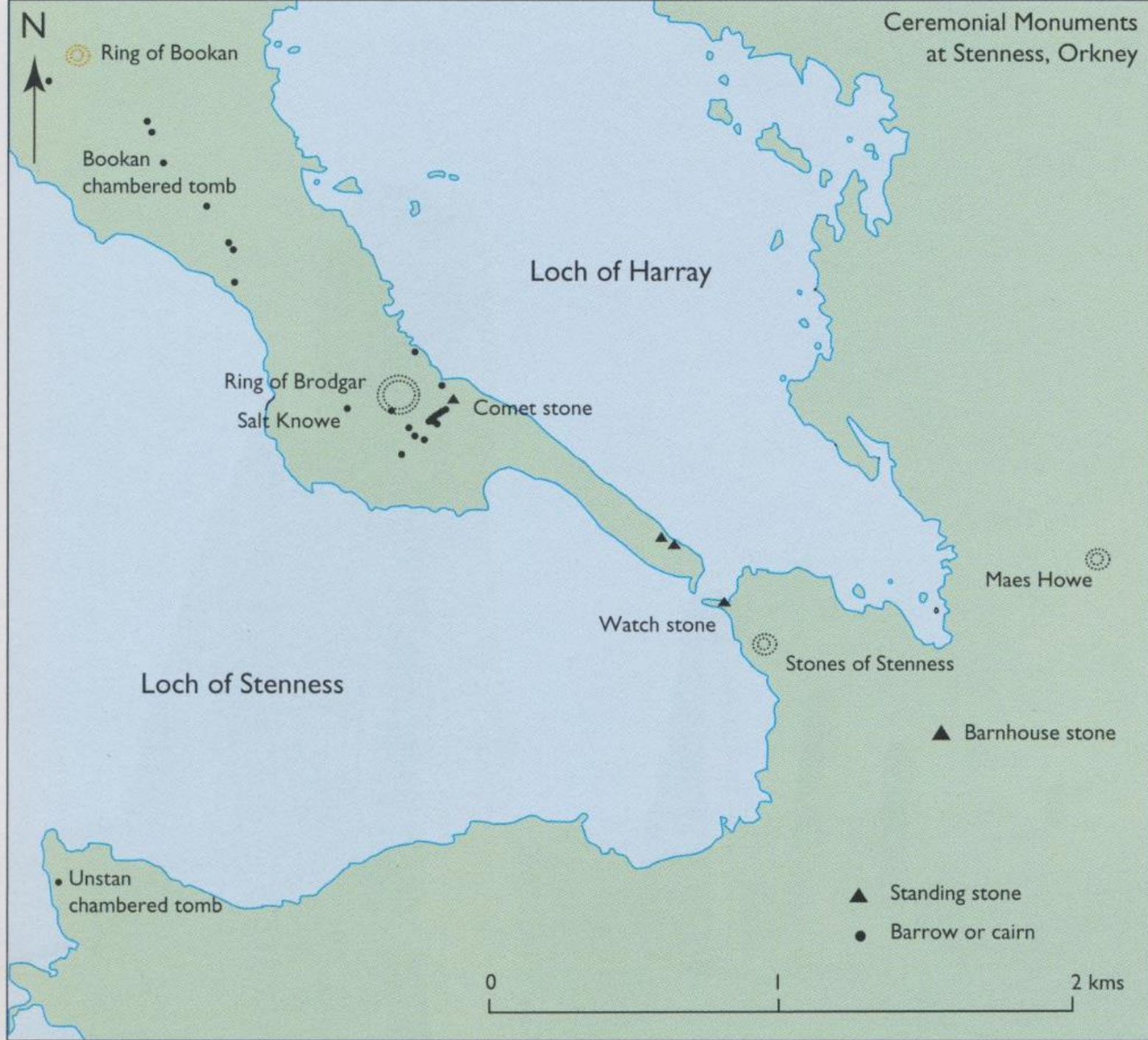






**Fertile soil, few trees, lots of stone**

Ceremonial Monuments  
at Stenness, Orkney







33 (above) The great chambered tomb of Maes Howe, Orkney, which faces the setting sun at midwinter. The ditch and bank around it are also Neolithic.



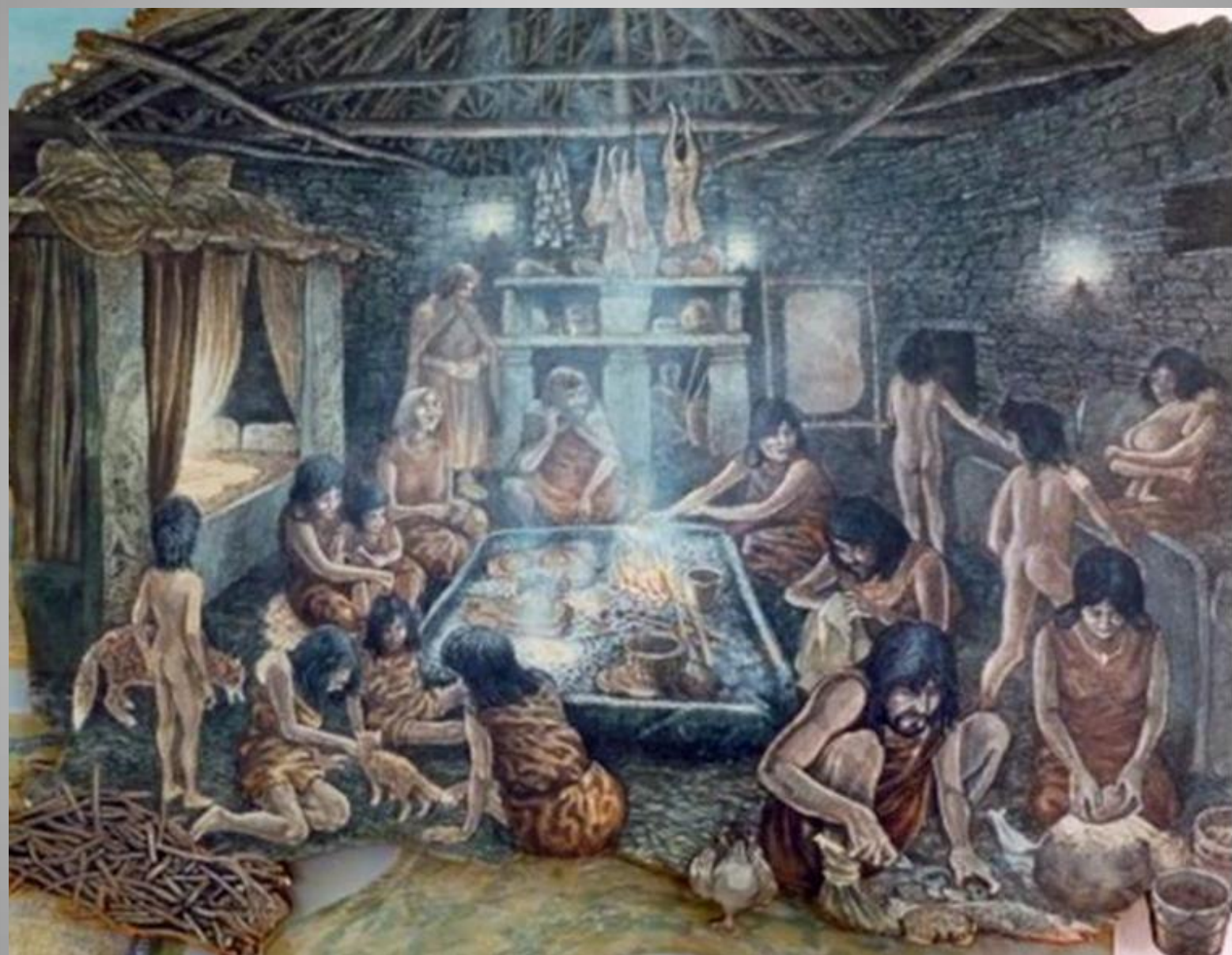


### **Skara Brae, Neolithic settlement** (*Historic Scotland*)

The group of Neolithic buildings at Skara Brae, which was discovered in 1850 when a great storm removed part of the covering sand dune, are amongst the earliest stone-walled houses to have been found in Europe. Radiocarbon dating has shown that the settlement was occupied for some 600 years from about 3100BC to 2500BC. In each house stone beds, dressers, storage boxes and recesses or cupboards are arranged around a central hearth.

Together with the chambered cairn of Maes Howe, the stone circle at Brodgar and the settlement and stone circle at Stenness, it forms part of the Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site.













32 (above) The Neolithic stone houses at Knap of Howar, Orkney.

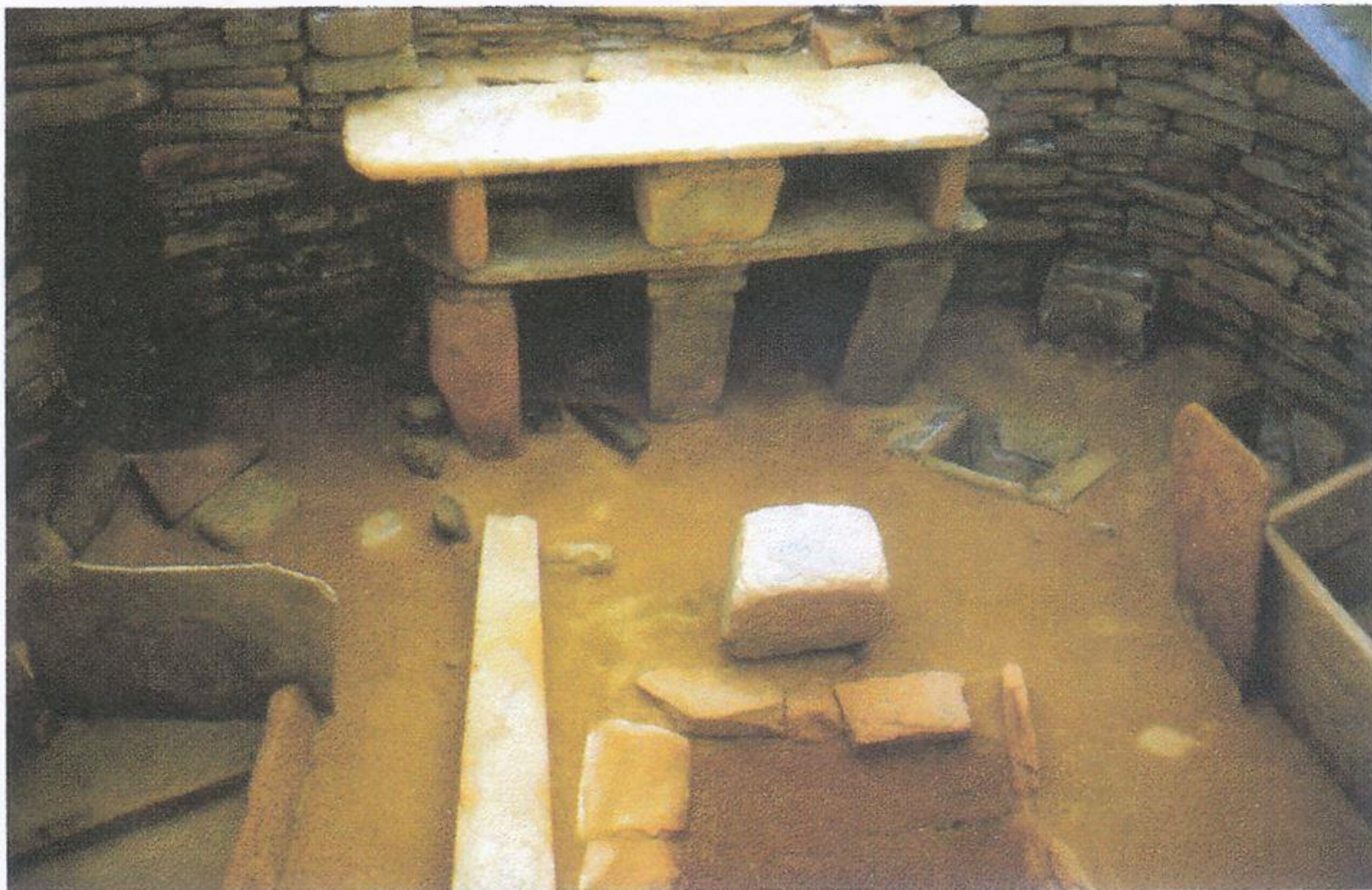


# SKARA BRAE

-  Hearth
-  Internal stones
-  Midden and stone infill
-  Wall







**39 (above right)** The interior of House 7. at Skara Brae, showing the stone bed frames each side of the hearth.





**38 (above)** The interior of House 1 at Skara Brae. The hearth is in the foreground, in front of the stone dresser and a water tank.





**Circa 2800 B.C.** The scene depicted here shows the Ness of Brodgar site in its heyday. The complex was remade several times and constantly evolved throughout its thousand-year period of use.



## ANCIENT MARSHLAND

During the Neolithic, water levels were still rising after the last ice age, so the shore was lined with bogs and marshlands.



**Circa 2800 B.C.** The scene depicted here shows the Ness of Brodgar site in its heyday. The complex was remade several times and constantly evolved throughout its thousand-year period of use.





### MORE THAN TRASH

Over 16 feet high, this midden pile is the biggest found in Neolithic Britain and may have had ceremonial functions involving fertility and cycles of life, death, decay, and renewal.

### SOPHISTICATED BUILDING TECHNIQUES

The Ness provides the first evidence in northern Europe of roofs made of carefully trimmed, rectangular stone slates. Recent finds also indicate some walls may have been decorated with natural pigments and colored stones.

**Circa 2800 B.C.** The scene depicted here shows the Ness of Brodgar site in its heyday. The complex was remade several times and constantly evolved throughout its thousand-year period of use.





### ENCLOSED IN STONE

Roughly 10 feet high and up to 18 feet wide, these are some of the largest prehistoric walls ever found in Britain.

### OUTDOOR RITUALS

Evidence suggests people didn't live here year-round but visited periodically, perhaps to make offerings as part of a ritual procession through the site and its many buildings.

**Circa 2800 B.C.** The scene depicted here shows the Ness of Brodgar site in its heyday. The complex was remade several times and constantly evolved throughout its thousand-year period of use.



## WHERE HEAVEN AND EARTH MEET

Located in the center of the site and the surrounding bowl of land, this standing stone aligned with the spring and fall equinoxes and might have served as a symbolic axis between earth and sky.



**Circa 2800 B.C.** The scene depicted here shows the Ness of Brodgar site in its heyday. The complex was remade several times and constantly evolved throughout its thousand-year period of use.





Archaeologists excavating the Ness of Brodgar uncovered the richest collection of Neolithic art yet found in Britain, including this decorative stone incised with a geometric motif.





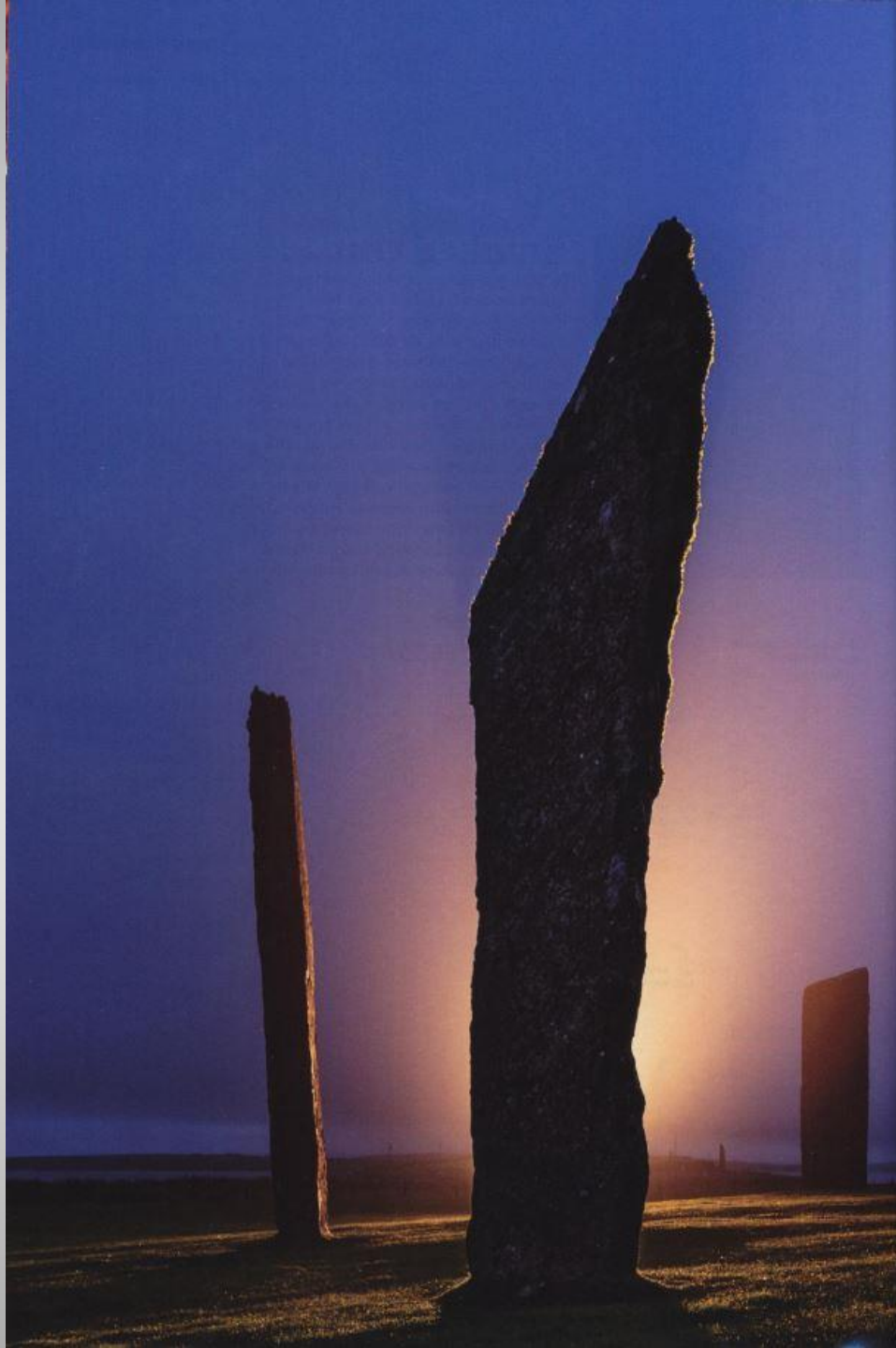
This domino-size figure is the earliest depiction of a human face found in Britain.





Pins up to seven inches long made of bone and antler may have fastened a cloak.







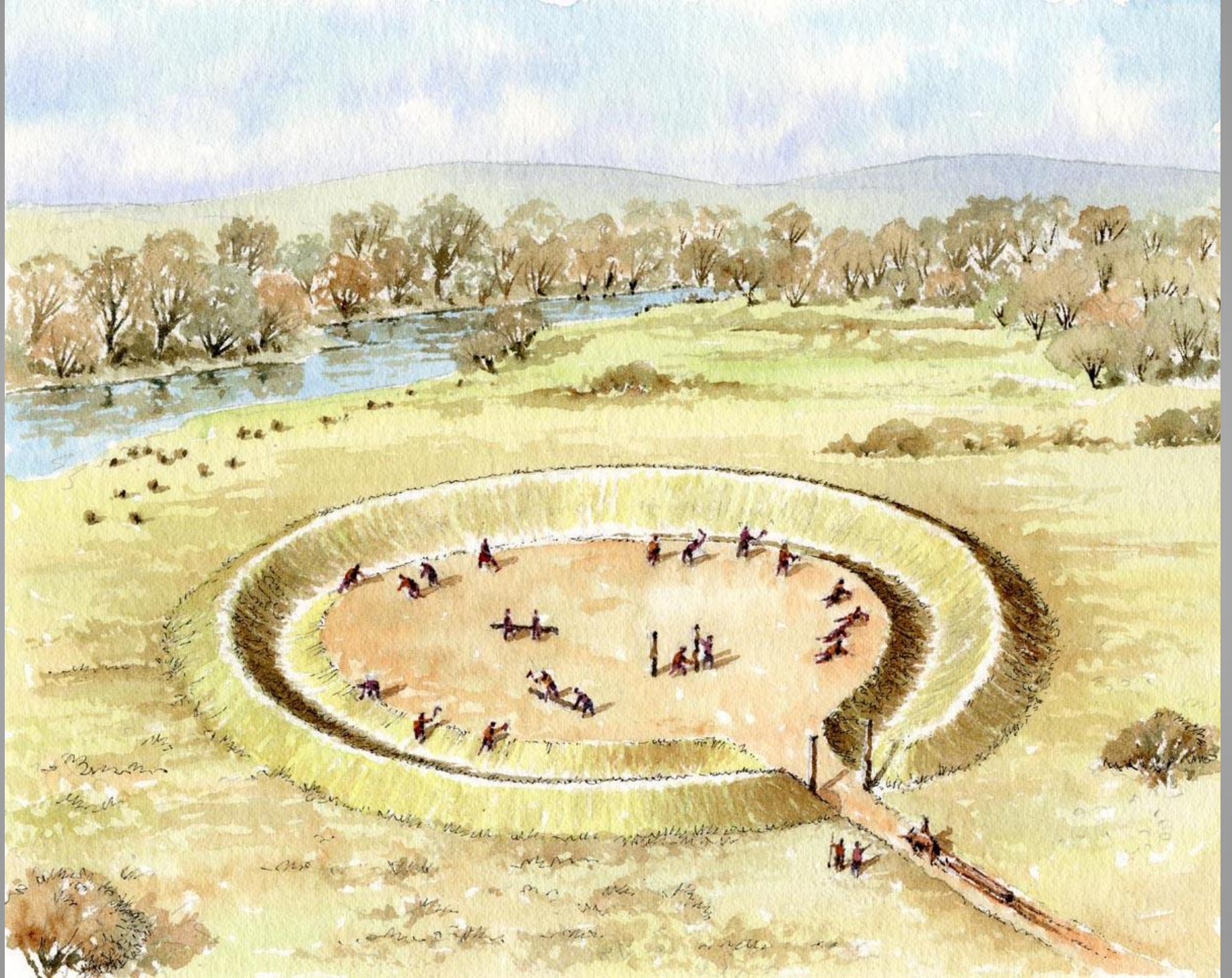


**6.9** The Ring of Brodgar on Orkney mainland is a massive stone circle 104 metres in diameter set on the lip of a circular ditched enclosure. It is one of a number of Neolithic monuments occupying a neck of land between the lochs of Harray and Stenness just north of the great passage grave of Maes Howe

















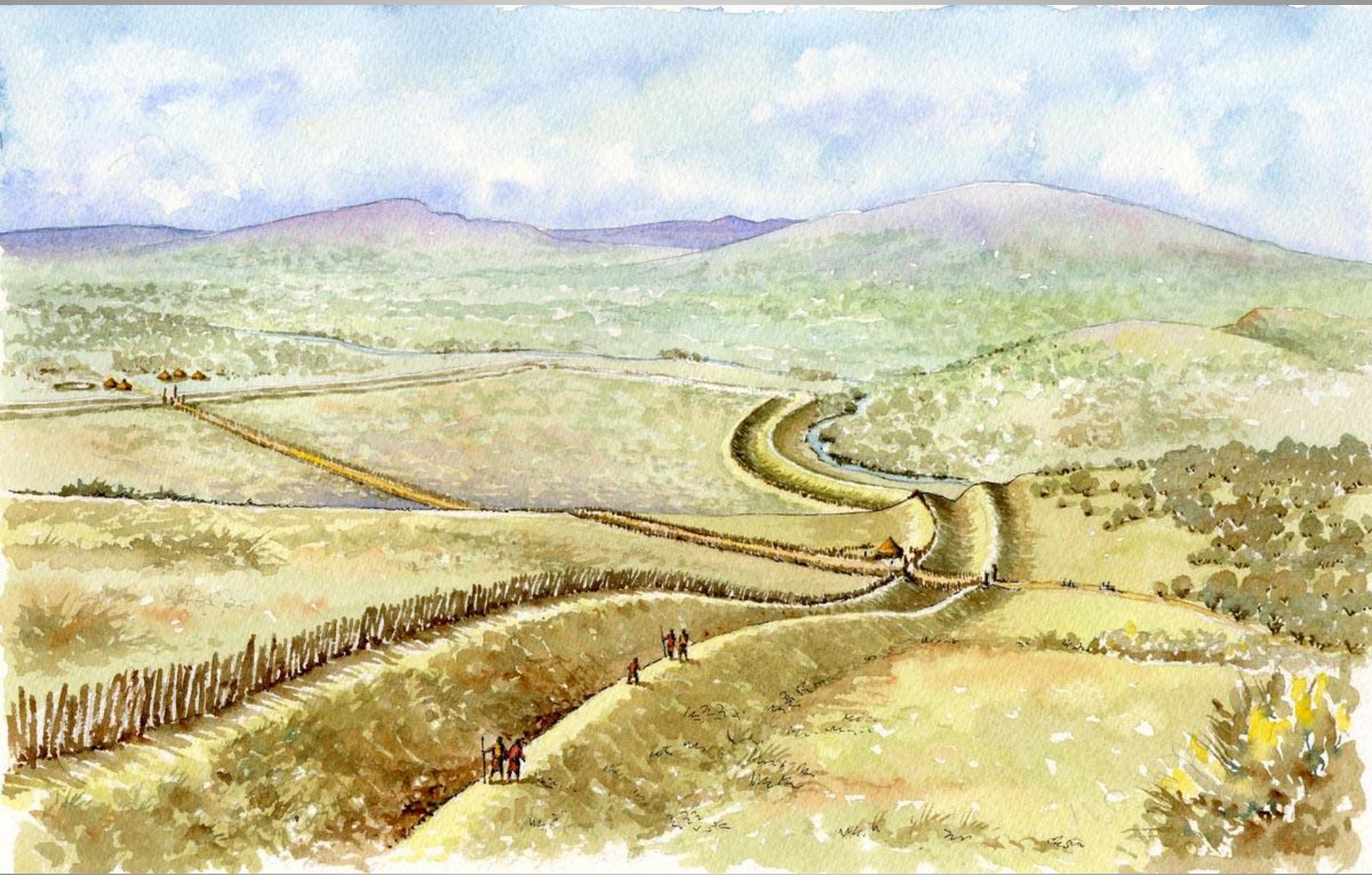
















6.6 The henge monument of Avebury on the north Wiltshire chalkland. The great enclosing bank and ditch survive remarkably intact. A number of the standing stones that can be seen were re-erected in the 1930s. The village spreading into the monument dates from the late Saxon period





**Avebury, Neolithic henge, stone circles and avenue**

This is one of the most important megalithic sites in Europe and is designated a World Heritage Site. The site is approached by an avenue of stones and features a large circular earthwork some 400 metres wide and an external ditch with a circumference of 1200 metres. Inside are two more stone circles, each of 100 metres in diameter.

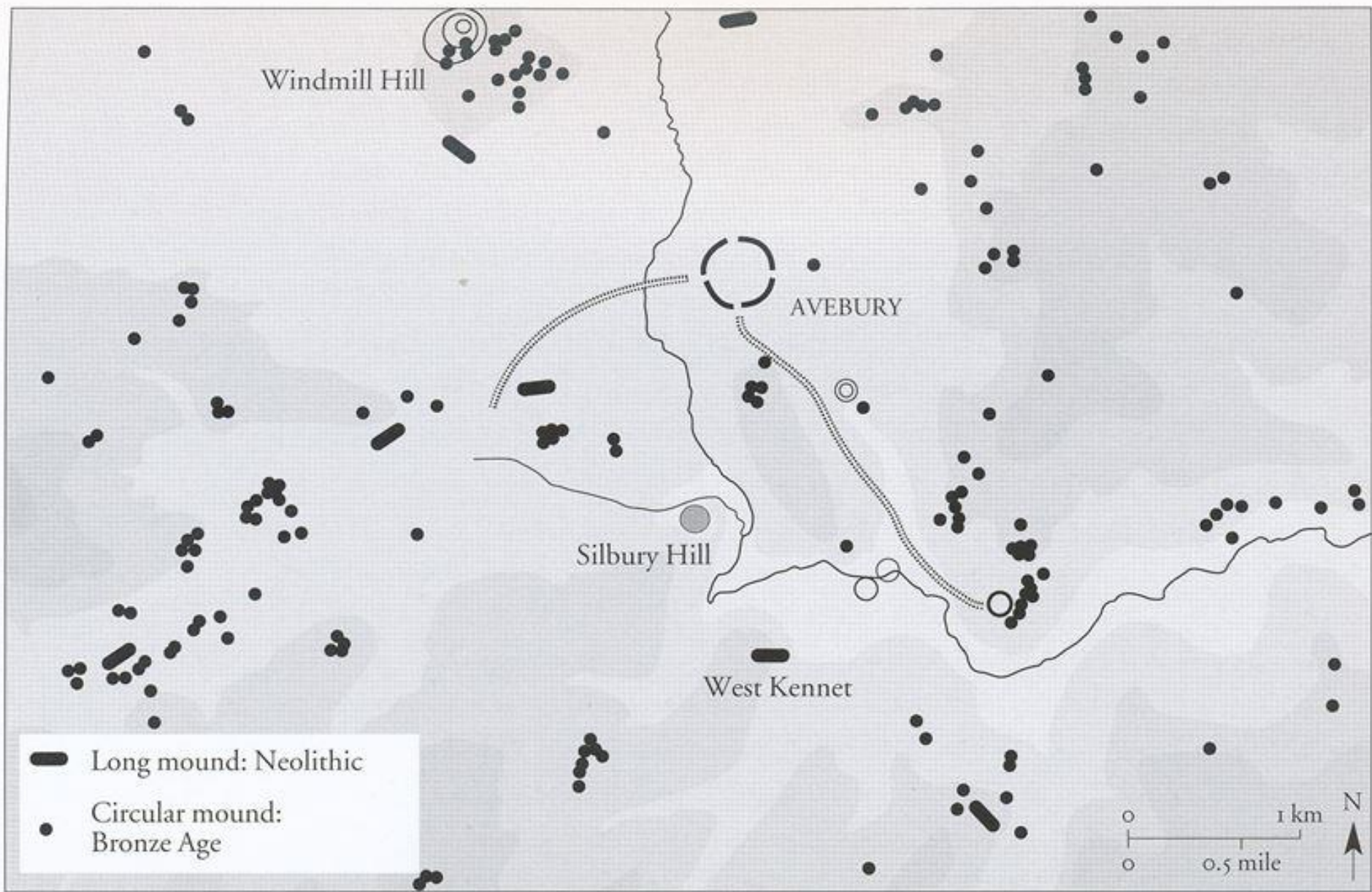
Many of the stones were re-erected in the 1930s by Alexander Keiller, and the site museum provides information on this and the archaeological story of Avebury.

*(English Heritage, National Trust and Private owner)*

Photo: © Crown copyright: English Heritage NMR









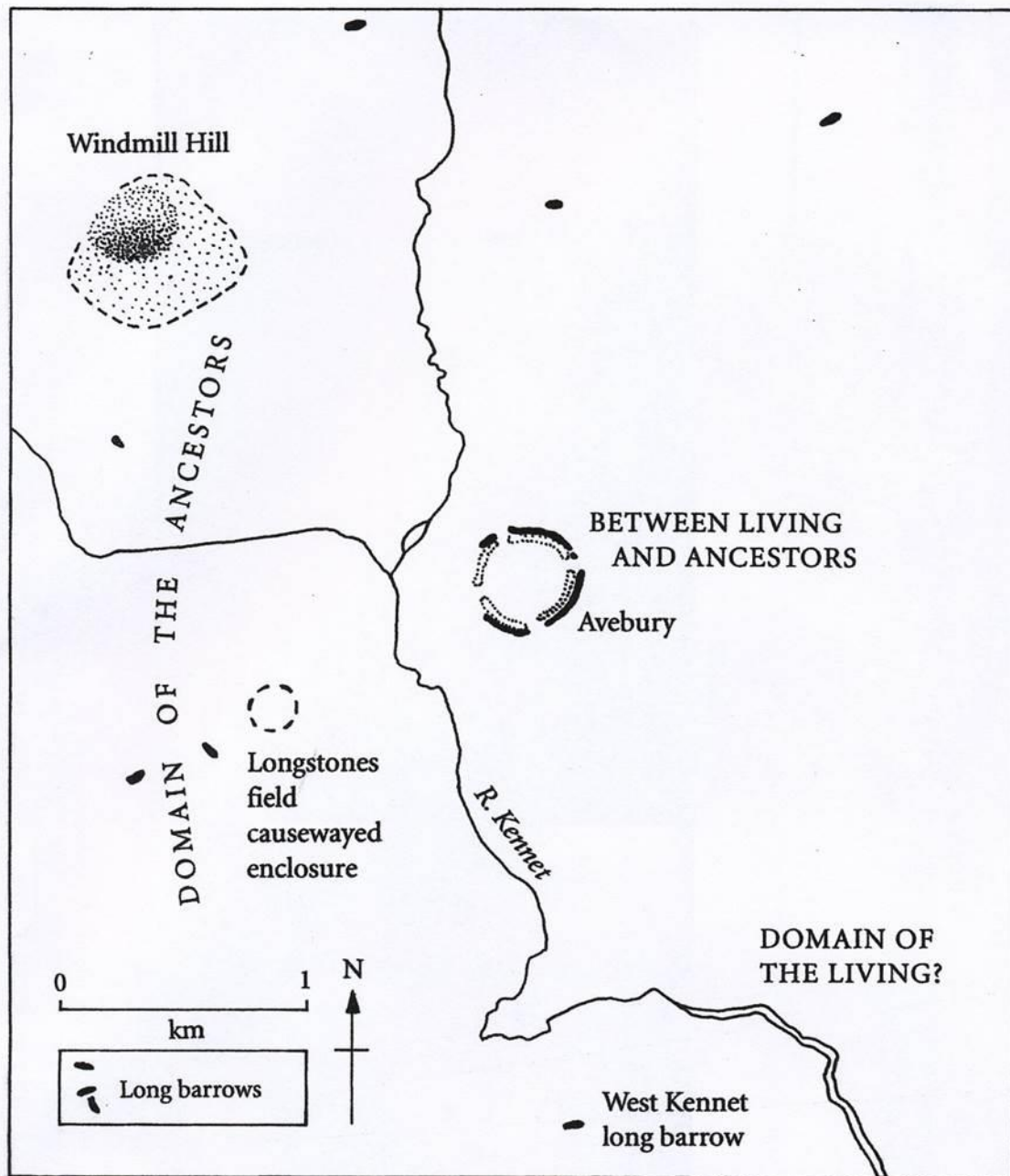


FIG 48 *Layout of the Avebury ritual landscape, 3500–2500 BC.*



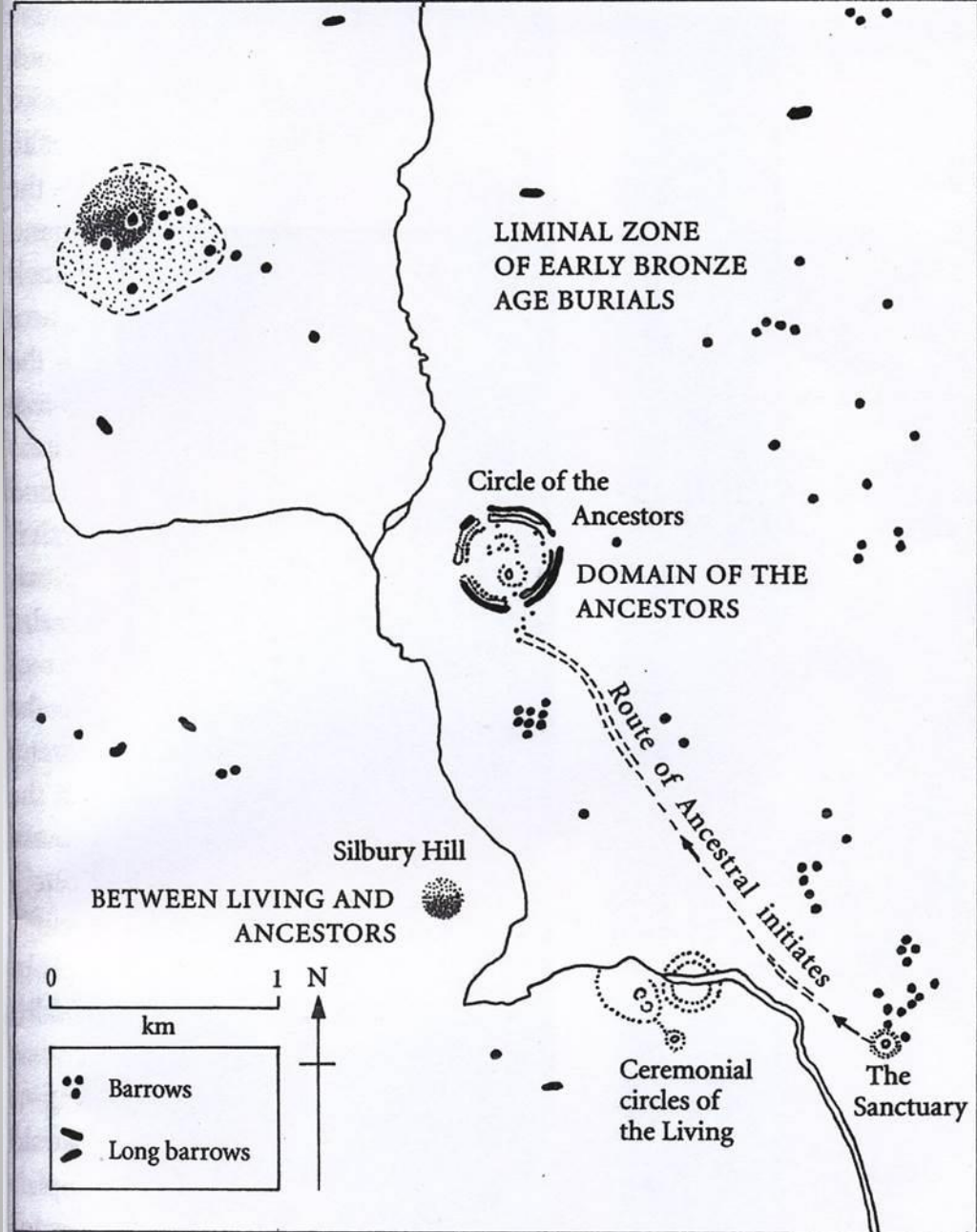


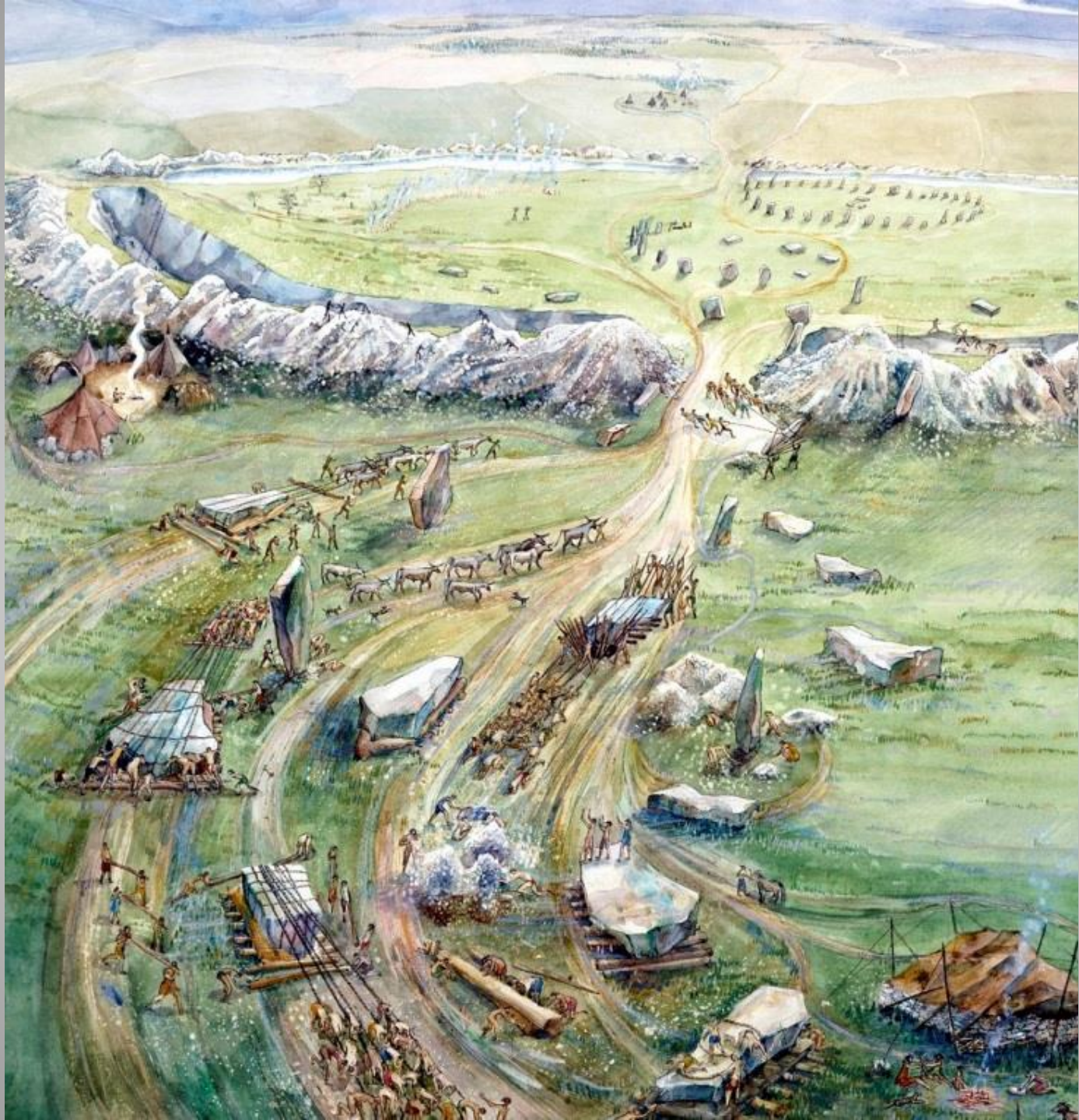
FIG 49 *Layout of the Avebury ritual landscape, 2500–2000 BC.*



12 (Below) Avebury: the Cove, a setting of two (originally three) massive blocks at the centre of the northern inner circle (visible in the background). Recent investigations have shown that the stone on the left continues at least 2 m (6.5 ft) below the surface and weighs an estimated 100 tonnes, making it by far the largest megalithic block at Avebury.













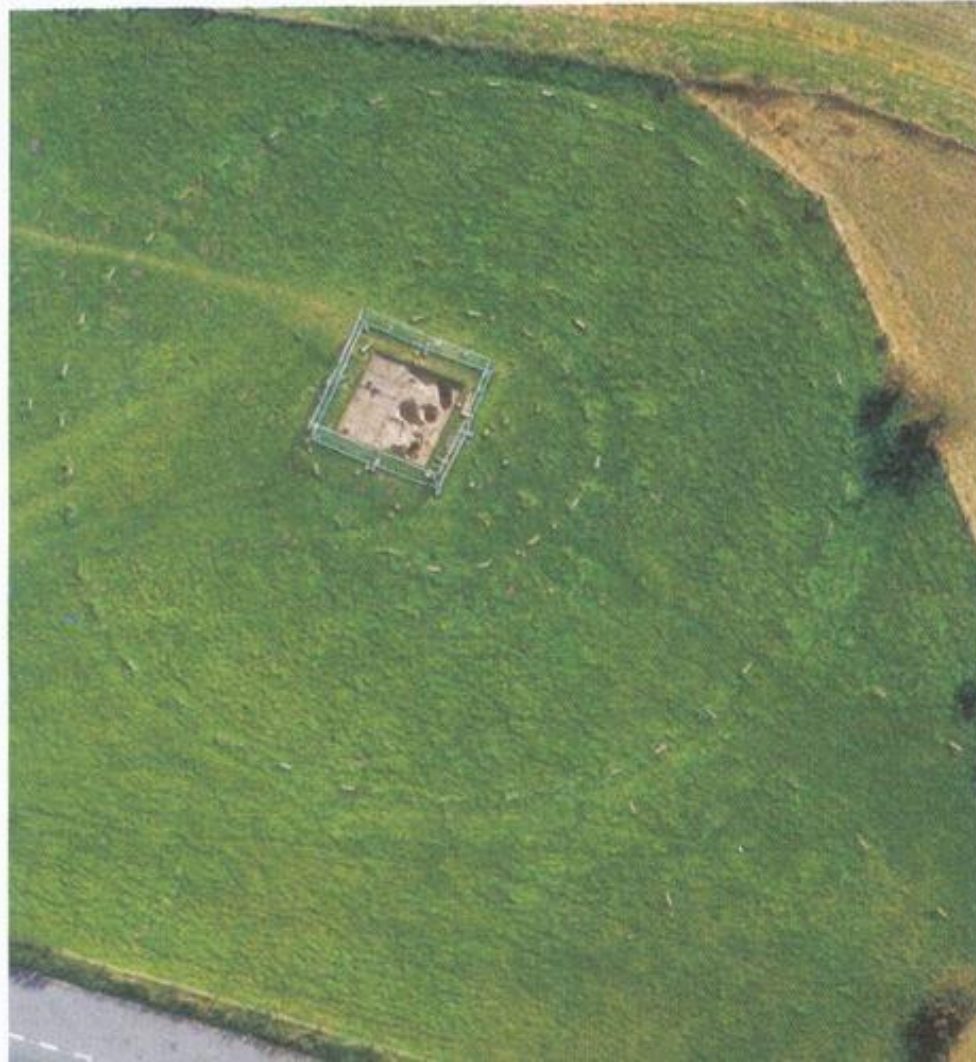








**57 (below) The Sanctuary at Avebury during excavation in 1999. The concentric circles of pits (some visible in the excavation) held timber posts. Two stone circles (represented today by concrete blocks) were also erected, probably later than the posts but at the same time as the stones of the West Kennet Avenue.**





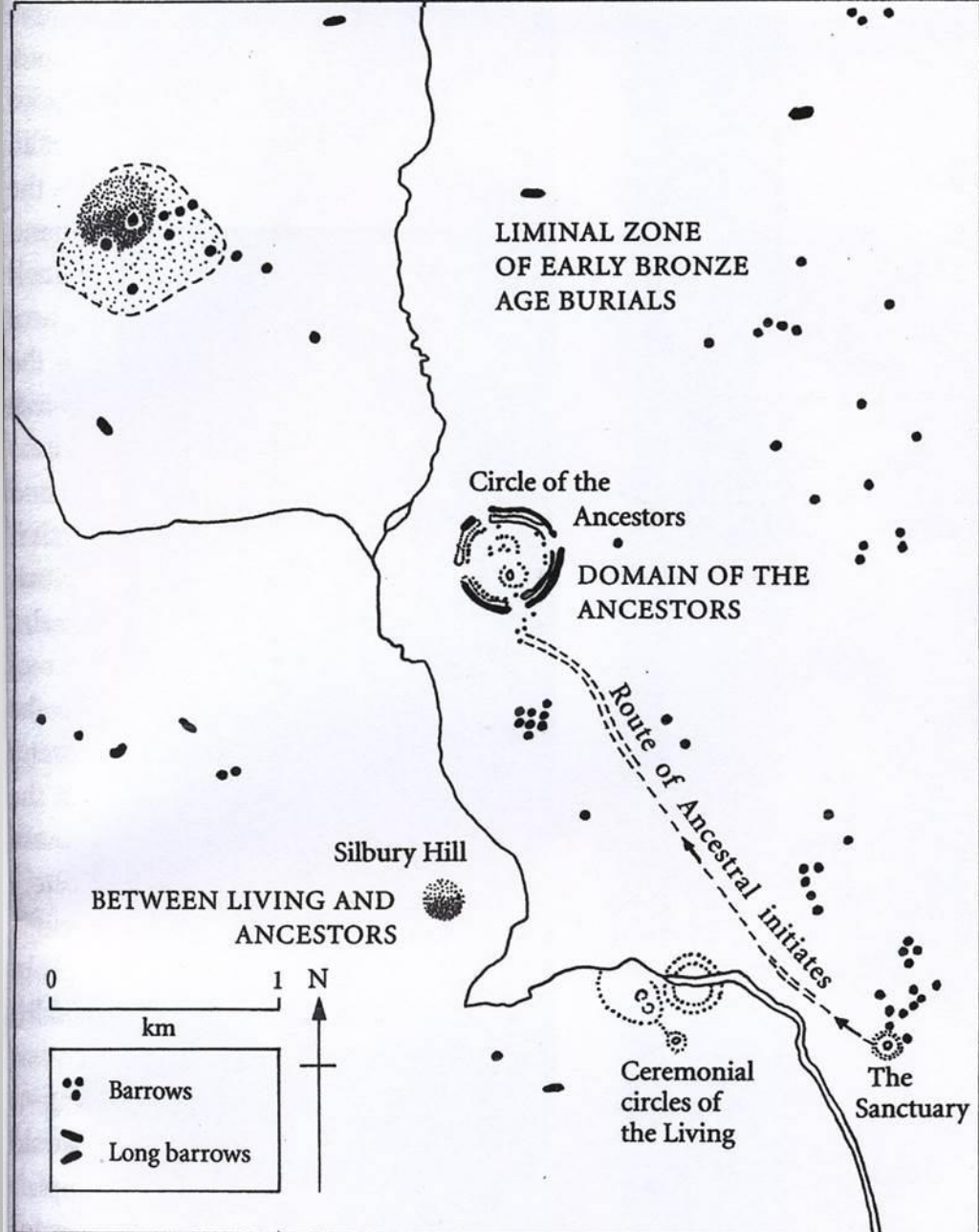


FIG 49 *Layout of the Avebury ritual landscape, 2500–2000 BC.*





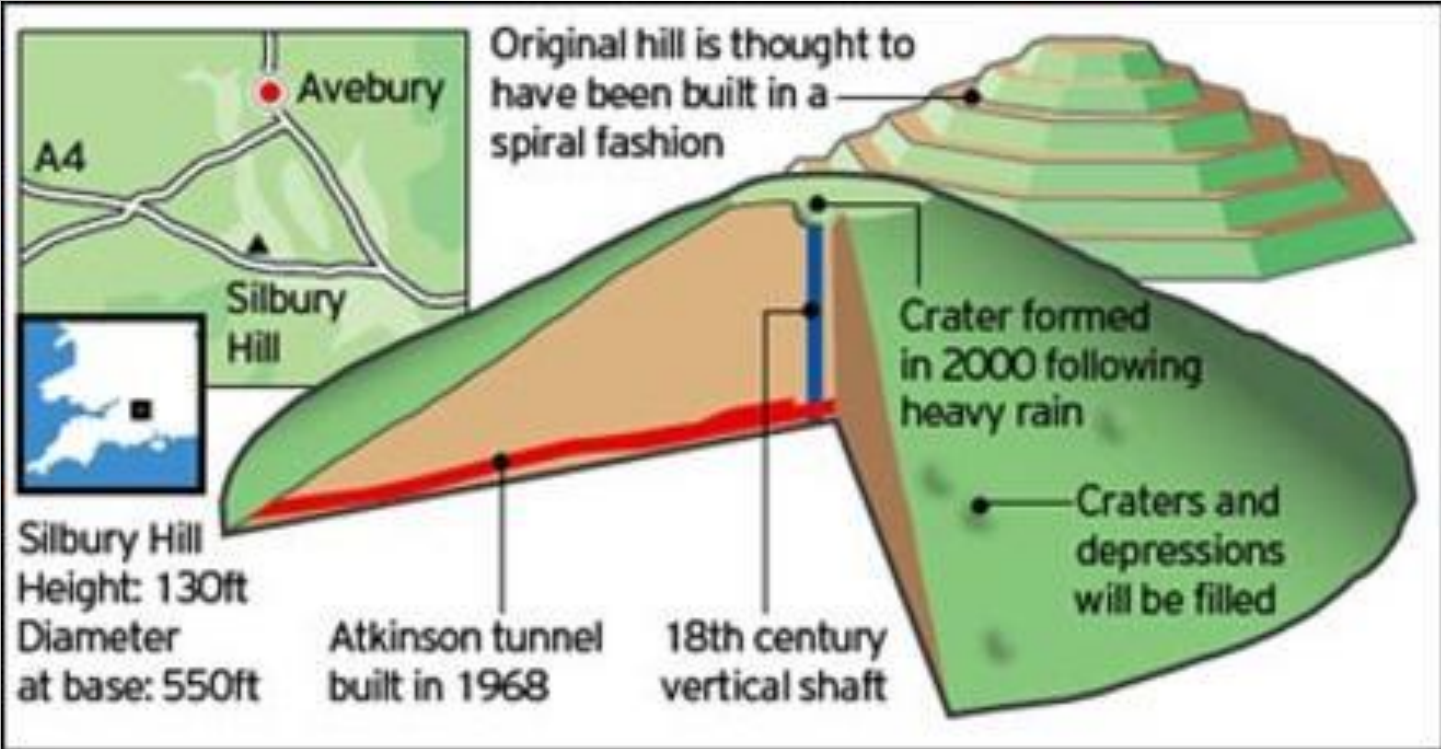










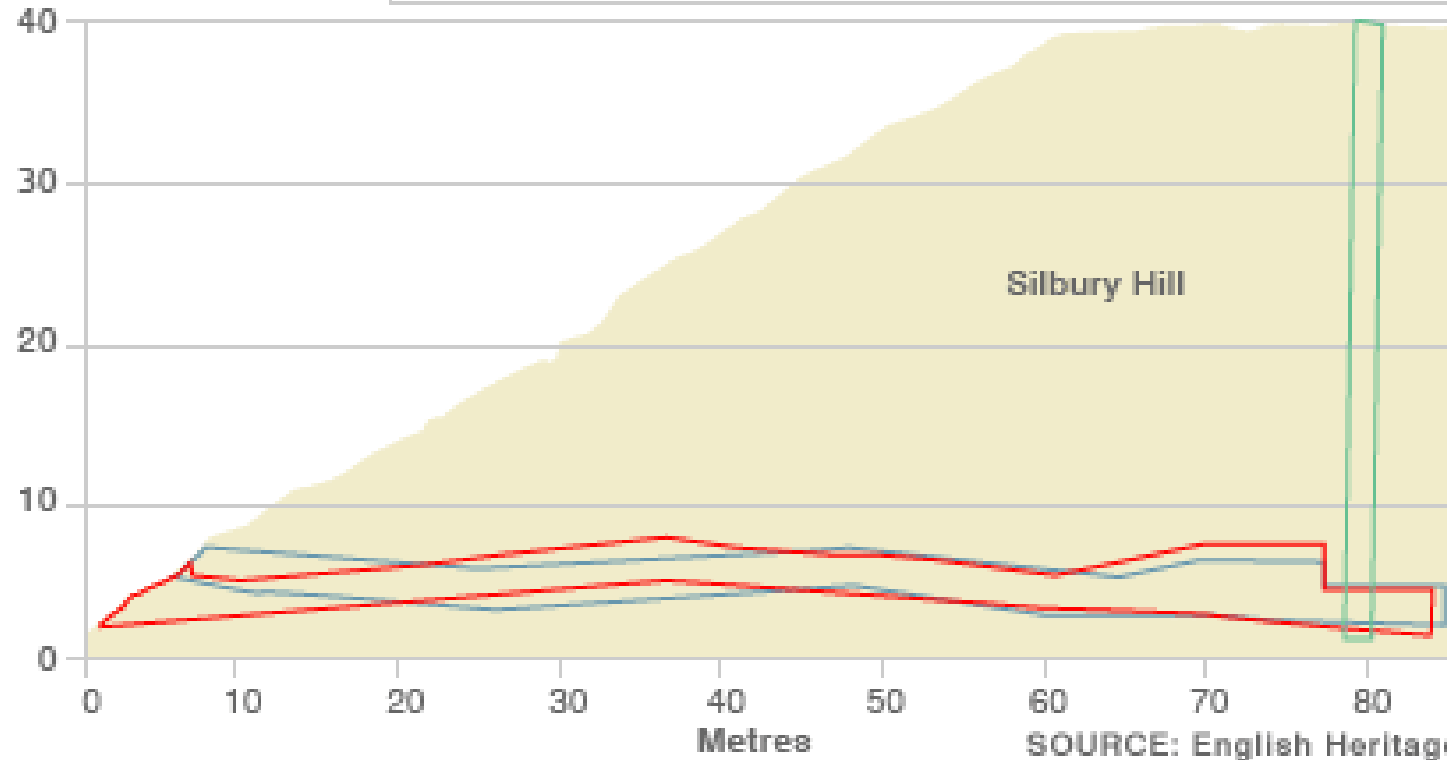




### SILBURY HILL TUNNELS

Metres

Tunneling 1776   Tunneling 1849   Tunneling 1968



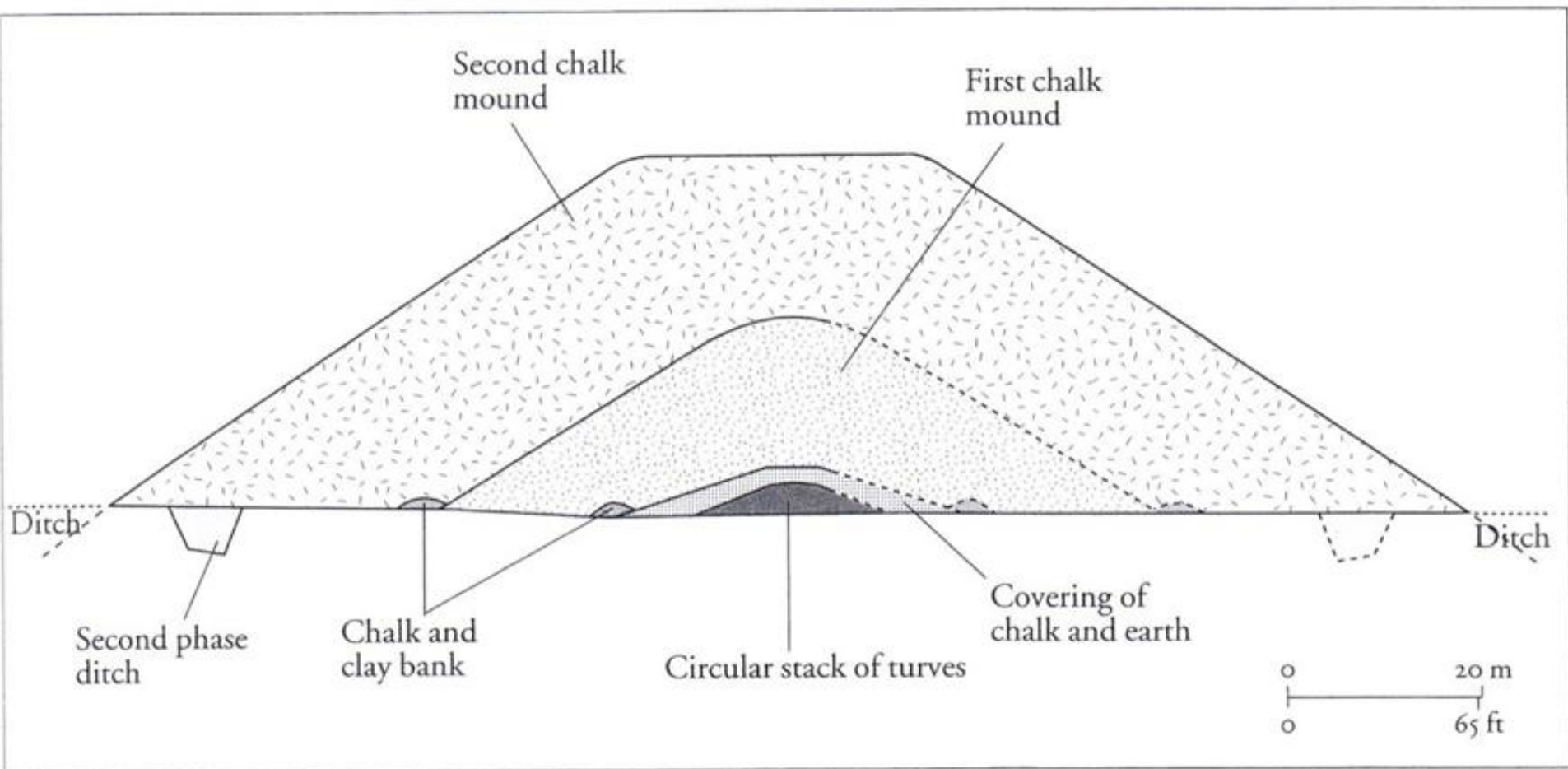
















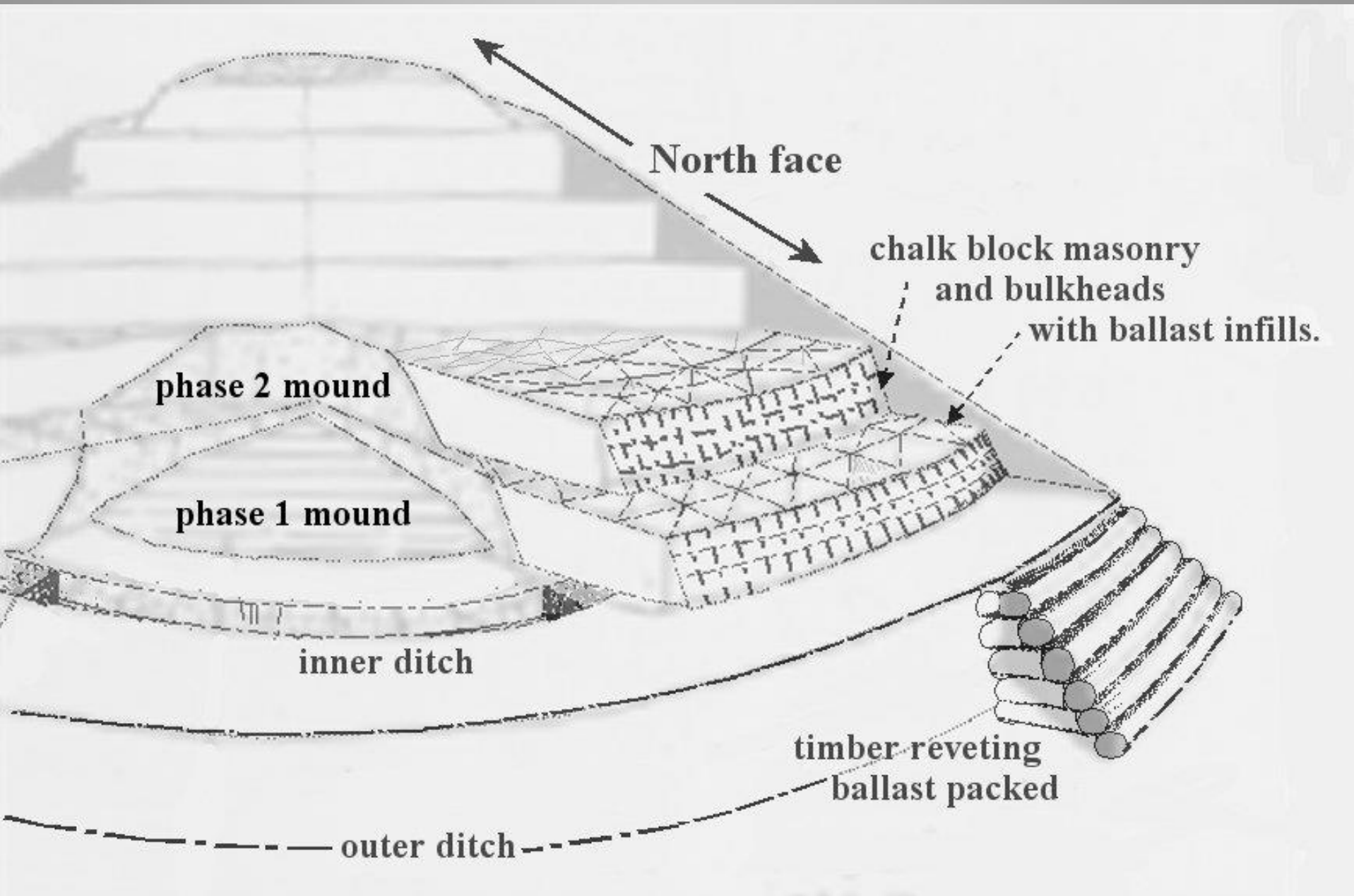
The first construction at Silbury was a low mound of gravel. Later, a series of layers of soil, mud and grass turves were added. Several pits were dug into the mound and it may have been edged by stakes.





Later, construction continued in chalk and clay, which was piled around the mound, sometimes in small banks. The mound was surrounded by a ditch with an internal bank.









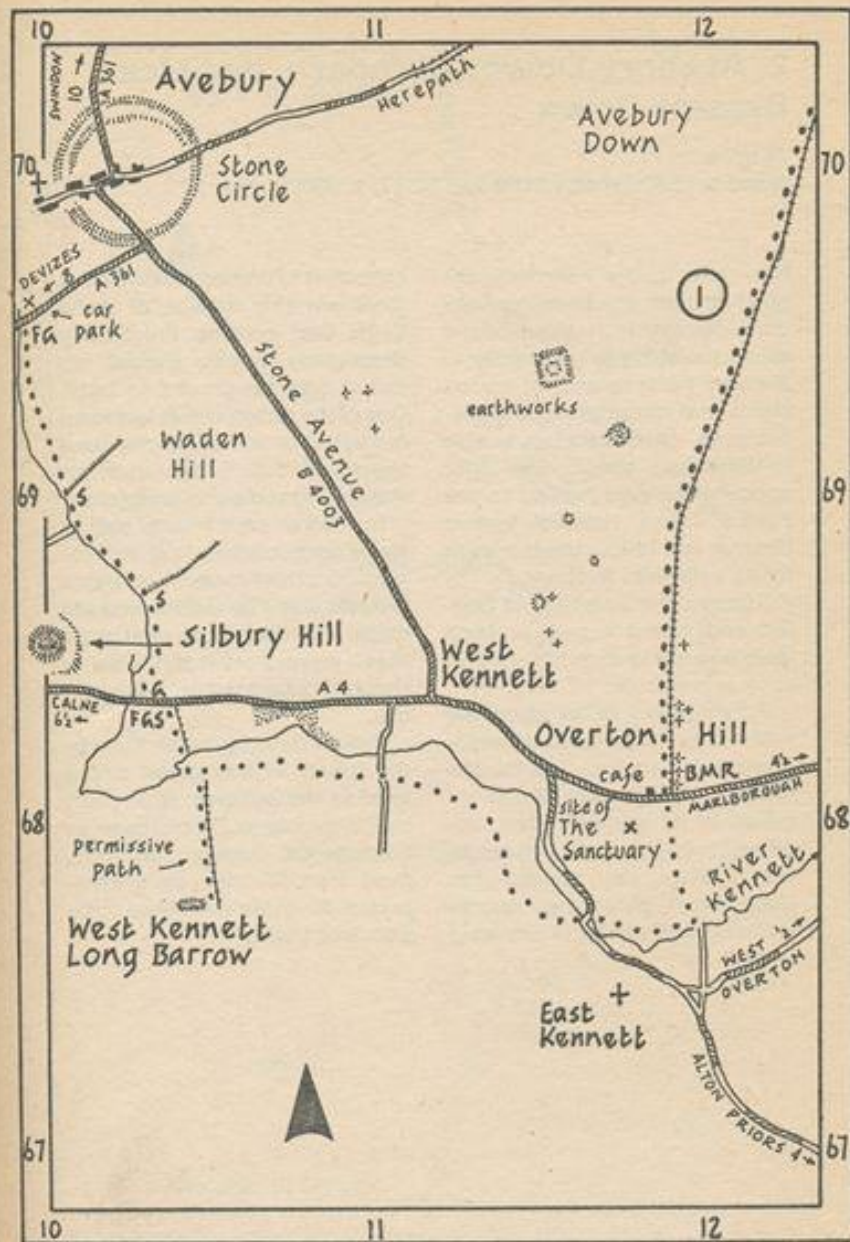














# The Ridgeway Path

