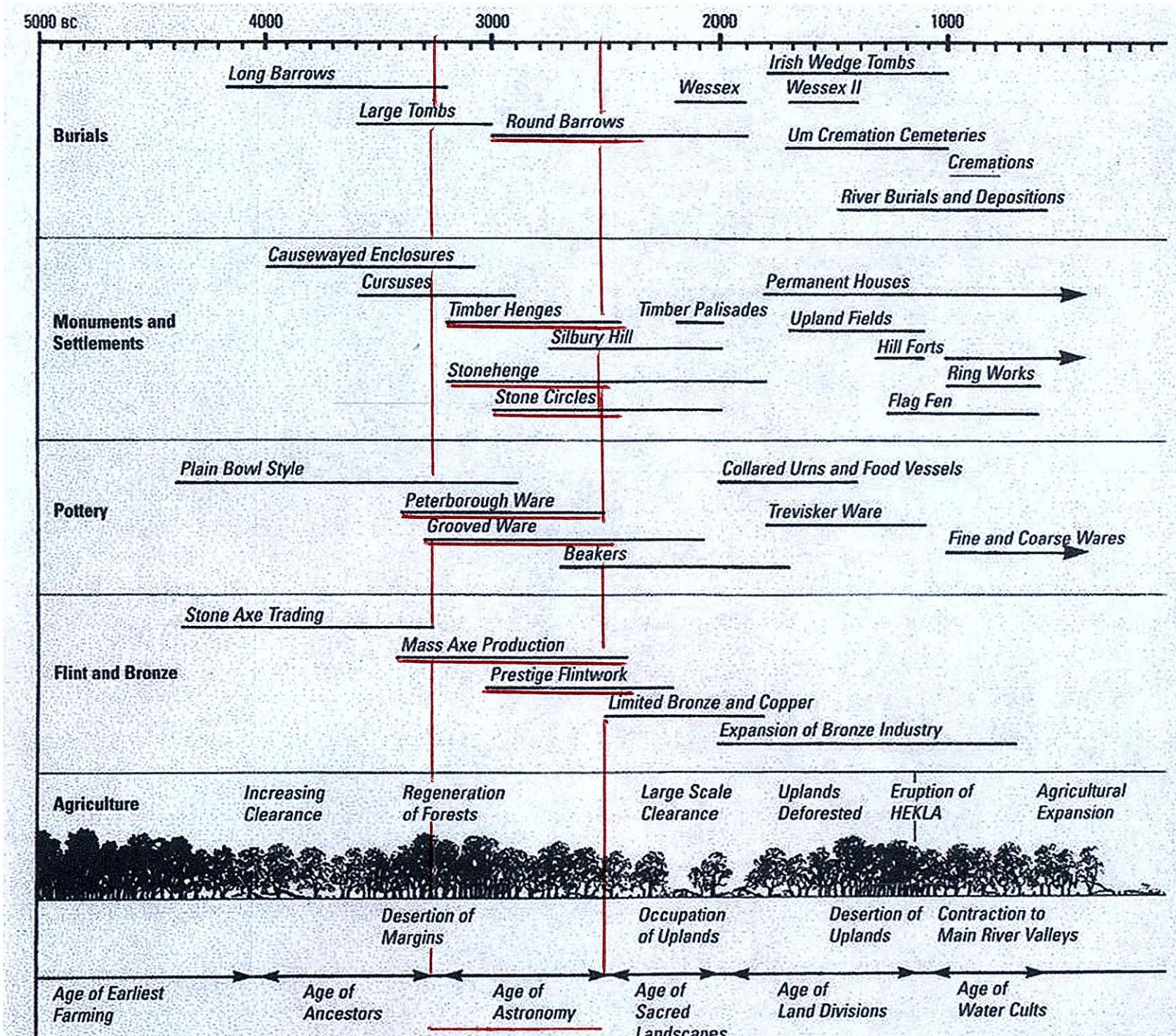
Ancient Britain
4
The Age of Astronomy


5000 BC
4000
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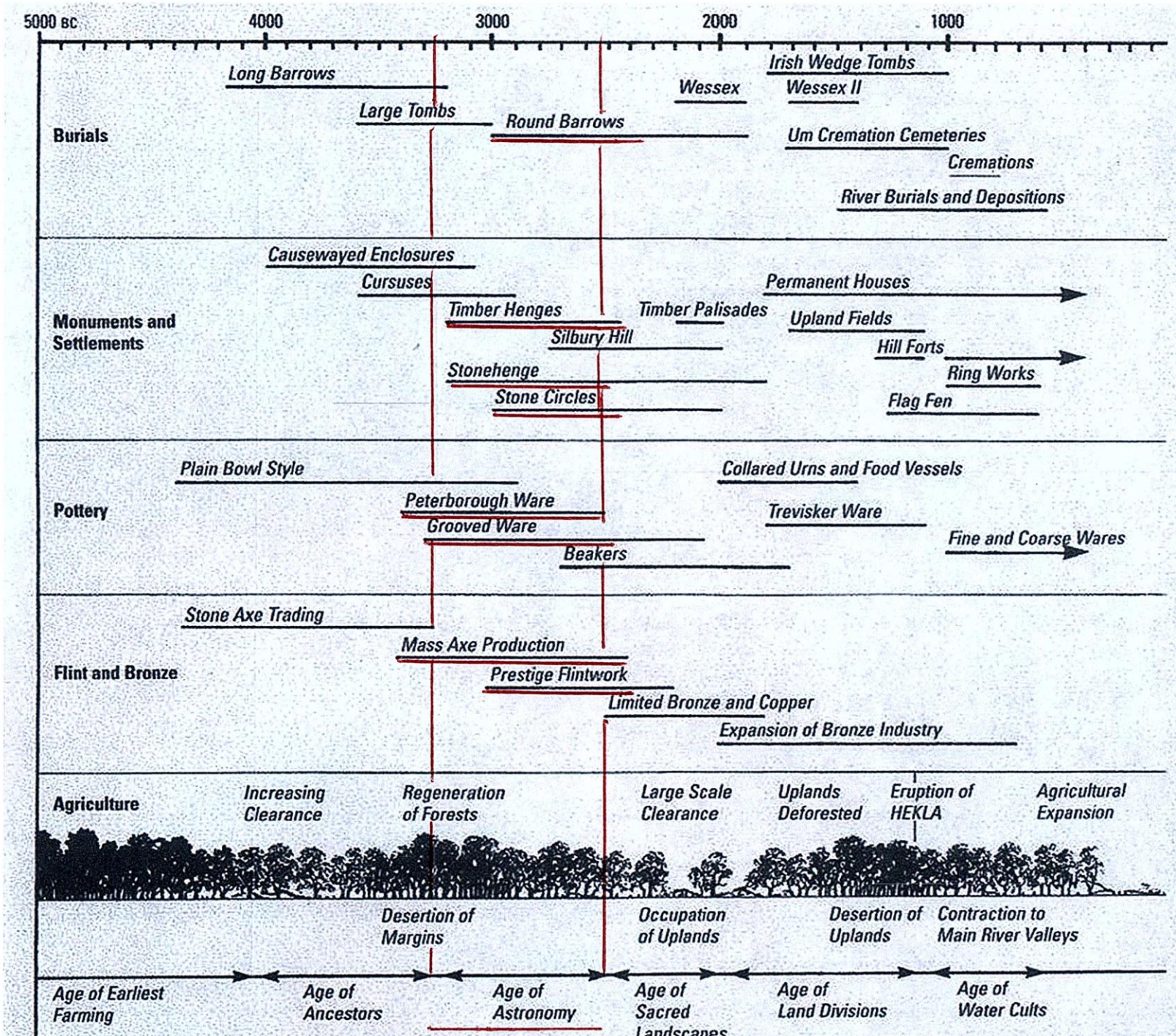
Burials
Long Barrows
Large Tombs
Round Barrows
Wessex
Wessex II
Irish Wedge Tombs
Um Cremation Cemeteries
Cremations
River Burials and Depositions
Monuments and Settlements
Causewayed Enclosures
Cursuses
Timber Henges
Timber Palisades
Silbury Hill
Stonehenge
Stone Circles
Permanent Houses
Upland Fields
Hill Forts
Ring Works
Flag Fen
Pottery
Plain Bowl Style
Peterborough Ware
Grooved Ware
Beakers
Collared Urns and Food Vessels
Trevisker Ware
Fine and Coarse Wares
Flint and Bronze
Stone Axe Trading
Mass Axe Production
Prestige Flintwork
Limited Bronze and Copper
Expansion of Bronze Industry
Agriculture
Increasing Clearance
Regeneration of Forests
Large Scale Clearance
Uplands Deforested
Eruption of HEKLA
Agricultural Expansion
Desertion of Margins
Occupation of Uplands
Desertion of Uplands
Contraction to Main River Valleys
Age of Earliest Farming
Age of Ancestors
Age of Astronomy
Age of Sacred Landscapes
Age of Land Divisions
Age of Water Cults

What Archaeology can and cannot do—

Early Historic Scotland
To 761
Alex Woolf

The full story of human occupation in Scotland stretches back something in the region of 10,000 years to the period when the first foragers, hunters and fisher-folk settled along the shoreline. Most of this period, however, belongs to prehistory and can only be reconstructed, and then but partially, through the work of archaeologists and palaeo-environmentalists. The nature of the evidence that they have to work with allows them to reconstruct only micro-events on a local scale — the chopping down of an individual thicket or the making of a flint axe-head — or to posit sweeping long-term trends. The study of what might be called medium term events and processes — political, military and social decisions and transformations — only becomes possible when written 'historical' sources are available, although even then archaeological and palaeo-environmental research continues to provide valuable complimentary evidence. In Scotland this historical narrative begins with the advent of the Romans in the first century of the Christian era.

"Political, military and social decisions and transformations" are perhaps the biggest mysteries involving the Ness of Brodgar, Stonehenge, and many other important archaeological sites.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ORKNEY ISLANDS
Knap of Howar
Vinquoy
Quoyness
Midhowe
Ring of Brodgar
Maeshowe
Skara Brae
Stones of Stenness
Unstan
Dwarfie Stane
Isbister
Vementry
Scord of Brouster
Cruting School
Cnoc Freiceadain
Camster
Calanish
Unival
Croft Moraig
Cleaven Dyke
TAYSIDE
Nether Largie
Balfarg
Kilmartin
Cairnpapple
Milfield Basin
TLANTIC
CEAN)
Brockley
Ulster
Trevebulliagh
Ballygalley
Donegore
Lyles Hill
Cairnholy
Castlerigg
Long Meg and her Daughters
Mayburgh
Great Langdale
Ballyglass
Ballynagilly
Ballnahatty
Ceide Fields
Carrowmore
Millin Bay
Slieve Gullion
Carrowkeel
Willerby Wold
Duggleby Howe
Thornborough
Kilham
Rudston
YORKSHIRE WOLDS
Monknewtown
Dowth
Knowth
Boyne Valley
Loughcrew
Fourknocks
Tara
Newgrange
Lambay Island
Carrowmore
(Irish Sea)
(North Sea)
Anglesey
Bryn Celli Ddhu
Barclodiad y Gawres
Graig Lwyd
Llandegai
Arbor Low
Skendleby
Poulnabrone
Lough Gur
Grange stone circle
Knockroe
Tankardstown
Linkardstown
Dyffryn Ardudwy
FEN EDGE
Grimes Graves
Pentre Ifan
Clegyr Boia
Belas Knap
Notgrove
Crickley Hill
Dorchester on Thames
Gwernvale
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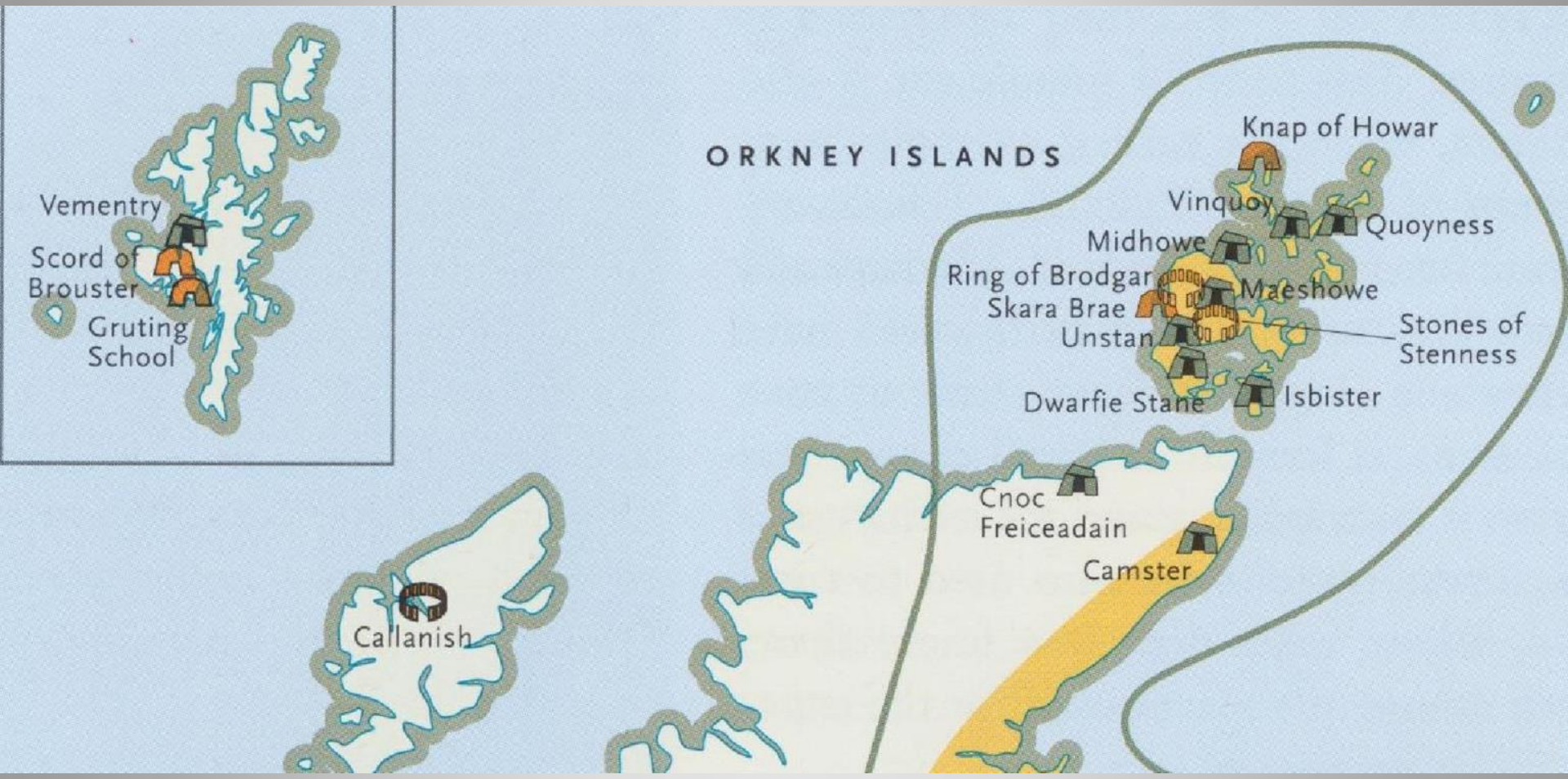
Windmill Hill
Tinkinswood
THAMES VALLEY
Silbury Hill
Wayland's Smithy
Avebury
Stanton Drew
West Kennet
Chestnuts tomb
Kit's Coty House
Stoney Littleton
Marden
Durrington Walls
Stonehenge
WESSEX
South Downs
The Trundle
Cissbury
Whitehawk
Wor Barrow
Dorset Cursus
Hambledon Hill
Maiden Castle
Knowton
Rough Tor
Maumbury Rings
Mount Pleasant
Chun Quoit
Carn Brea
(Celtic Sea)
(English Channel)
40 80 miles
50 100 km
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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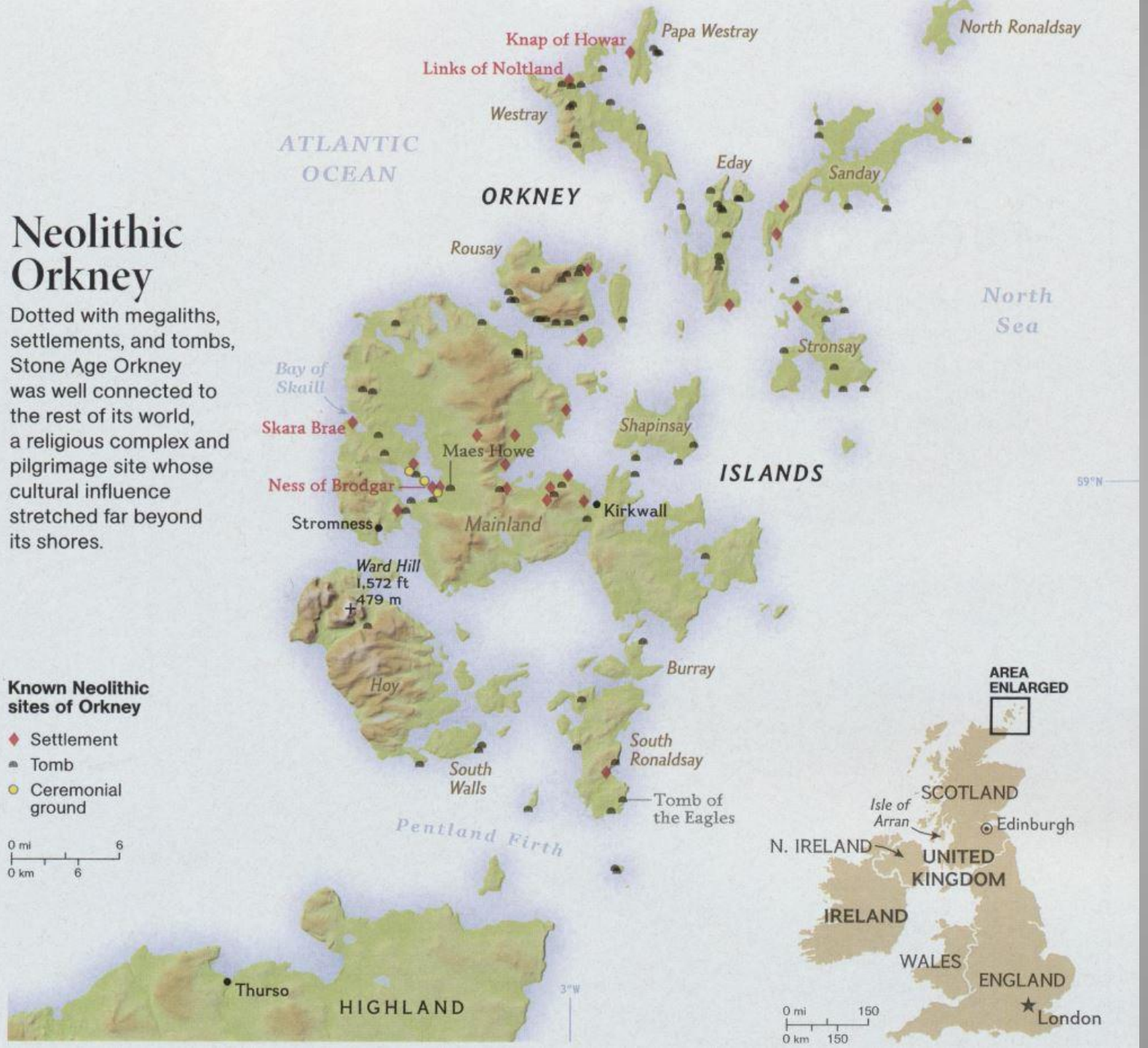
Neolithic Orkney

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.



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.

Fertile soil, few trees, lots of stone

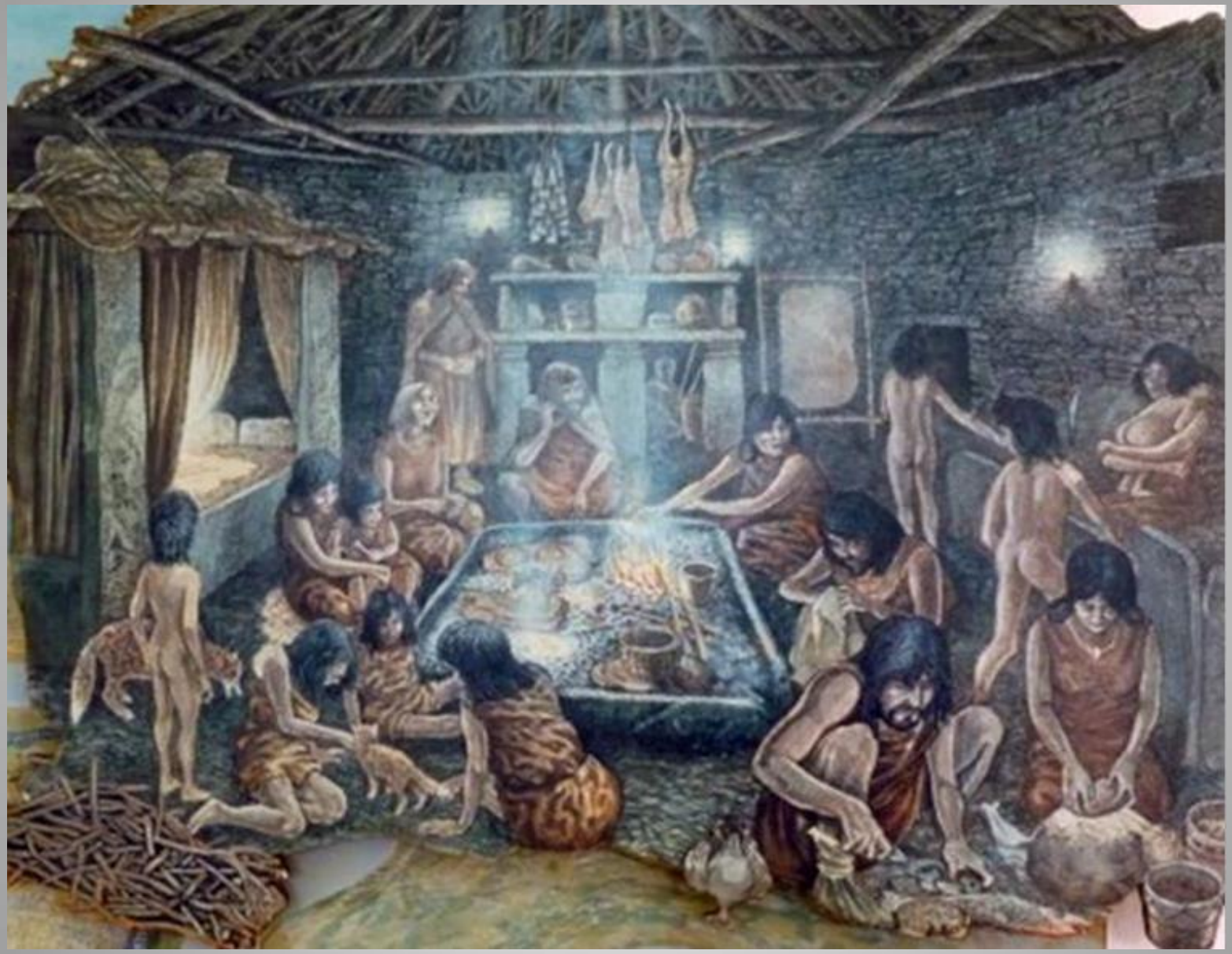
Skara Brae, Neolithic settlement *(Historic Scotland)*

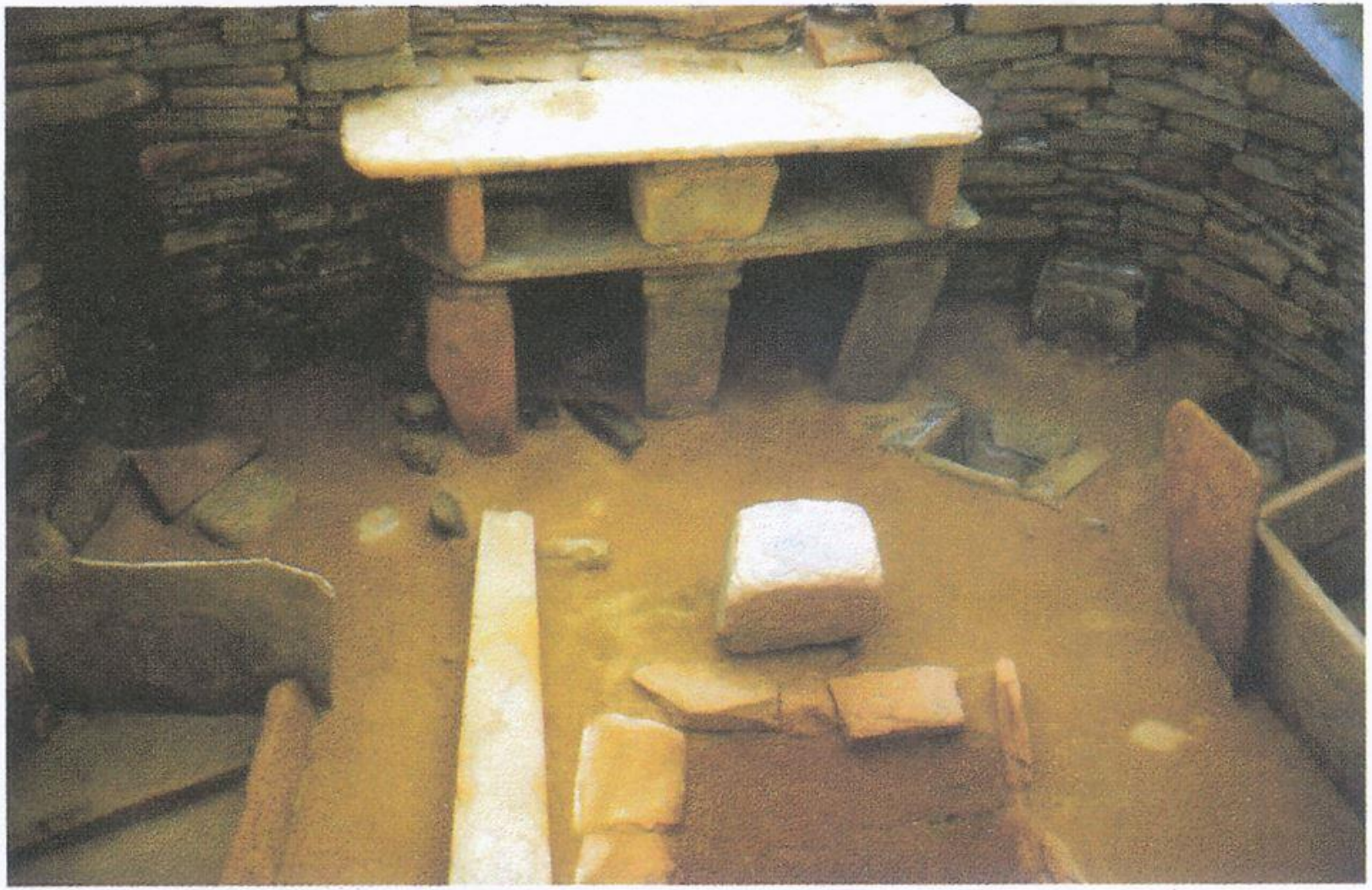
The group of Neolithic buildings at Skara Brae, which was discovered in 1850 when a great storm removed part of the covering sand dune, are amongst the earliest stone-walled houses to have been found in Europe. Radiocarbon dating has shown that the settlement was occupied for some 600 years from about 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.

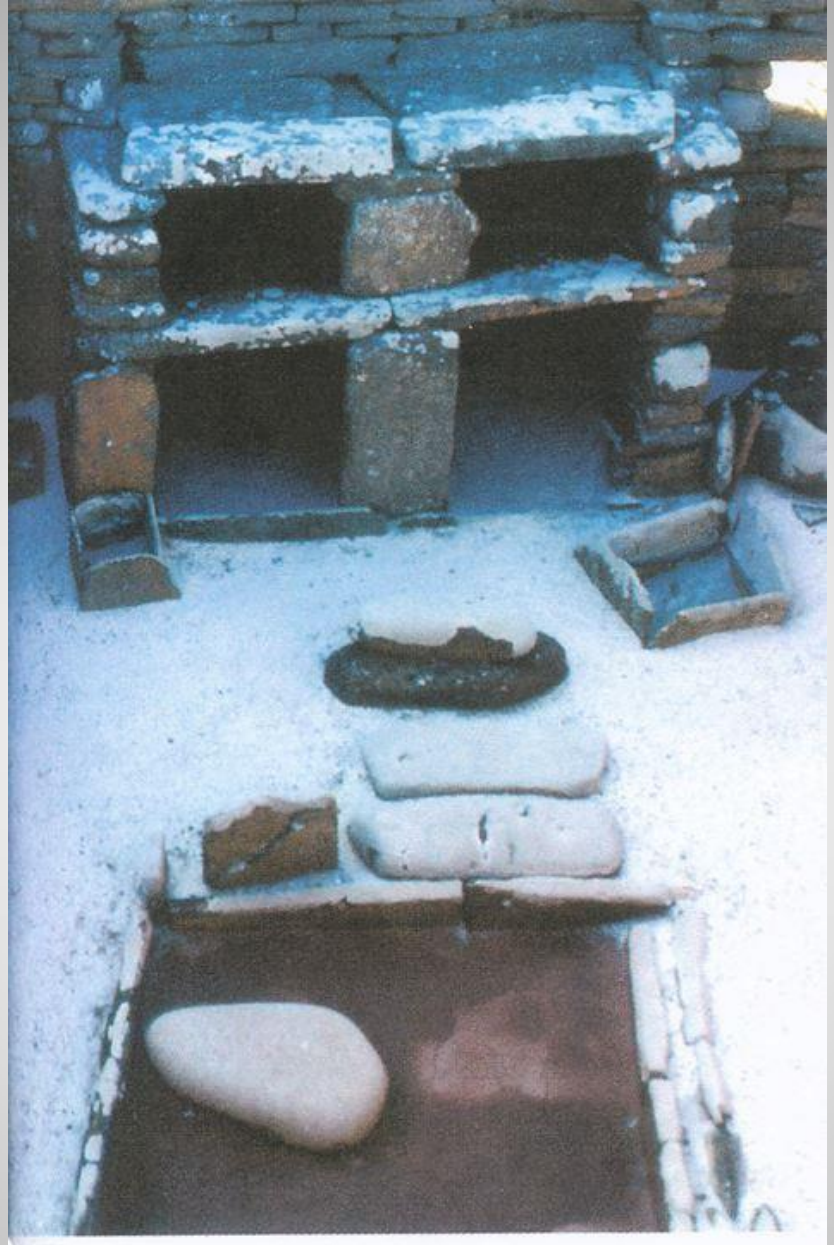
32 *(above)* The Neolithic stone houses at Knap of Howar, Orkney.

SKARA BRAE

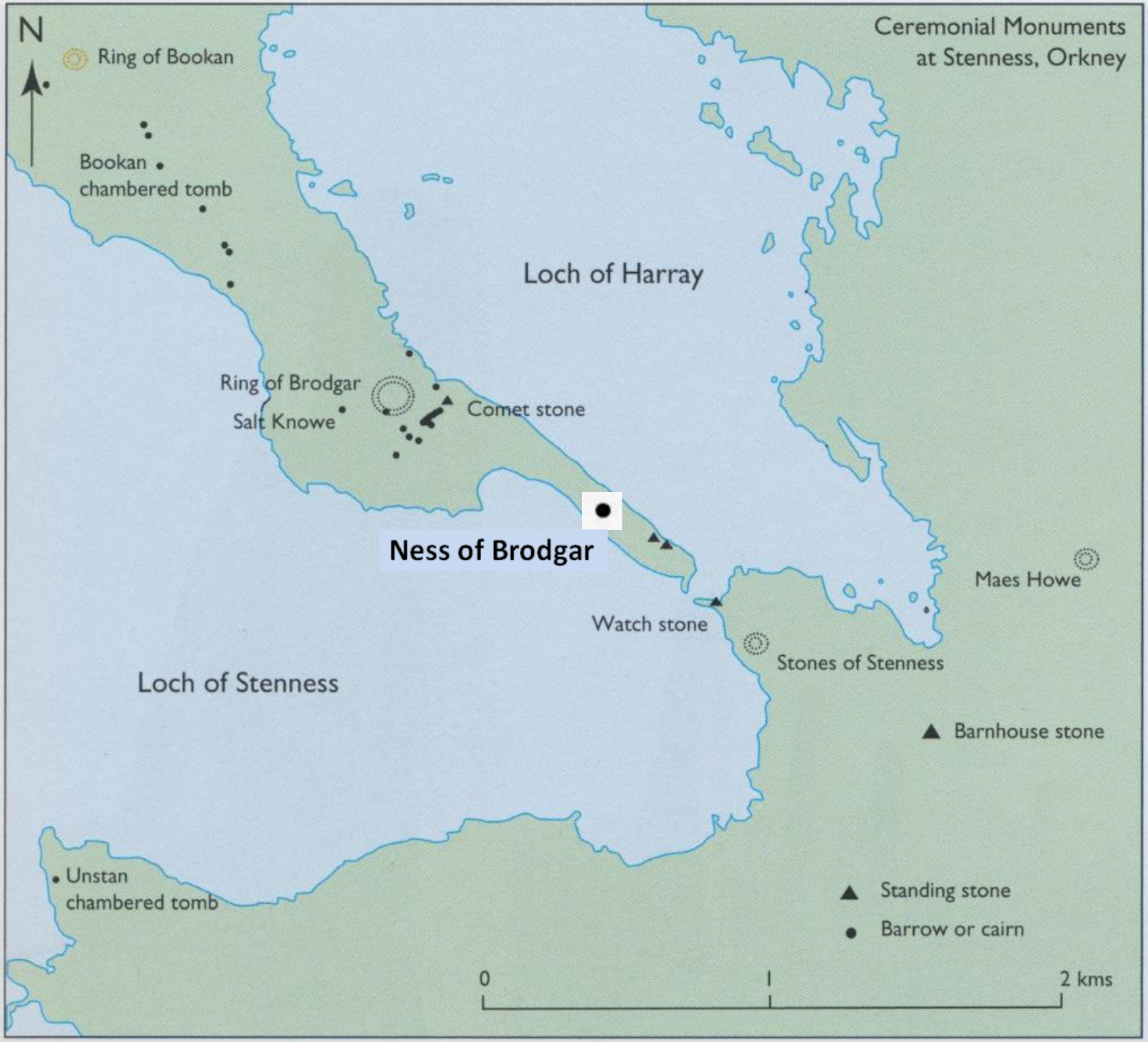




39 *(above right)* The interior of House 7 at Skara Brae, showing the stone bed frames each side of the hearth.



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.


N
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Ring of Bookan
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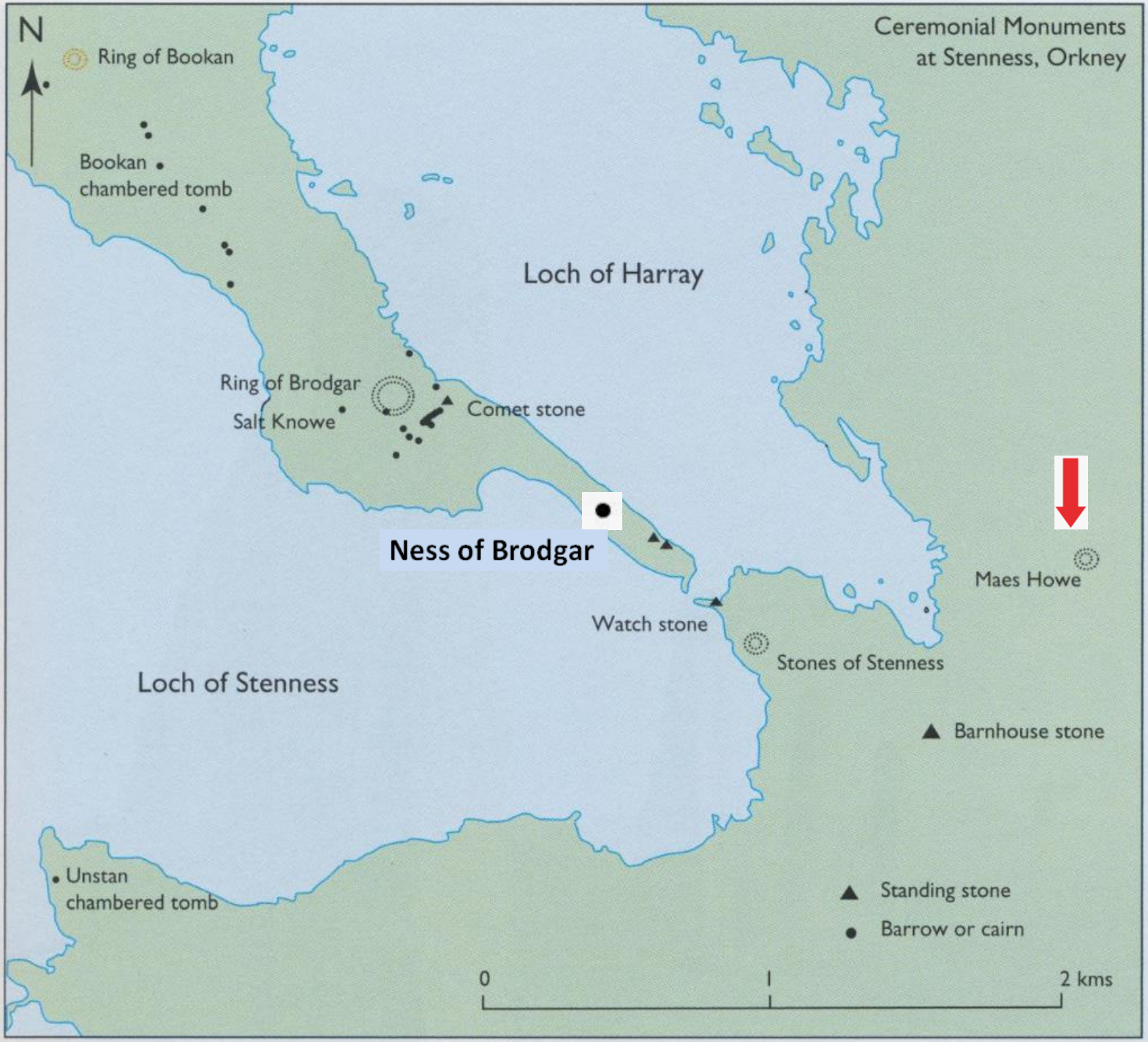
chambered tomb
Loch of Harray
Ring of Brodgar
Salt Knowe
Comet stone
Ness of Brodgar
Maes Howe
Watch stone
Stones of Stenness
Loch of Stenness
Barnhouse stone
Unstan
chambered tomb
Standing stone
Barrow or cairn
0
1
2 kms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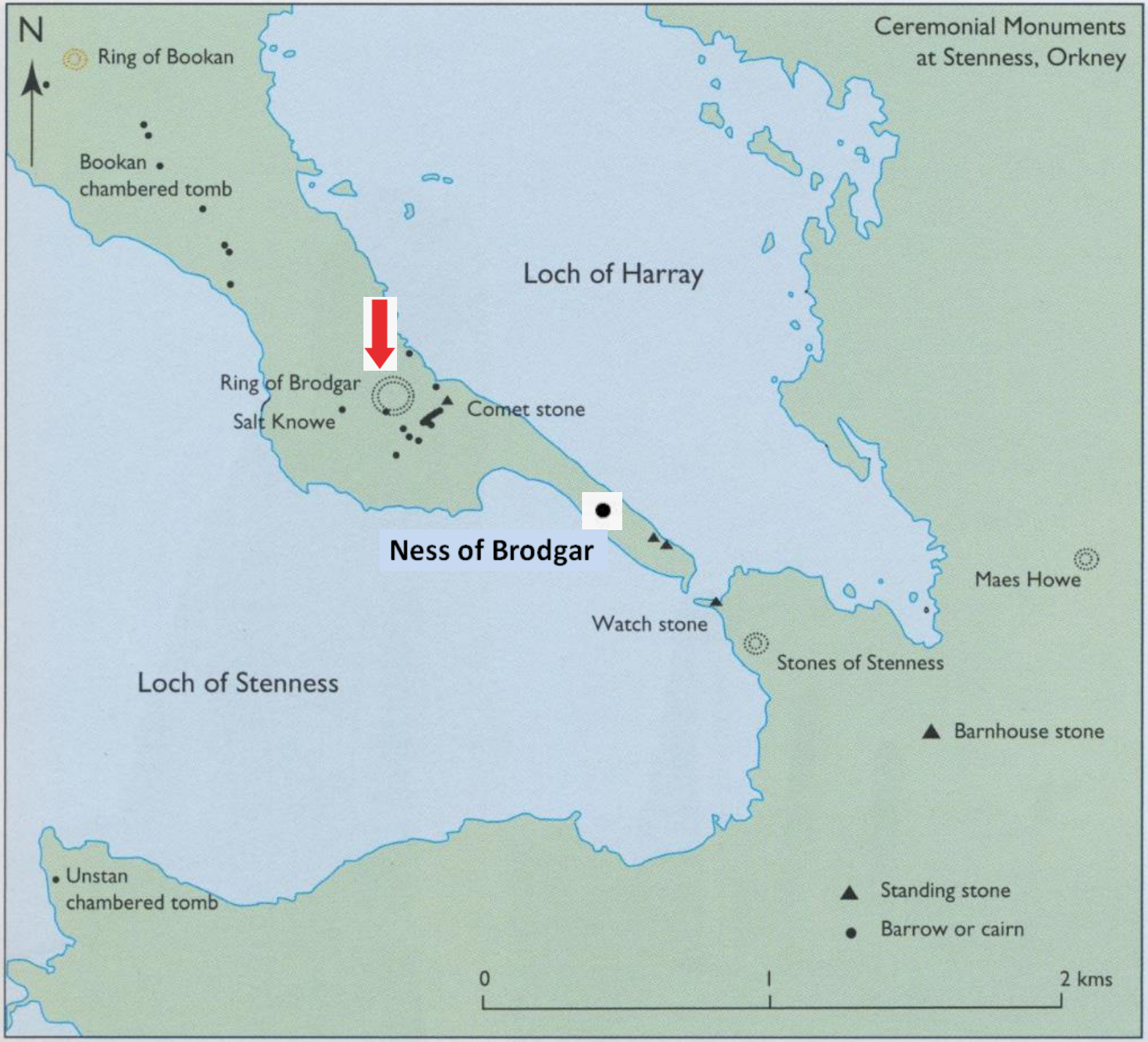
33 *(above)* The great chambered tomb of Maes Howe, Orkney, which faces the setting sun at midwinter. The ditch and bank around it are also Neolithic.

At Maes Howe, the last rays of the setting sun at midwinter solstice shine directly into the central chamber at the heart of the great tomb.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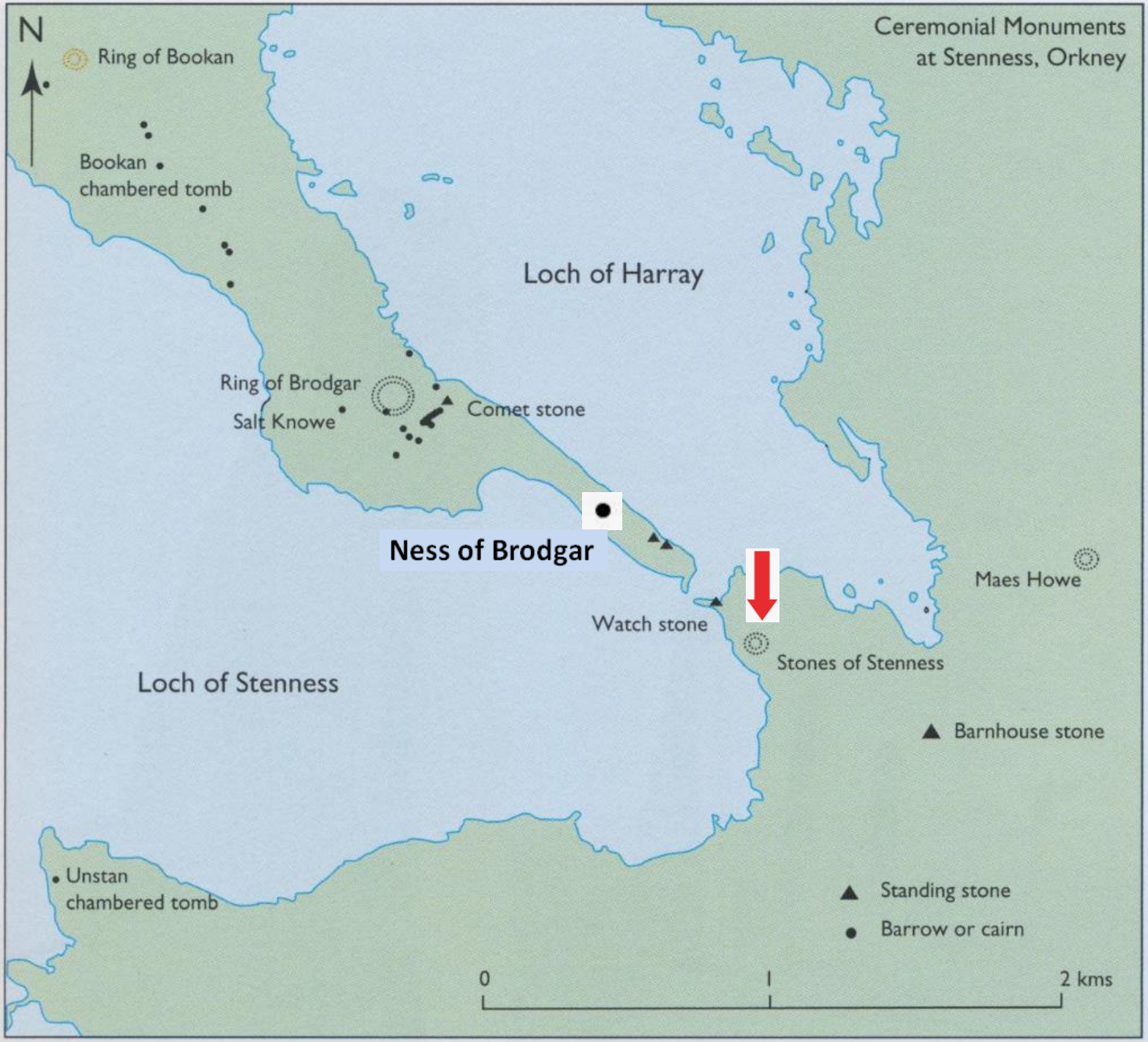
6.9 The Ring of Brodgar on Orkney mainland is a massive stone circle 104 metres in diameter set on the lip of a circular ditched enclosure. It is one of a number of Neolithic monuments occupying a neck of land between the lochs of Harray and Stenness just north of the great passage grave of Maes Howe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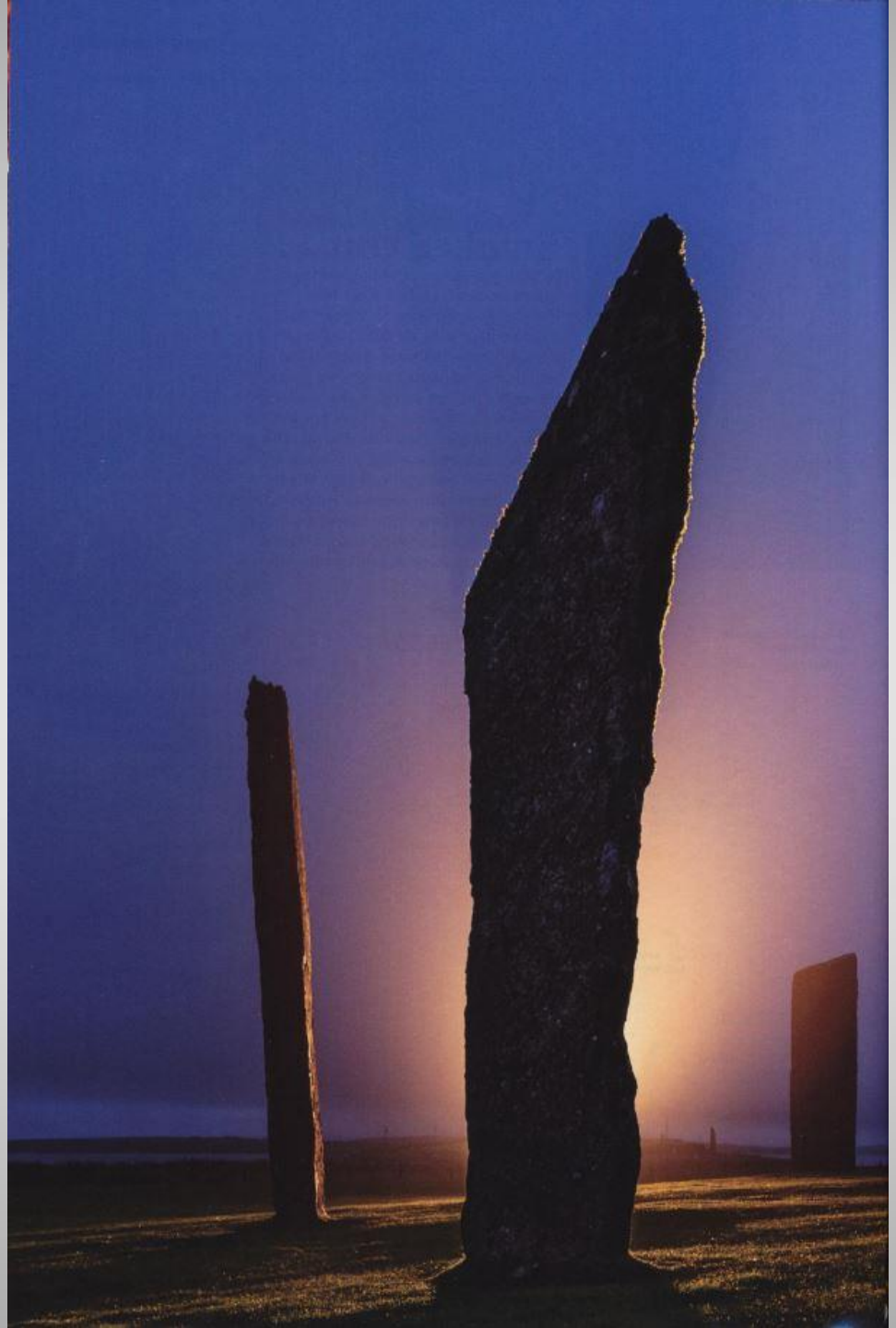

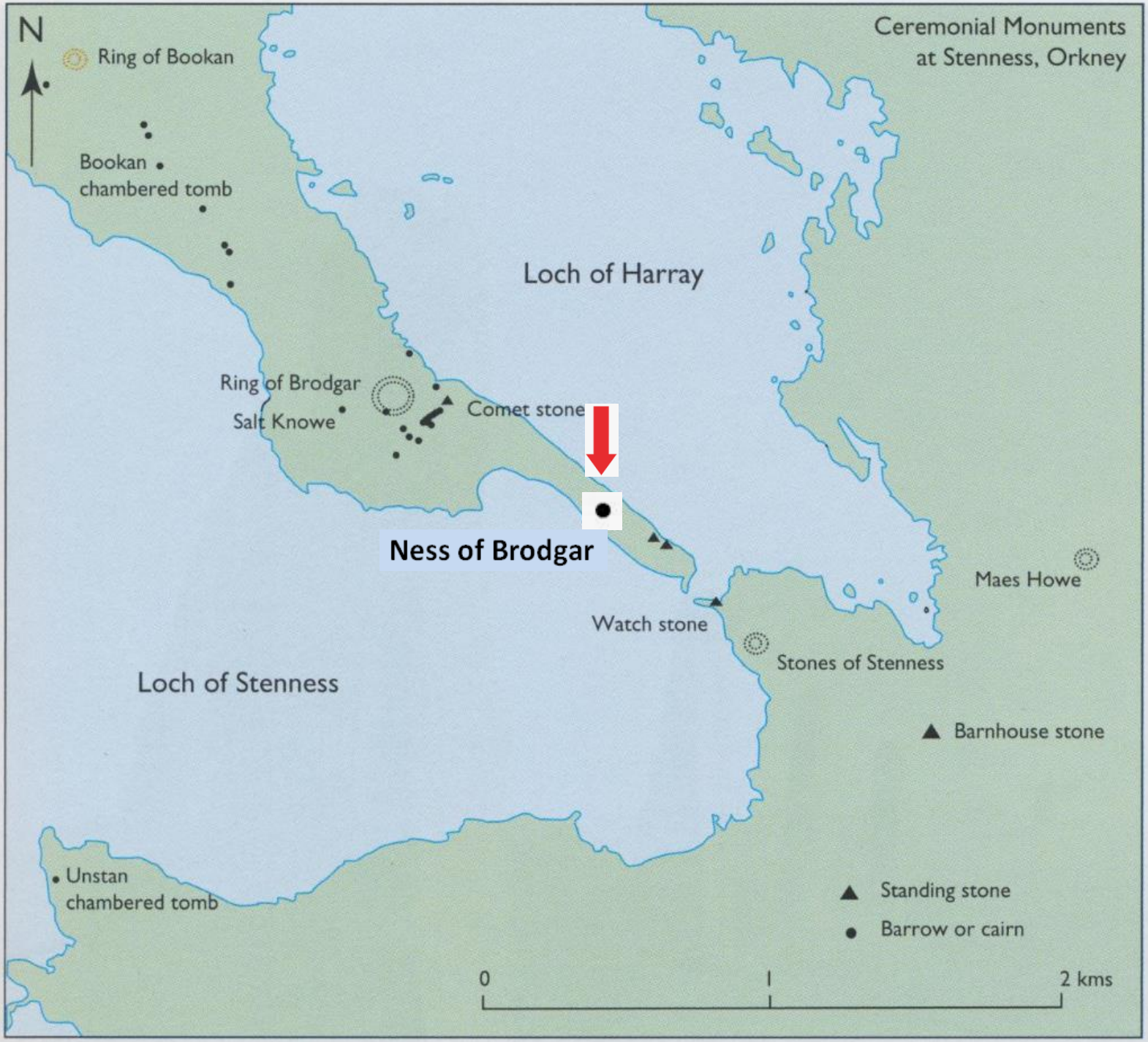
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Circa 2800 B.C. The scene depicted here shows the Ness of Brodgar site in its heyday. The complex was remade several times and constantly evolved throughout its thousand-year period of use.

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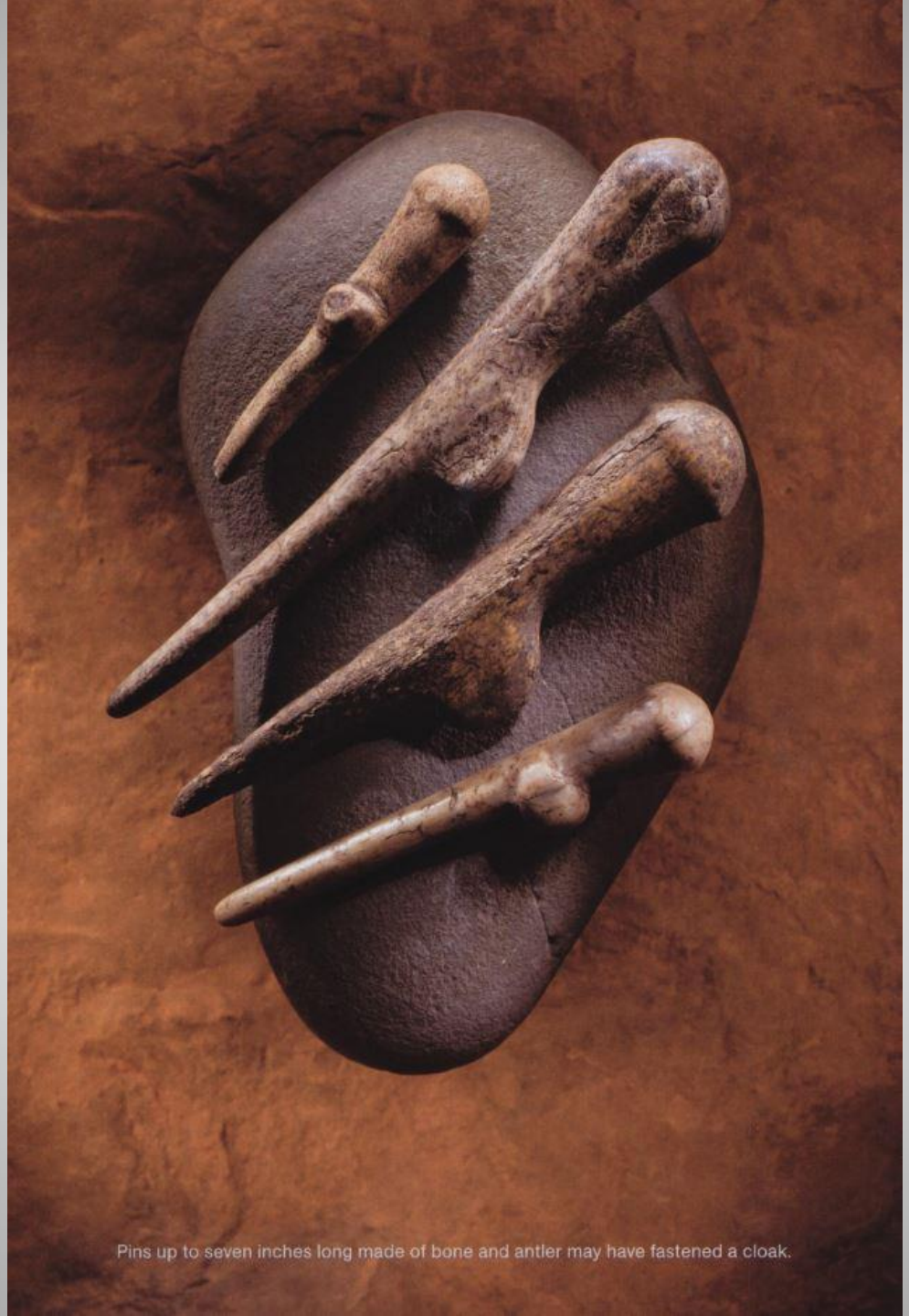
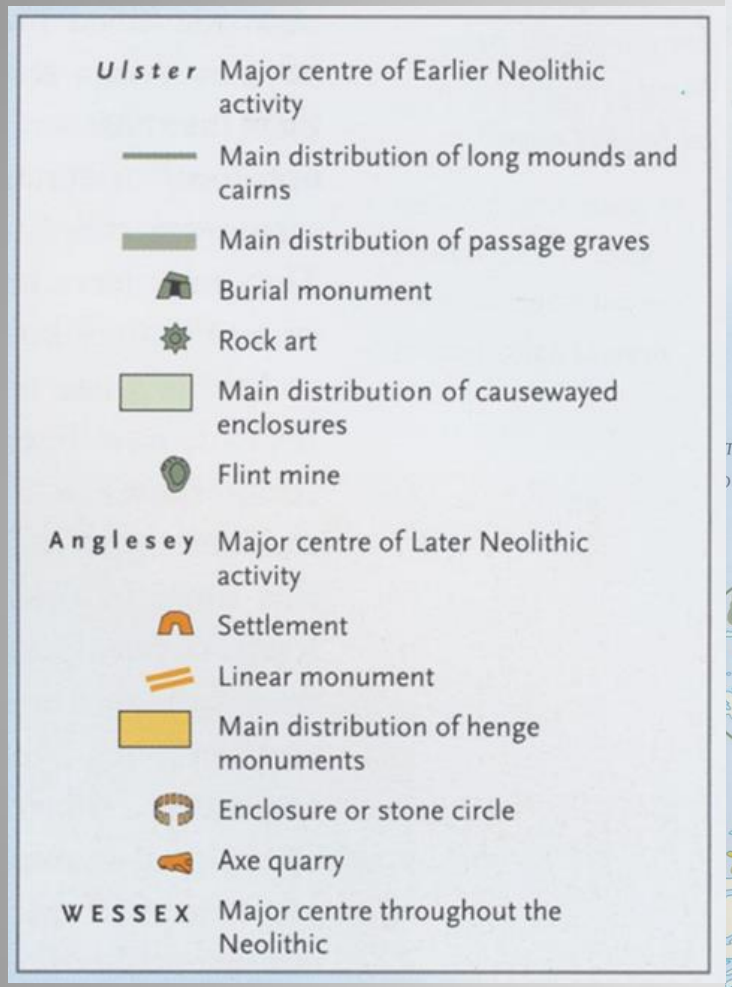
Archaeologists excavating the Ness of Brodgar uncovered the richest collection of Neolithic art yet found in Britain, including this decorative stone incised with a geometric motif.

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.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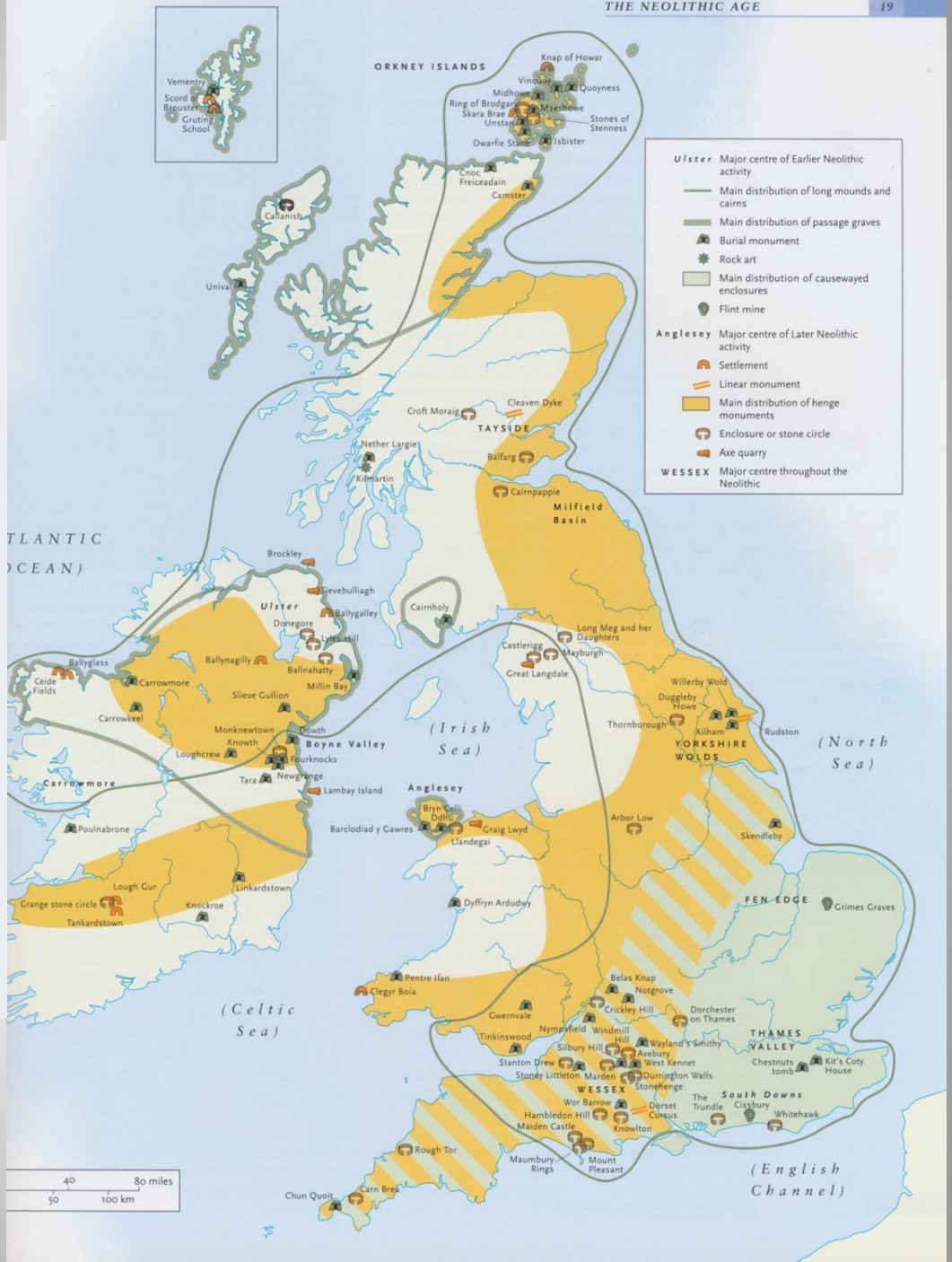
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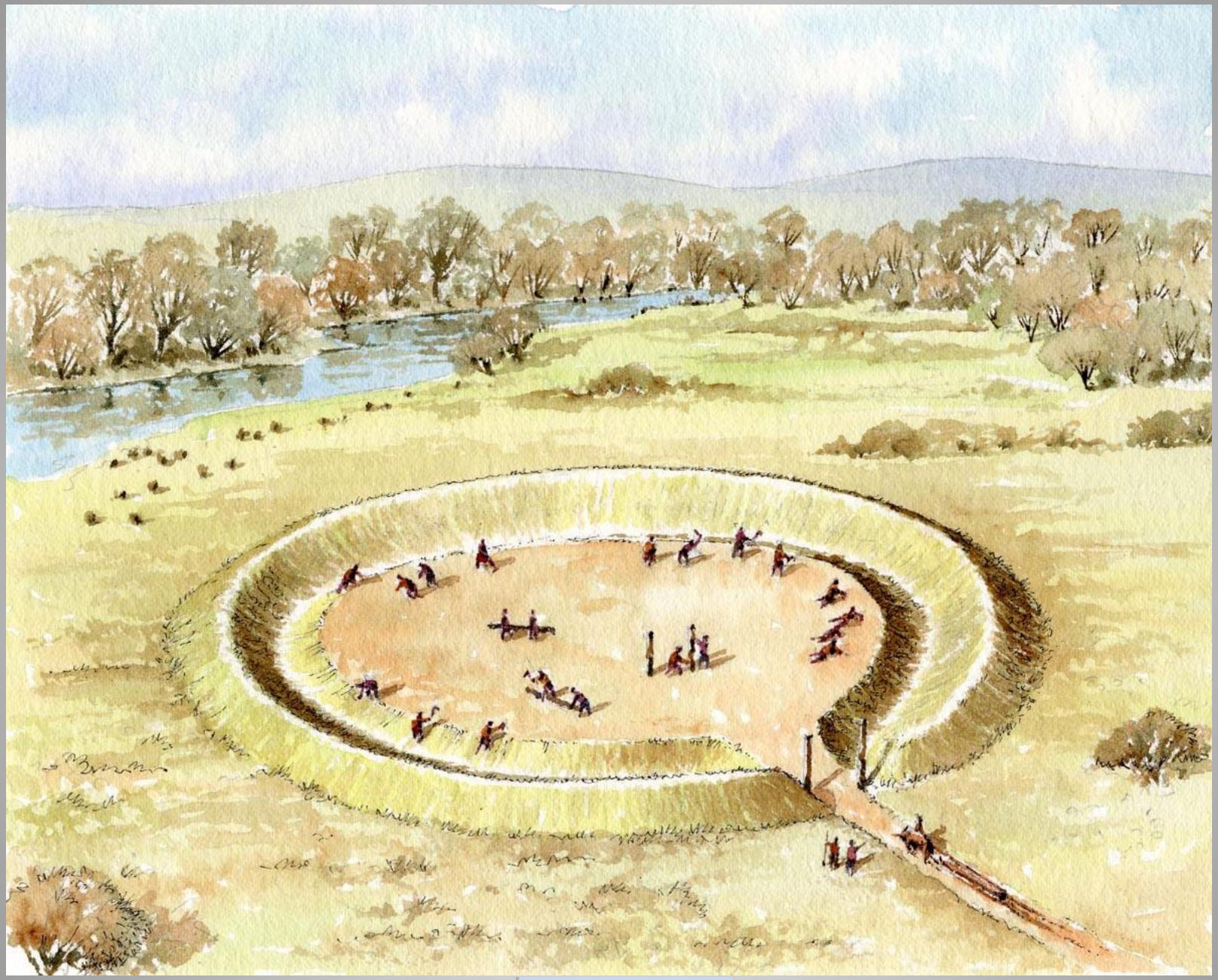


Henge

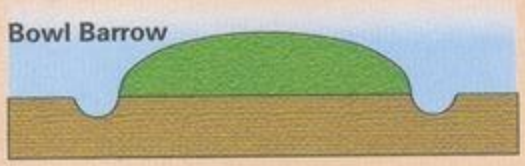
Stone circle

Stone circle inside henge

Barrow

Bronze Age barrow monuments

These Bronze Age religious and funerary monuments consist of a hemispherical mound surrounded by a ditch (or series of concentric ditches) and are often accompanied by an external (or occasionally internal) bank.

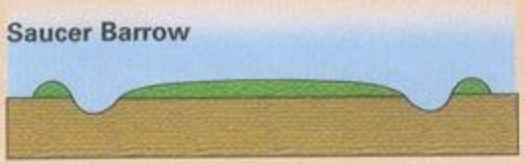


A mound surrounded by a ditch, which may or may not be accompanied by an external bank.

A barrow in which the mound and ditch are separated from each other by a narrow strip of land (berm) – the ditch may be accompanied by an external (or occasionally internal) bank.

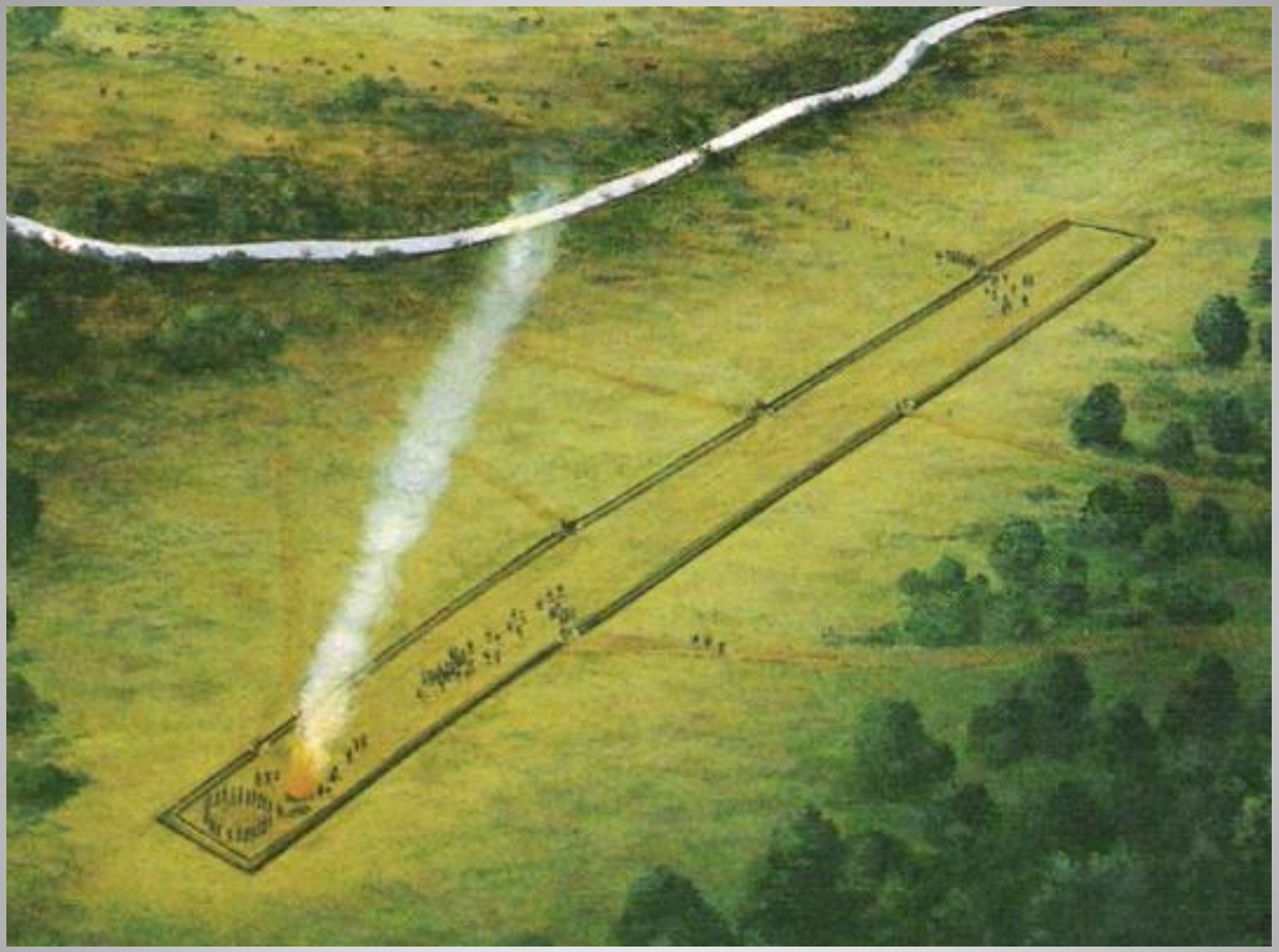
A barrow featuring a small mound separated from a ditch of much greater diameter by a wide berm. The ditch may be accompanied by an external (or occasionally internal) bank.

A monument featuring an artificial circular shallow depression, which itself is surrounded by a bank that runs around the rim of the depression.



A barrow featuring a low, wide mound, which in turn is surrounded by a ditch that could be accompanied by an external bank.

Cairn



Cursus— pairs of long parallel lines in the landscape.

Cursuses are long linear parallel ditches, usually joined at their ends to form long rectangles, with banks thrown up from the ditch-earth. They are unique to the British Isles, not found on the continent.

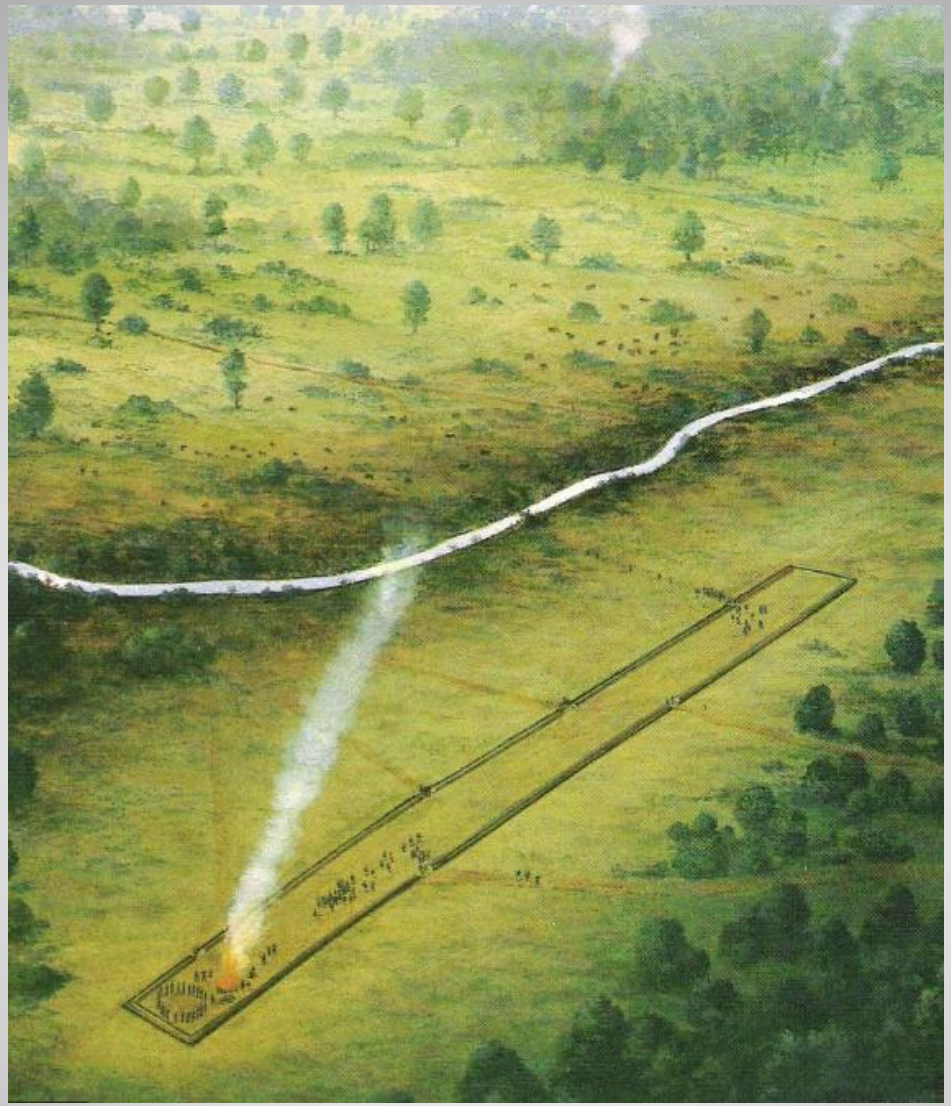
There is absolutely no agreement on their purpose, or purposes.

—quotes from Ronald Hutton, Pagan Britain

The obvious human activities in a space of that long and comparatively narrow shape are processions or races, but some cursuses cross watercourses or bogs which would have interrupted these.

They may have functioned to honour and celebrate the natural environment by linking parts of it together…..

….**or** to <u>express human triumph and dominance over it</u>.



Some incorporate older monuments such as long barrows into their structure: this might have been to acknowledge the people who built these and to draw upon the spiritual power which they embodied…..

….**or** to <u>slight and deface them</u>, and so deliver an opposite message.

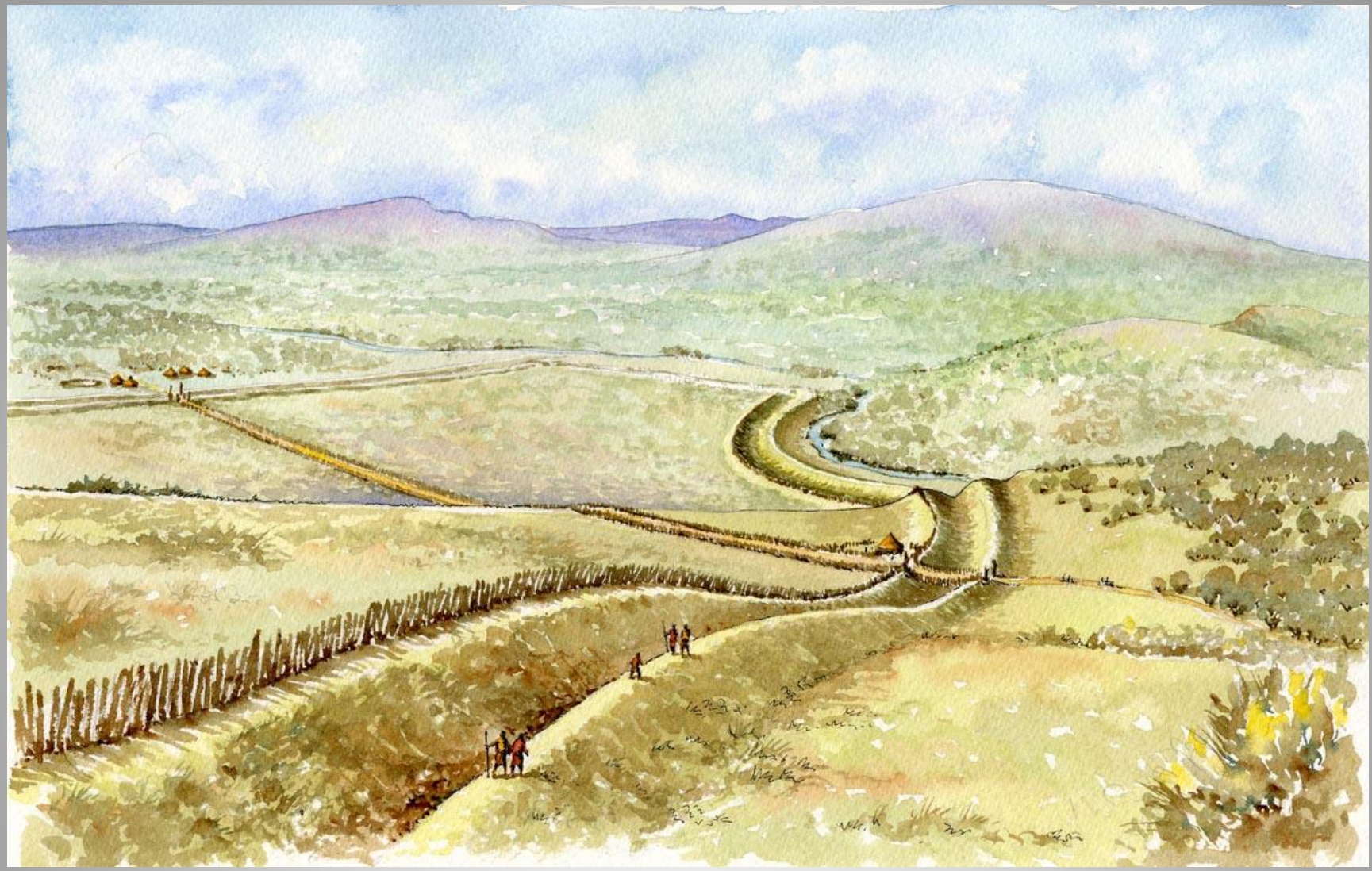
They may have acted as barriers across the land, consecrated buffer zones separating different territories or areas of activity.

They could have represented symbolic rivers.

Some are apparently aligned on movements of the sun….midwinter sunset or sunrise….Most, however, are not.

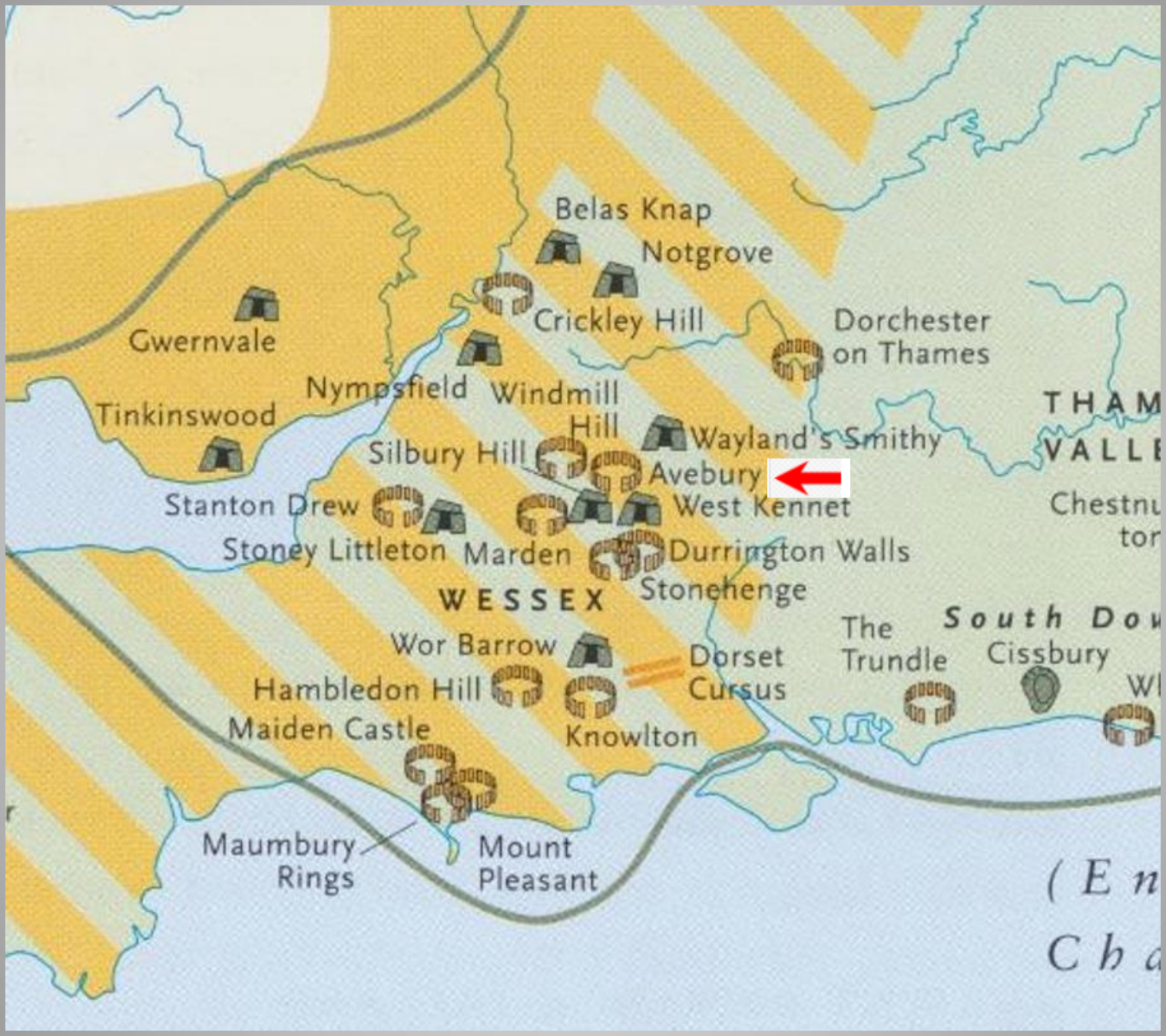
Perhaps they were signalling devices to be read by deities looking down from above.

They could have been processional ways, but for the dead and not the living.



The existing evidence does not prioritize any of these suggestions over the others.

—Ronald Hutton, Pagan Britain, pp.62-3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Maumbury Rings
Mount Pleasant

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

Ancient Britain 4a Avebury sacred landscape

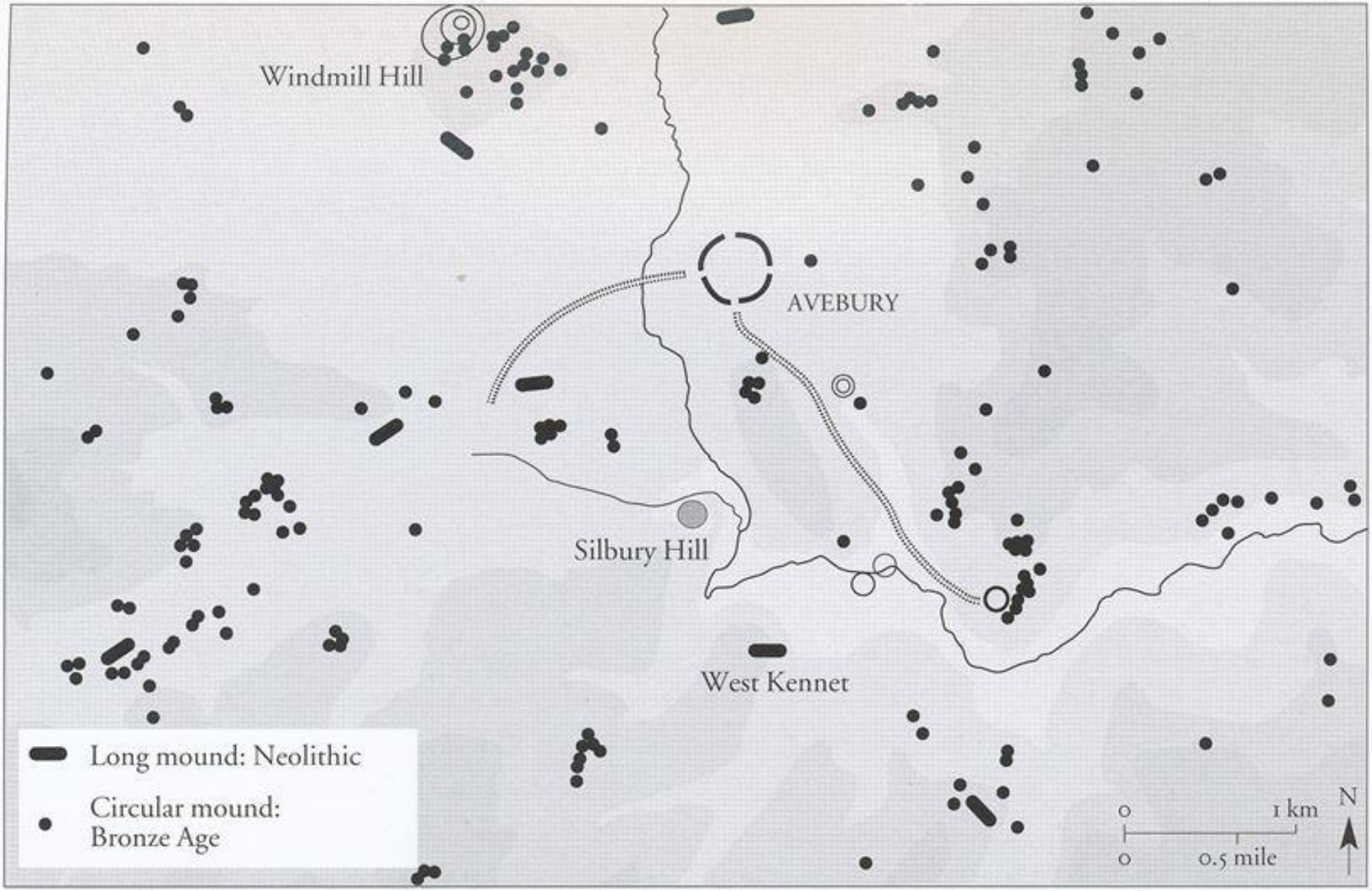
youtu.be

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)


Windmill Hill
AVEBURY
Silbury Hill
West Kennet
Long mound: Neolithic
Circular mound: Bronze Age
0
1 km
0
0.5 mile
N

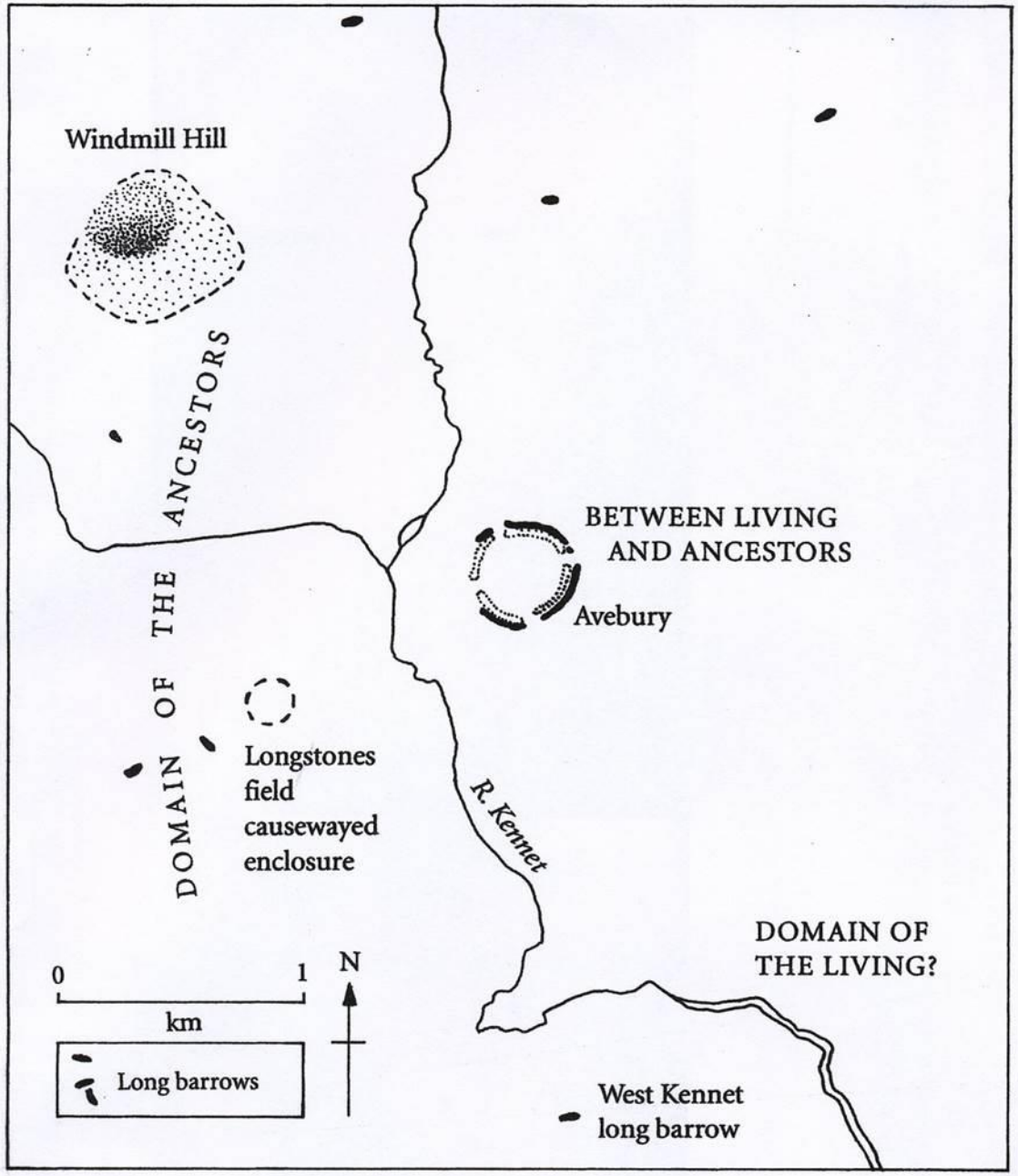


FIG 48 *Layout of the Avebury ritual landscape, 3500–2500 BC.*

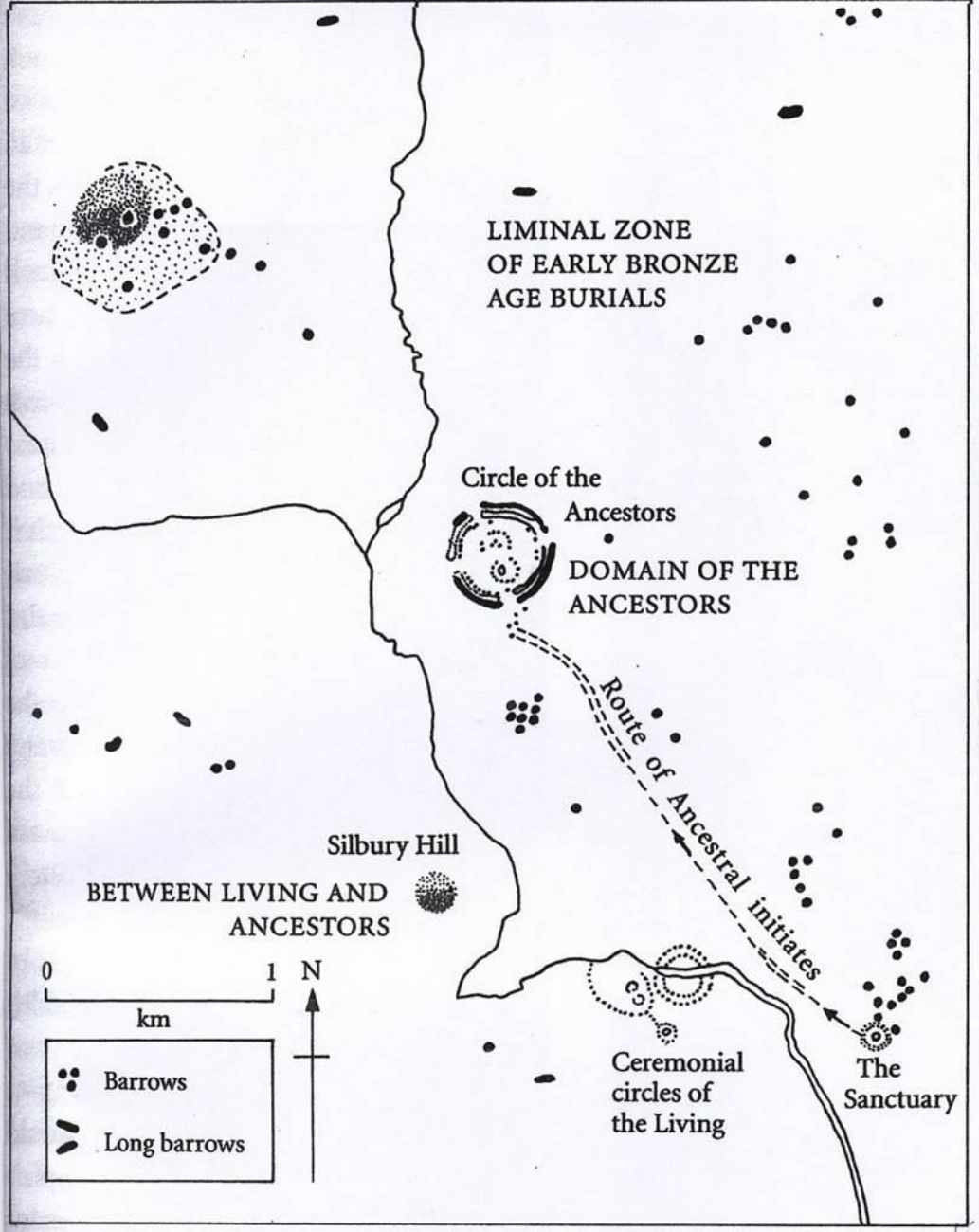
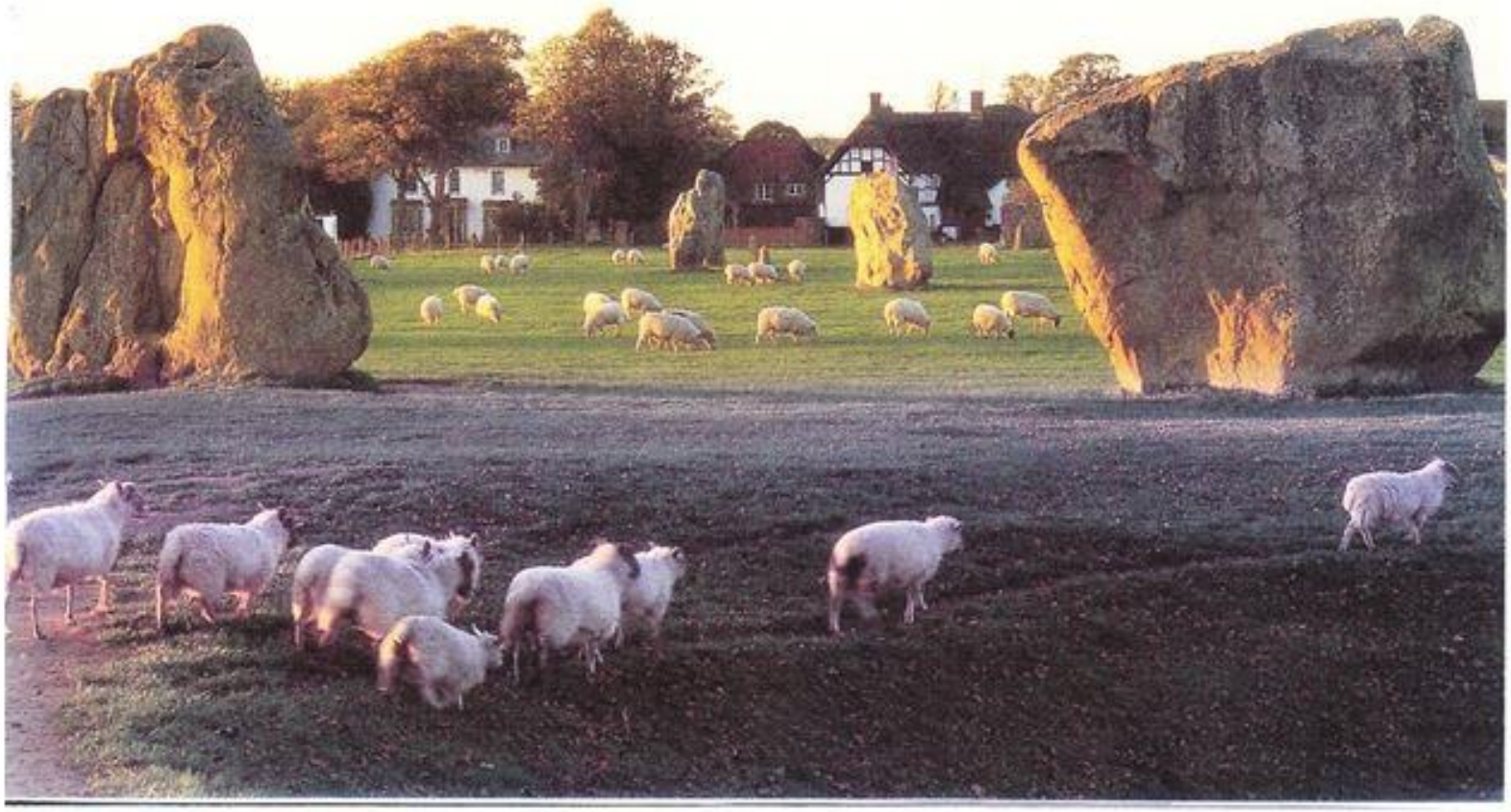
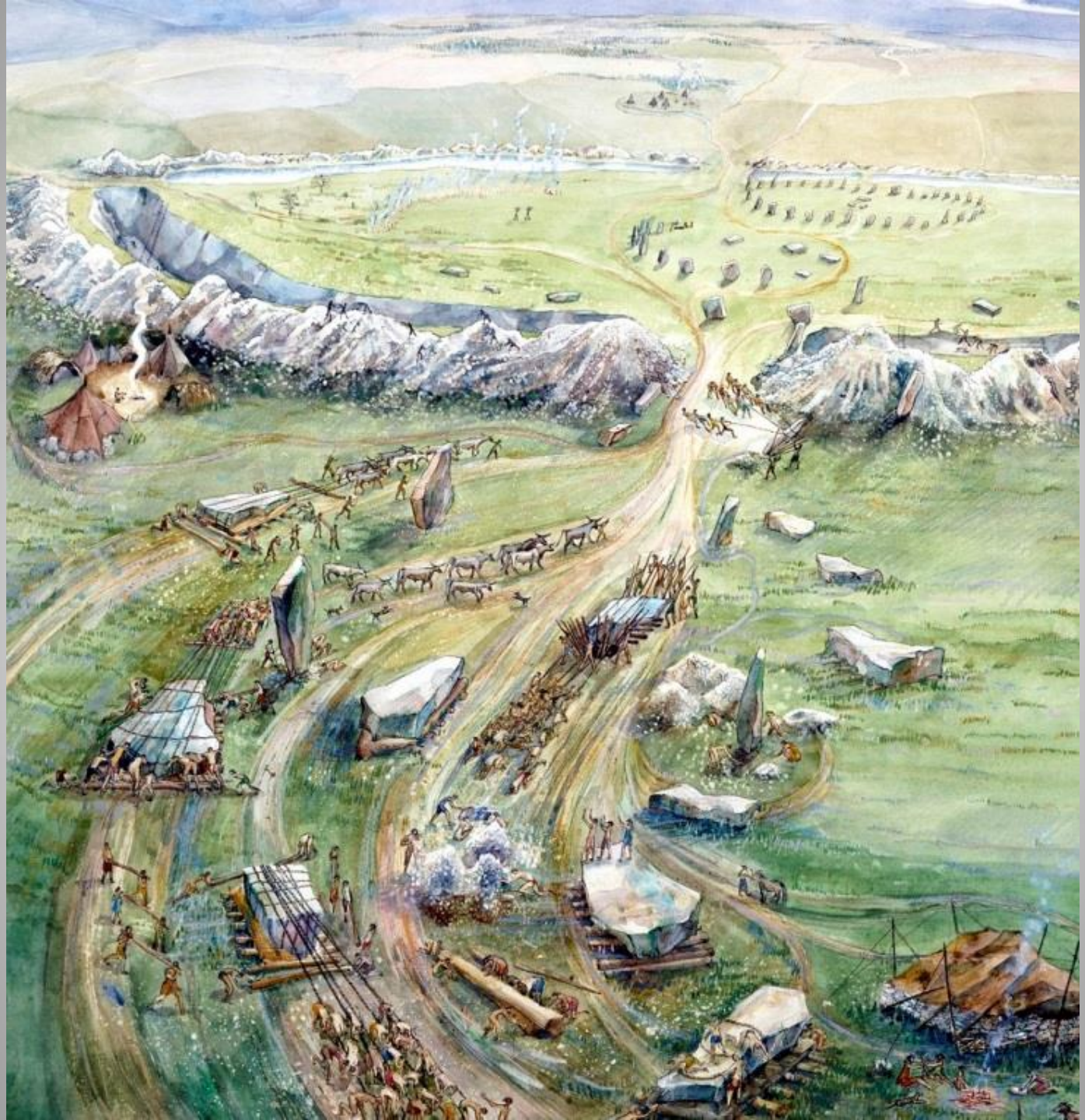


FIG 49 *Layout of the Avebury ritual landscape, 2500–2000 BC.*

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.





ury World Heritage Site

ex of outstanding prehistoric monuments

f the Avebury World Heritage
by the National Trust and
er a fascinating insight into
life. Each site has its own
area has been used and
onuments are all within
ch other so why not take
l prehistoric landscape?

n the Alexander Keiller
bury where
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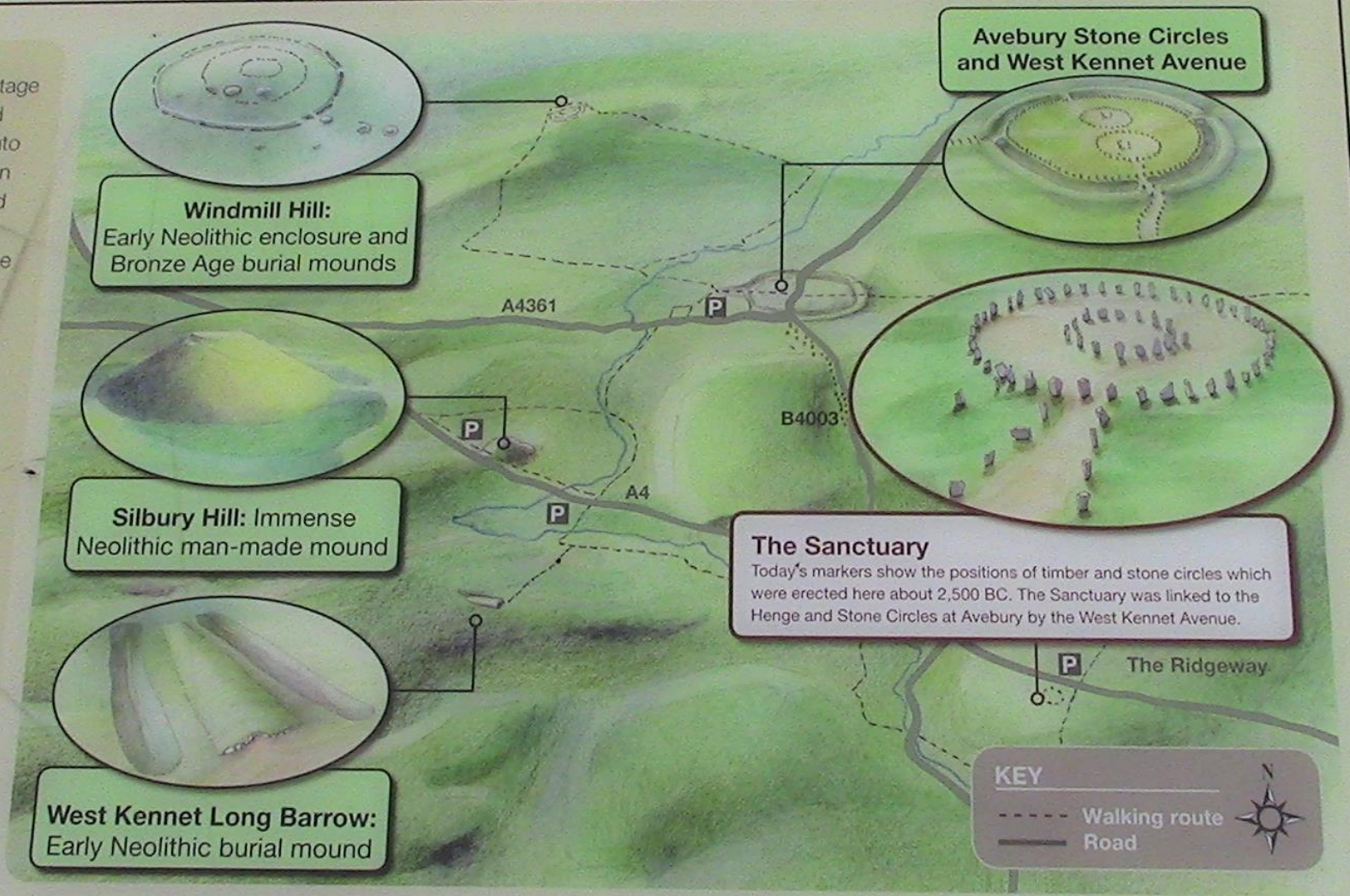
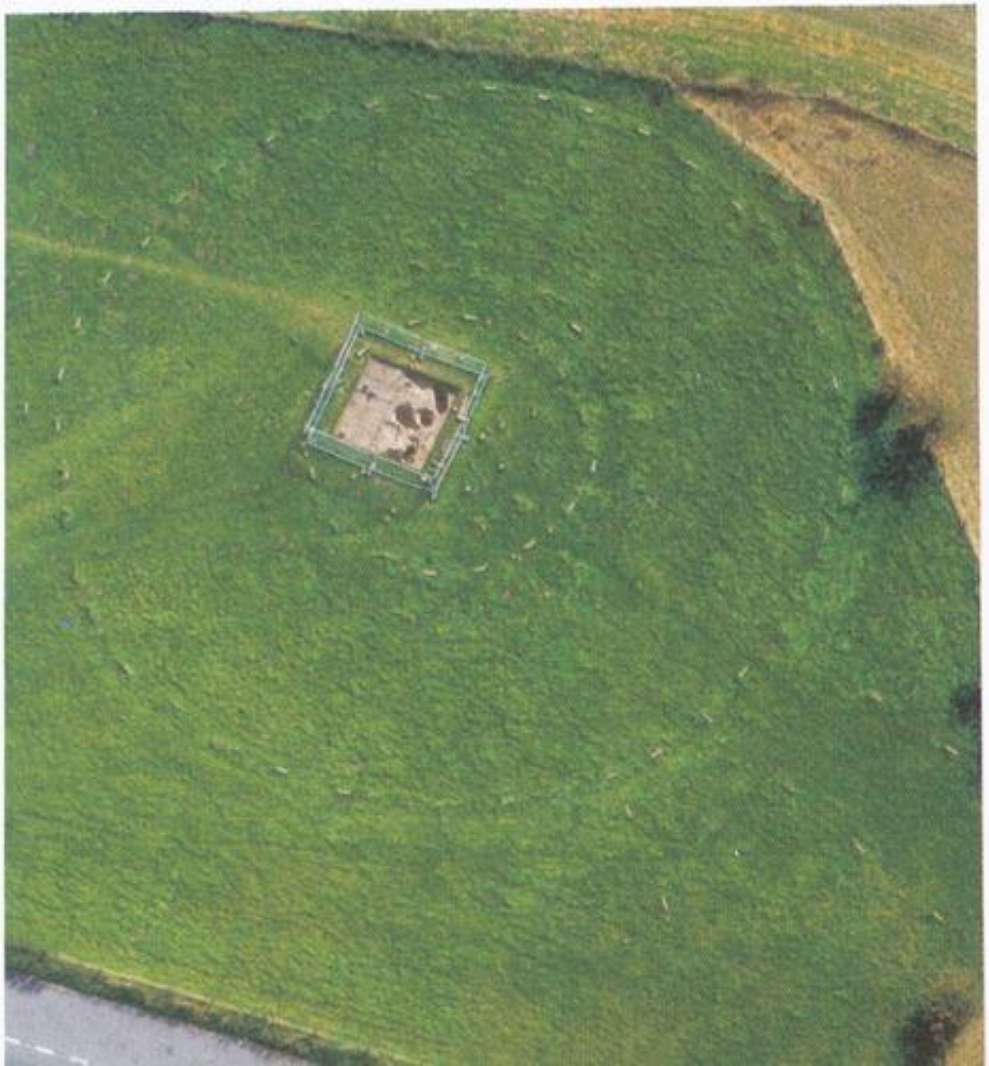
ianship of
by the National Trust
and the two
managing and

rganisations that

altrust.org.uk
-heritage.org.uk
rld Heritage Site



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.



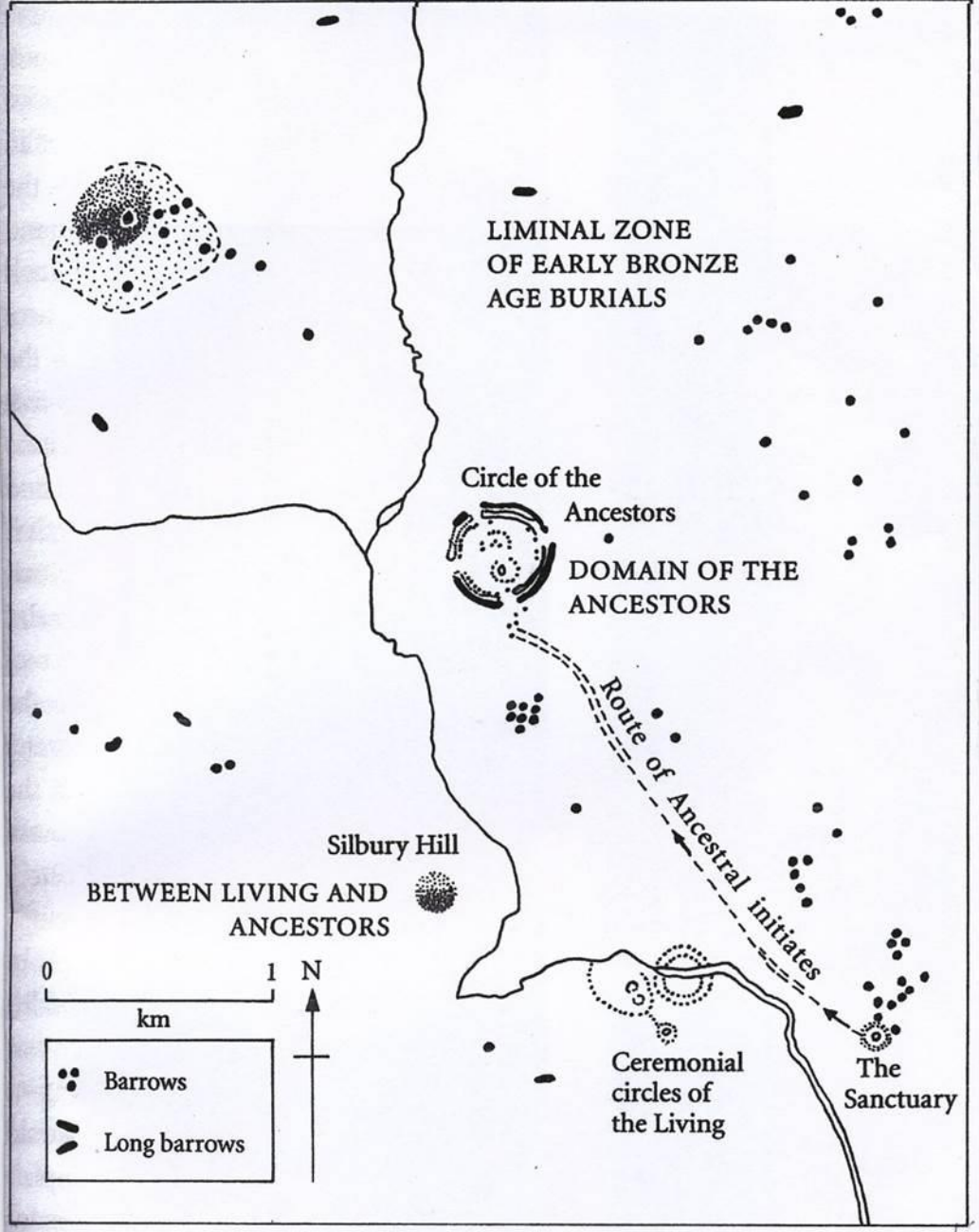
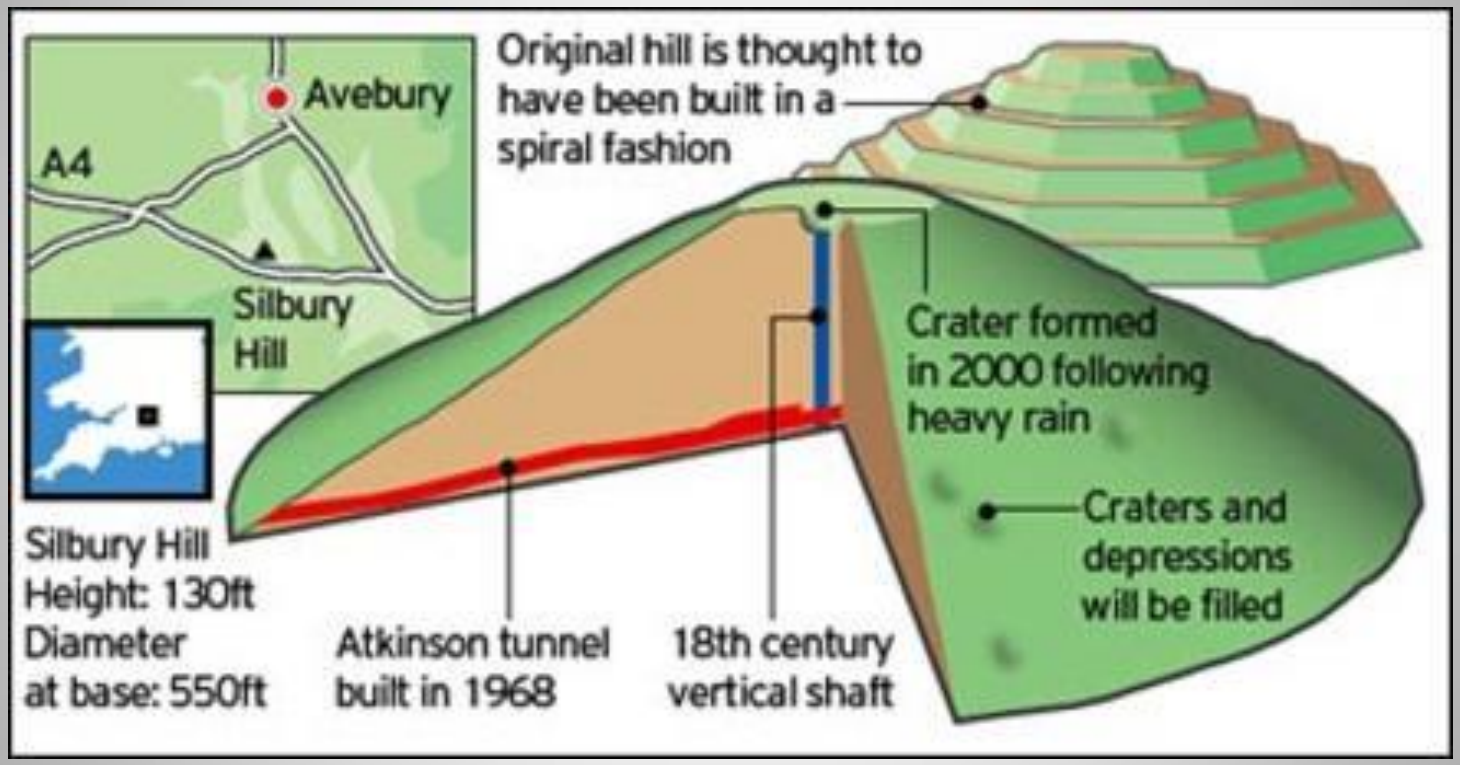
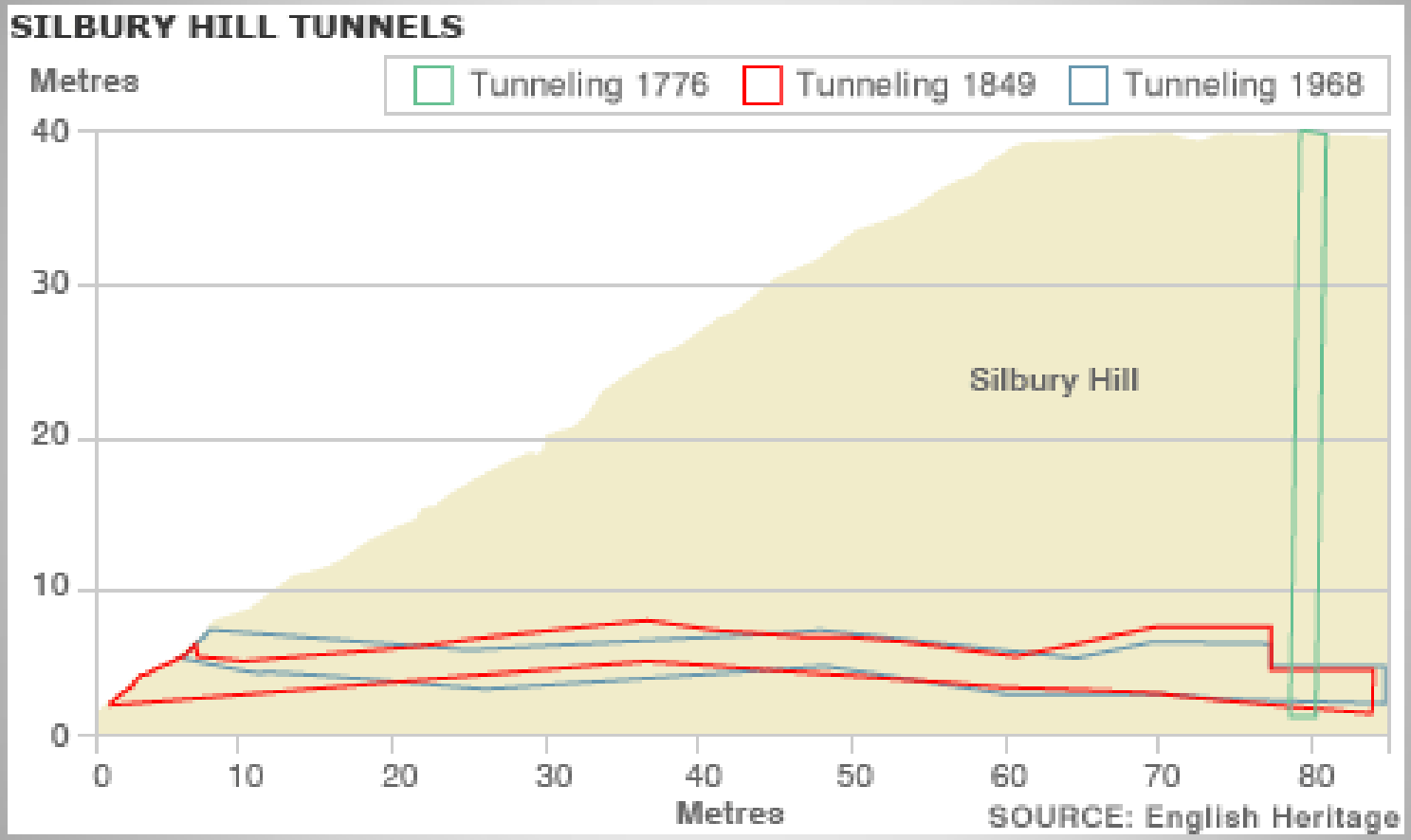
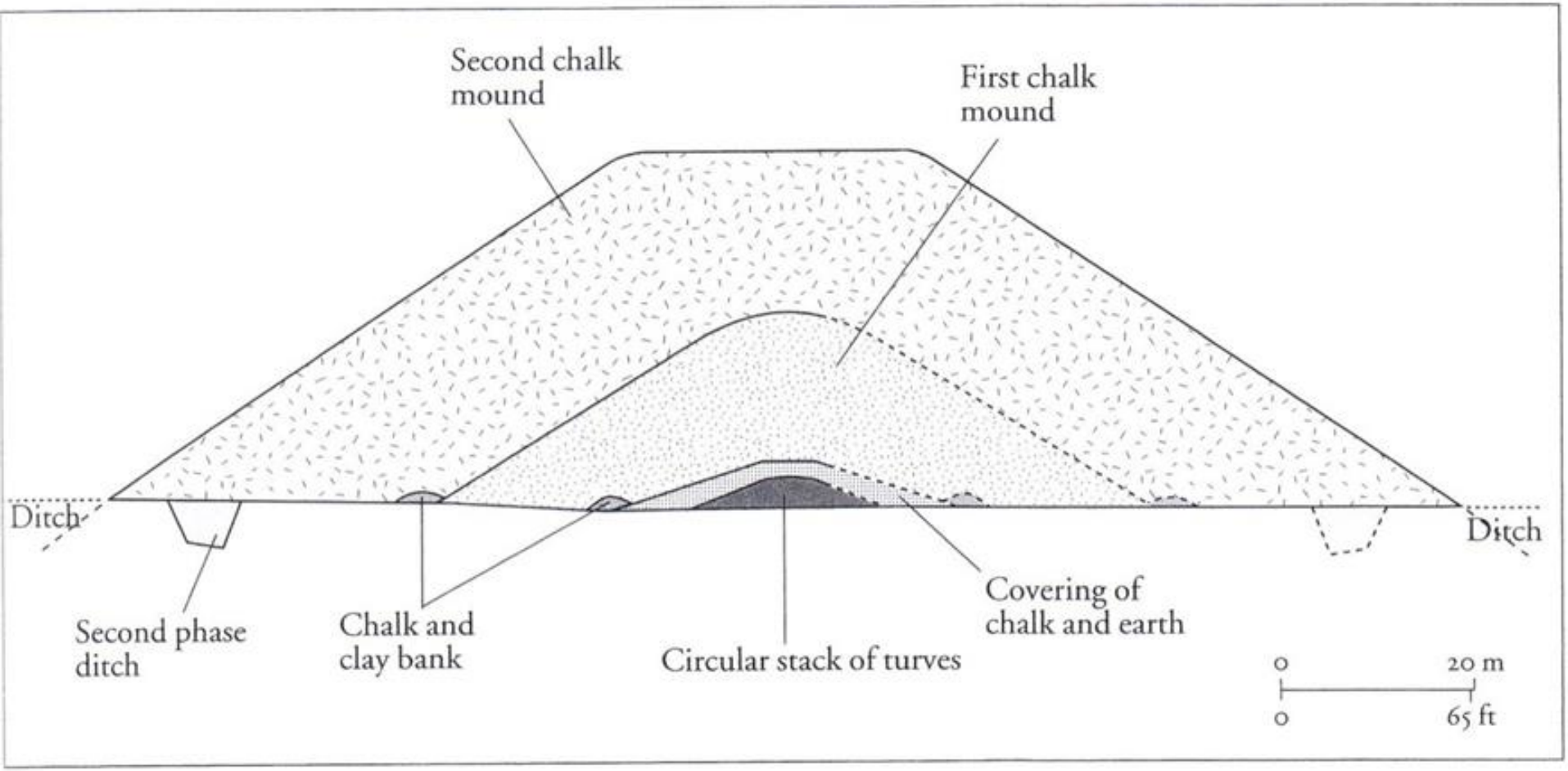


FIG 49 *Layout of the Avebury ritual landscape, 2500–2000 BC.*


Avebury
A4
Silbury Hill
Original hill is thought to have been built in a spiral fashion
Crater formed in 2000 following heavy rain
Craters and depressions will be filled
Silbury Hill
Height: 130ft
Diameter at base: 550ft
Atkinson tunnel built in 1968
18th century vertical shaft

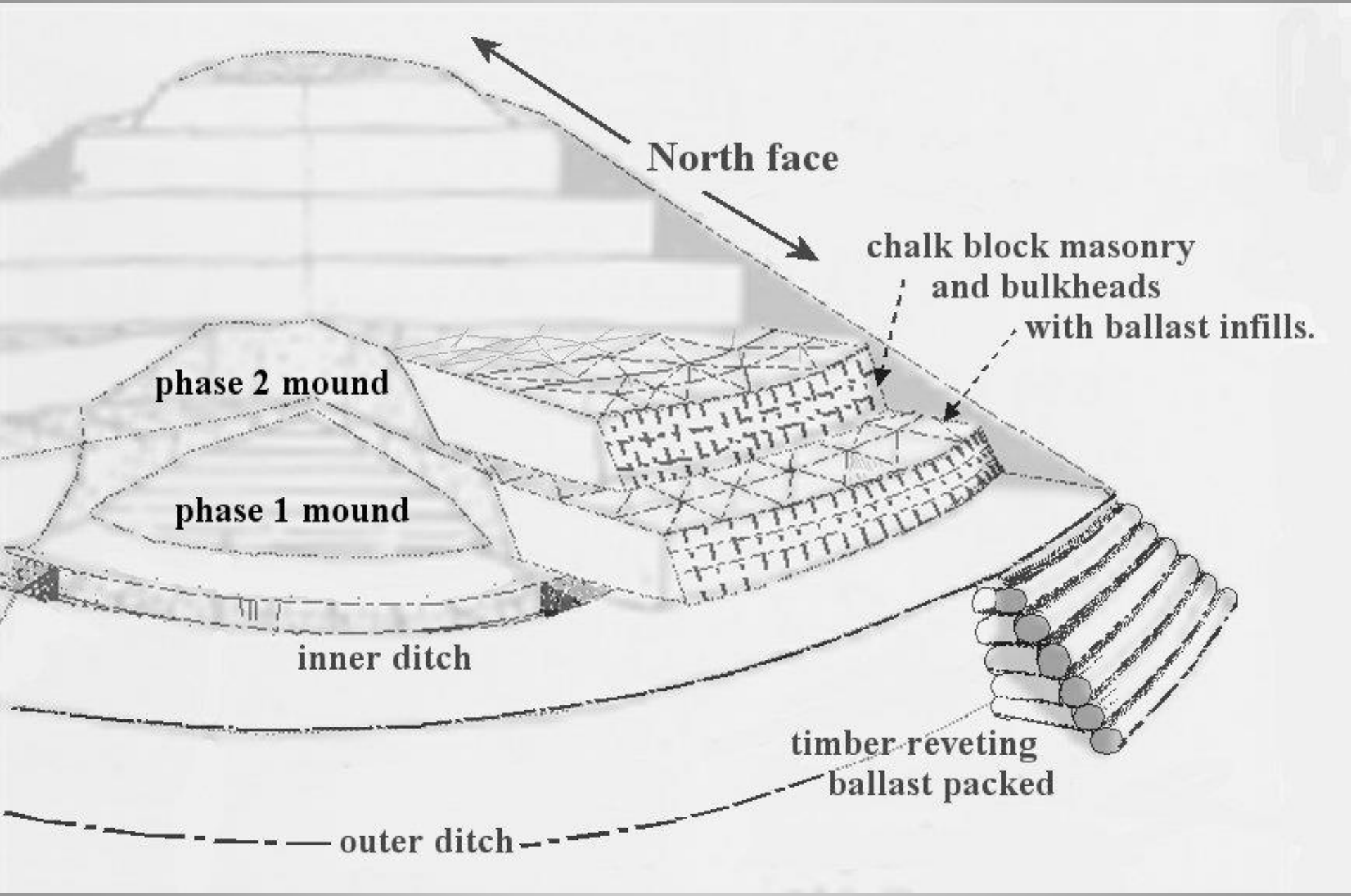

SILBURY HILL TUNNELS
Metres
Tunneling 1776
Tunneling 1849
Tunneling 1968
40
30
20
10
0
Silbury Hill
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
Metres
SOURCE: English Heritage

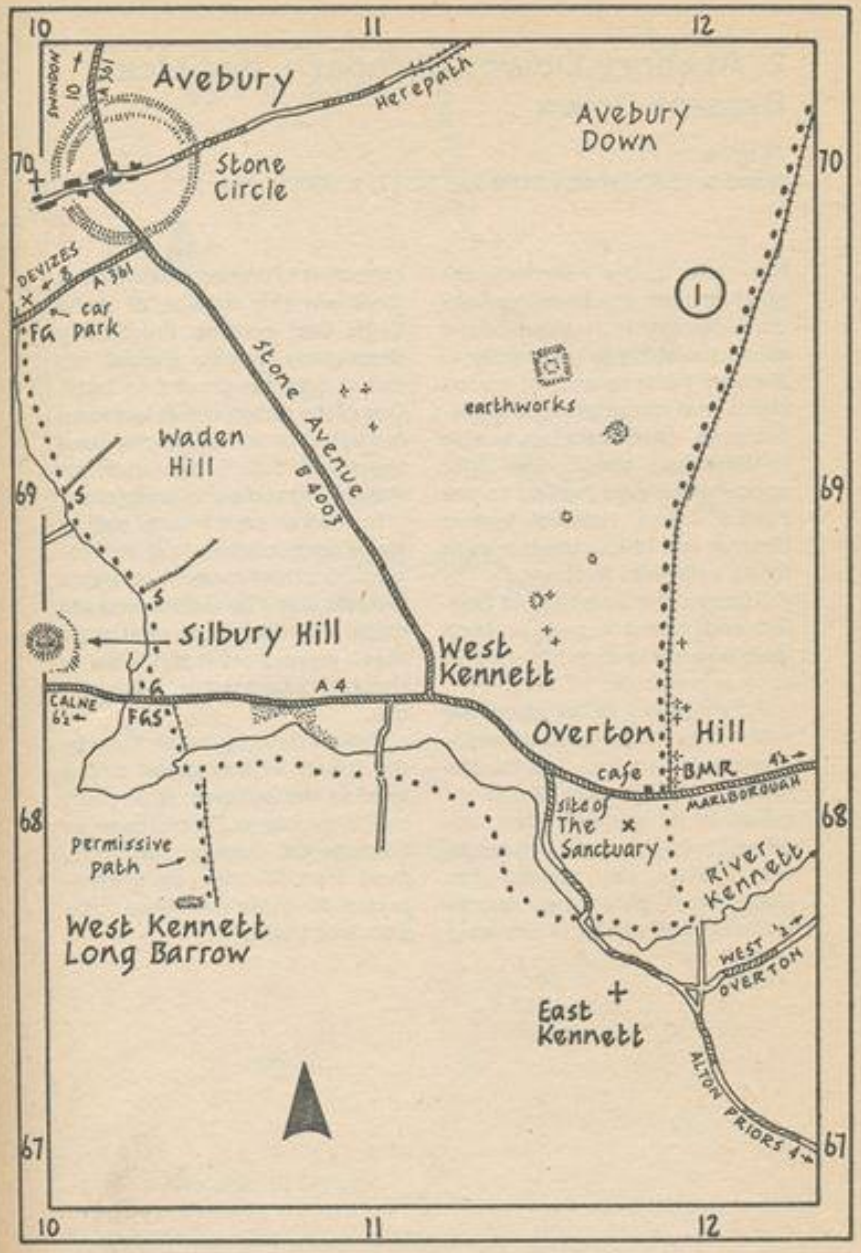

PA

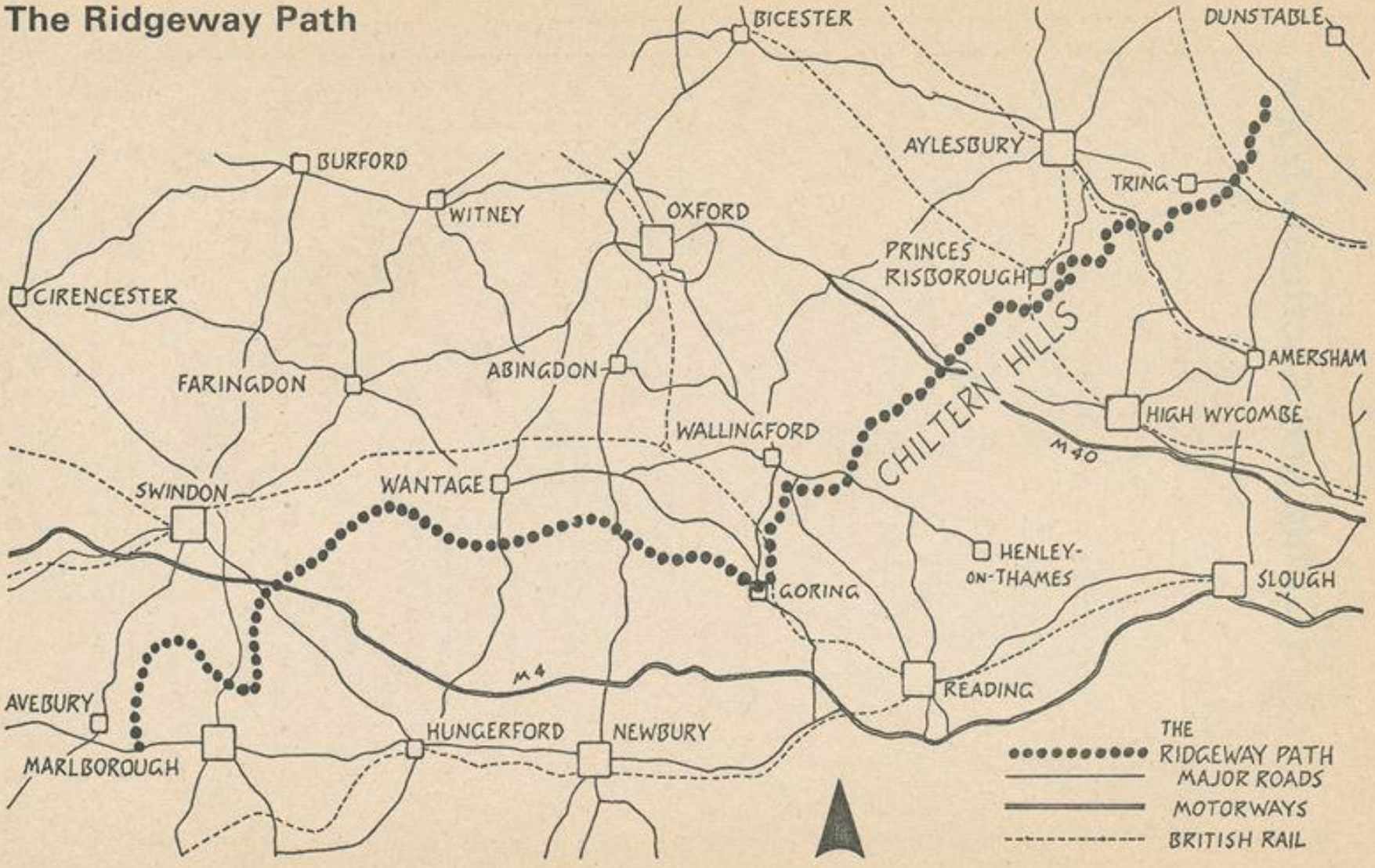

Second chalk mound
First chalk mound
Ditch
Ditch
Second phase ditch
Chalk and clay bank
Circular stack of turves
Covering of chalk and earth
0
20 m
0
65 ft

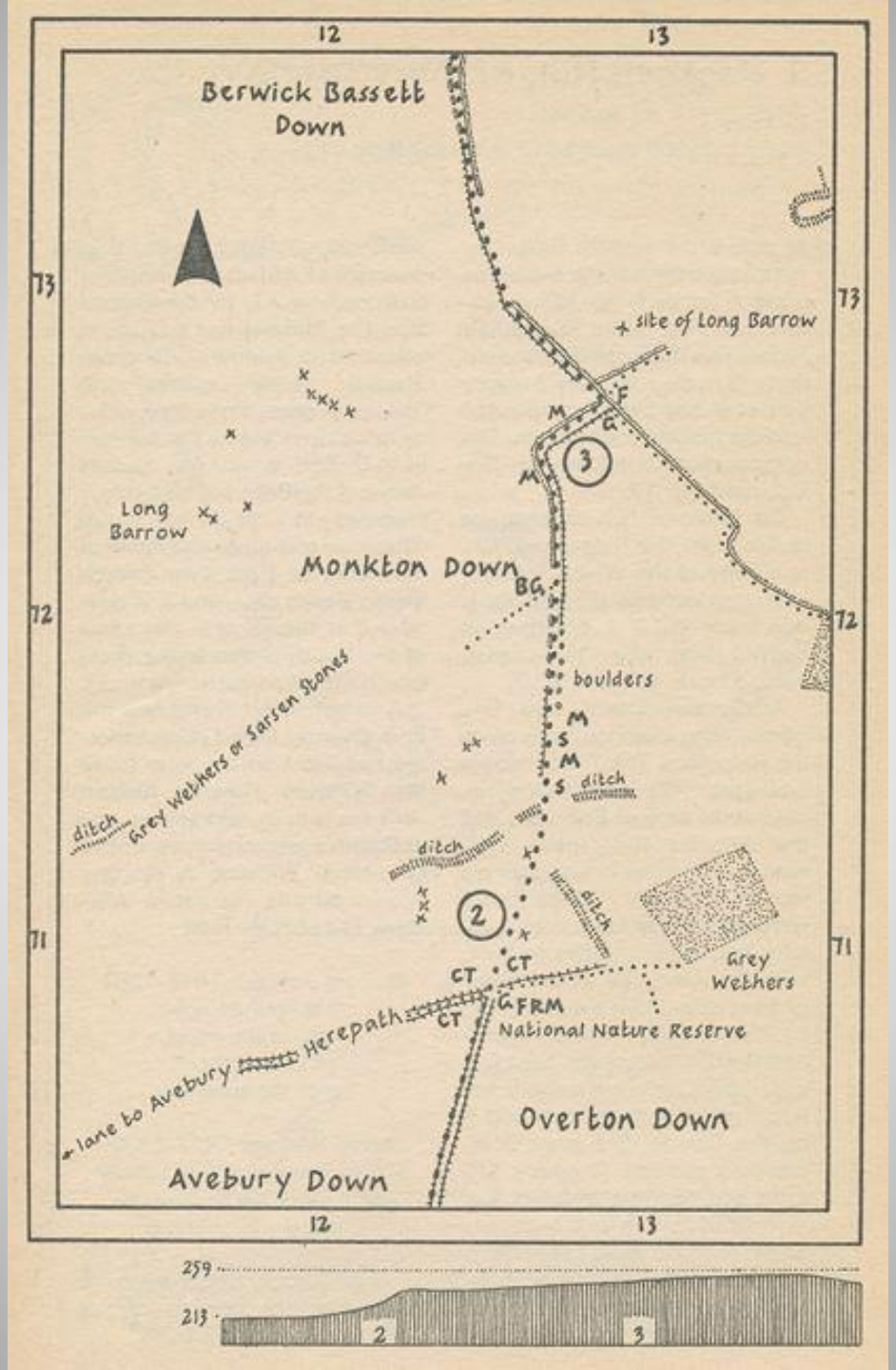
The first construction at Silbury was a low mound of gravel. Later, a series of layers of soil, mud and grass turves were added. Several pits were dug into the mound and it may have been edged by stakes.

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.


North face
chalk block masonry
and bulkheads
with ballast infills.
phase 2 mound
phase 1 mound
inner ditch
timber reveting
ballast packed
outer ditch

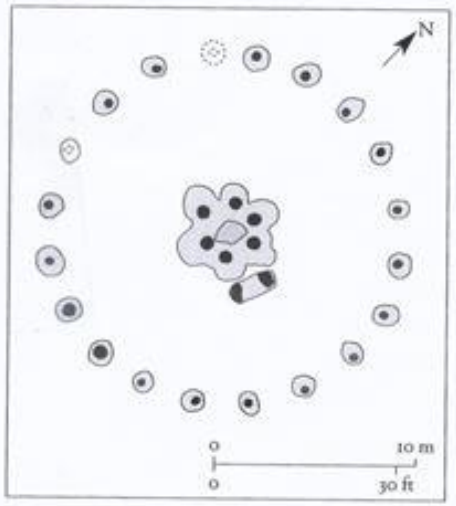

10
11
12
Avebury
Herepath
Avebury Down
Stone Circle
70
69
68
67
DEVIZES
A 361
car park
FG
Stone Avenue
B 4003
earthworks
Waden Hill
Silbury Hill
West Kennett
A4
CALNE
FGS
Overton Hill
cafe
BMR
MARLBOROUGH
site of The Sanctuary
River Kennett
permissive path
West Kennett Long Barrow
WEST OVERTON
East Kennett
ALTON PRIORS
213
168


The Ridgeway Path
BICESTER
DUNSTABLE
AYLESBURY
TRING
BURFORD
WITNEY
OXFORD
PRINCES RISBOROUGH
CIRENCESTER
CHILTERN HILLS
AMERSHAM
FARINGDON
ABINGDON
HIGH WYCOMBE
WALLINGFORD
M40
SWINDON
WANTAGE
HENLEY-ON-THAMES
SLOUGH
GORING
M4
READING
AVEBURY
HUNGERFORD
NEWBURY
MARLBOROUGH
THE RIDGEWAY PATH
MAJOR ROADS
MOTORWAYS
BRITISH RAIL


12
13
Berwick Bassett Down
73
72
71
site of Long Barrow
Long Barrow
Monkton Down
BG
boulders
M
S
M
S
ditch
Grey Wethers or Sarsen Stones
ditch
ditch
ditch
2
3
CT
CT
CT
G
FRM
Grey Wethers
National Nature Reserve
lane to Avebury
Herepath
Overton Down
Avebury Down
259
213
2
3

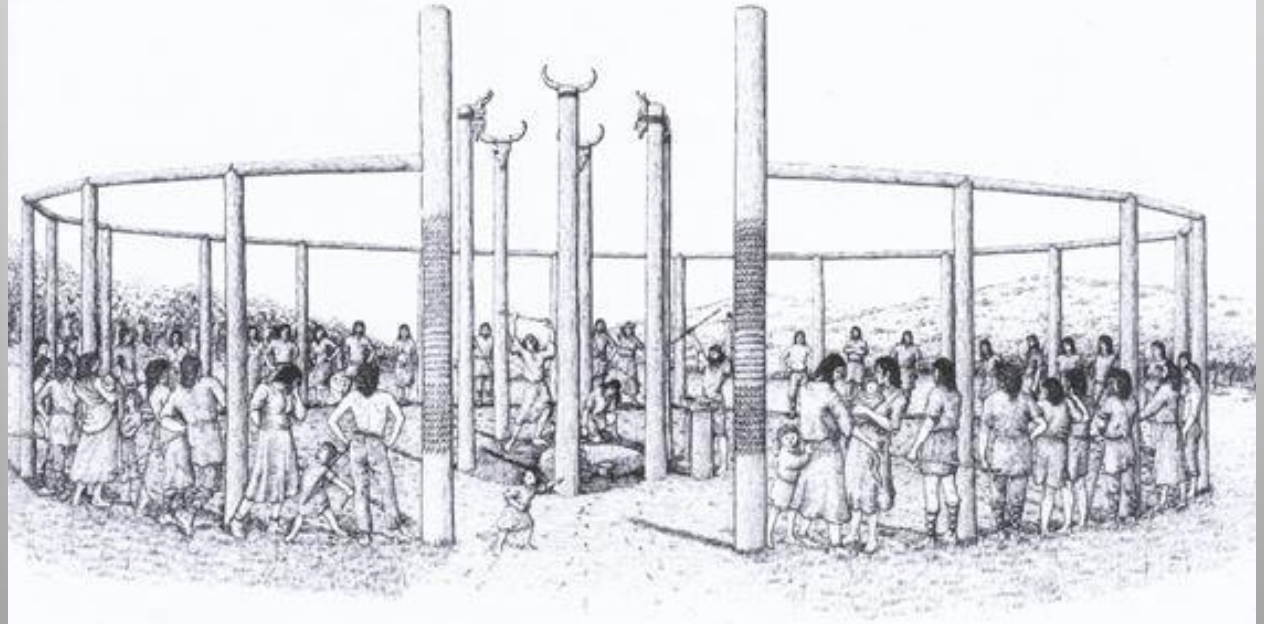
1 RITUAL CENTRES OF NORTH-WEST EUROPE

The distribution of stone circles, alignments, henges and menhirs during this period is concentrated in the British Isles and north-west France, and reflects the close contacts between these early farming communities. Unfortunately, many standing stones were destroyed in the 18th and 19th centuries AD to clear land for agricultural expansion. In some low-lying areas where suitable stone was not locally available, less durable settings of timber posts have been found. The stone circles of the Pyrenees and alignments of Corsica form part of a different cultural tradition, although they share many common traits. In the Pyrenees, early stone circles were built around a burial mound like many of those in northern and western Britain; later circles do not feature a burial mound and are associated with cremations.



Above *Post-holes mark a timber circle with central feature at Sarn-y-Bryn-Caled, mid-Wales.*

Below *Hypothetical reconstruction of the Sarn-y-Bryn-Caled timber circle.*

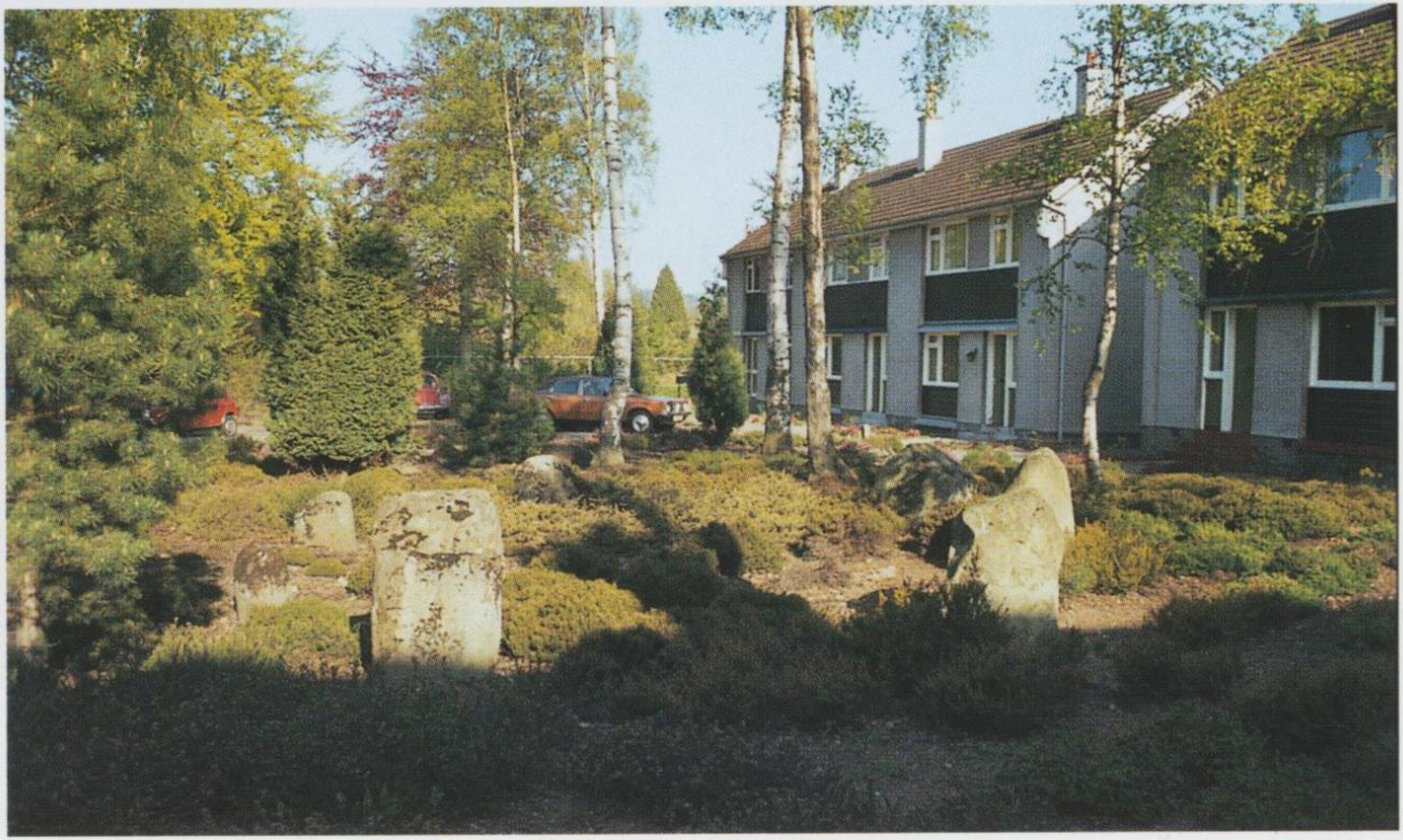


11. Swinside, Cumbria.

Ancient Britain 4b Stone Circles

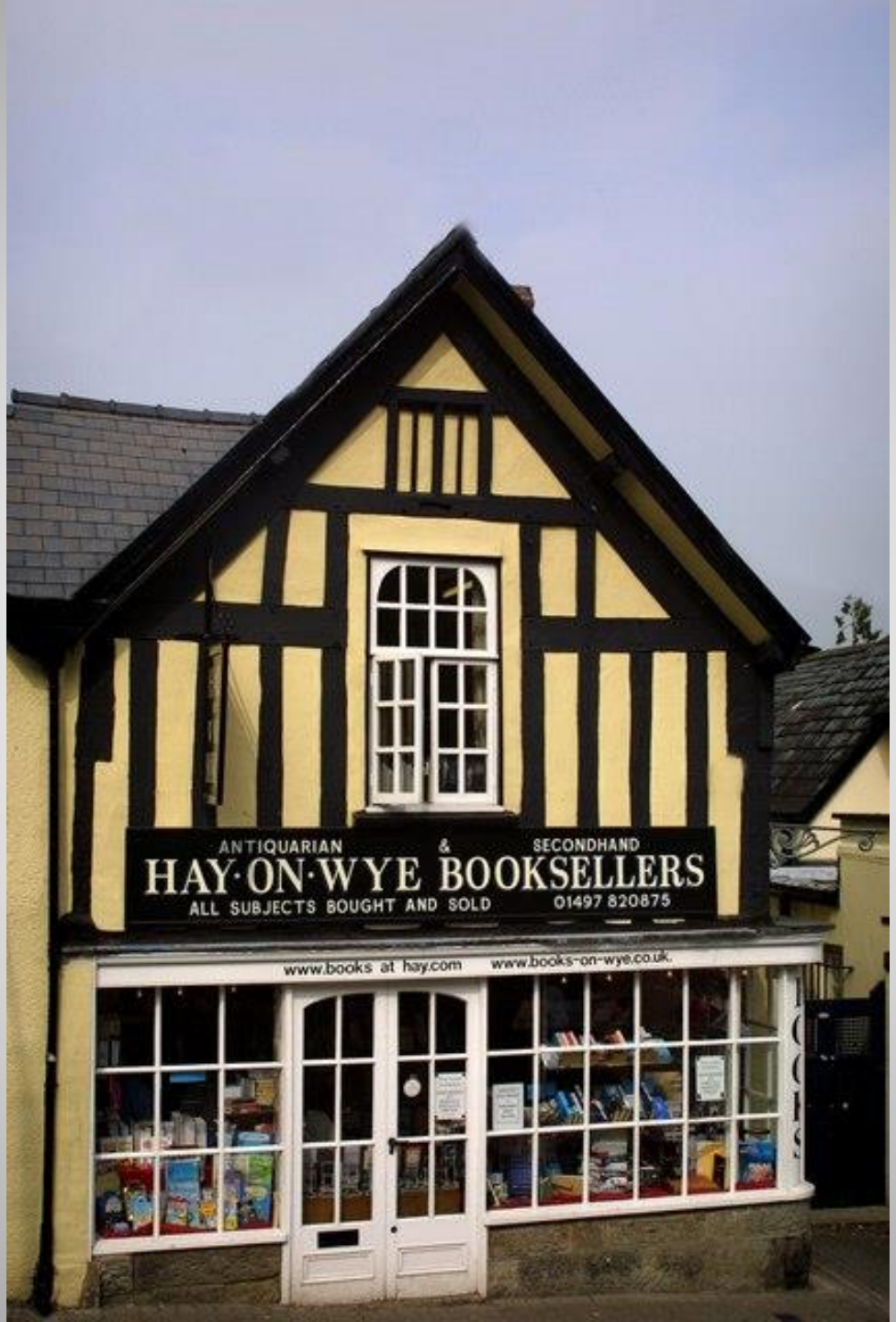
youtu.be

33. Sandy Road stone circle, Perthshire. It is the survivor of a pair of rings and is now enclosed in a housing estate.



7. Carrowmore traffic island.


BOOKS
BOUGHT & SOLD
ADDYMAN BOOKS
ADDYMAN


ANTIQUARIAN & SECONDHAND
HAY·ON·WYE BOOKSELLERS
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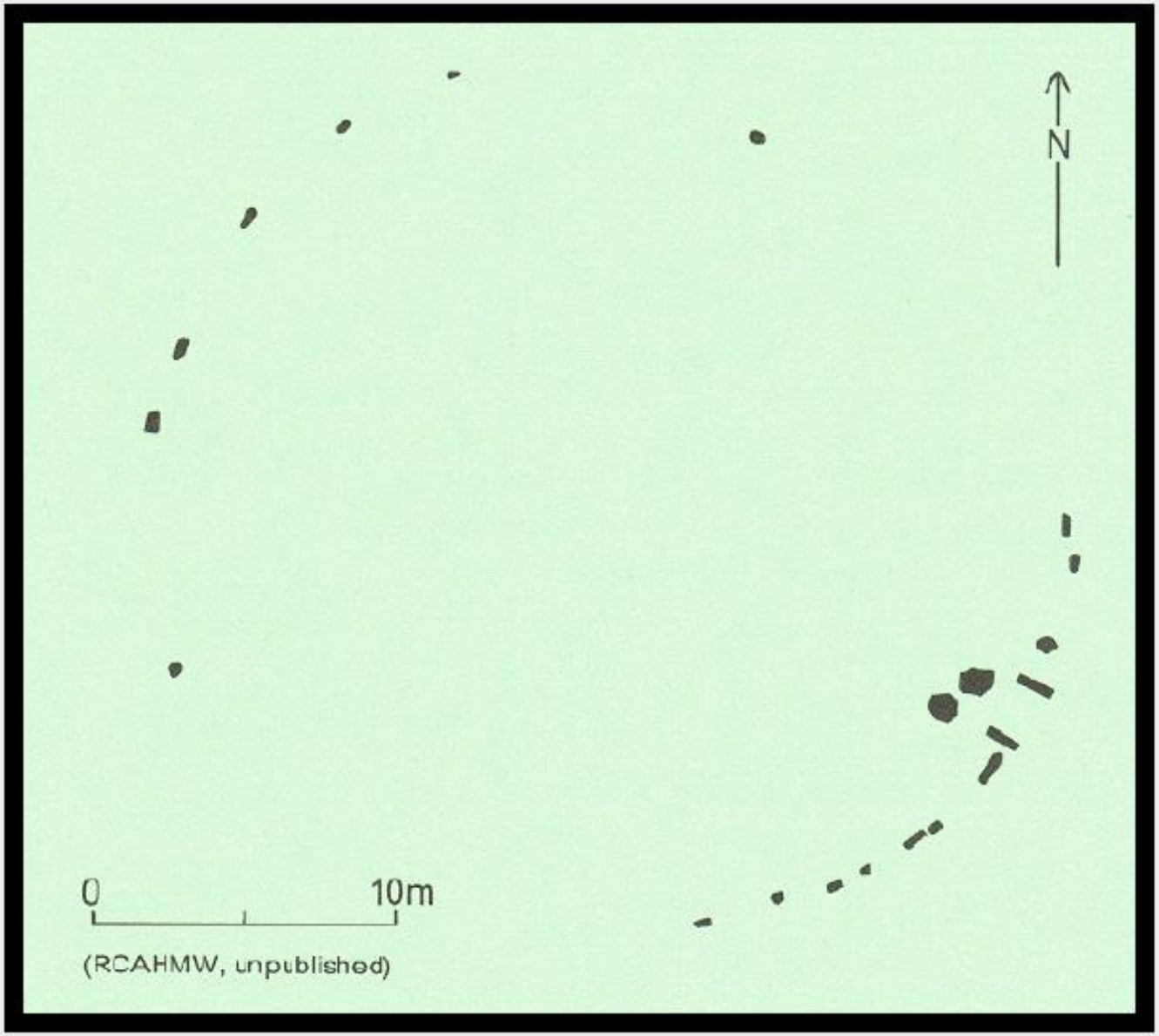
www.books-on-wye.co.uk

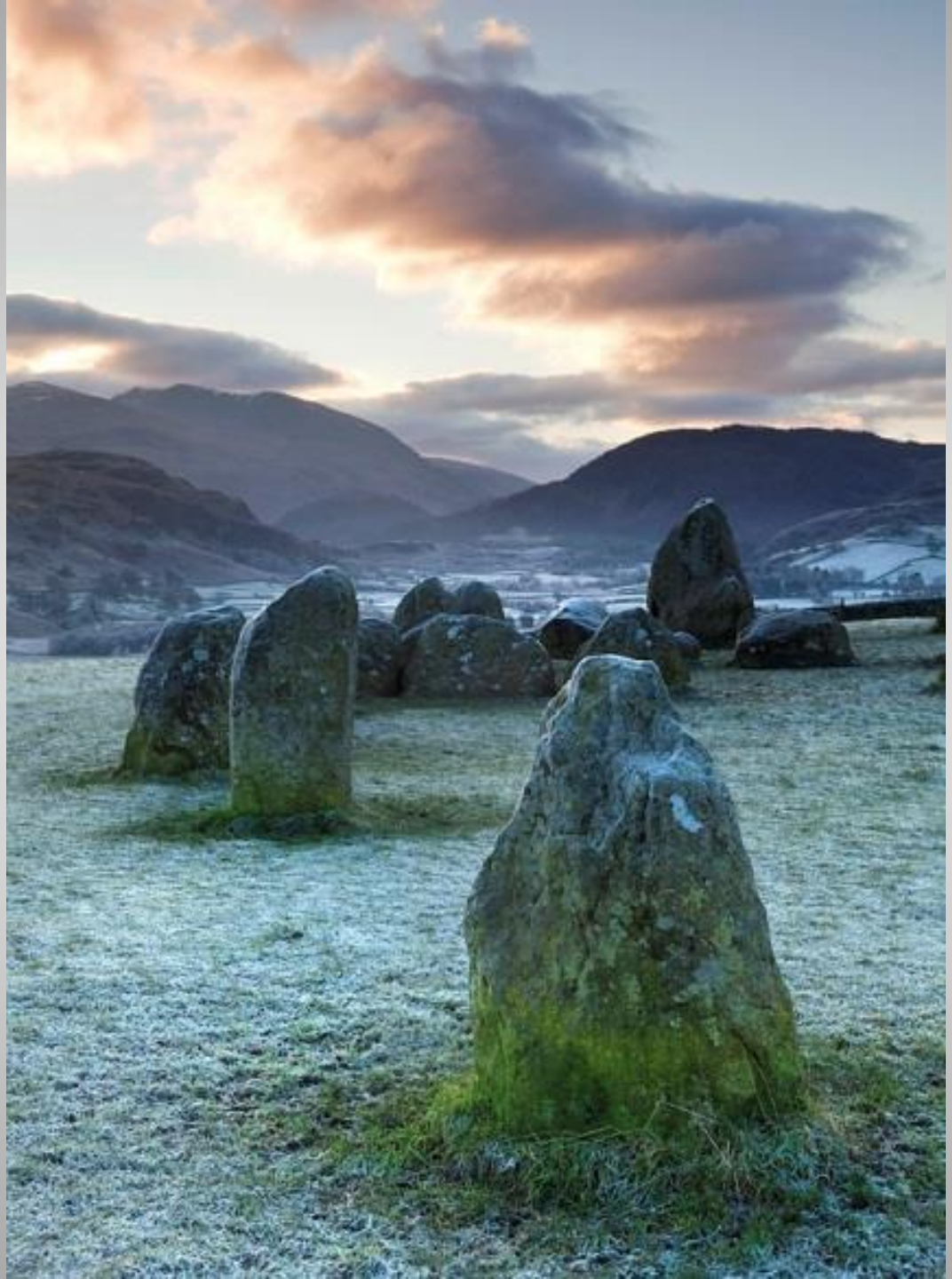
pen y beacon (or blaenau or hay bluff)

Marked as stone circle and sited adjacent to a car park on a minor road from Hay-on-Wye to Llanthony. This site has only recently been recognised as a stone circle: in the past it had variously been described as the remains of a cairn or burial chamber. The largest stone, on the east of the circle, is 1.5m high and 1.1m wide and has much smaller stones to either side of it which follow the arc of a circle 30m in diameter. Underneath the Ordnance Survey bench mark, a circular depression can be seen which is believed to be a cupmark, something of a rarity in this area of Wales. Four very small stones are just discernible on the opposite side of the circle with another stone to the south. The circle has an obvious entrance to the SE marked by flanking portal stones which are not a common feature amongst stone circles in Wales.



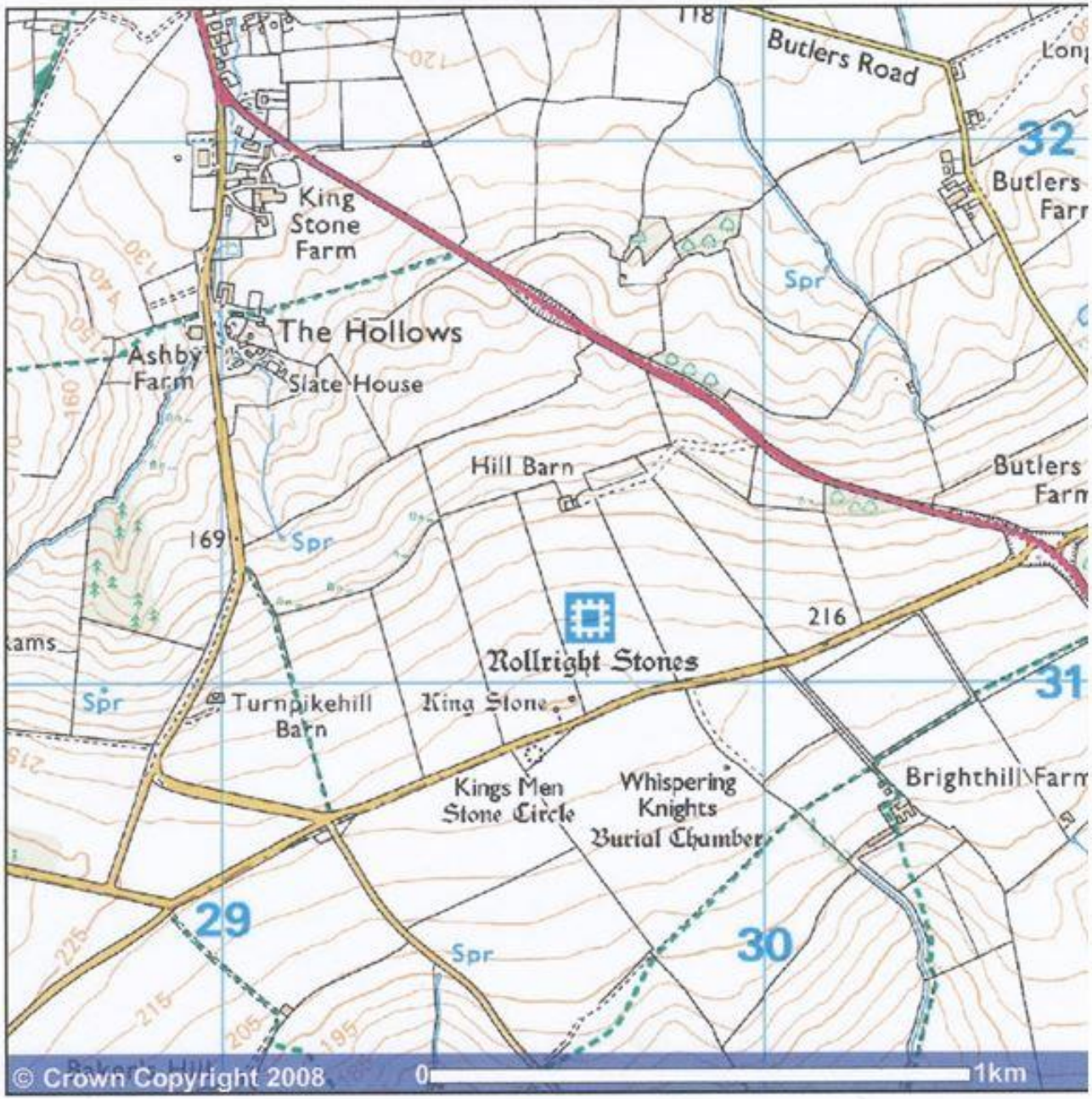
A plan of the stone circle found in the green pull-out field guide in paperback: 'Prehistoric Peoples, their life and legacy', a Brecon Beacons National Park publication from 1996.


Long Meg and her Daughters
Castlerigg
Mayburgh
Great Langdale
Willerby Wold
Duggleby Howe
Thornborough
Kilham
YORKSHIRE
r i s h

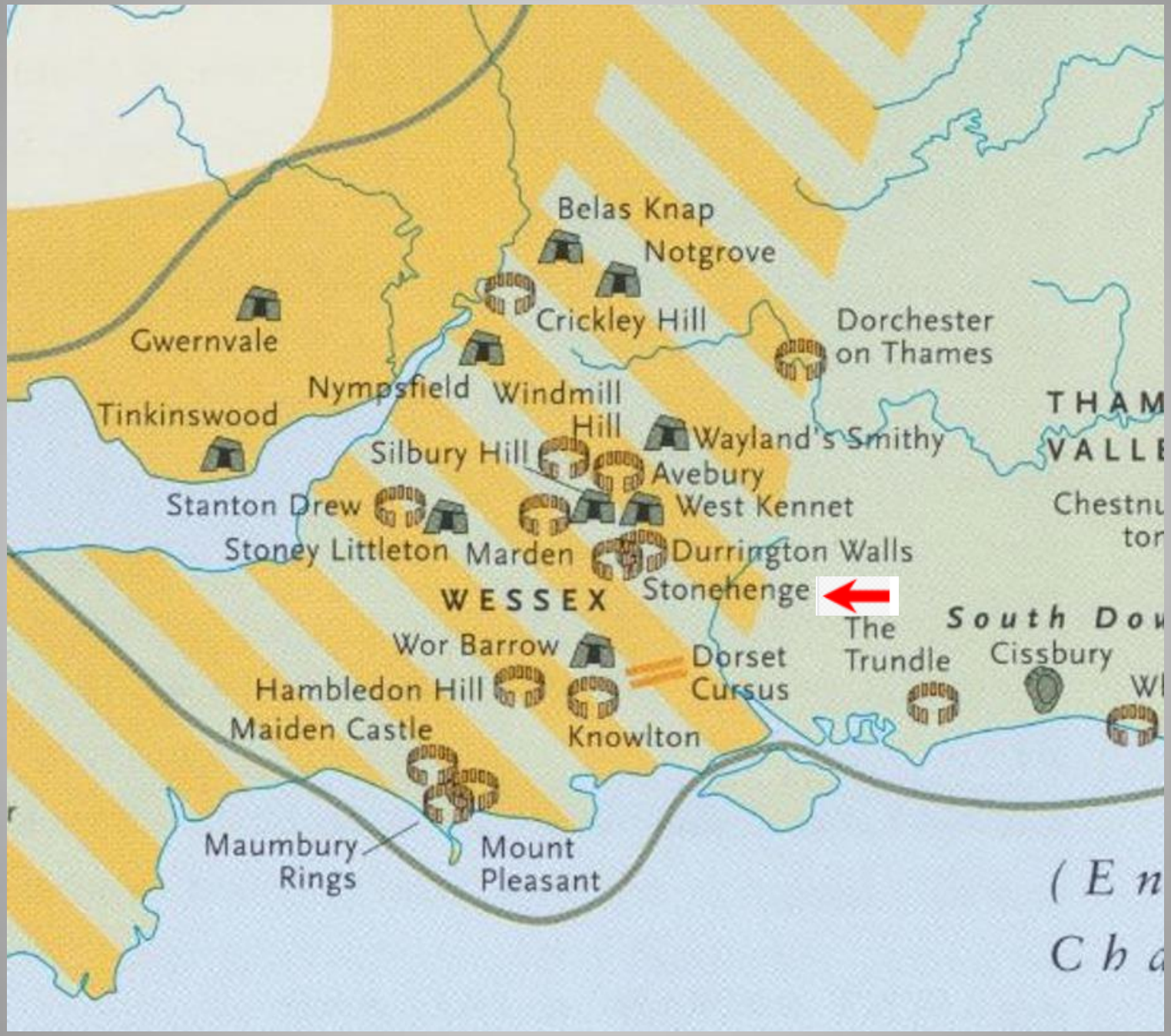


Ordnance Survey

Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland



THE ROLLRIGHT STONES


Belas Knap
Notgrove
Crickley Hill
Dorchester on Thames
Gwernvale
Nympsfield
Windmill Hill
Tinkinswood
Wayland's Smithy
Silbury Hill
Avebury
Stanton Drew
West Kennet
Stoney Littleton
Marden
Durrington Walls
Stonehenge
WESSEX
Wor Barrow
Dorset Cursus
Hambledon Hill
Knowlton
Maiden Castle
Maumbury Rings
Mount Pleasant
The Trundle
Cissbury

These two natural boulders are sarsen and bluestone, the two types of stone used to build Stonehenge. By touching them you can feel the differences between them.

Sarsen

The larger stones at the monument are sarsen, a very hard type of sandstone. It was formed about 26 million years ago from a solidified layer of sand in a prehistoric sea.

Natural sarsens are found across southern England. We do not know the exact place of origin of the sarsens at Stonehenge, but it is likely that they were brought from the nearest source – the Marlborough Downs, 20 miles away.

Sarsen is difficult to shape and work. Prehistoric people not only sculpted the stones to form the jointed uprights and lintels, but also removed their outer surface to give Stonehenge what would have been a spectacular bright appearance.

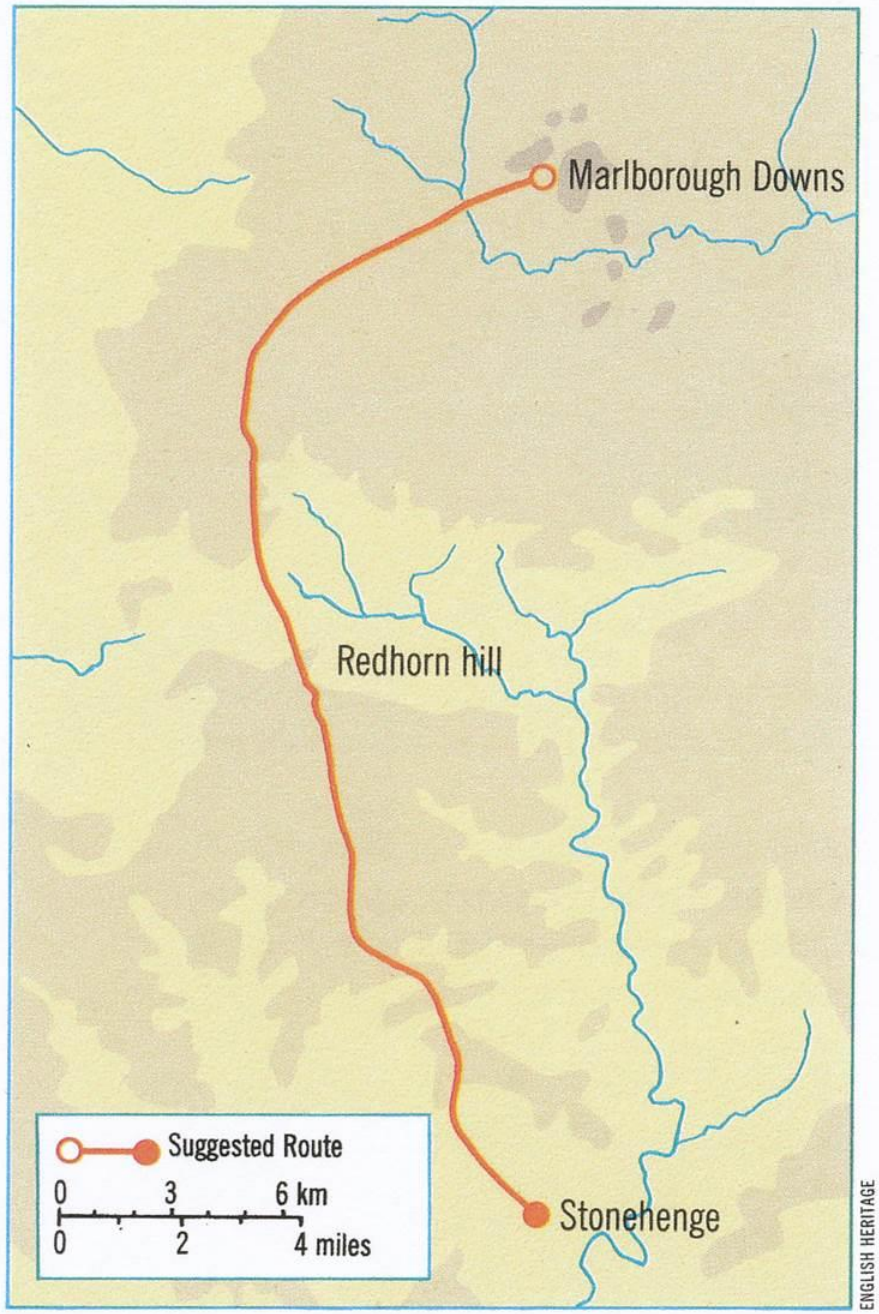
Bluestone

We call the smaller stones at Stonehenge 'bluestones'. They are a variety of differ volcanic rocks, including dolerites and rhyolites.

Today, the bluestones appear grey, b when freshly cut or wet some do h dark blue colour. They all come fr Preseli Hills in west Wales. Chem has identified the exact outcrops different types of stone came fr

We do not know why these st chosen. Perhaps the Preseli H special meaning for the peop Stonehenge, or possibly the the stones had magical pro

RIGHT *Probable route of the sarsens from the Marlborough Downs to Stonehenge*

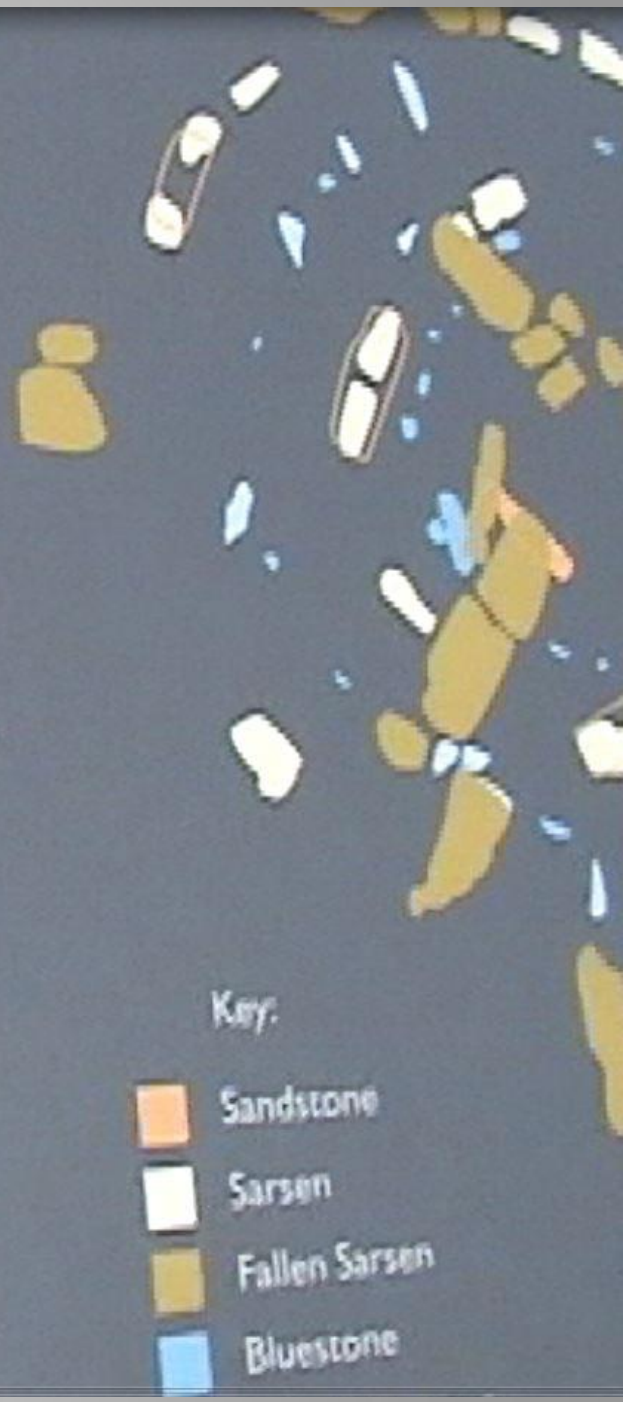


Bluestone

We call the smaller stones at Stonehenge 'bluestones'. They are a variety of different volcanic rocks, including dolerites and rhyolites.

Today, the bluestones appear grey, but when freshly cut or wet some do have a dark blue colour. They all come from the Preseli Hills in west Wales. Chemical analysis has identified the exact outcrops that the different types of stone came from.

We do not know why these stones were chosen. Perhaps the Preseli Hills had a special meaning for the people who built Stonehenge, or possibly they thought the stones had magical properties.



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s at Stonehenge
ariety of different
olerites and

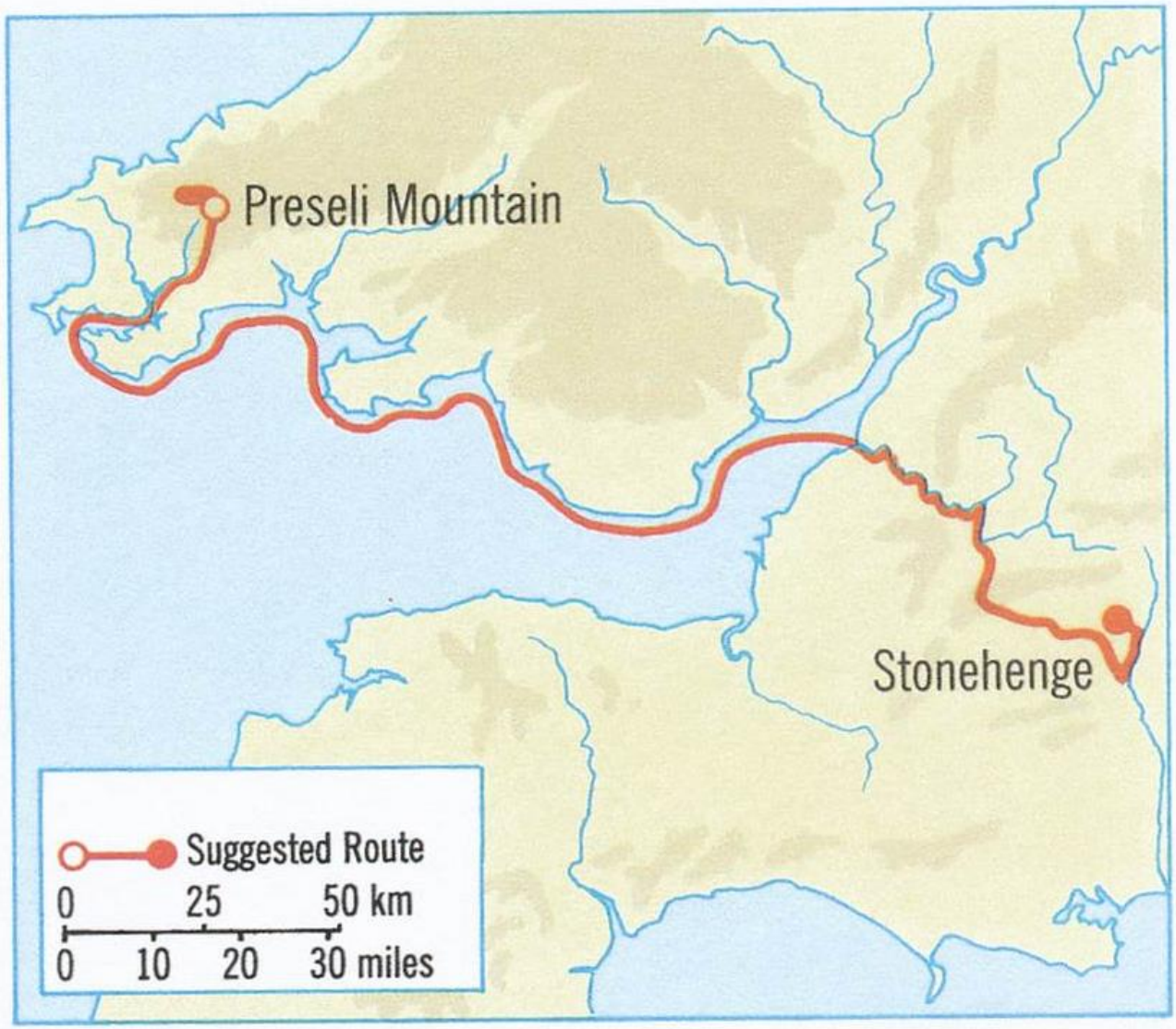
ear grey, but
me do have a
ome from the
Chemical analysis
rops that the
e from.

stones were
lills had a
e who built
thought
ties.

Plan of Stonehenge today showing

Sarsens were also used to build
at Avebury, near the Marlboro
stones were left in their nature

The sarsen was donated
The bluestone was don
from his land in the Pre
assistance of Preseli P
Cystic Fibrosis Resear



LEFT *The likely route of the bluestones from Preseli using water transport*

La nature seule a dressé ces pierres dans les monts Preseli, au pays de Galles, lieu d'origine des premiers monolithes de Stonehenge, les pierres bleues. Plusieurs légendes attribuent des pouvoirs de guérison aux sources des monts Preseli et certains chercheurs y voient la raison pour laquelle ces pierres ont été transportées sur 400 km, faisant de Stonehenge un centre de cure.
ANDREW HENDERSON

Ancient Britain 4c The Preseli Hills

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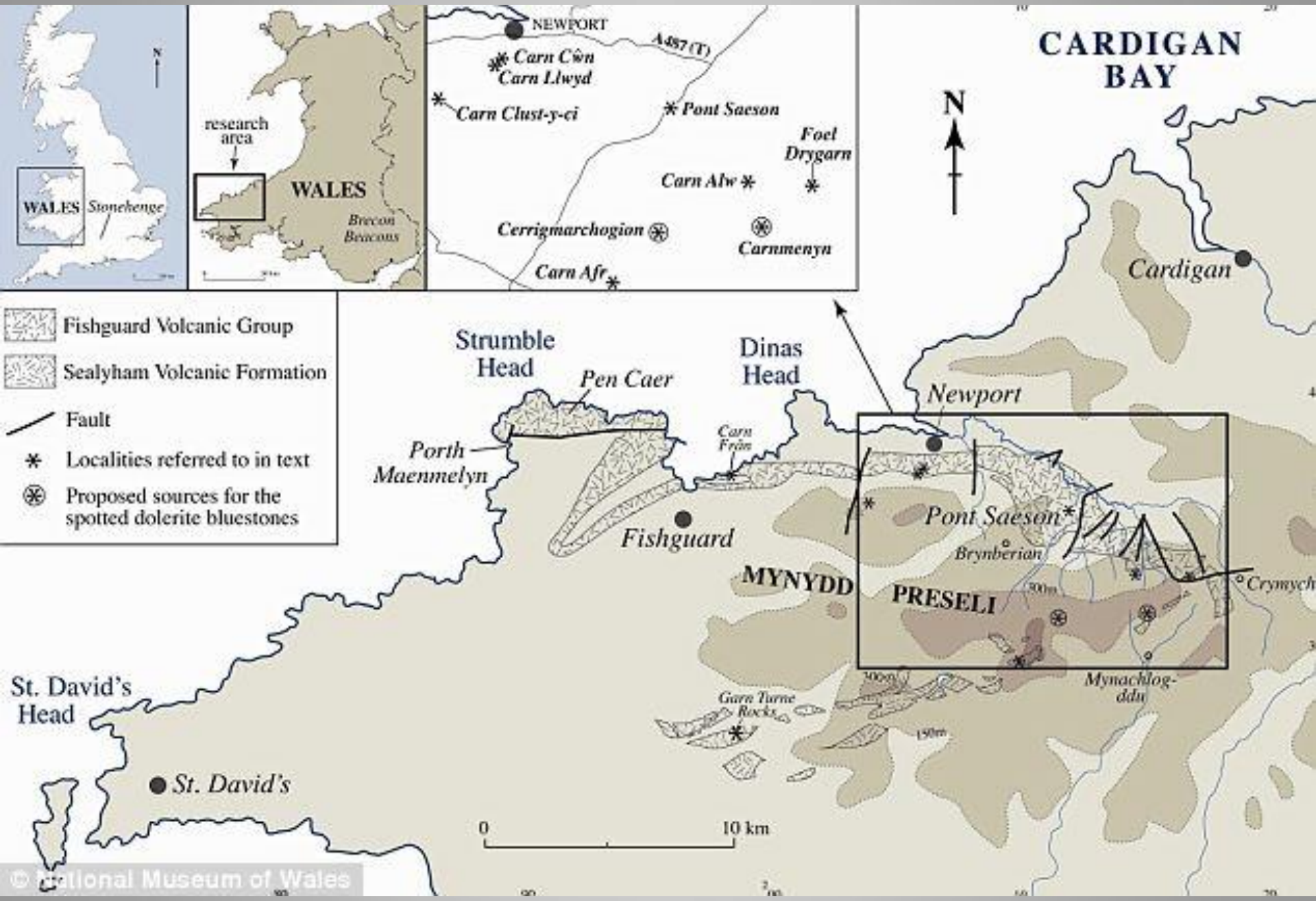
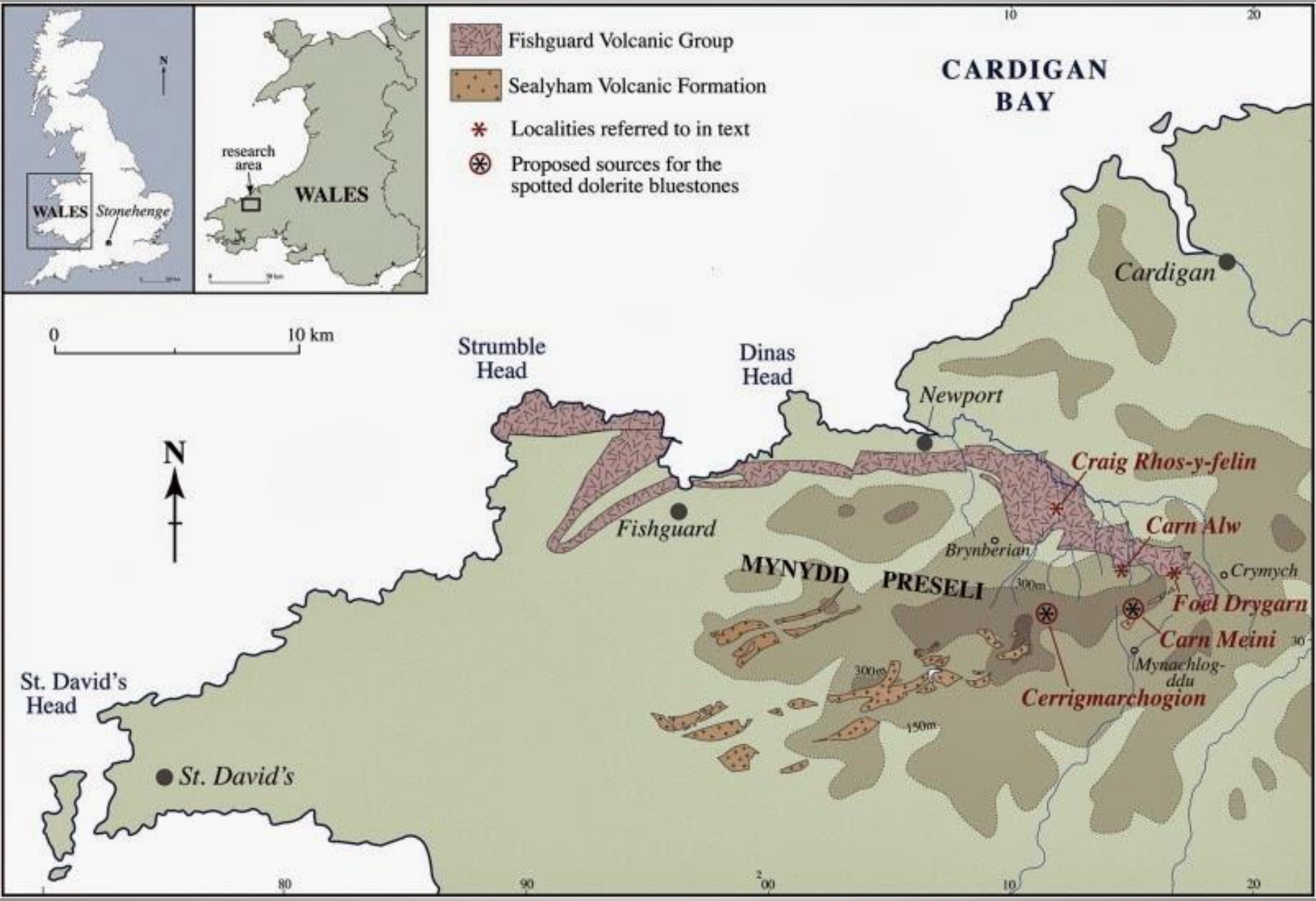
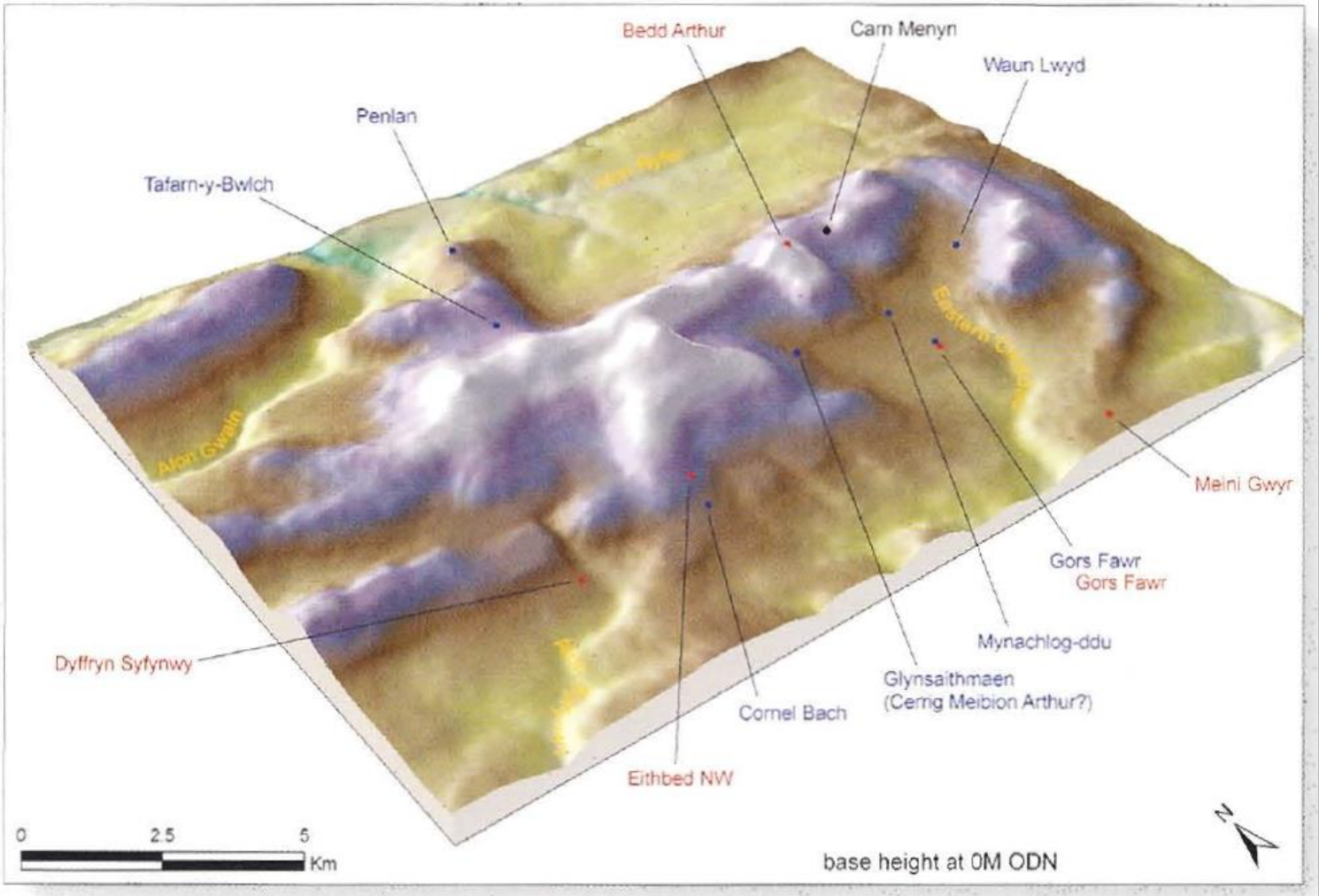


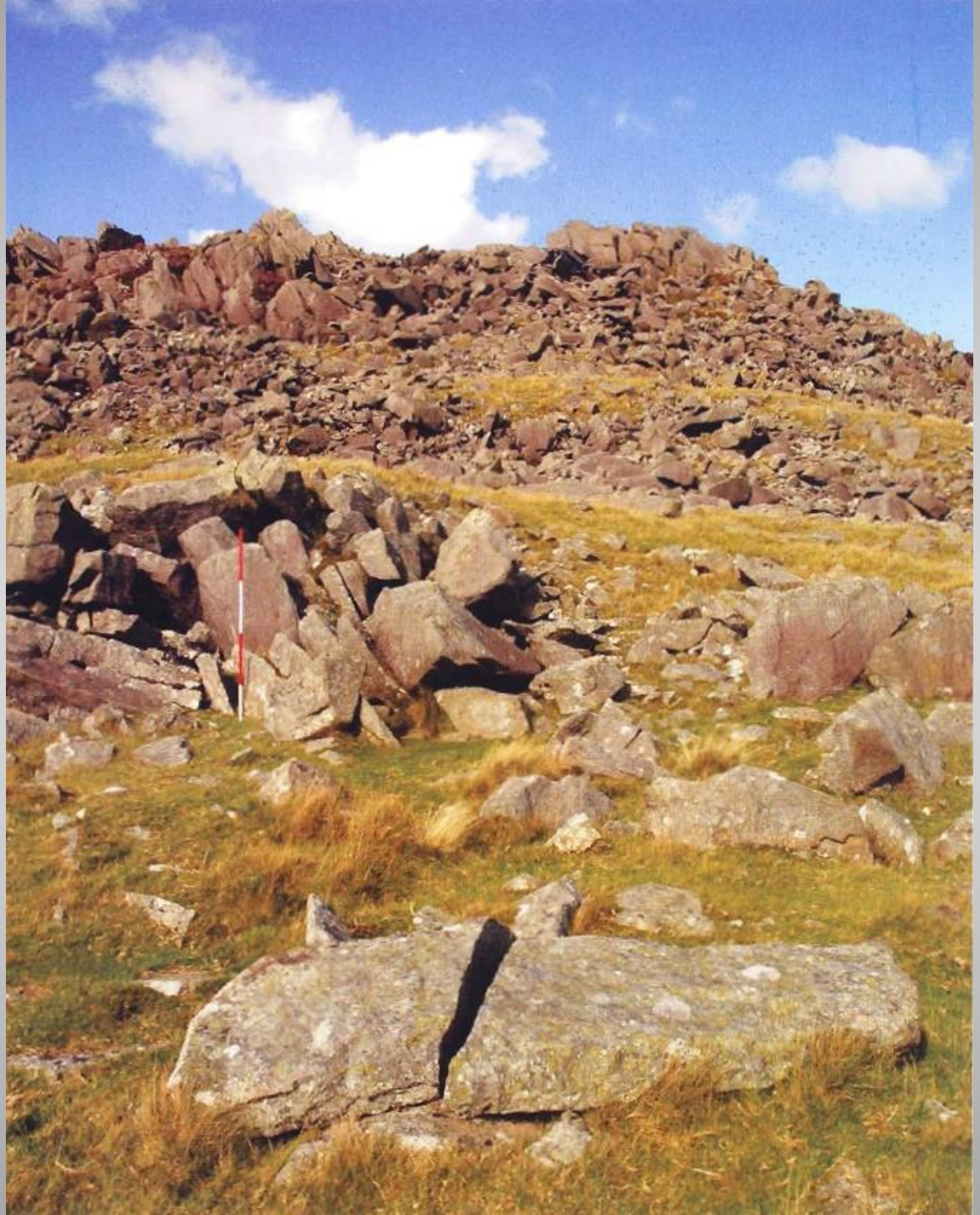

WALES
Stonehenge
research area
WALES
Fishguard Volcanic Group
Sealyham Volcanic Formation
Localities referred to in text
Proposed sources for the spotted dolerite bluestones
CARDIGAN BAY
Cardigan
0
10 km
Strumble Head
Dinas Head
Newport
N
Craig Rhos-y-felin
Fishguard
Carn Alw
Brynberian
Crymych
MYNYDD PRESELI
300m
Foel Drygarn
Carn Meini
Mynachlog-ddu
Cerrigmarchogion
St. David's Head
St. David's
300m
150m

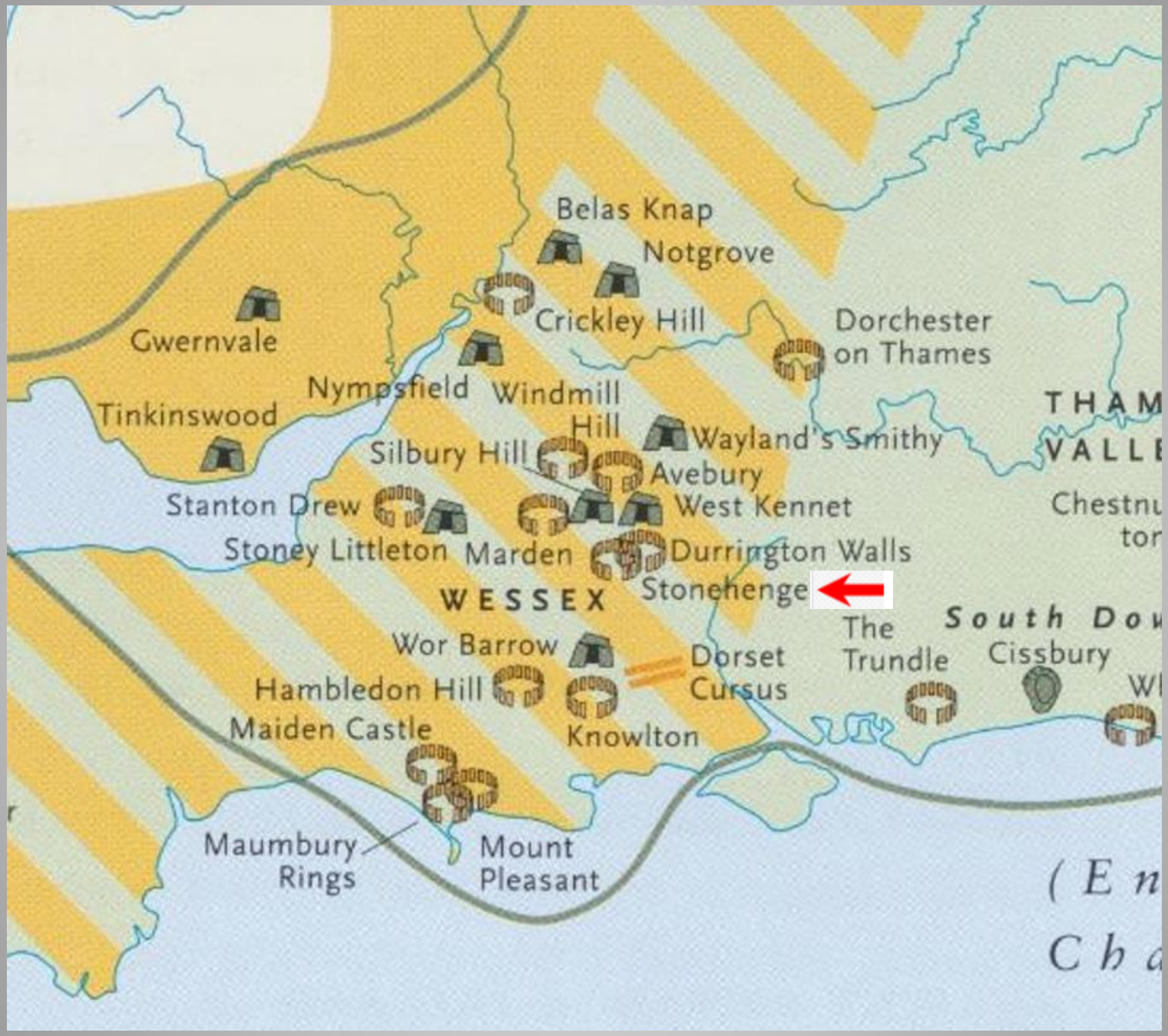


ABOVE Oval stone circles are widely attested in the Preselis. This diagram shows their extant distribution. The central setting of bluestones at Stonehenge was also arranged in an oval.

on stones around the rim. Water from many of the springs is considered to have healing powers, and some were adopted as holy wells in recent times.

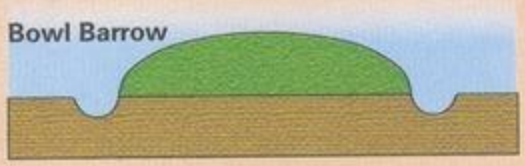
Springs are increasingly being recognised as important focal points in the Stonehenge landscape. Investigations by David Jacques at Blick Mead on the west side of Amesbury have




Belas Knap
Notgrove
Crickley Hill
Dorchester on Thames
Gwernvale
Nympsfield
Windmill Hill
Tinkinswood
Silbury Hill
Wayland's Smithy
Avebury
Stanton Drew
West Kennet
Stoney Littleton
Marden
Durrington Walls
Stonehenge
WESSEX
The Trundle
Cissbury
Wor Barrow
Dorset Cursus
Hambledon Hill
Knowlton
Maiden Castle
Maumbury Rings
Mount Pleasant

Bronze Age barrow monuments

These Bronze Age religious and funerary monuments consist of a hemispherical mound surrounded by a ditch (or series of concentric ditches) and are often accompanied by an external (or occasionally internal) bank.

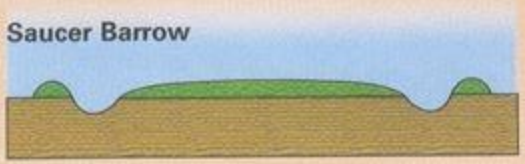


A mound surrounded by a ditch, which may or may not be accompanied by an external bank.

A barrow in which the mound and ditch are separated from each other by a narrow strip of land (berm) – the ditch may be accompanied by an external (or occasionally internal) bank.

A barrow featuring a small mound separated from a ditch of much greater diameter by a wide berm. The ditch may be accompanied by an external (or occasionally internal) bank.

A monument featuring an artificial circular shallow depression, which itself is surrounded by a bank that runs around the rim of the depression.



A barrow featuring a low, wide mound, which in turn is surrounded by a ditch that could be accompanied by an external bank.

Ancient Britain 4d The walk out to Stonehenge

youtu.be

STAGES OF STONEHENGE

3000 B.C. Middle Neolithic

2500 B.C. Late Neolithic

2000 B.C. Early Bronze

EARTHWORK ENCLOSURE

A circular ditch-and-bank monument some 375 feet across was cut into the chalk of Salisbury Plain about 3000 B.C. This earthwork is the "henge" in Stonehenge, though most Neolithic henges were built with the ditch inside the bank. Timber posts may have stood in some of the 56 circular pits that lined the bank's inner edge.

TIMBER MONUMENTS

A distinct new phase took shape in the middle to late Neolithic period. Timber posts were erected in linear patterns near the northeast entrance and across the center toward the southern entrance. Cremation remains lead archaeologists to believe the site was being used as a cemetery.

ENTER THE STONES

Bluestones

Circular or semicircular arrangements of stones probably appeared by 2500 B.C., the earliest being pairs of four-ton bluestones (their color when wet) now known to have been brought about 250 miles from Wales. Also added: features called Station Stones, the Altar Stone, and the Heel Stone just outside the northeast entrance.

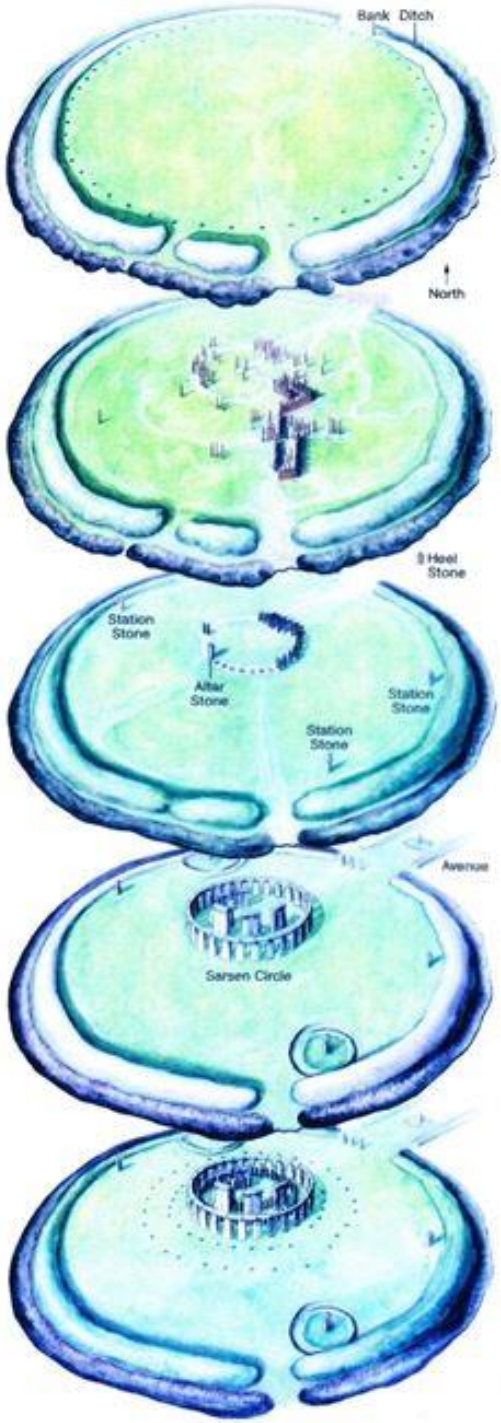
Sarsen Circle

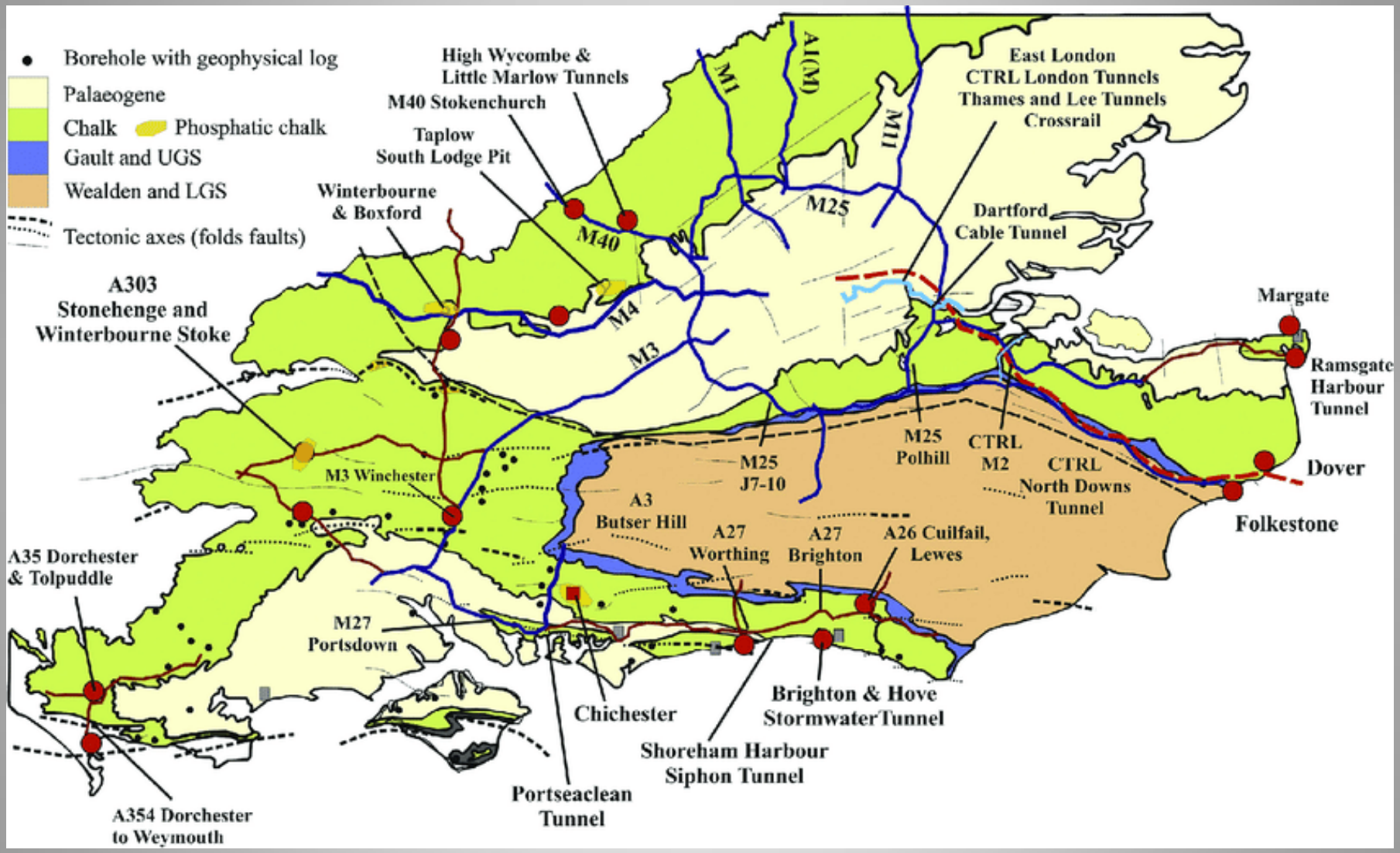
Stonehenge gained its iconic shape with the creation of the 16-foot-high Sarsen Circle—30 worked stones topped by lintels. In a horseshoe configuration inside the circle towered five freestanding trilithons, each formed of two upright stones linked by a lintel. The tallest reached 25 feet. The chalk bank was recut, small circular earthworks were added, and a banked avenue ran nearly two miles to the River Avon.

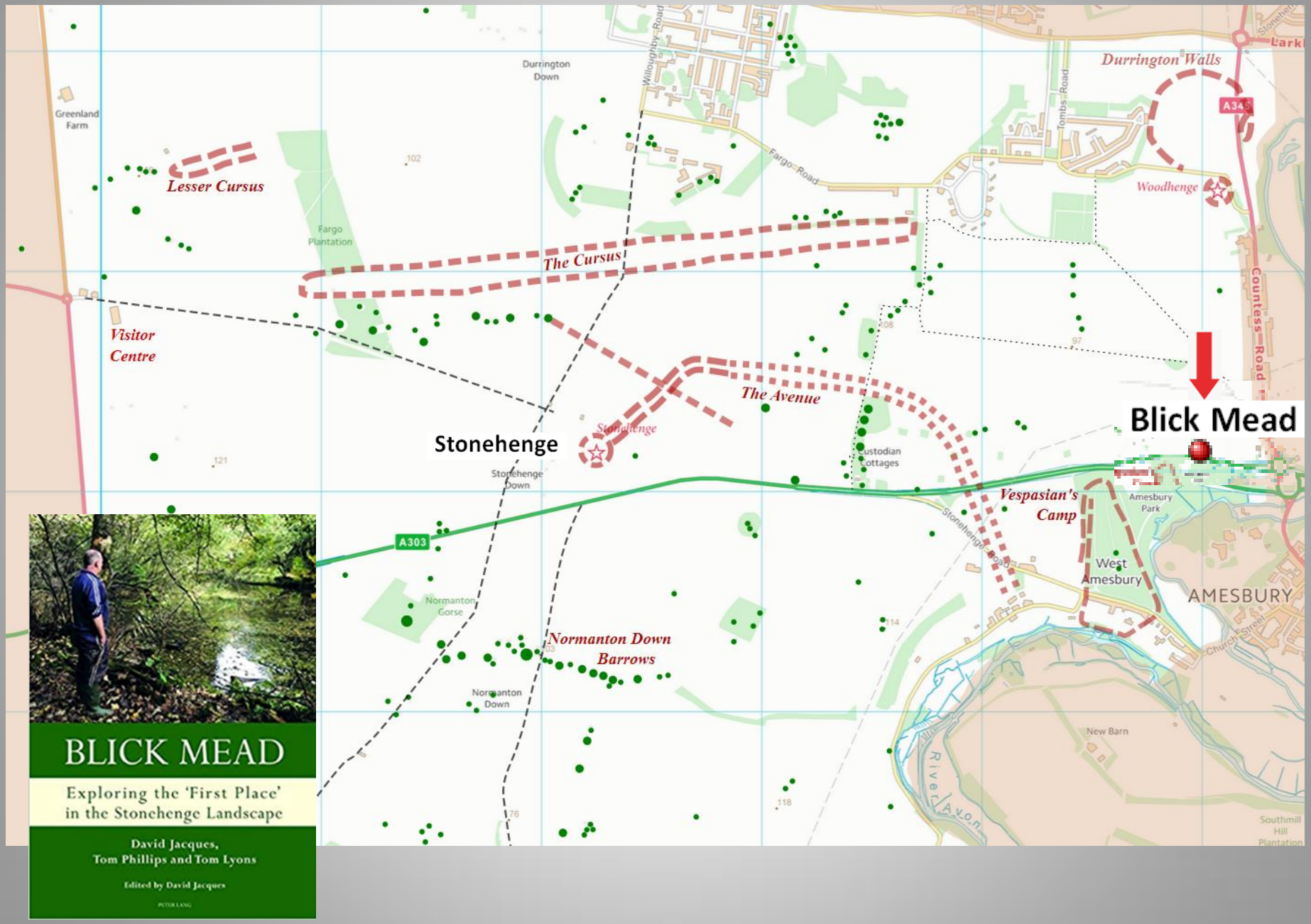
Later Refinements

Bluestones that had been cast aside were repositioned as a circle and a horseshoe within the Sarsen Circle, and a double ring of pits was dug. By about 1500 B.C. Stonehenge was no longer maintained.

ART BY OLIVER UBERTI, NG STAFF. SOURCES: MIKE PARKER PEARSON, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD; *SCIENCE AND STONEHENGE*, BARRY CUNLIFFE AND COLIN RENFREW, EDS.




Borehole with geophysical log
Palaeogene
Chalk
Phosphatic chalk
Gault and UGS
Wealden and LGS
Tectonic axes (folds faults)
High Wycombe & Little Marlow Tunnels
M40 Stokenchurch
Taplow South Lodge Pit
Winterbourne & Boxford
A303 Stonehenge and Winterbourne Stoke
M3 Winchester
A35 Dorchester & Tolpuddle
A354 Dorchester to Weymouth
M27 Portsdown
Portseaclean Tunnel
Chichester
Shoreham Harbour Siphon Tunnel
Brighton & Hove StormwaterTunnel
A3 Butser Hill
A27 Worthing
A27 Brighton
A26 Cuilfail, Lewes
M25 J7-10
M25 Polhill
CTRL M2
CTRL North Downs Tunnel
Folkestone
Dover
Margate
Ramsgate Harbour Tunnel
East London
CTRL London Tunnels
Thames and Lee Tunnels
Crossrail
Dartford Cable Tunnel
M1
A1(M)
M11
M25
M40
M4
M3



BLICK MEAD

Exploring the 'First Place' in the Stonehenge Landscape

David Jacques, Tom Phillips and Tom Lyons

Edited by David Jacques

PETER LANG

Carbon dating from an archaeological dig has found the parish of Amesbury in Wiltshire has been continually occupied for every millennia since 8,820BC - making it the oldest settlement in the UK. These pieces of flint were found at the site on Vespasian's Camp, Blick Mead - a mile-and-a-half from Stonehenge

Figure 2.3
Excavations across the Avenue, showing the periglacial features in the centre and the ditches on either side. The line of the Avenue can be seen running away to the north-east

What we found was a series of deep, narrow channels in the chalk, running along the centre of the Avenue, parallel with its solstice axis. Expecting these features to be artificial – surely only something man-made could have such an alignment – we were amazed to discover that the channels in the chalk bedrock were, in fact, naturally formed in a previous Ice Age as periglacial fissures that were filled with fine chalk-derived sediment many thousands of years before any human hunters arrived here.

During excavations by the Stonehenge Riverside Project in the mid-2000s, a series of features were discovered at the top of the Avenue which have been identified as "periglacial stripes". These cracks and runnels in the underlying chalk where water has repeatedly frozen and thawed happen to run exactly along the main solstice alignment down the slope to the northeast beyond the Heel Stone.

The SRP team suggest that these features would have been visible as parallel lines in the grass leading towards the Heel Stone. They go on to suggest that since the Heel Stone is unshaped, it may always have been lying in the landscape very close to where it has been set upright.

They conclude that a series of noticeable stripes in the grass leading up a slope towards a massive rock exactly in the direction of the winter solstice sunset may be the reason why this spot was regarded as a special place, worthy of memorialising.