

Ancient Britain

5

Stonehenge and Beyond

Bronze Age Britain



Stonehenge



Stonehenge:
New Visitors Center



Woodhenge



Flag Fen



Arthur's Seat

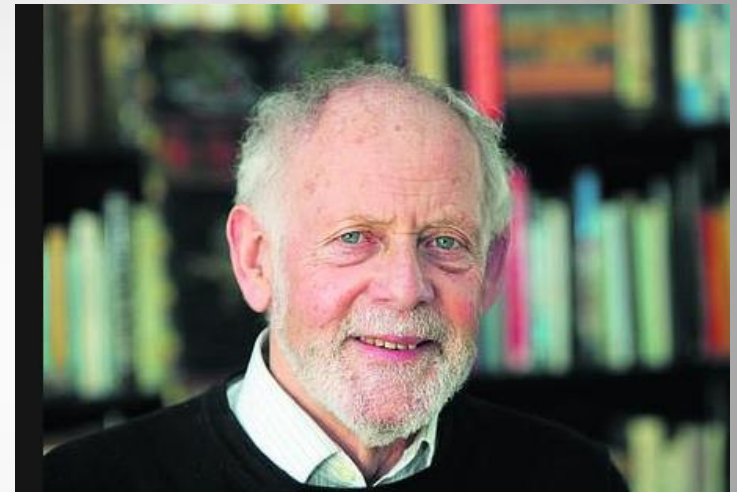
Faces of British Archaeology



Mike Parker Pearson
Professor of Archaeology
at University College London,
Stonehenge specialist



Francis Pryor
professional archaeologist,
sheep farmer and TV presenter



Barry Cunliffe
Emeritus Professor of European Archaeology
at Oxford University

Faces of British Archaeology

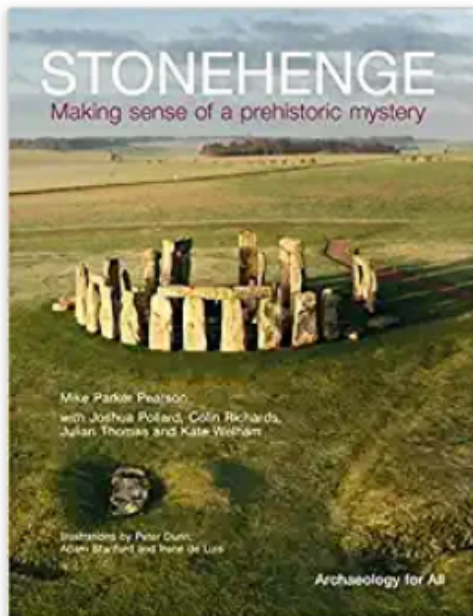


Carly Hilts
Editor, "Current Archaeology"
and author of some of its articles



Alice Roberts
Professor of the Public Engagement in Science
at the University of Birmingham,
author and TV presenter

Currently the best book on this topic....



Stonehenge: Making Sense of a Prehistoric Mystery (CBA Archaeology for All) Paperback – Illustrated, February 29, 2016

by Mike Parker Pearson (Author), Joshua Pollard (Author), Colin Richards (Author), & 2 more

★★★★☆ 42 ratings

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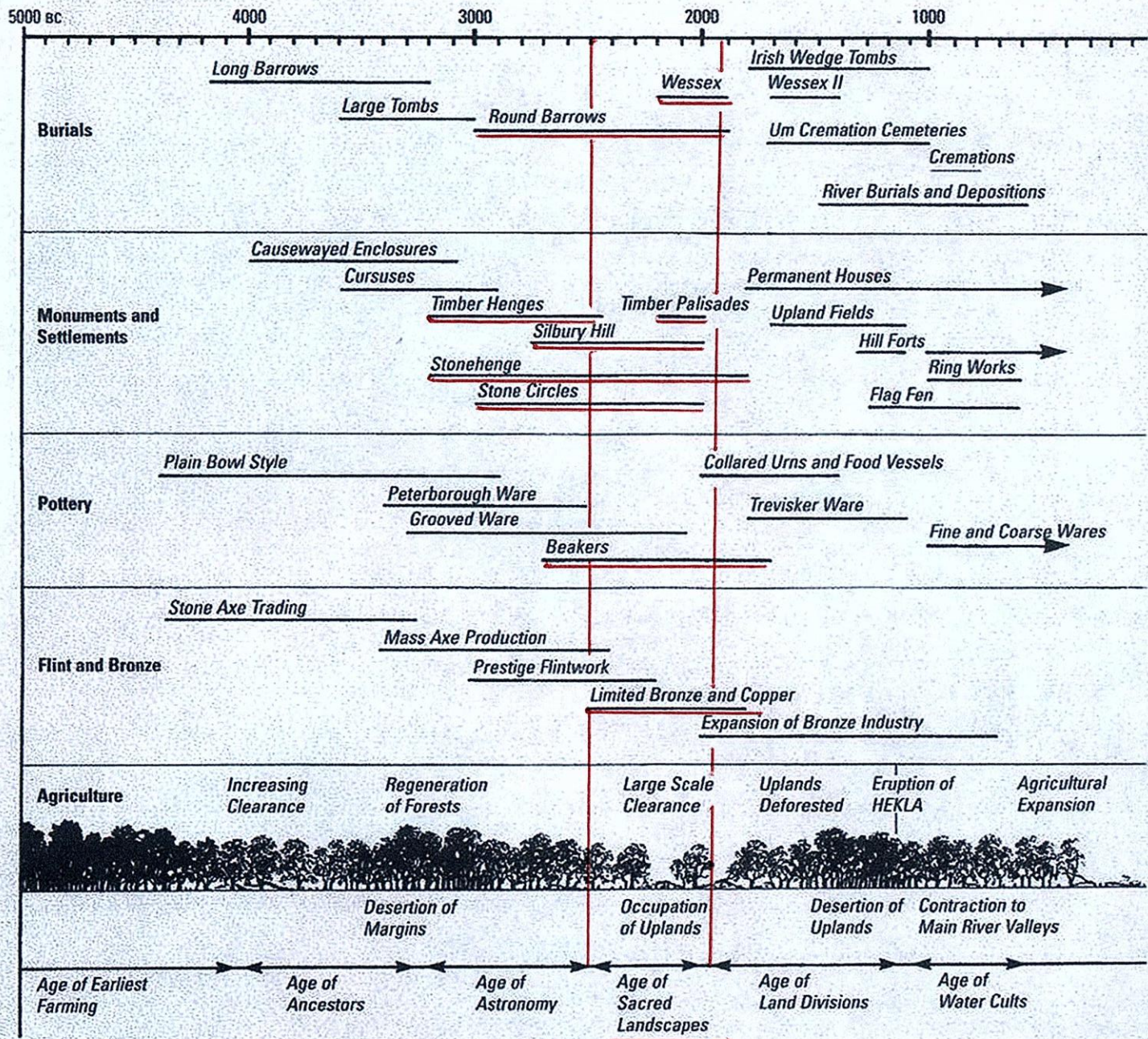
Paperback
\$33.36

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Stonehenge is an iconic monument for people all around the world. Built around 5000 years ago, it stands for mystery and forgotten secrets waiting to be decoded. In this latest book in the Council for British Archaeology's 'Archaeology for All' series, Professor Mike Parker Pearson presents an up-to-date interpretation of Stonehenge and its landscape. Drawing on his years of research and excavation, the author presents a highly readable account that is lavishly illustrated with images by the renowned photographer Adam Stanford and the reconstruction artist Peter Dunn.

....it's a more compact and updated successor to MPP's 2013 book.



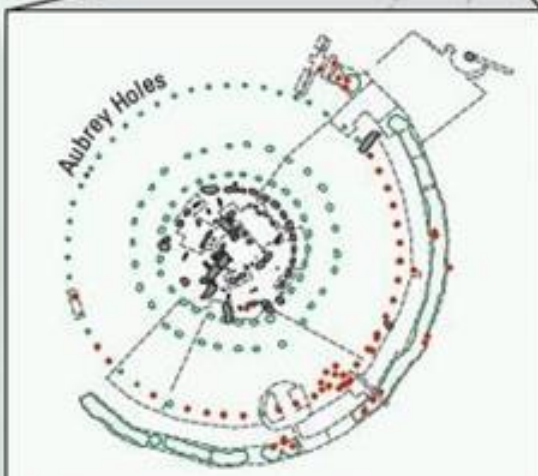
79 (above) Time chart showing main trends and changes.



S A L I S B U R Y



Cremation burials in Stonehenge
3000-2400 B.C.



DOMAIN OF THE ANCESTORS

Journey from life to death

P L A I N

River Avon



STAGES OF STONEHENGE

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.

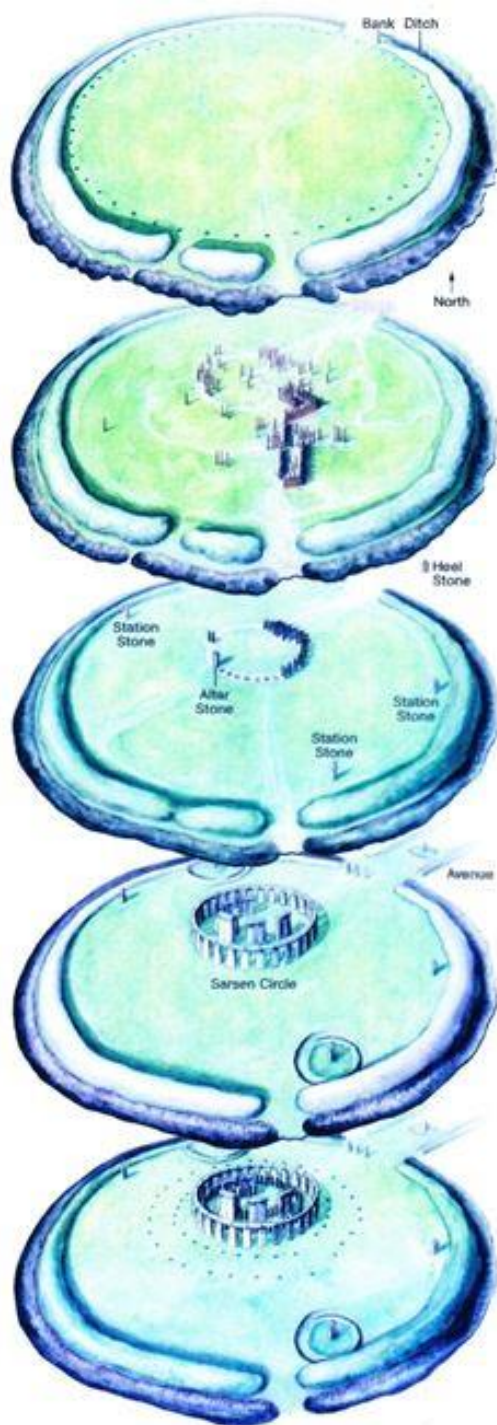
Sarsen Circle

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, NO STAFF. SOURCES: MIKE PARKER PEARSON, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD; D. SCIENCE AND STONEHENGE, BARRY CLIMLITE AND COLIN RENFREW, EDS.



Stonehenge video



Why this location for Stonehenge?

....a sign from the gods!

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.





Figure 2.3

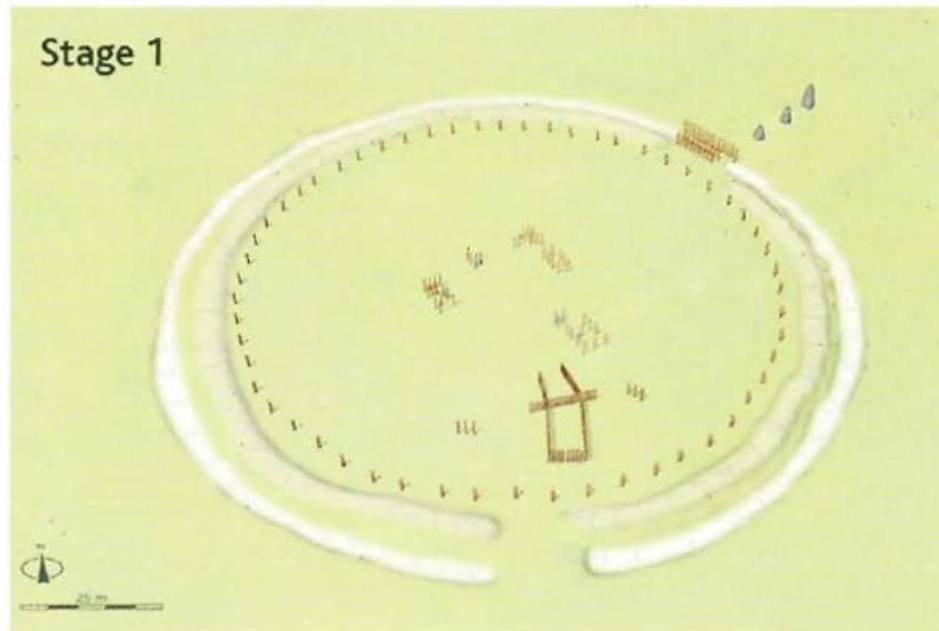
Excavations across the Avenue, showing the periglacial features in the centre and the ditches on either side. The line of the Avenue can be seen running away to the north-east

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.

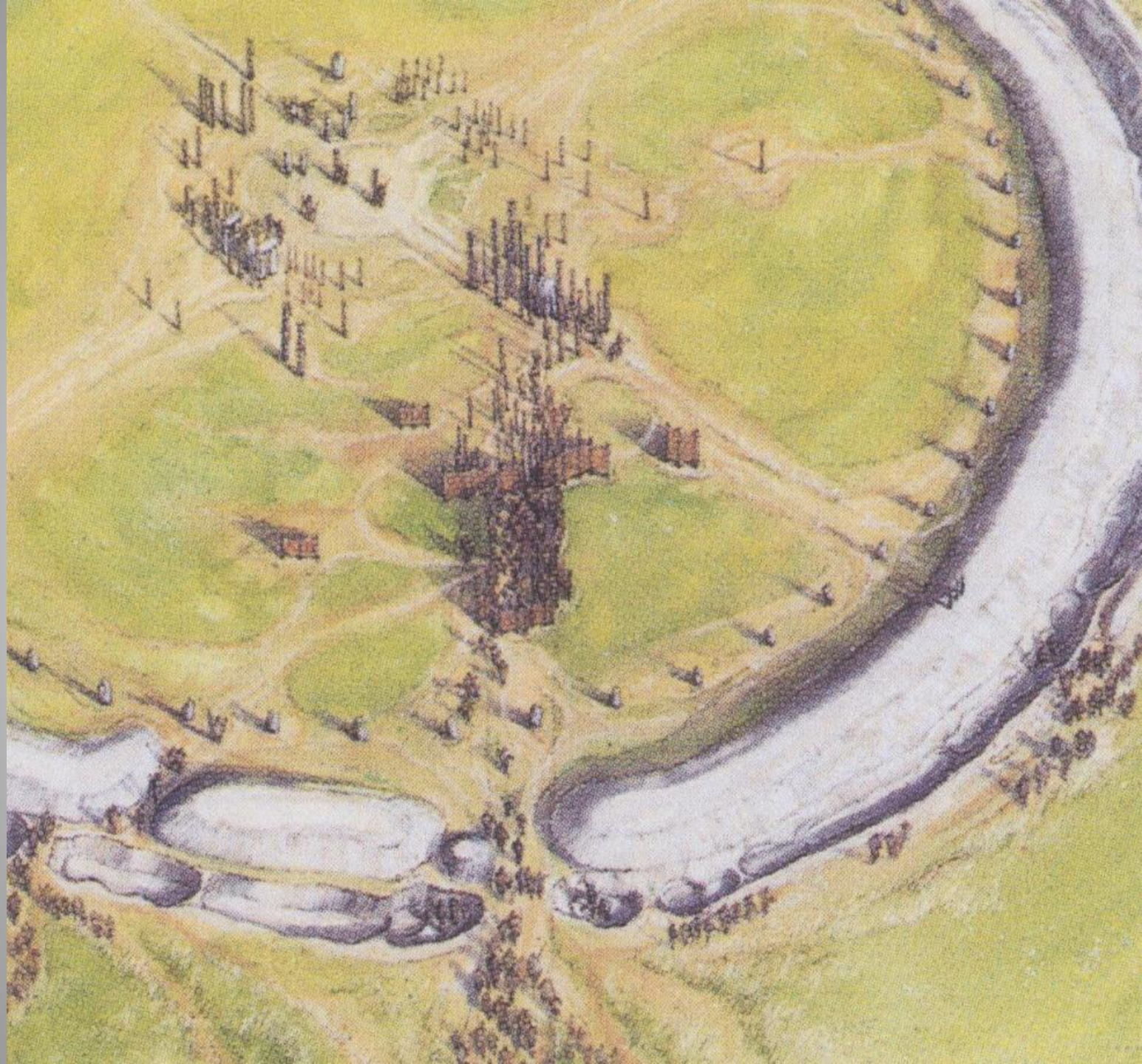
Stonehenge remodelled

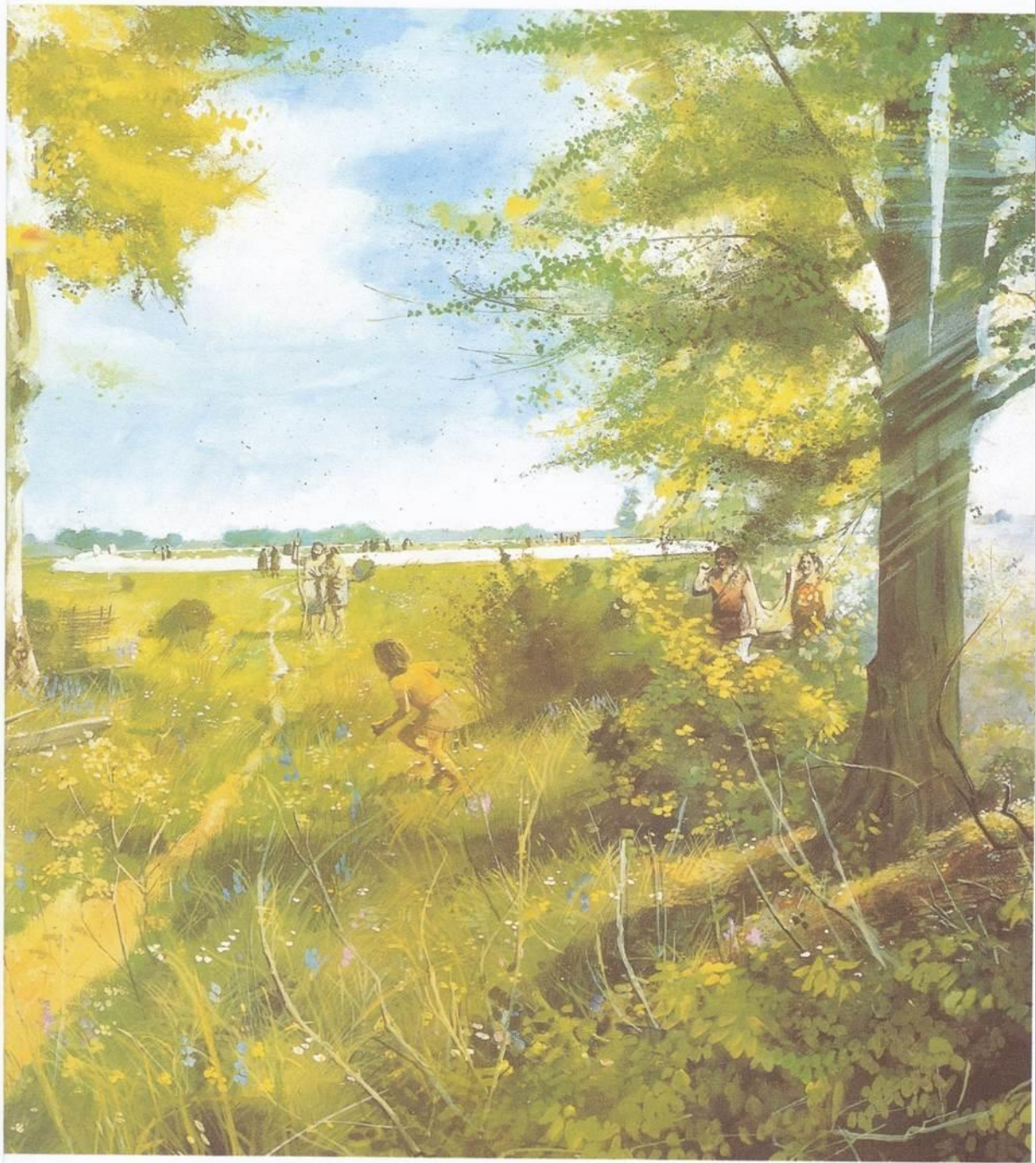
Advances in the modelling of radiocarbon dates using Bayesian statistics allowed the traditional Stonehenge sequence to be revised. Five main contiguous stages spanning the 3rd and 2nd millennia BC are now recognised.

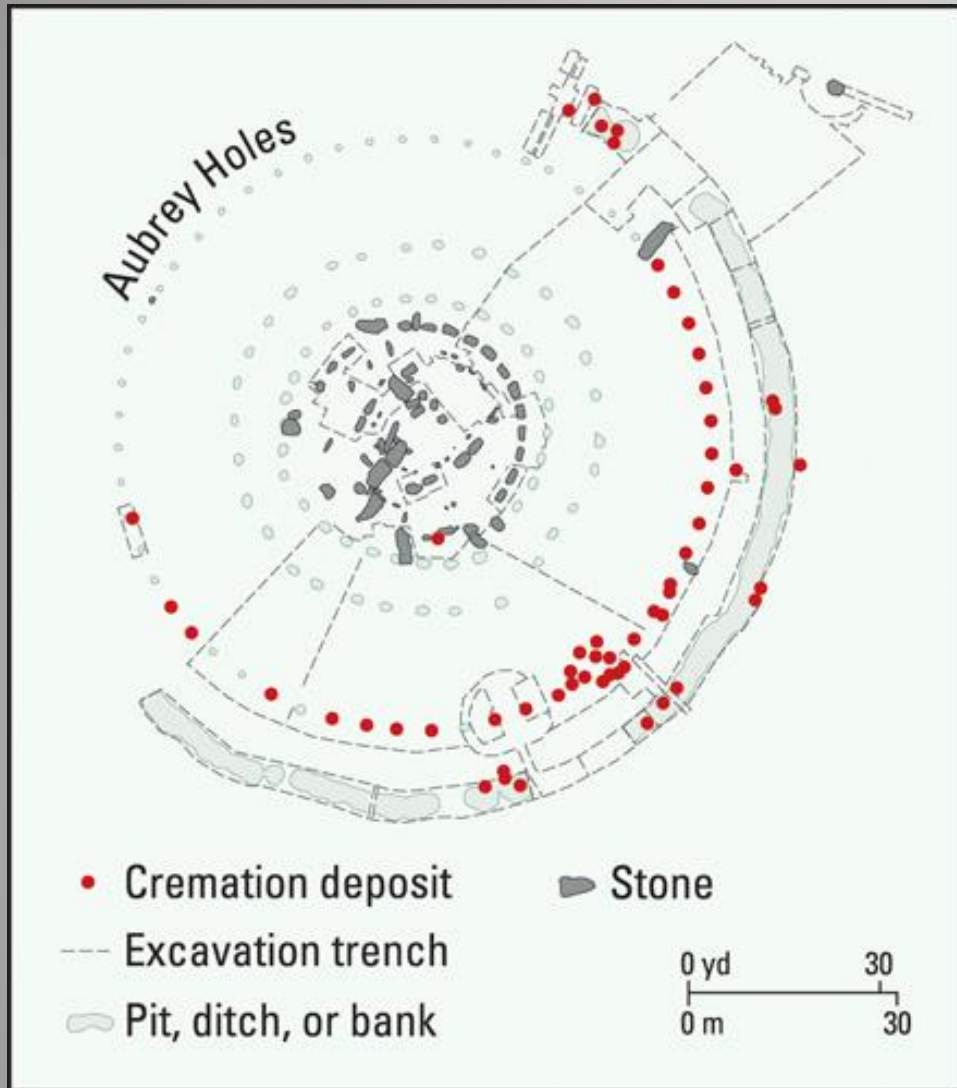
Stage 1: 3100-2755 BC. Construction of the earthwork enclosure; Aubrey Holes; cremation burials; pits and post-built structures in the central area; sarsen stones outside the north-east entrance. Contemporary monuments include West Amesbury Henge (CA 237 & 270) and Coneybury Henge. Culturally: Grooved Ware.





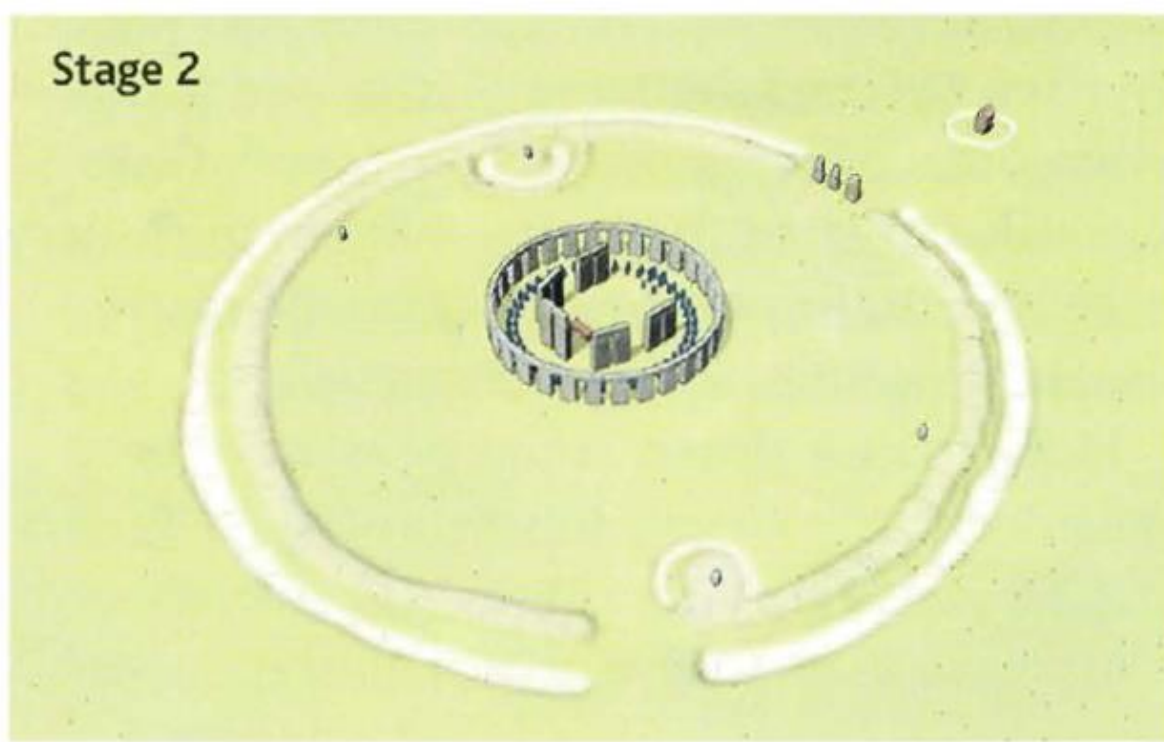






This is what cremated human bone looks like.

Stage 2



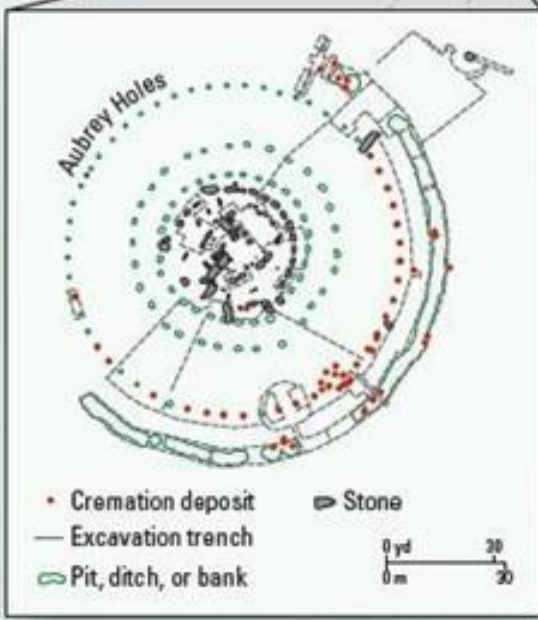
Stage 2: 2620-2480 BC. Five sarsen trilithons forming the Trilithon Horseshoe and the Sarsen Circle were erected in the centre of the decayed earthwork enclosure; addition of the Double Bluestone Circle, Altar Stone, and Station Stones; modifications to the north-east entrance and the stone settings there. Contemporary monuments include the timber circles and occupation at Durrington Walls (CA 5, 208 & 270) and the timber circle at Woodhenge (CA 270). Culturally: Grooved Ware.



S A L I S B U R Y



Cremation burials in Stonehenge
3000-2400 B.C.



DOMAIN OF THE ANCESTORS

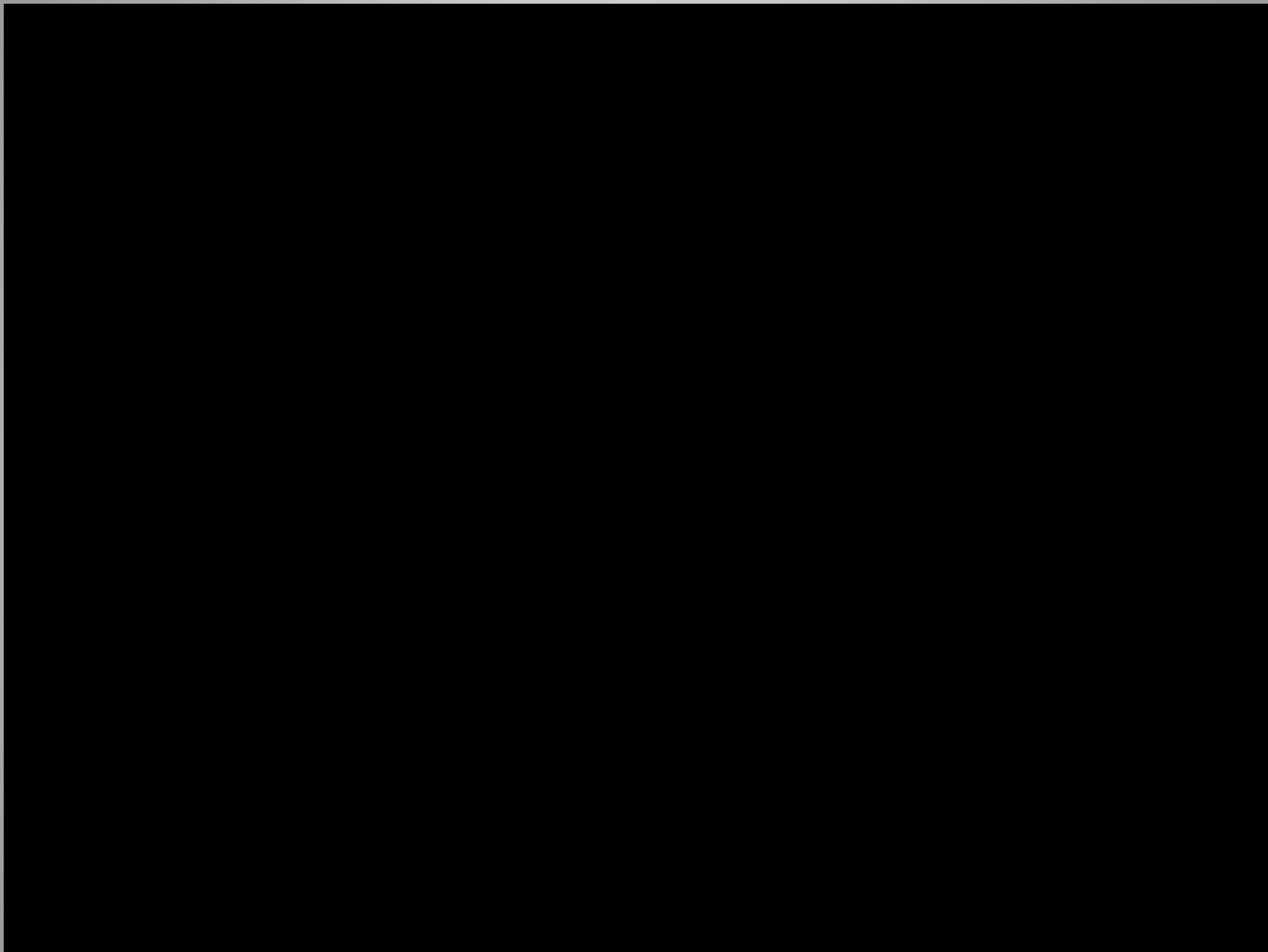
Journey from life to death

P L A I N

River Avon



Stonehenge museum and sacred landscape video



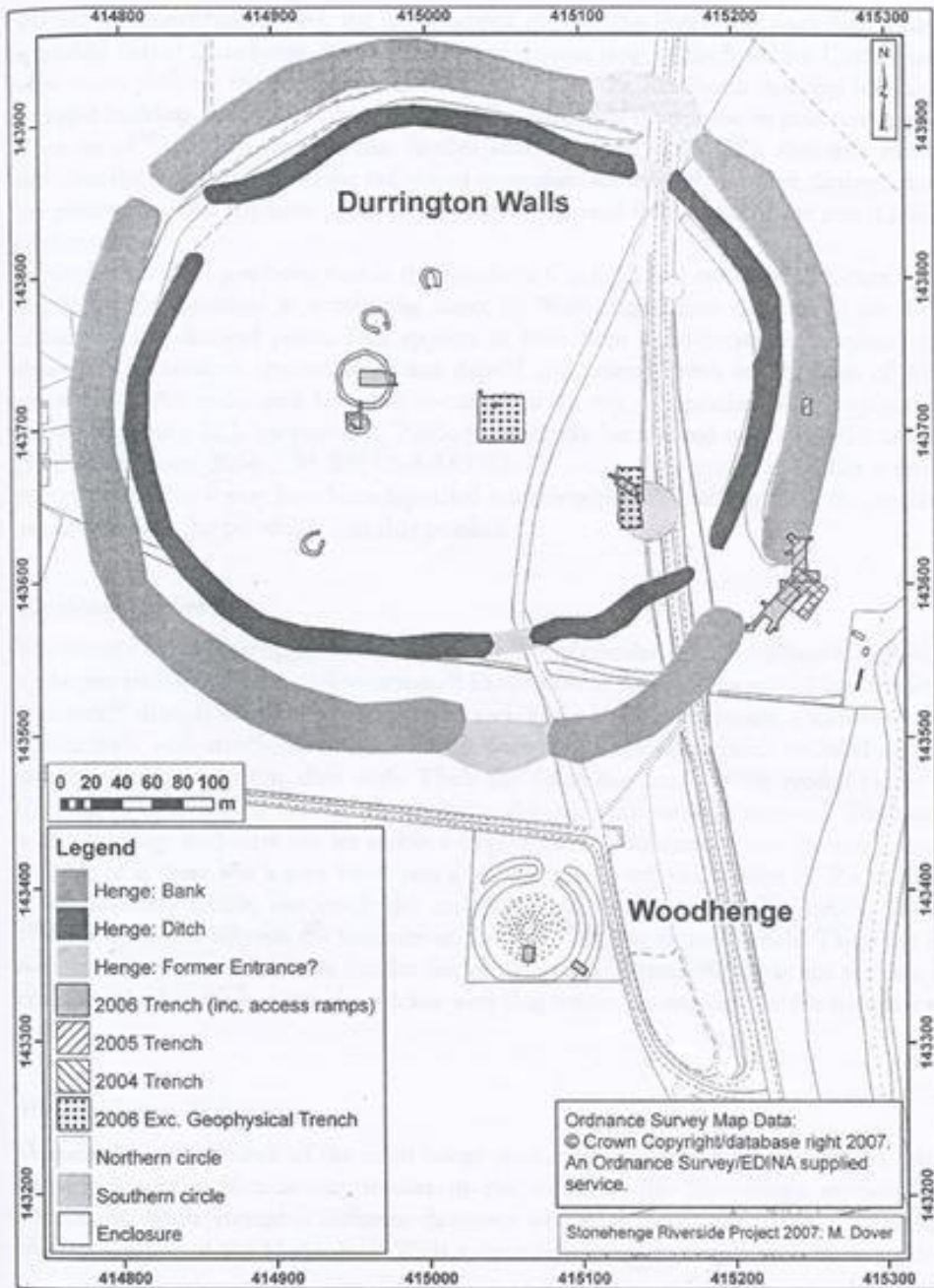


Figure 7. Plan of Durrington Walls, showing positions of trenches excavated in 2004 and 2005 (drawn by Mark Dover from Wainwright with Longworth 1971).

Reconstruction of the Neolithic village of Durrington Walls before the building of the henge bank and ditch.

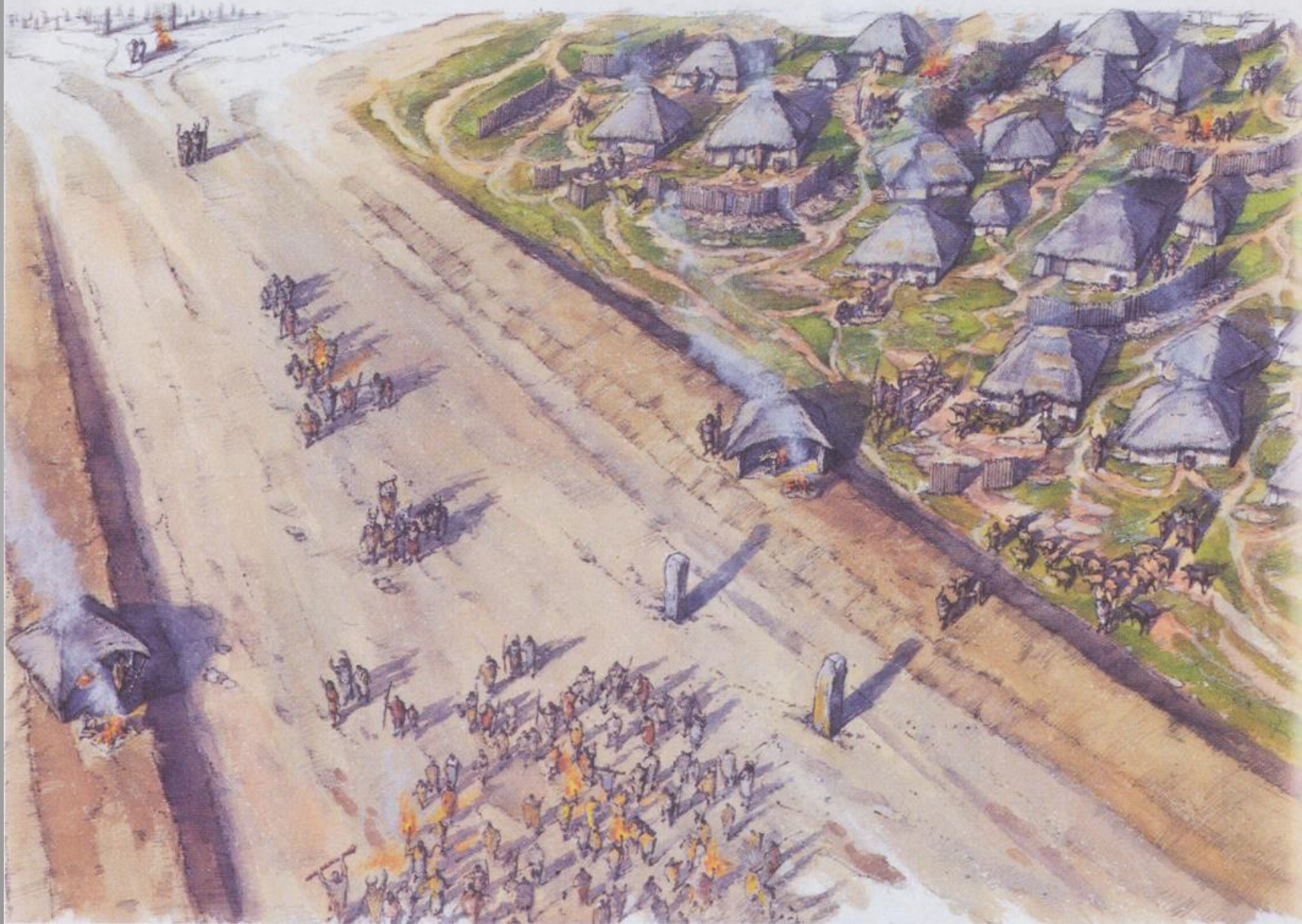


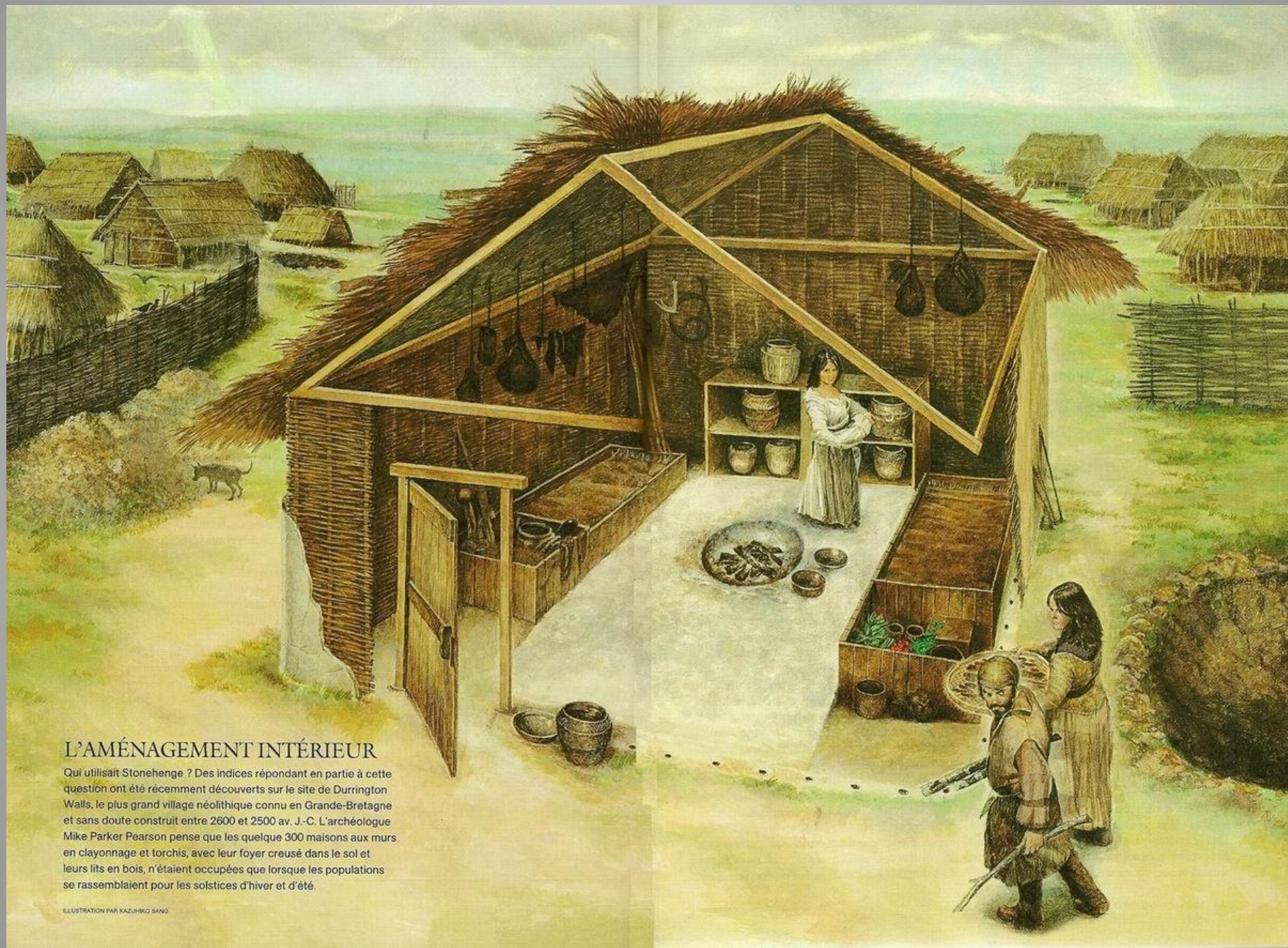




Reconstruction of the Durrington Walls henge bank and ditch.

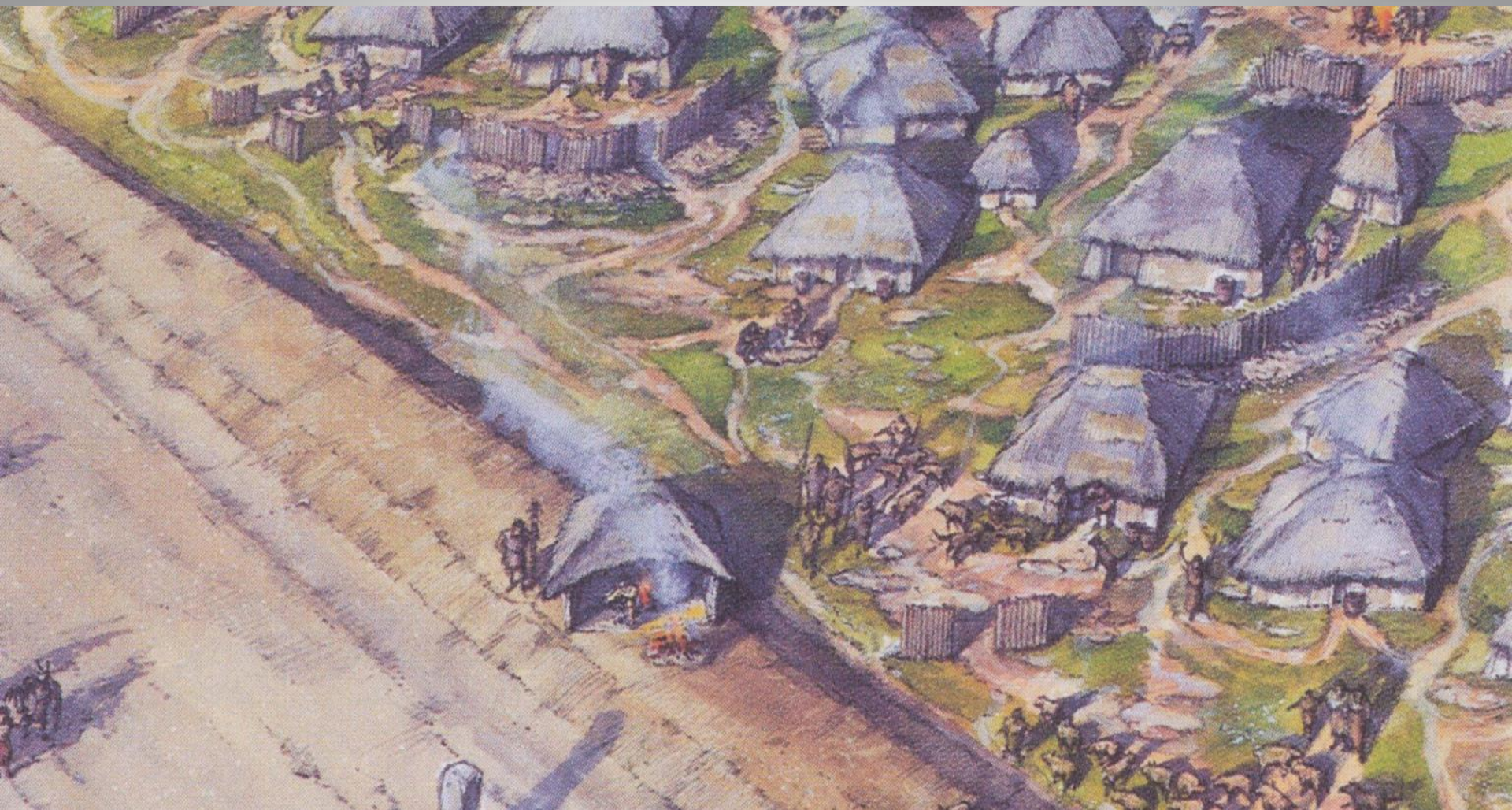
Reconstruction of the Durrington Walls Avenue and surrounding houses.

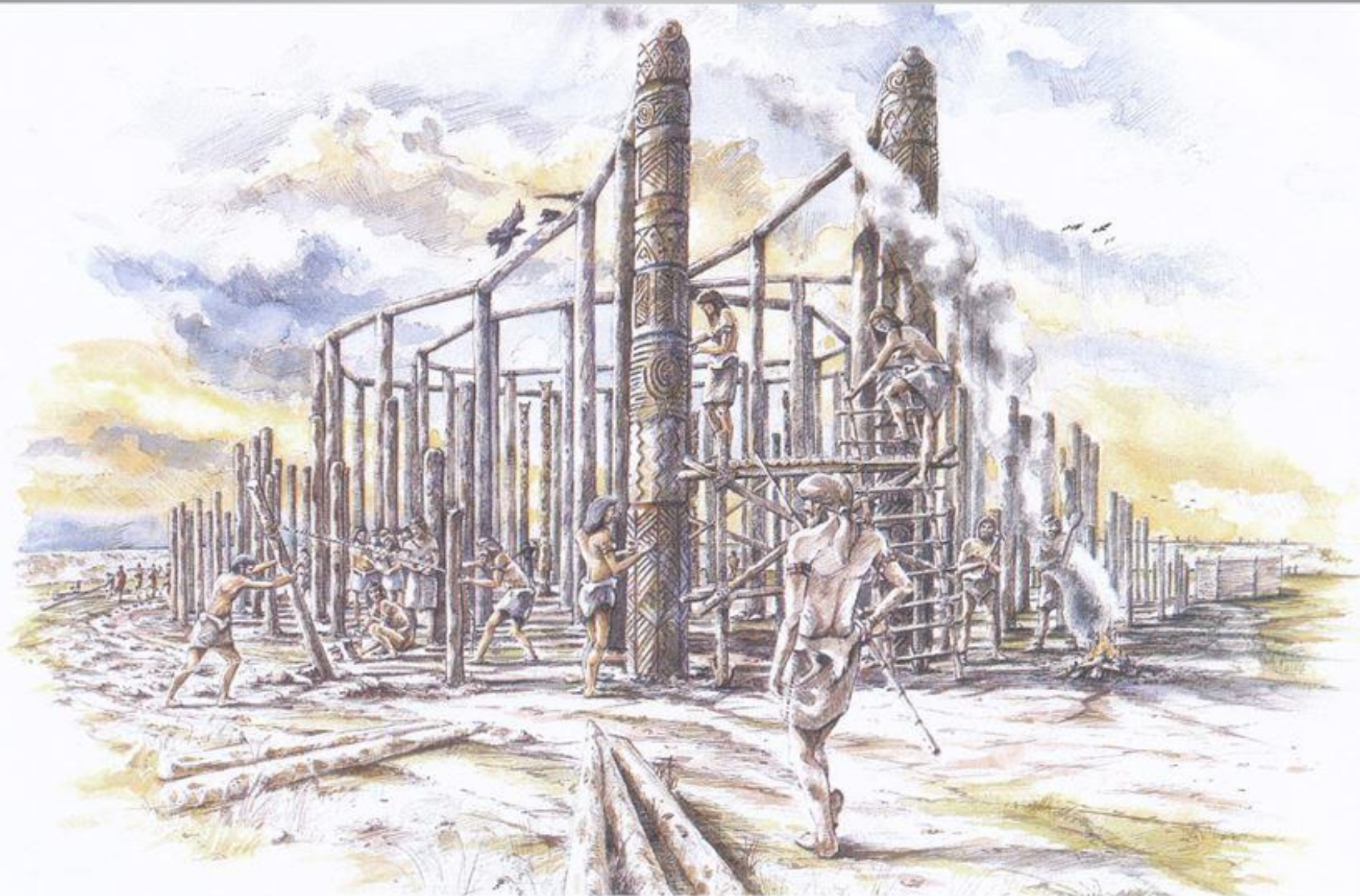




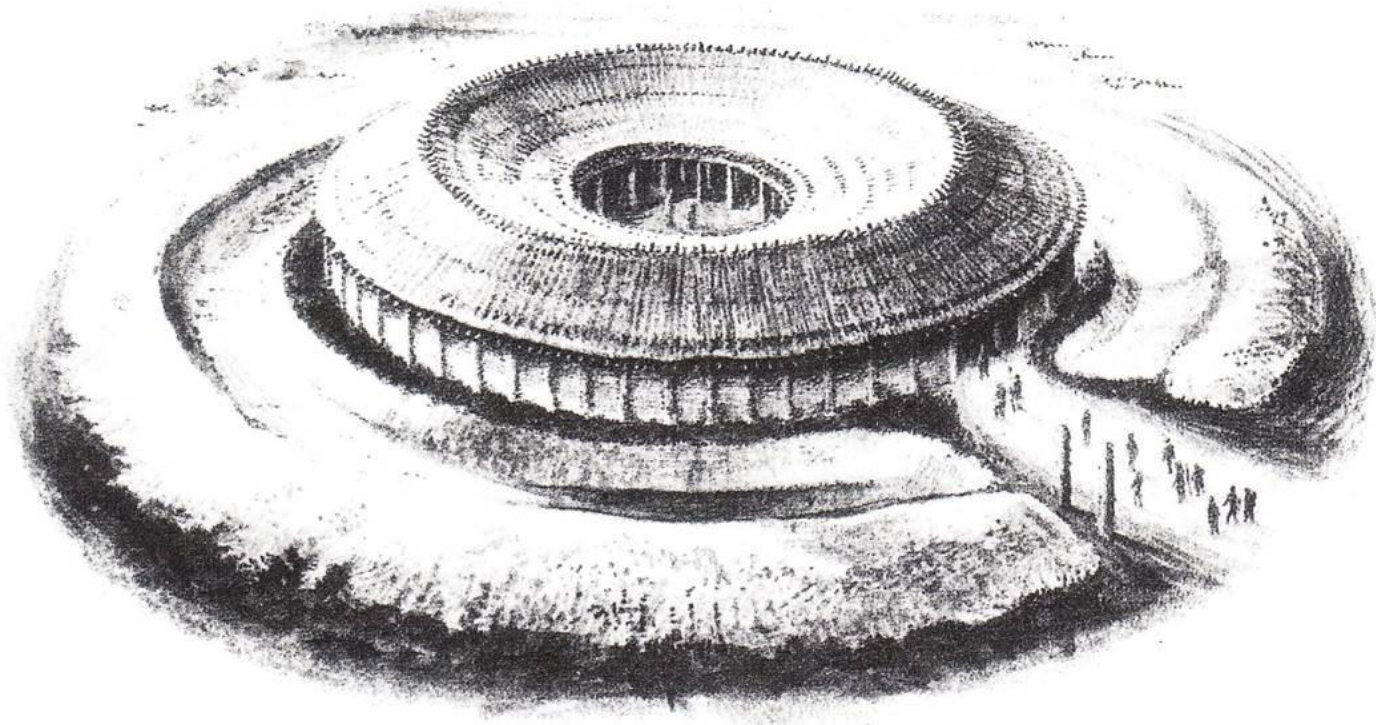
L'AMÉNAGEMENT INTÉRIEUR

Qui utilisait Stonehenge ? Des indices répondant en partie à cette question ont été récemment découverts sur le site de Durrington Walls, le plus grand village néolithique connu en Grande-Bretagne et sans doute construit entre 2600 et 2500 av. J.-C. L'archéologue Mike Parker Pearson pense que les quelque 300 maisons aux murs en clayonnage et torchis, avec leur foyer creusé dans le sol et leurs lits en bois, n'étaient occupées que lorsque les populations se rassemblaient pour les solstices d'hiver et d'été.



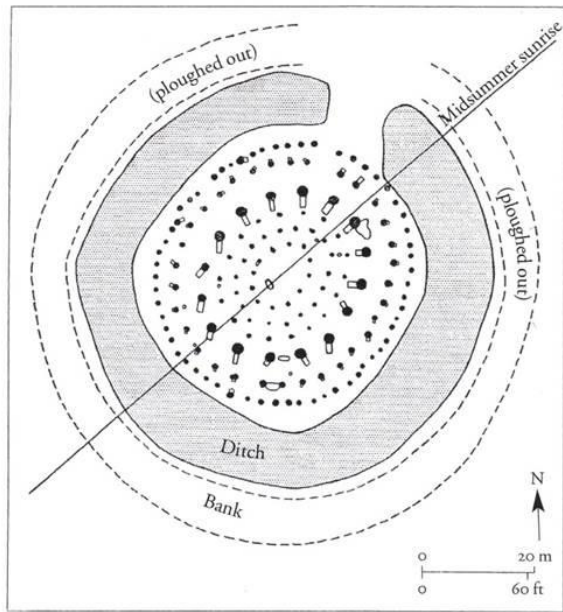


56 (above) The post-holes of Durrington Walls' southern circle interpreted as a wooden ceremonial structure.



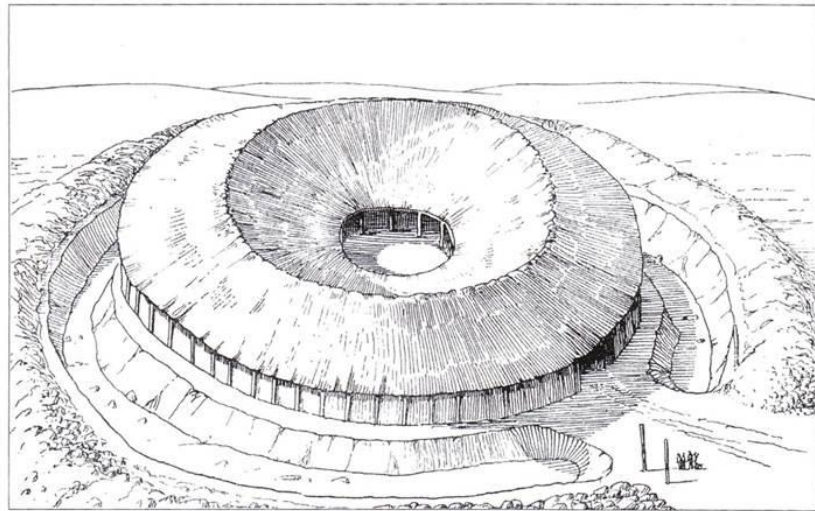
ABOVE *Possible reconstruction illustration of Woodhenge. Inside the earth-work were rings of post-holes. How the posts were used is merely guess-work, but they make best sense as the framework of a circular building. The thickest and highest timbers could have supported the ridge of the roof, and the eaves would have rested on smaller posts, leaving an open light well in the centre*



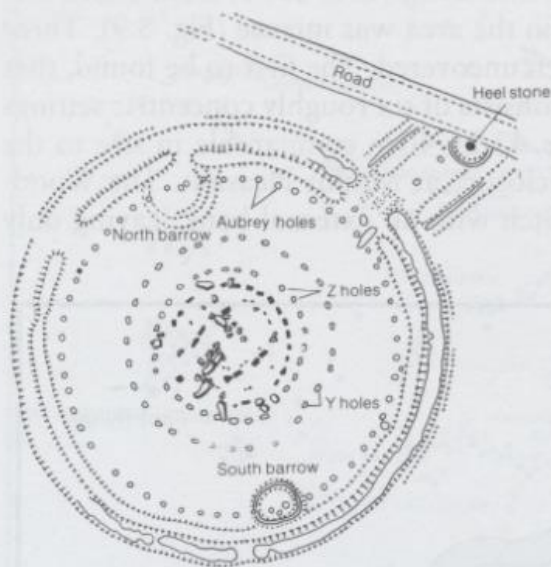


*Reconstruction of
Woodhenge proposed
by Stuart Piggott.*

*Plan of Woodhenge
showing the concentric
rings of post-holes
enclosed within a
circular ditch and bank.*



STONEHENGE



THE SANCTUARY

Phase I



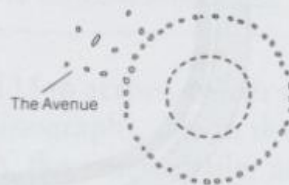
Phase II



Phase III



Phase IV



WOODHENGE

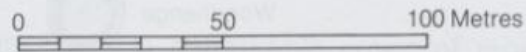
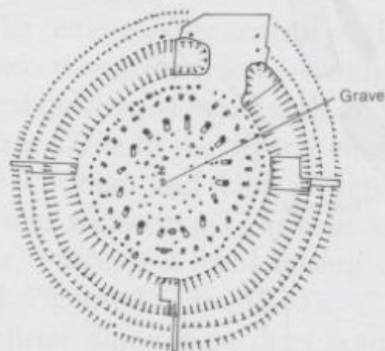


Figure 3.10 Stonehenge, Woodhenge and the Sanctuary. (After S. Piggott 1973b: Fig. 8)

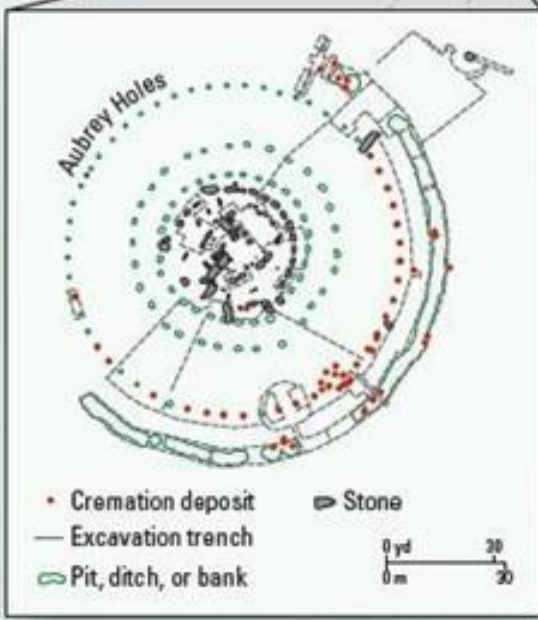




S A L I S B U R Y



Cremation burials in Stonehenge
3000-2400 B.C.



DOMAIN OF THE ANCESTORS

Journey from life to death

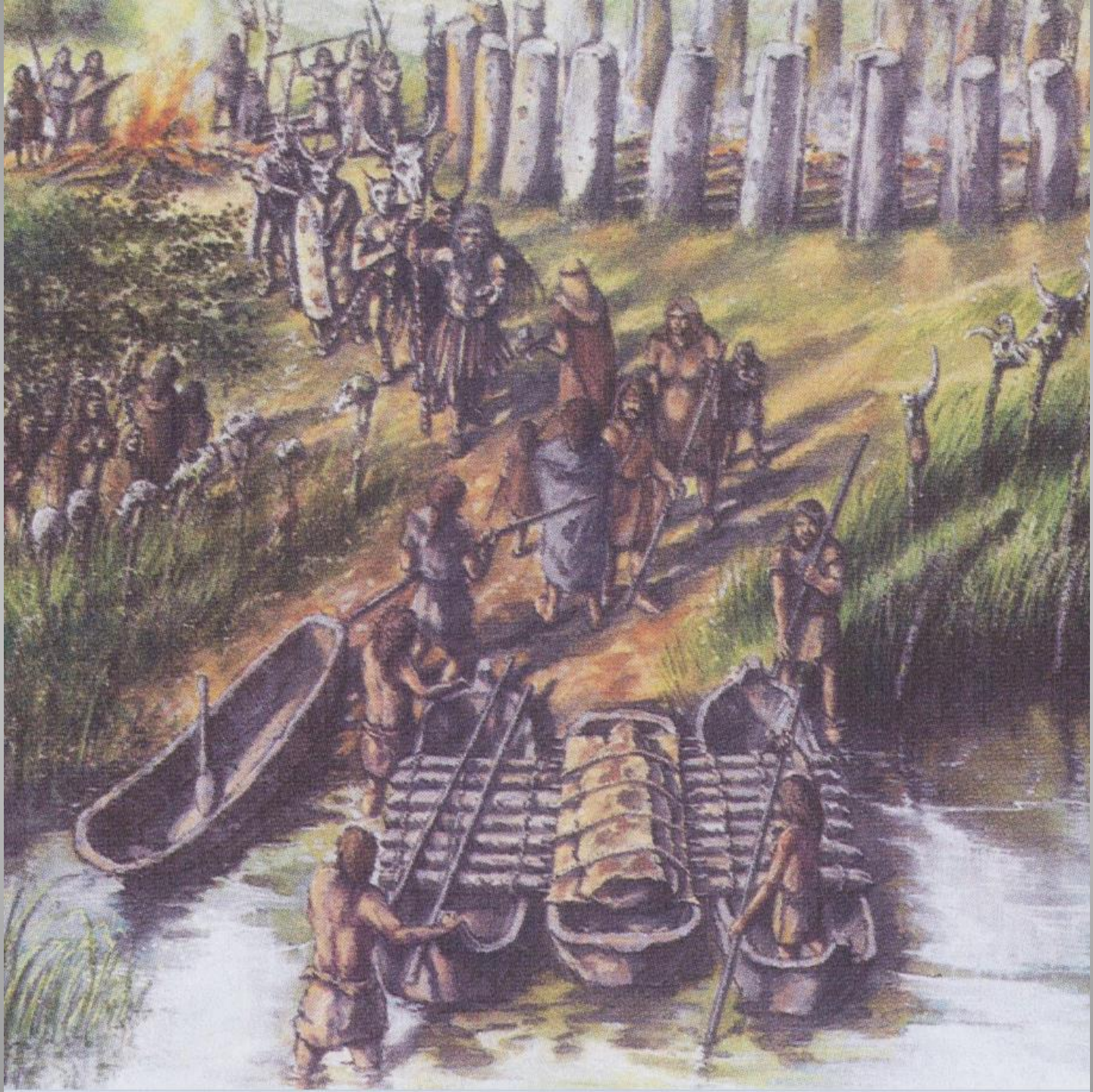
Journey from life to death.

River Avon
P L A I N





Reconstruction of Bluestonehenge at West Amesbury, on the west bank of the River Avon.



Reconstruction of the Stonehenge Avenue reaching the West Amesbury henge after removal of the bluestones and construction of a henge bank and ditch.

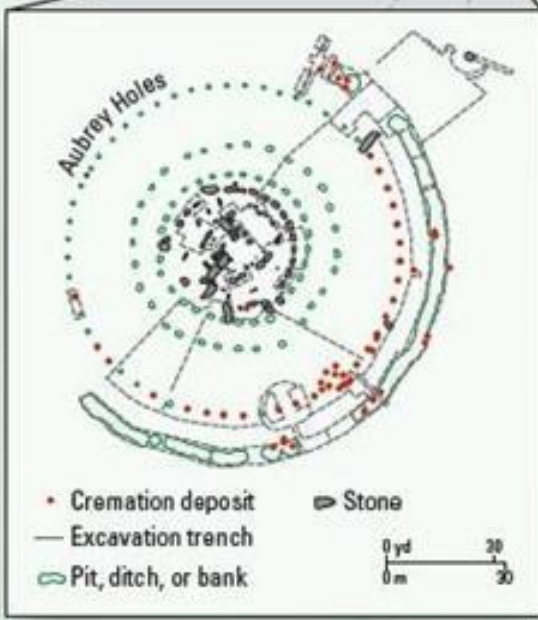




S A L I S B U R Y



Cremation burials in Stonehenge
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DOMAIN OF THE ANCESTORS

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River Avon
P L A I N

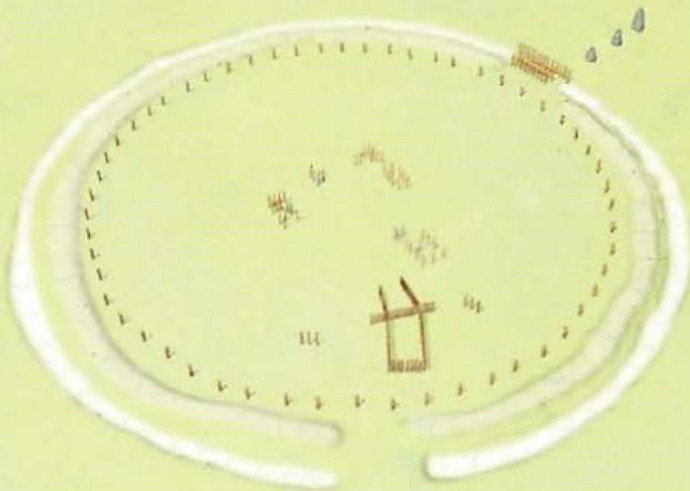


Stonehenge remodelled

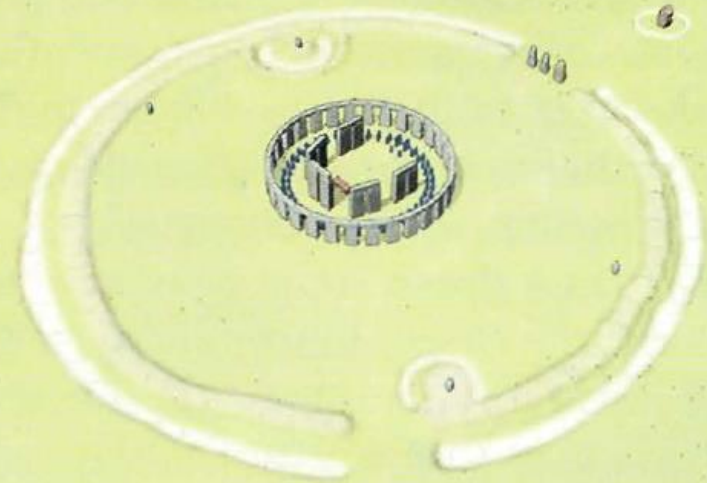
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Stage 1: 3100-2755 BC. Construction of the earthwork enclosure; Aubrey Holes; cremation burials; pits and post-built structures in the central area; sarsen stones outside the north-east entrance. Contemporary monuments include West Amesbury Henge (CA 237 & 270) and Coneybury Henge. Culturally: Grooved Ware.

Stage 1

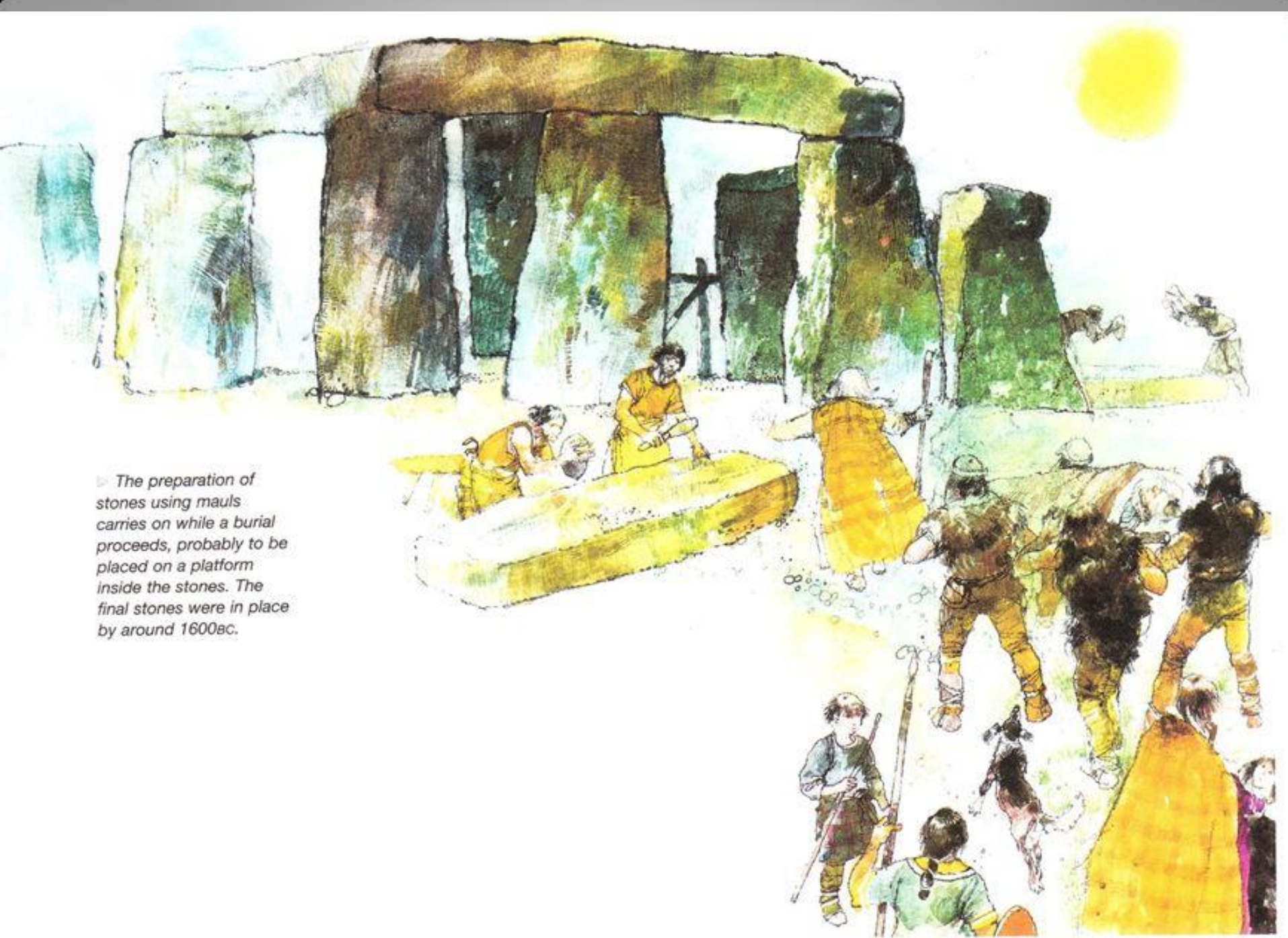


Stage 2

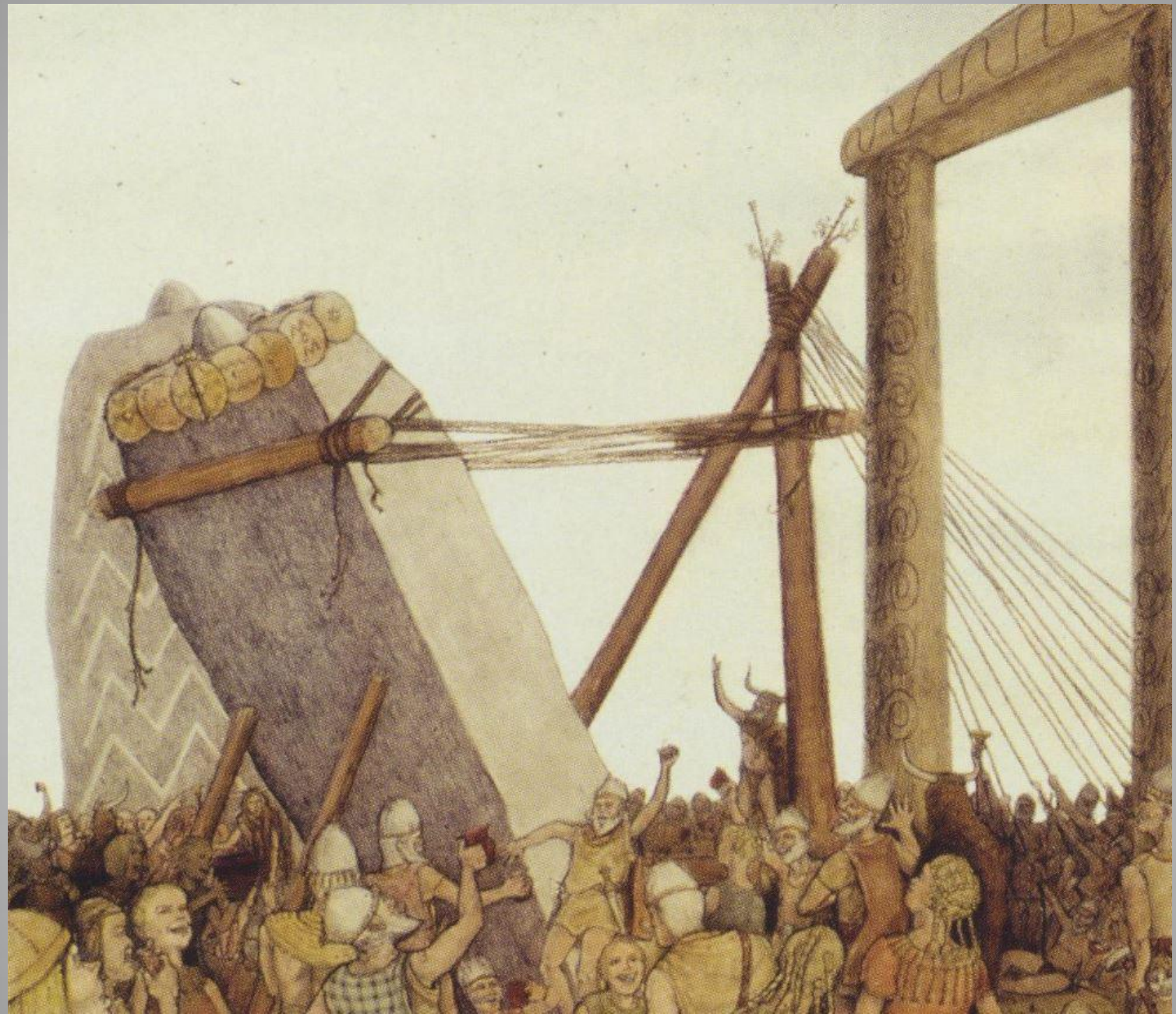


Stage 2: 2620-2480 BC. Five sarsen trilithons forming the Trilithon Horseshoe and the Sarsen Circle were erected in the centre of the decayed earthwork enclosure; addition of the Double Bluestone Circle, Altar Stone, and Station Stones; modifications to the north-east entrance and the stone settings there. Contemporary monuments include the timber circles and occupation at Durrington Walls (CA 5, 208 & 270) and the timber circle at Woodhenge (CA 270). Culturally: Grooved Ware.

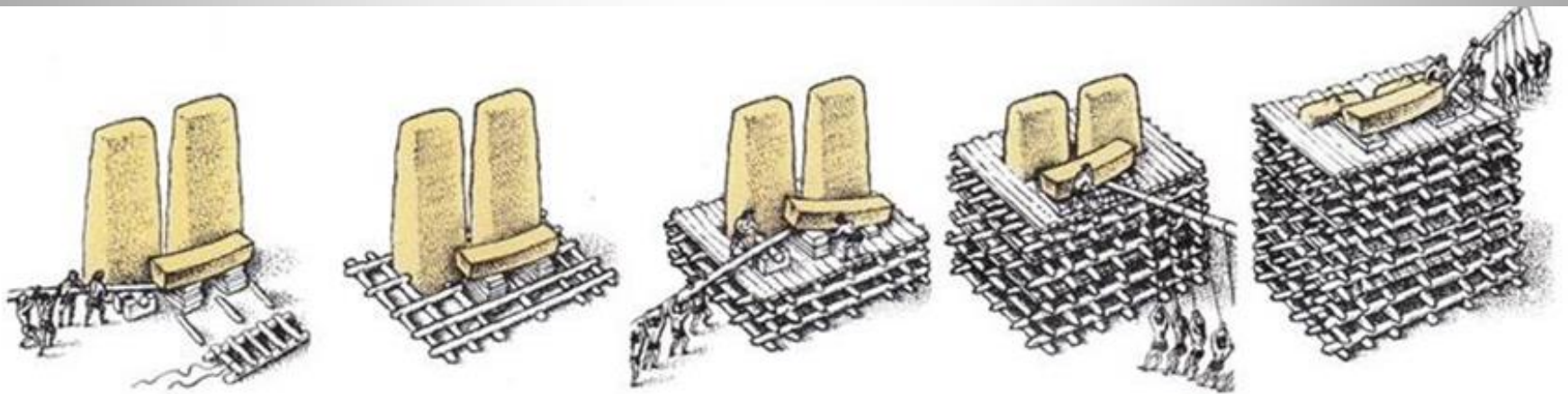
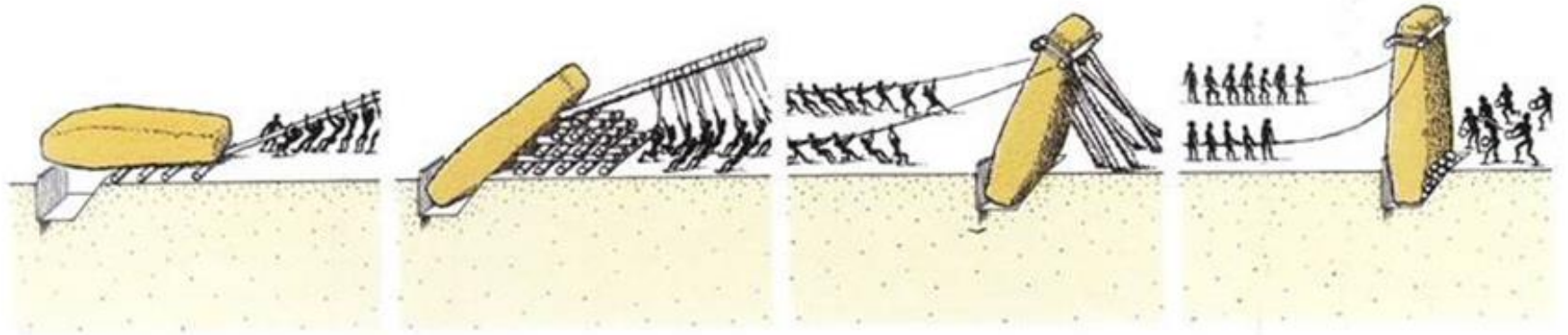
Stage 3: 2480-2280 BC. The Avenue constructed, linking Stonehenge with the River Avon; Central Bluestone Circle built. Ditches dug around Durrington Walls and Woodhenge ended use of these sites. Amesbury Archer



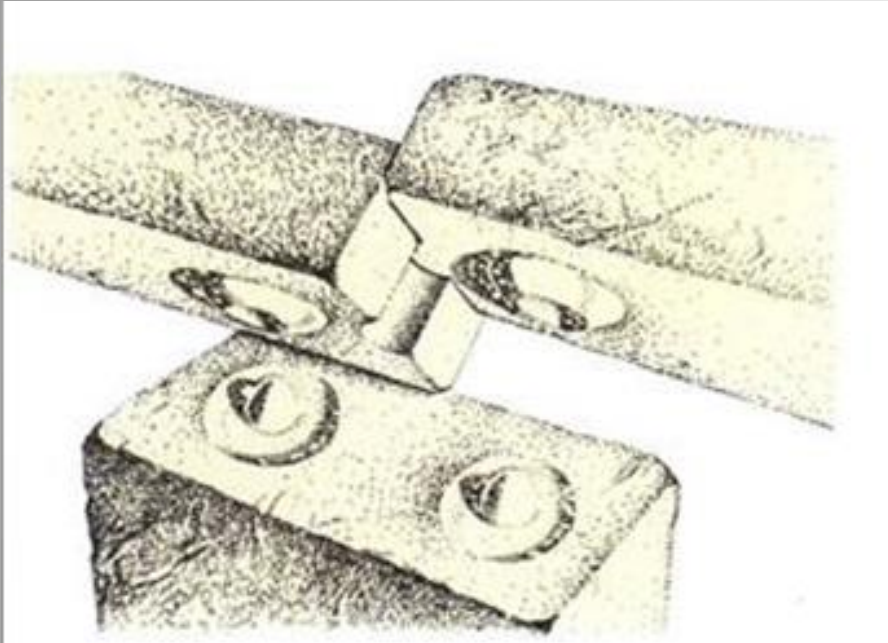
► The preparation of stones using mauls carries on while a burial proceeds, probably to be placed on a platform inside the stones. The final stones were in place by around 1600bc.



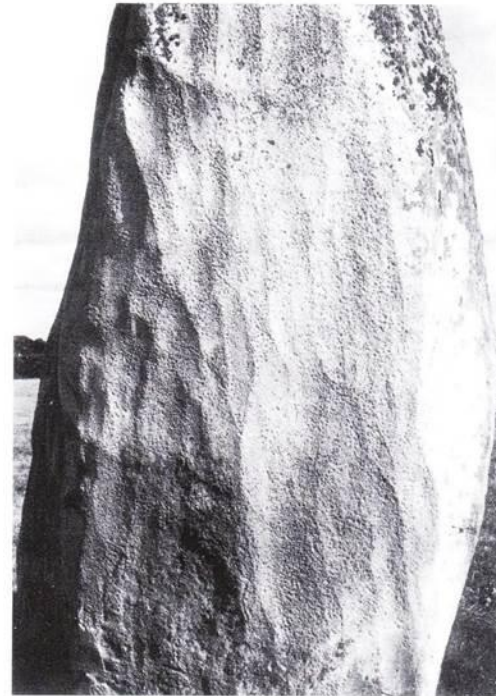
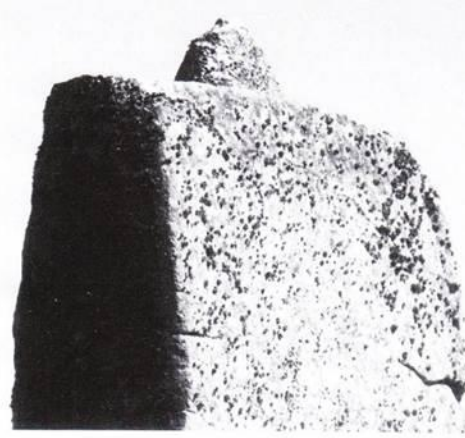
BELOW *Raising a sarsen stone into an upright setting*



ABOVE *Raising a lintel to the top of two sarsens*



Above The stone lintels of the sarsen circle were linked horizontally by tongue-and-groove joints and secured vertically to the uprights by mortice-and-tenon joints



Top Tenons were carved at the tops of the uprights of Stonehenge to receive mortices cut in the undersides of the lintels.

Above Stonehenge, stone 16, showing evidence of surface treatment, perhaps in imitation of the bark of a tree.

BELOW *Sarsen hammer stones found at Stonehenge. They vary from a tennis-ball to a football in size. They were used for shaping the stones and later as packing around the base of the uprights (Salisbury Museum)*

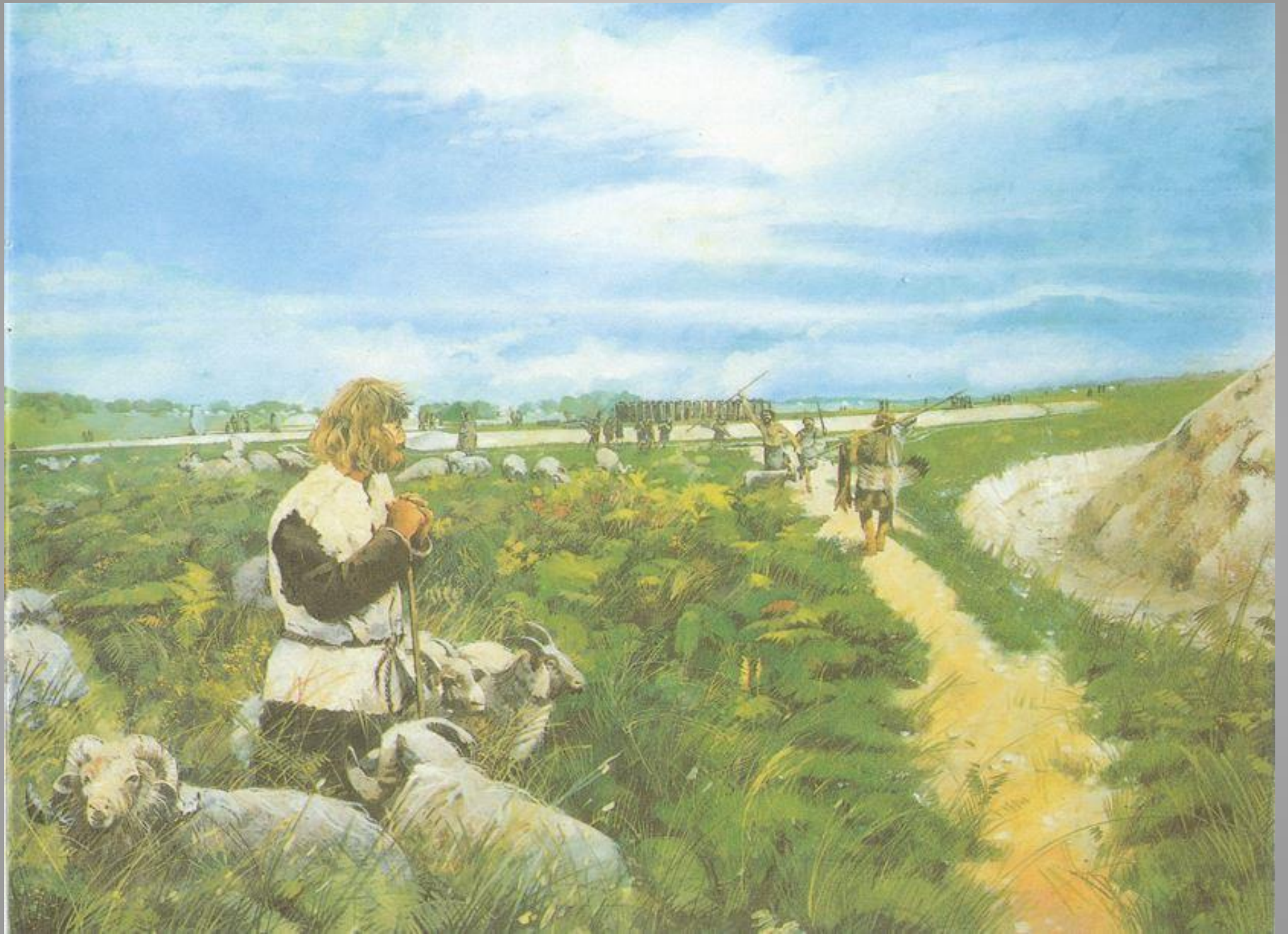


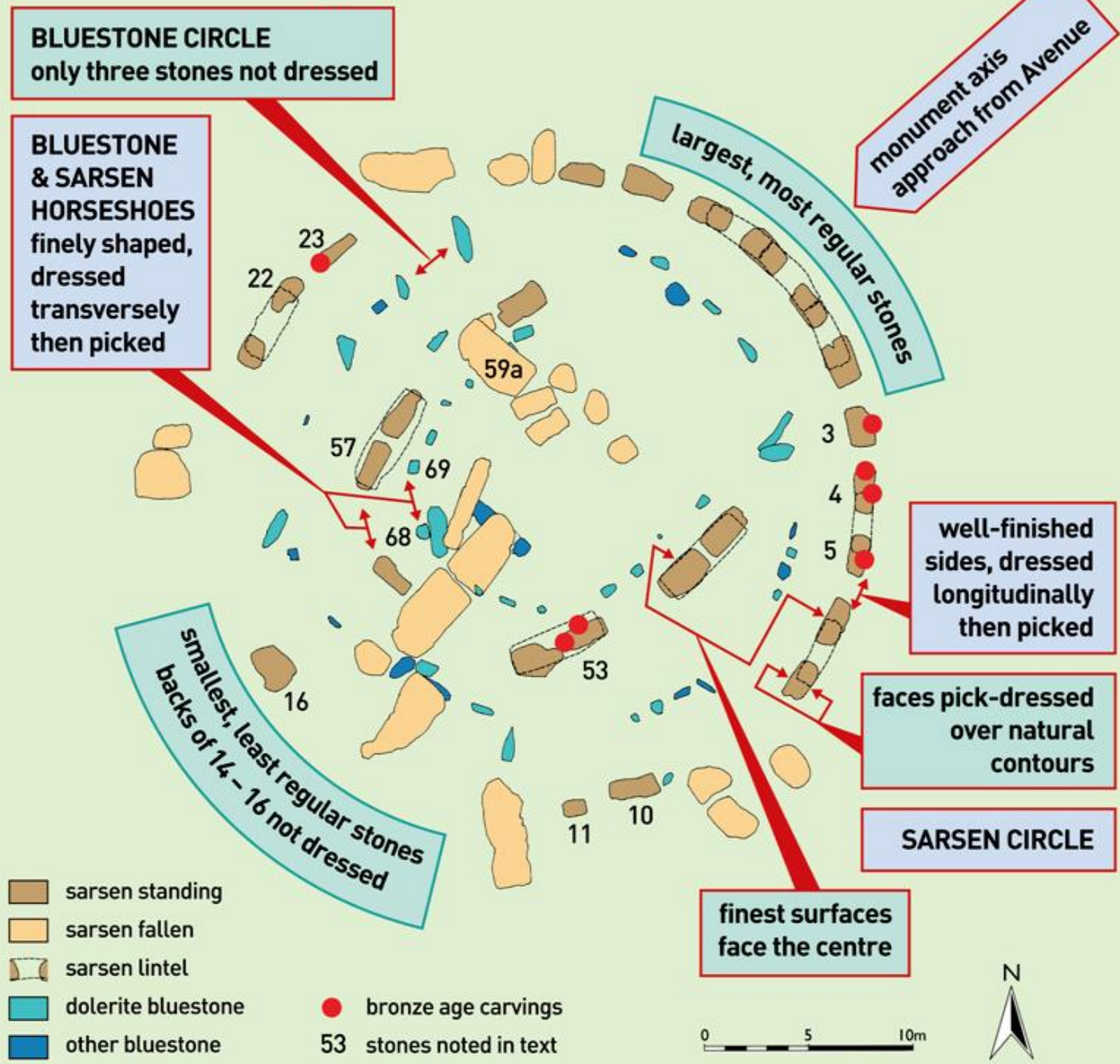


An antler pick

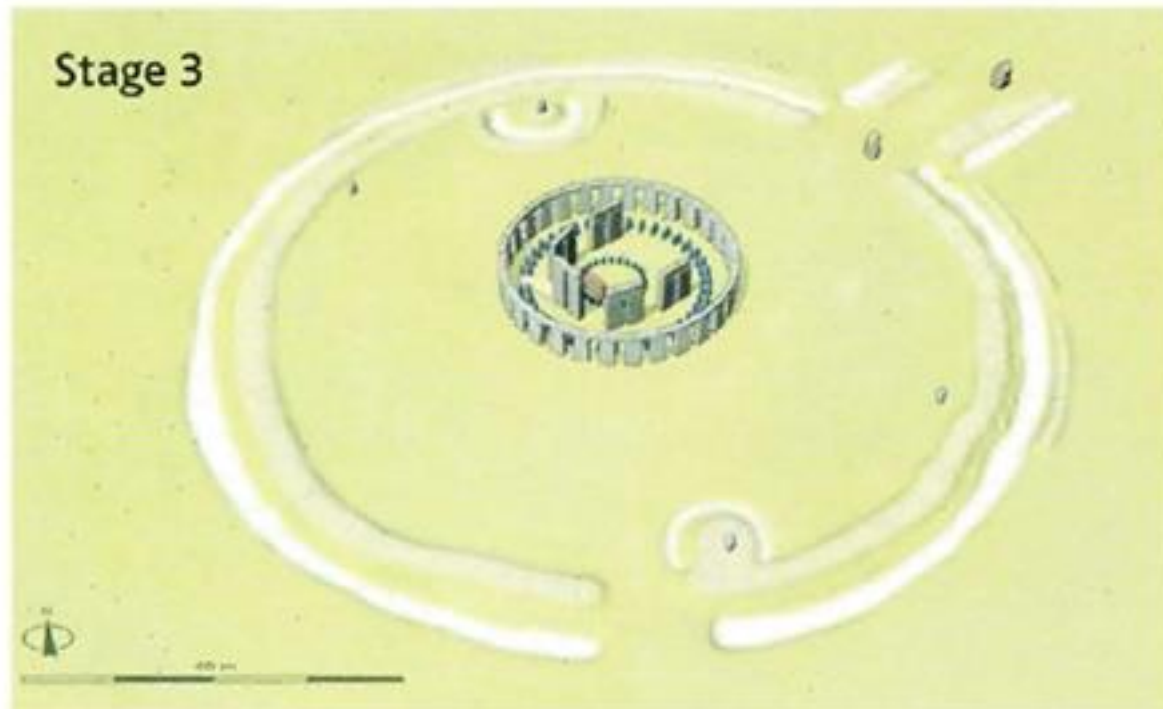






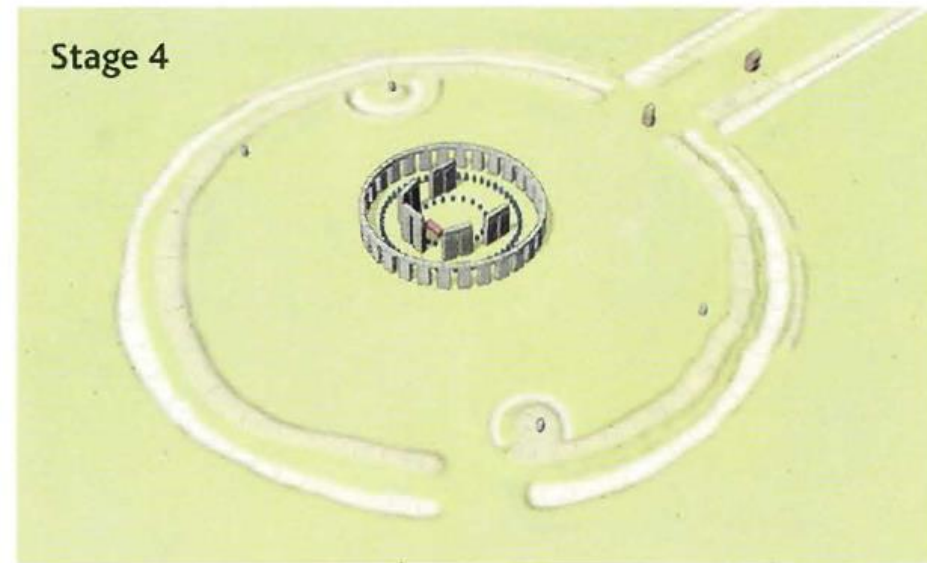


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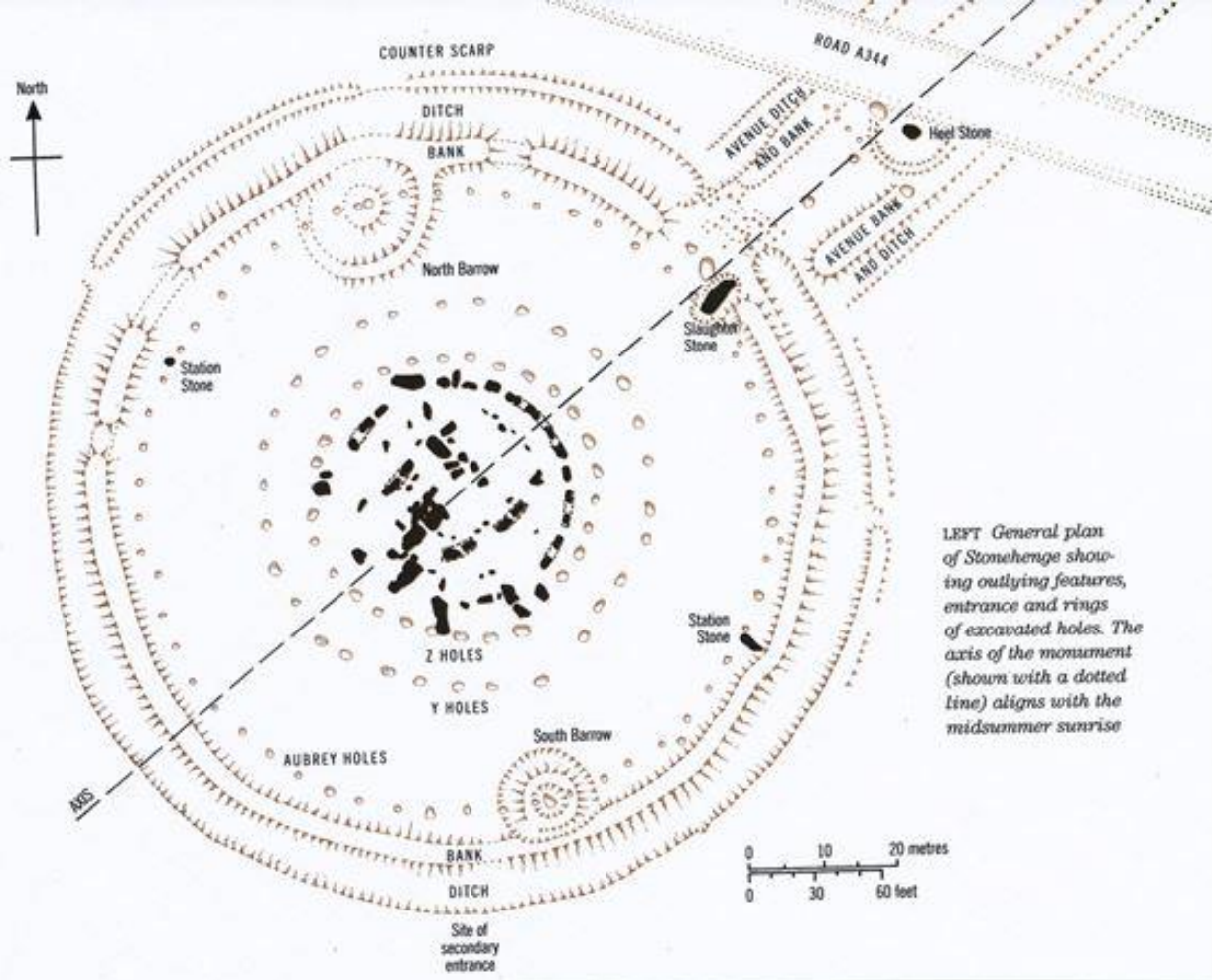
burial (CA 265). Culturally: Grooved Ware and earliest (Fusion Horizon) Beakers in use.

Stage 4: 2280-2020 BC. Double Bluestone Circle and the Central Bluestone Circle dismantled and the bluestones rearranged to form the Outer Bluestone Circle and the Bluestone Oval. Contemporary monuments include round barrows (mainly bowl barrows) on the ridges overlooking Stonehenge. Culturally: middle (Fission Horizon) Beakers.

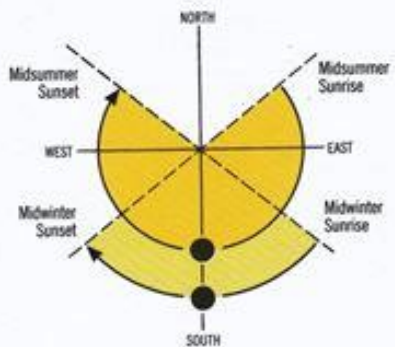


Stage 5: 2020-1520 BC. Working floors and occupation outside enclosure to the north-west; rock art added to the Sarsen Circle and Trilithon Horseshoe; digging of the Y- and Z-Holes in the period 1630-1520 BC. Contemporary monuments include numerous round barrows of various forms, often arranged in cemeteries along the ridges overlooking Stonehenge, including the richly furnished Bush Barrow. Culturally: late (Retro-culture) Beakers, food vessels, and collared urns.





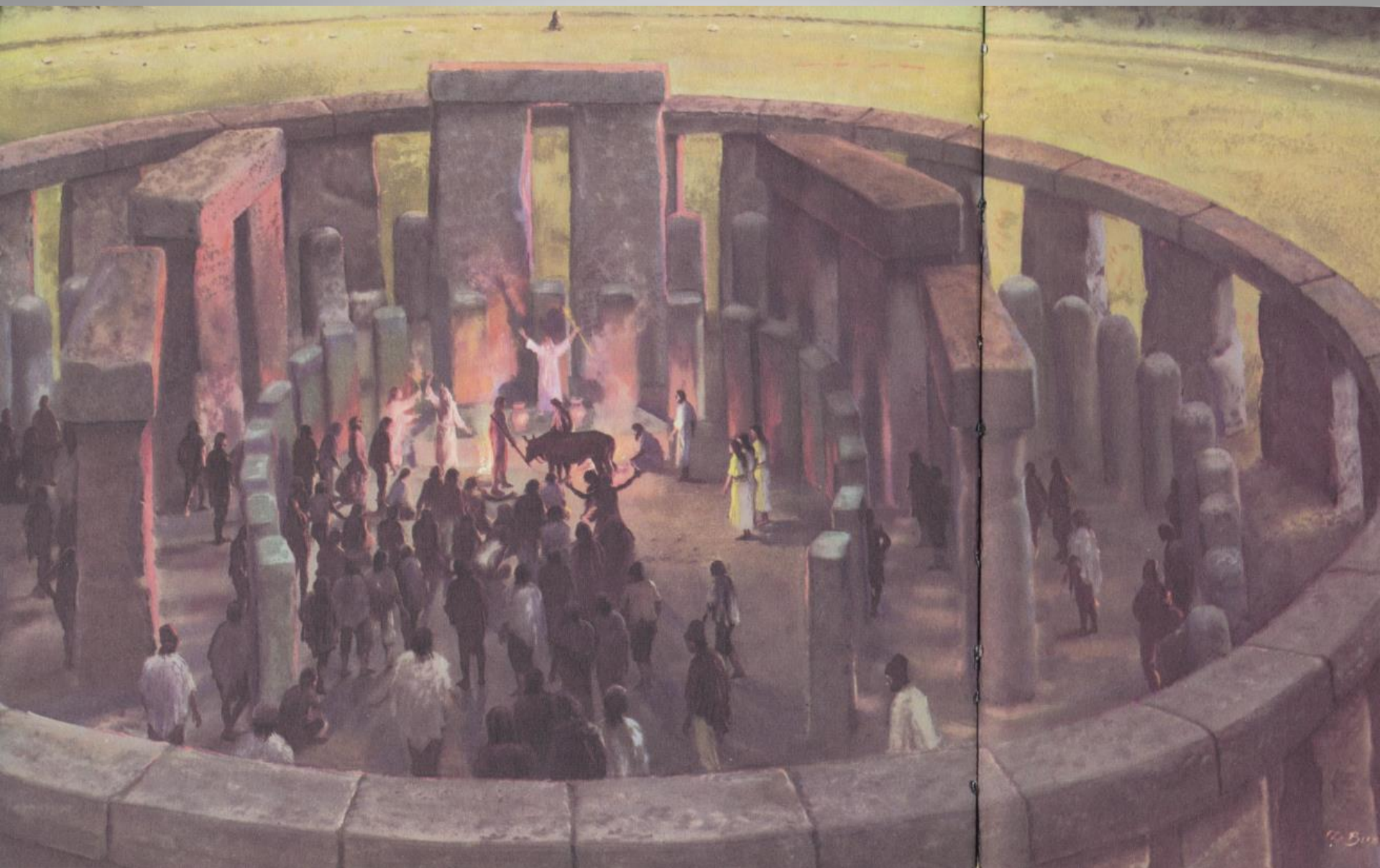
LEFT General plan of Stonehenge showing outlying features, entrance and rings of excavated holes. The axis of the monument (shown with a dotted line) aligns with the midsummer sunrise



ABOVE The seasonal variation in the rising and setting of the sun in southern Britain

Astronomical alignments

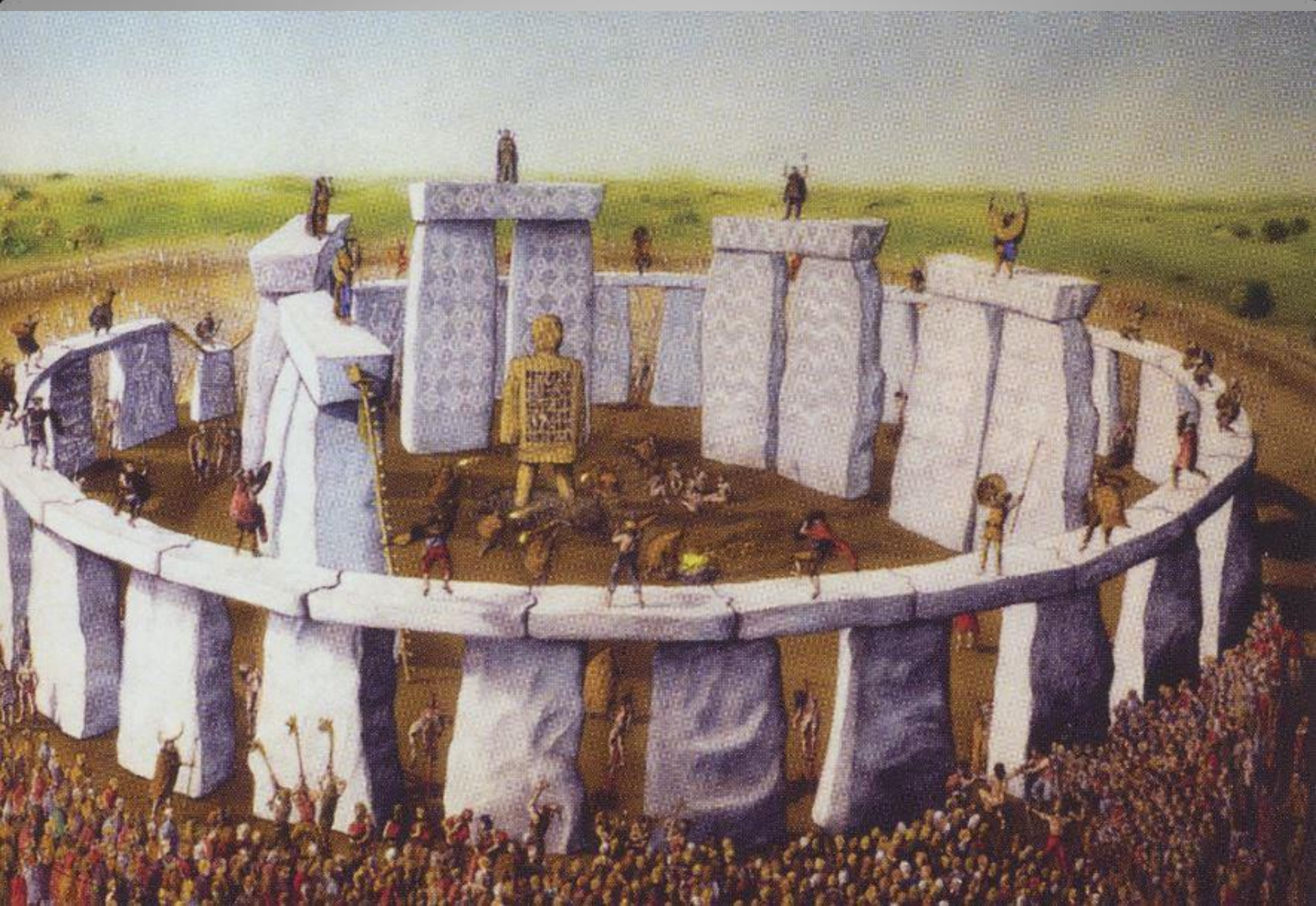




Ceremonies?







Lurid ceremonies?

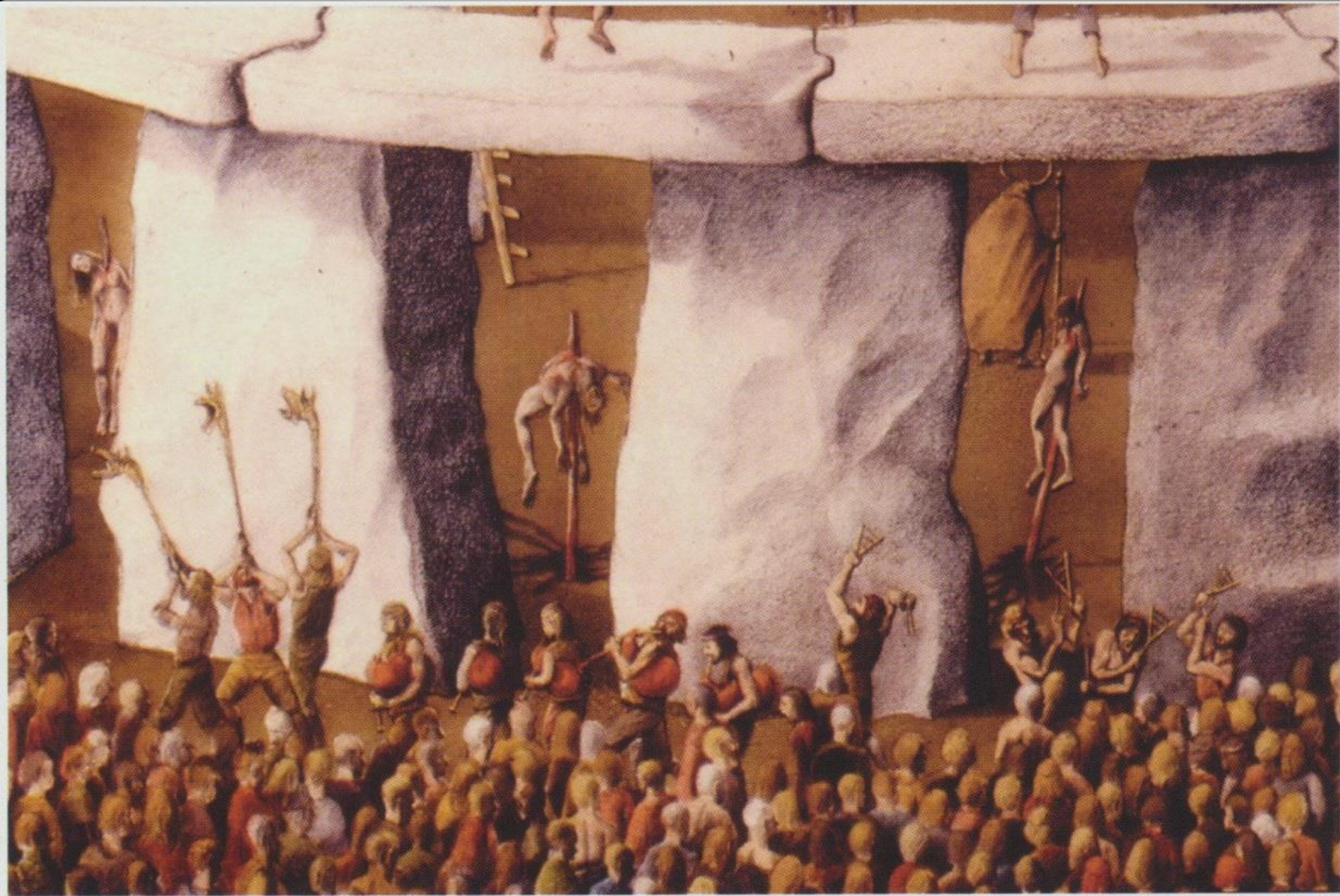


ALEXOVICH



Drawing 5. Inaugurating a minor chieftain. (David Alexovich)

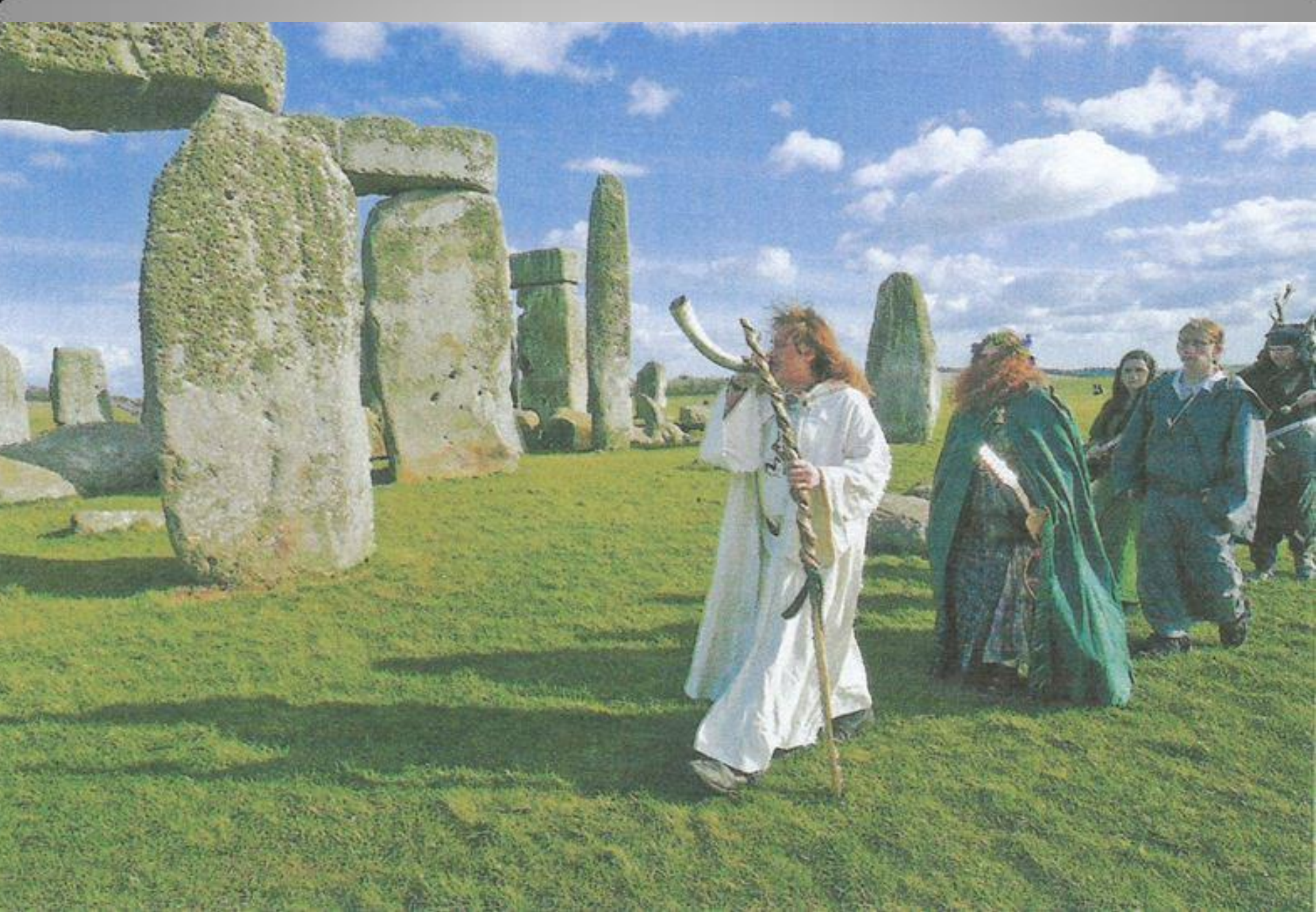




Really lurid ceremonies?







Placid ceremonies?



No ceremonies at all?my idea.

Perhaps when the basic structure of trilithons was completed, the center of the monument was intended to be the meeting place of the gods, with no humans allowed into that area.

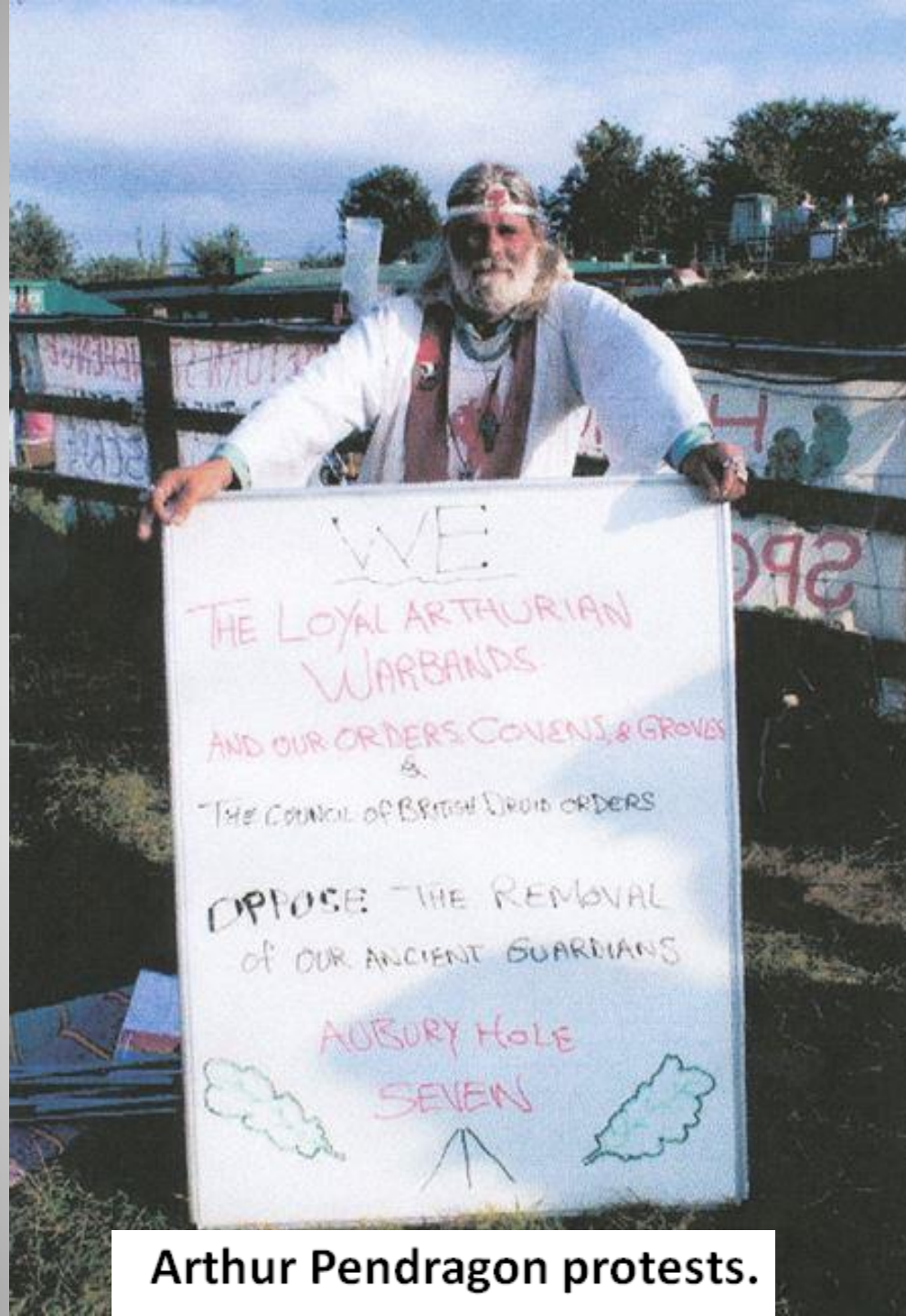


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Lively ceremonies?

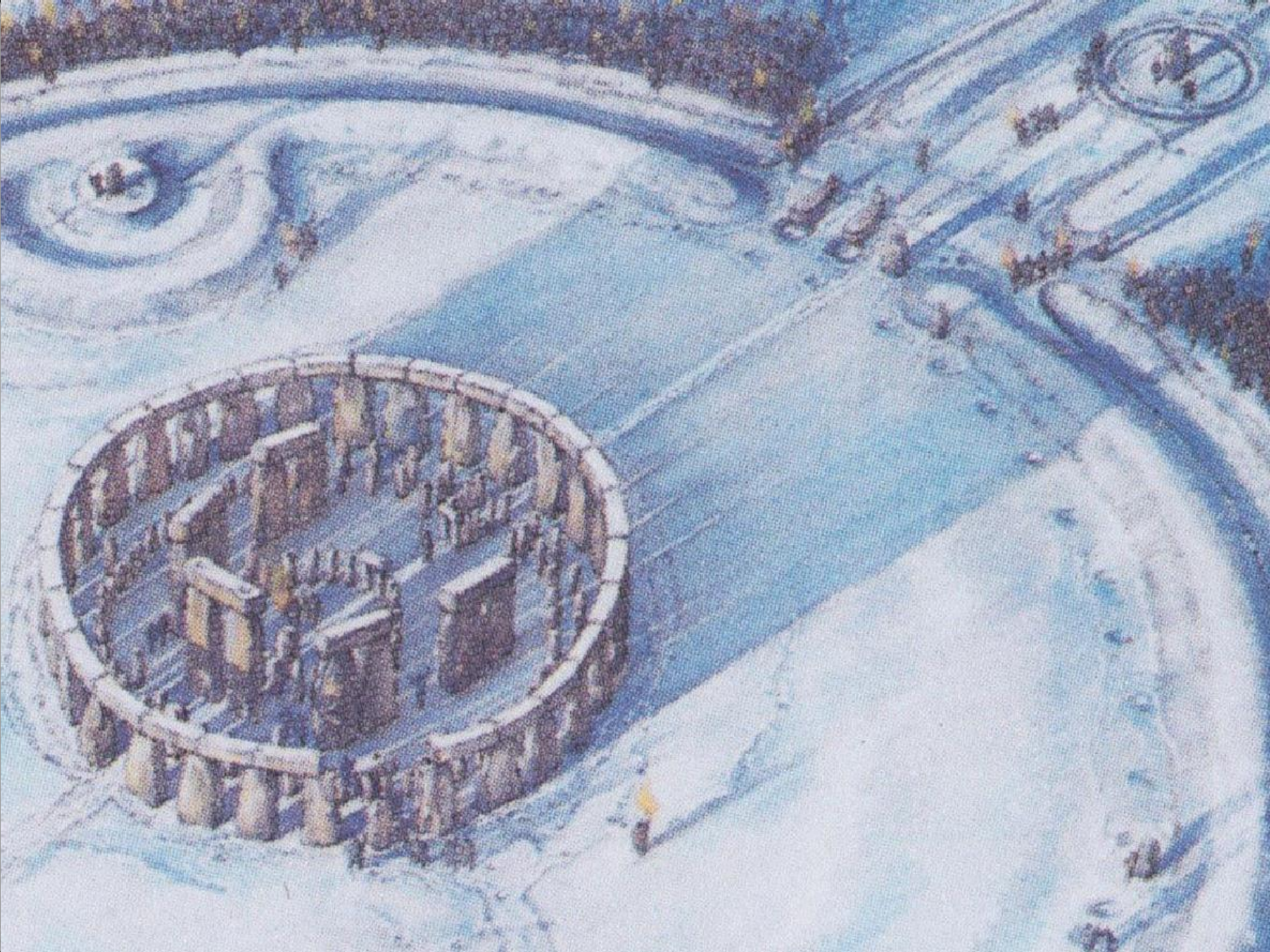


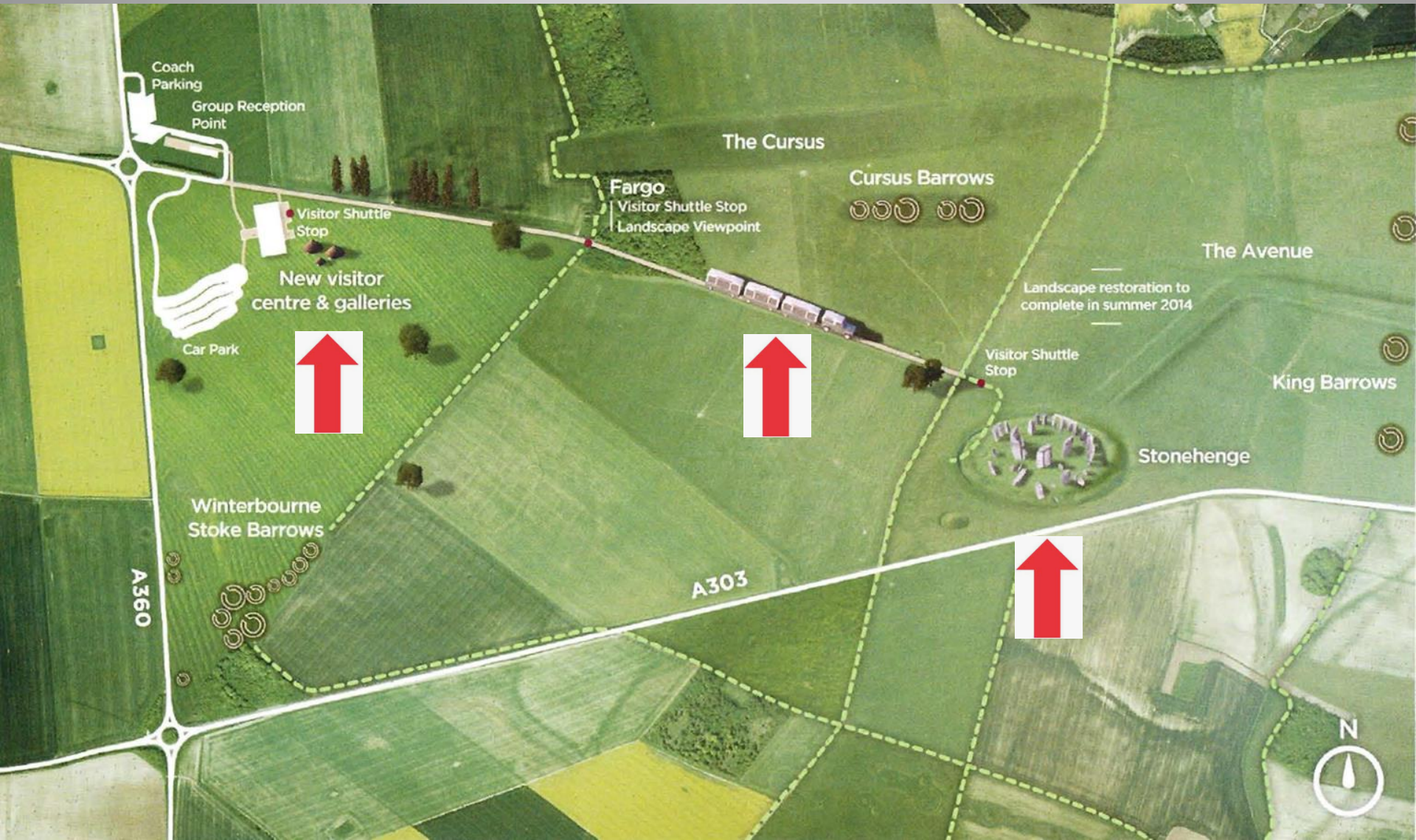




Arthur Pendragon protests.







Coach
Parking

Group Reception
Point

Visitor Shuttle
Stop

New visitor
centre & galleries

Car Park

Winterbourne
Stoke Barrows

A360

The Cursus

Fargo

Visitor Shuttle Stop
Landscape Viewpoint

Cursus Barrows

The Avenue

Landscape restoration to
complete in summer 2014

Visitor Shuttle
Stop

King Barrows

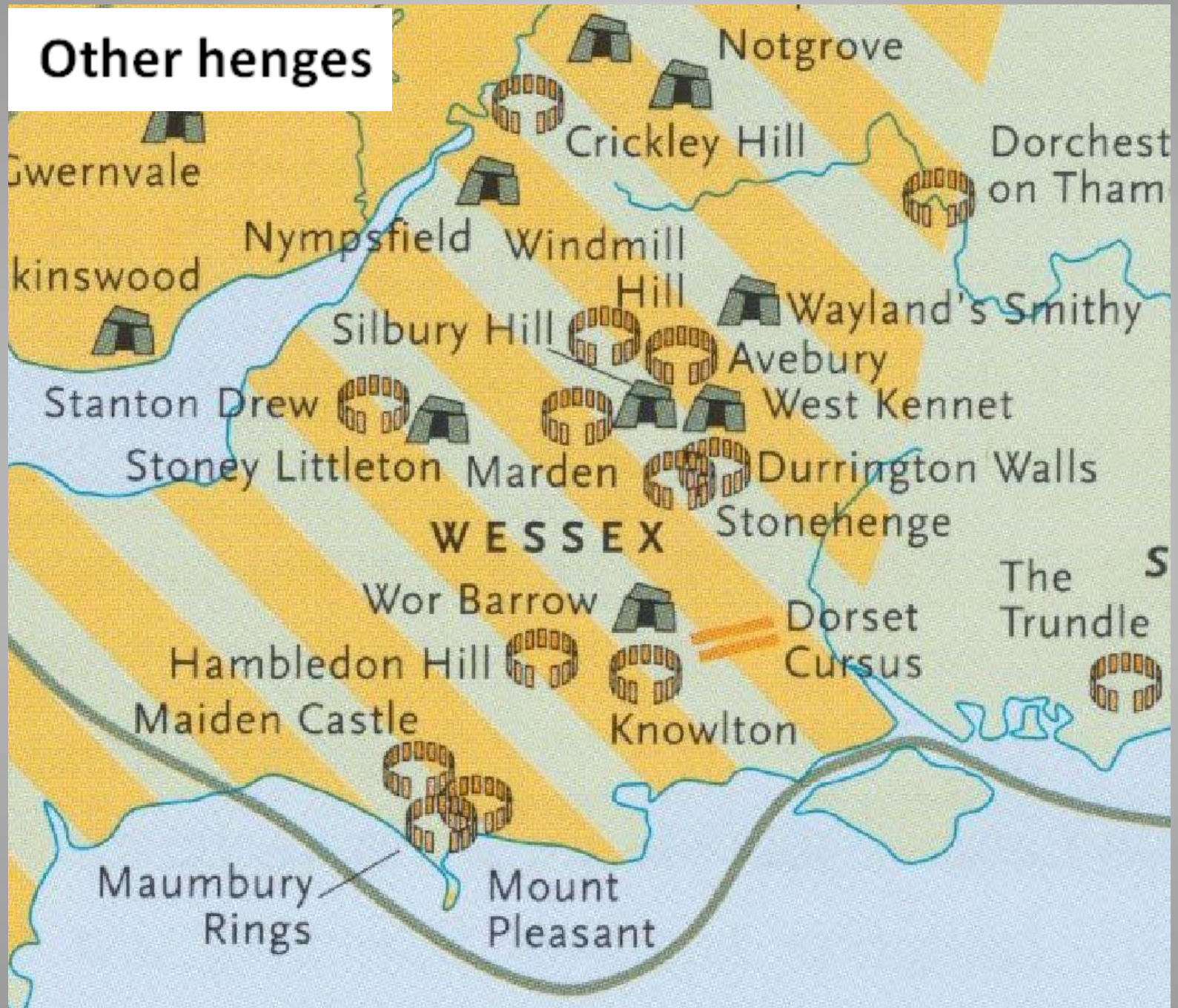
Stonehenge

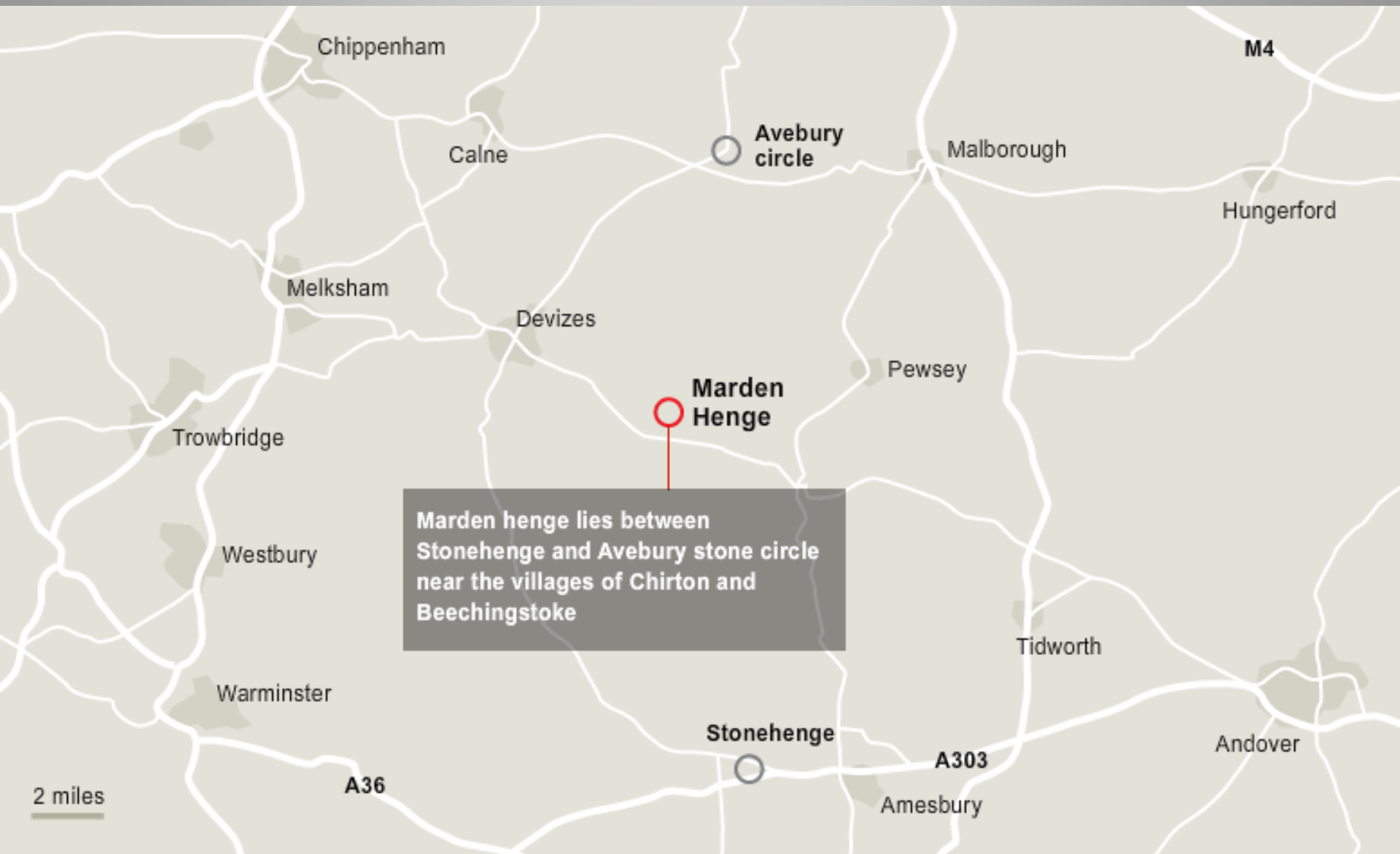
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Other henges

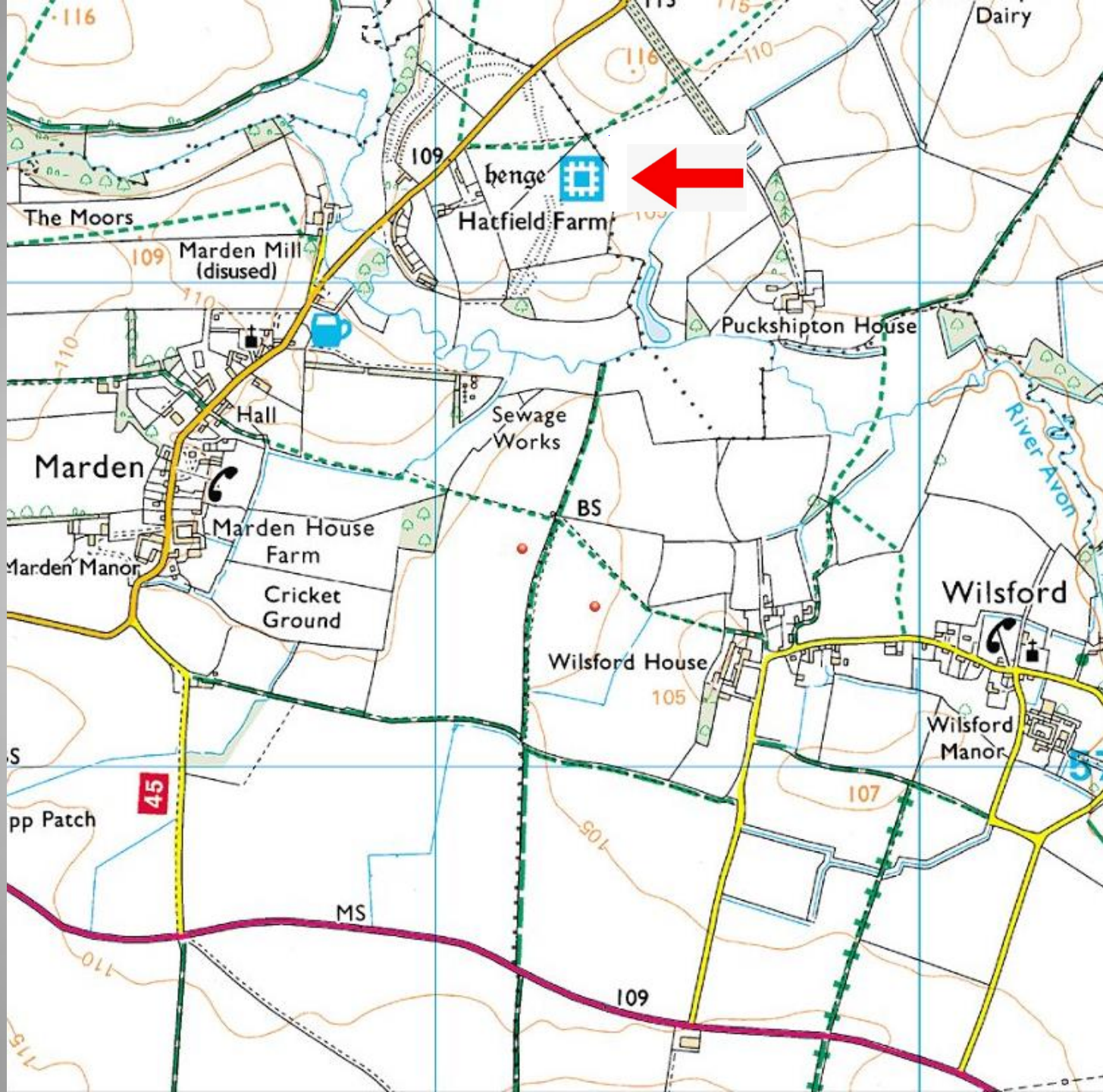


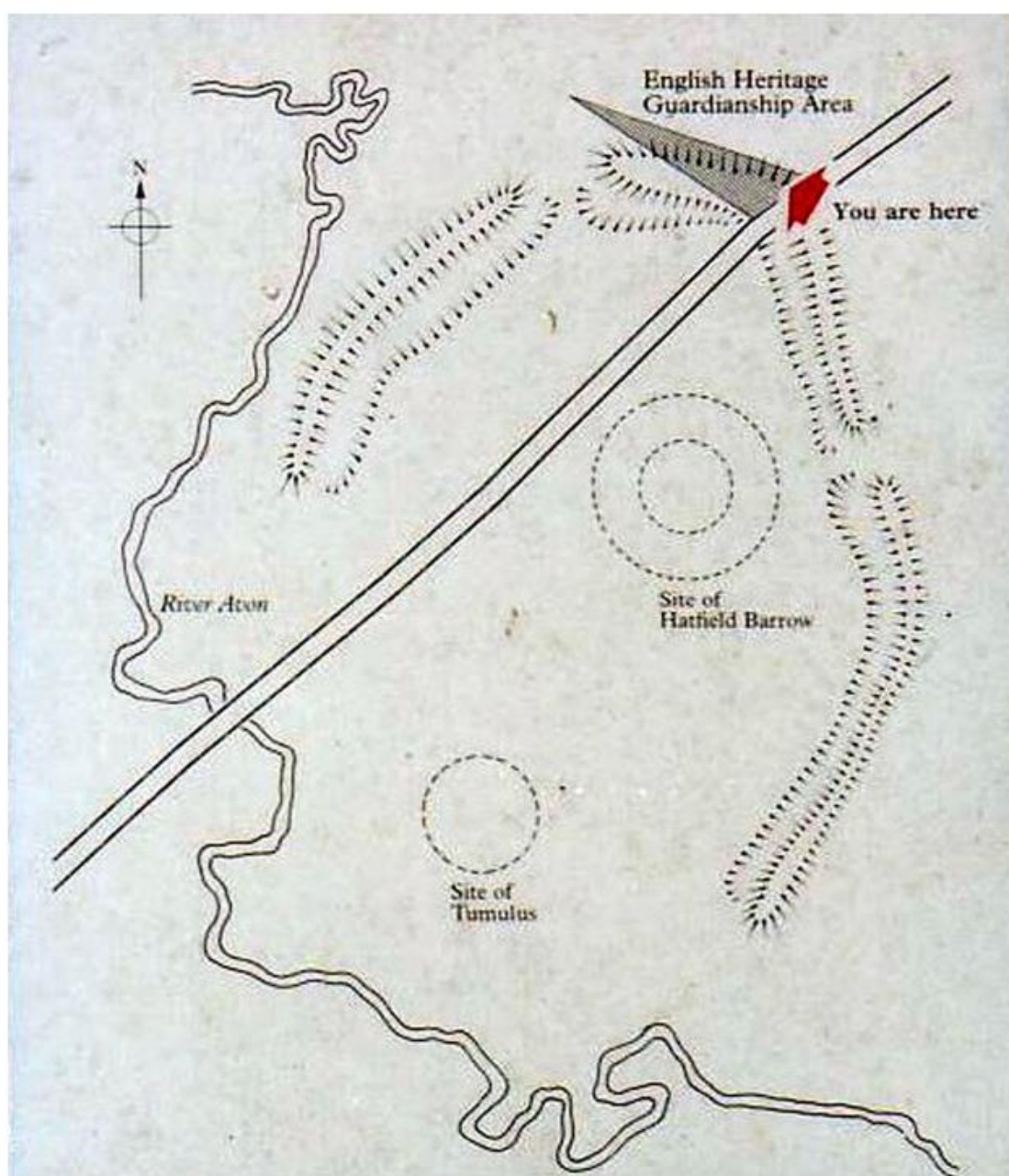


Marden henge lies between Stonehenge and Avebury stone circle near the villages of Chirton and Beechingstoke

2 miles







Marden Henge (and Hatfield Barrow) posted by [Earthstepper](#)

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Image 7 of 7

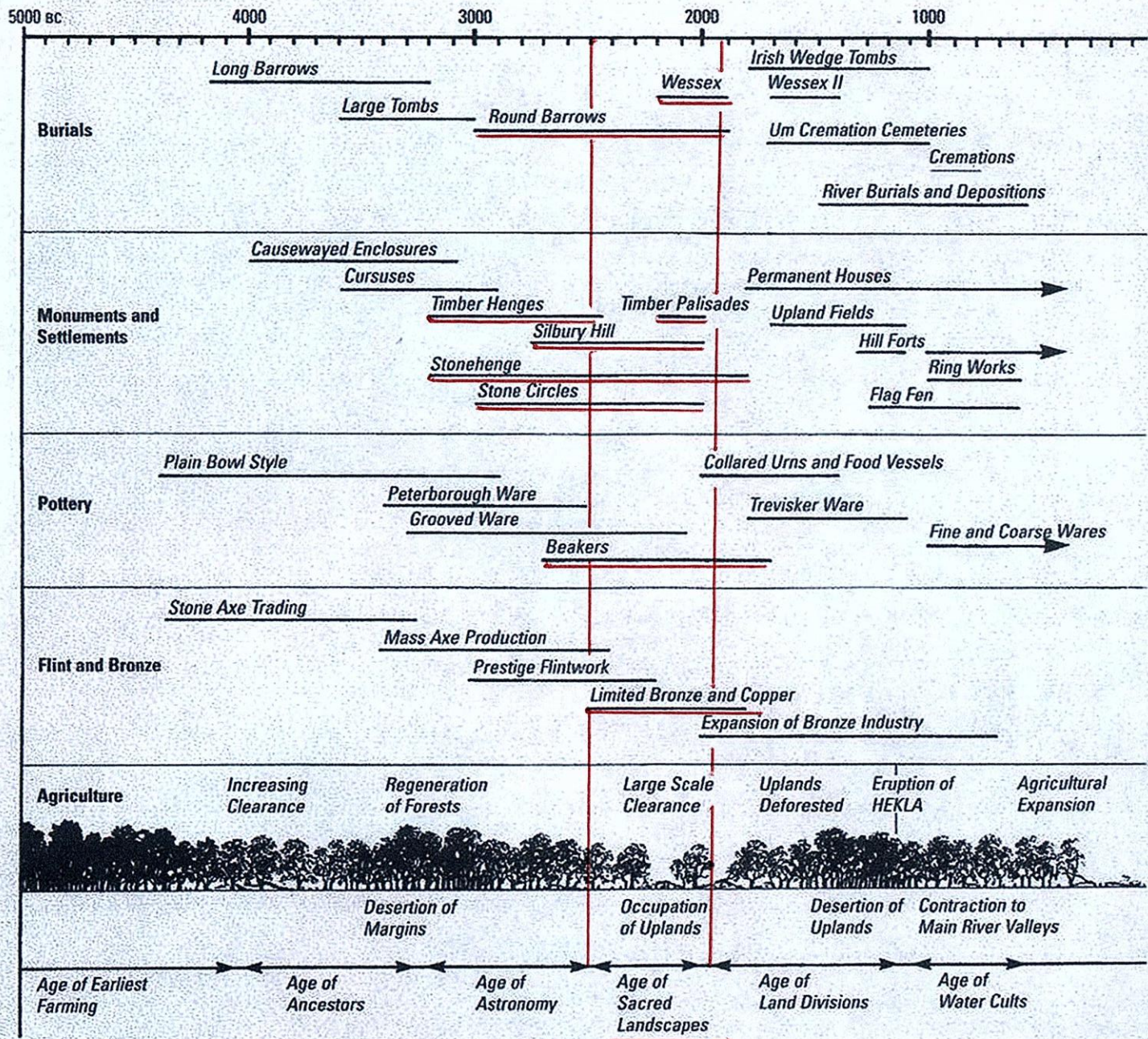
CLOSE X

Over the centuries ploughing, and deliberate demolition, have rendered the site almost invisible except to aerial survey ...

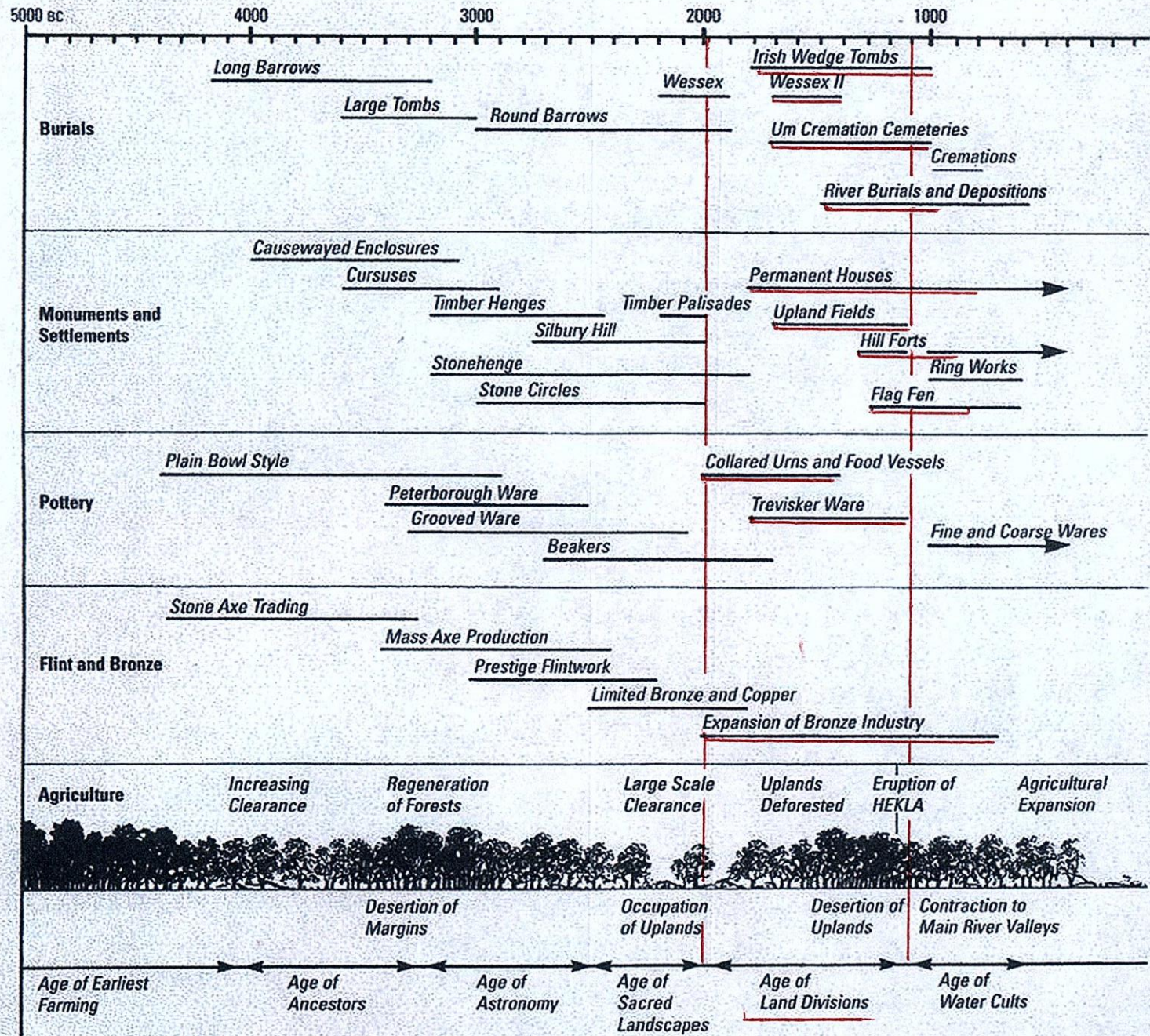


The site covers 14 hectares and originally included an artificial hill (much like Silbury Hill, near Avebury) and a circular henge.





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



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

Bronze Age Britain, 2400 to 700 BCE

Distribution of stone circles

Distribution of Late Bronze Age regional metalworking traditions

Distribution of mineral resources

Copper

Gold

Silver

Tin

Shale

Jet

Copper mine

Distribution of Early Bronze Age elite burials

Major Middle Bronze Age enclosure

Late Bronze Age circular enclosure

Other sites

Barrow or cairn

Stone circle

Chambered tomb

Wedge tomb

Fort

Other important site

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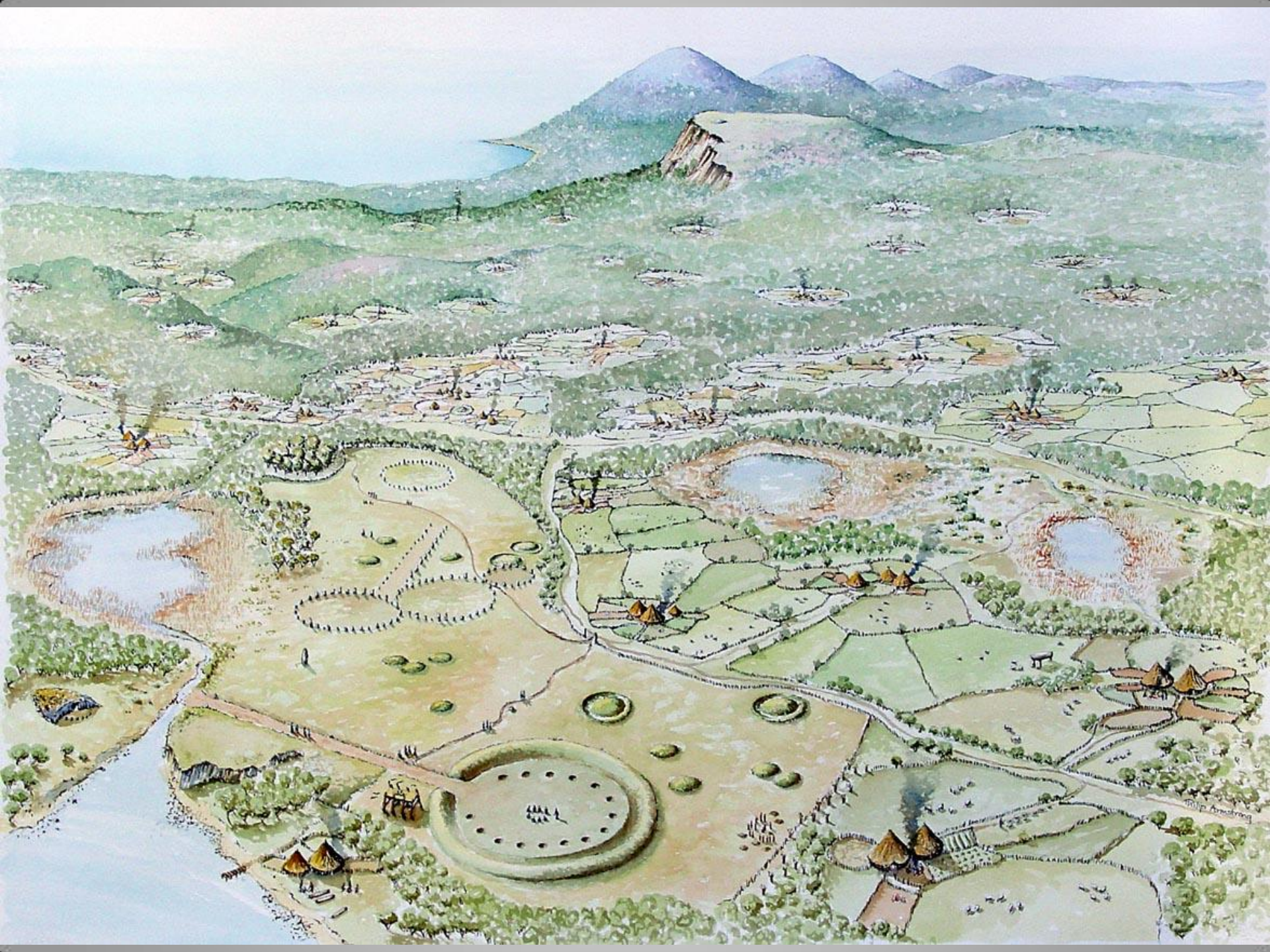
Fort

Other important site



Bronze Age Britain

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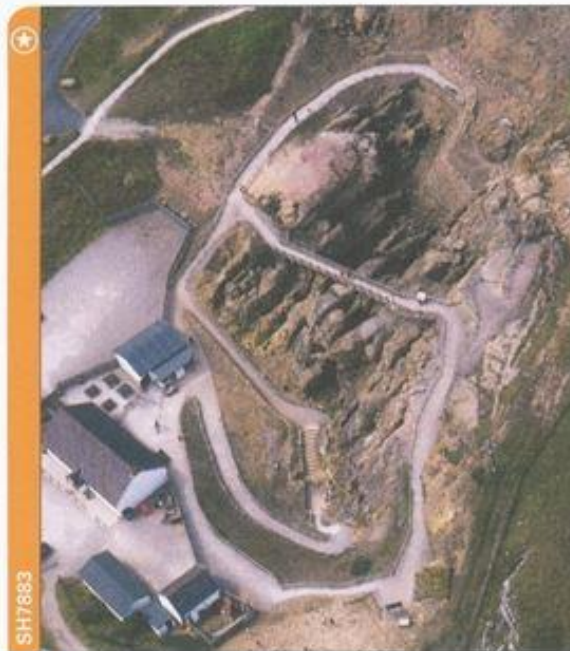


Philip Armstrong

THE BRONZE AGE

c.2500BC to c.800BC

Some time before 2000BC a knowledge of metallurgy was introduced into Britain and copper mining sites, such as that on Great Orme in north Wales, became established. The immense architectural undertaking of the building of Stonehenge and the concentration in this area of round barrows (the most common visible monument of this period) illustrate the wealth and political prestige generated by the contemporary metal-working trades in Wessex. Barrows and cairns are present throughout Britain, both in cemetery groups, as at Winterbourne Stoke in Wiltshire, in the Kilmartin valley, Argyll, and at Balnuaran of Clava Highland, and also in splendid isolation on hilltops.



Great Orme, Bronze Age copper mine

(Great Orme Mines Ltd —
www.greatormemines.info)

Aerial view of the large opencast and shallow trench workings of the mine.

Steps at centre lead down the 5 km of underground tunnels that have been excavated down to 70 m and have been dated to the Bronze Age by radiocarbon and other means.

The extent of the mining operation is believed to exceed 24,000 m².

Photo: © Crown copyright:
RCAHMW

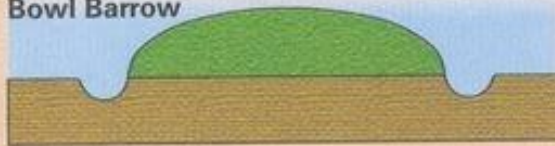
To the continuing tradition of stone circles, which witnesses the development of recumbent stone circles like Loanhead of Daviot in NE Scotland, is now added that of individual standing stones found in many parts of the British landscape – marking routes or perhaps Bronze Age burial places. Some are decorated with carvings of cup-and-ring marks. These markings are also found on exposed natural rock faces as at Cairnbaan, Argyll, and on stone slabs used in burial chambers. Stone rows, sometimes in fan-shaped settings or multiple alignments, cannot be interpreted with any certainty. The remains of the settlements and farms of the Bronze Age are less substantial. Only the circular foundations of what would have been quite sophisticated houses of timber, stone and thatch now remain on the uplands of south-west and northern England, Wales and Scotland. In some cases the small fields that surrounded the farmstead can still be seen; in others, as on Dartmoor, the banks of more impressive landscape divisions can be followed for considerable distances.



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.

Bowl Barrow



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

Bell Barrow



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.

Disc Barrow



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.

Pond Barrow

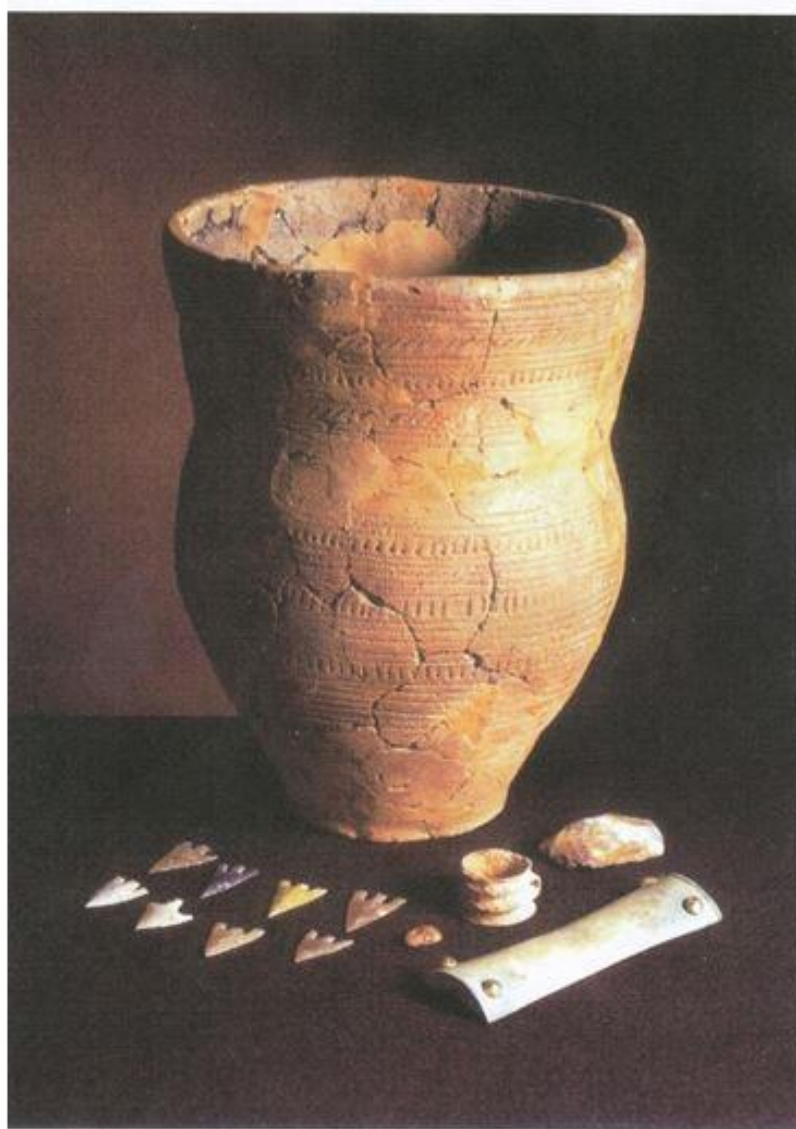


A monument featuring an artificial circular shallow depression, which itself is surrounded by a bank that runs around the rim of the depression.

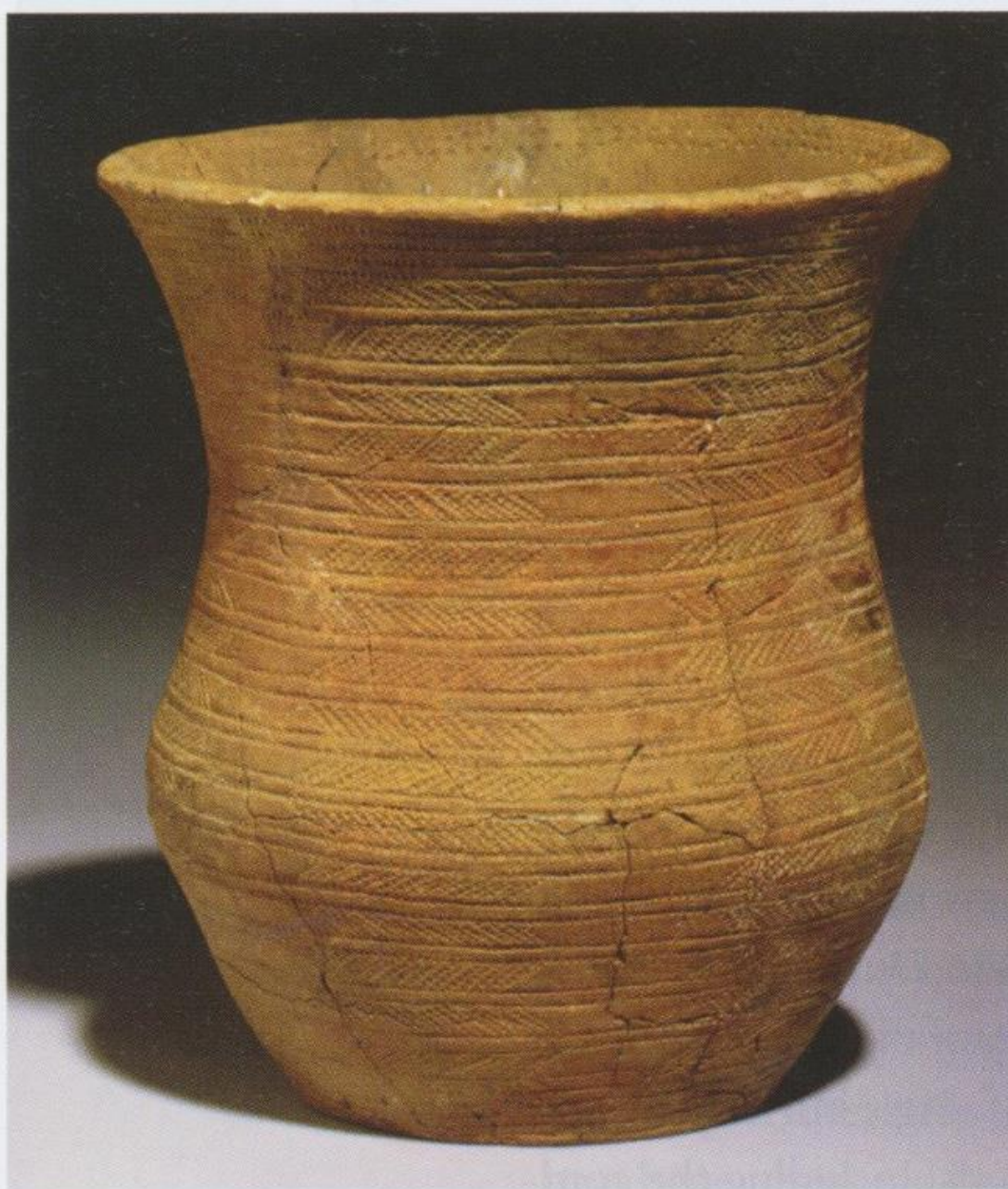
Saucer Barrow



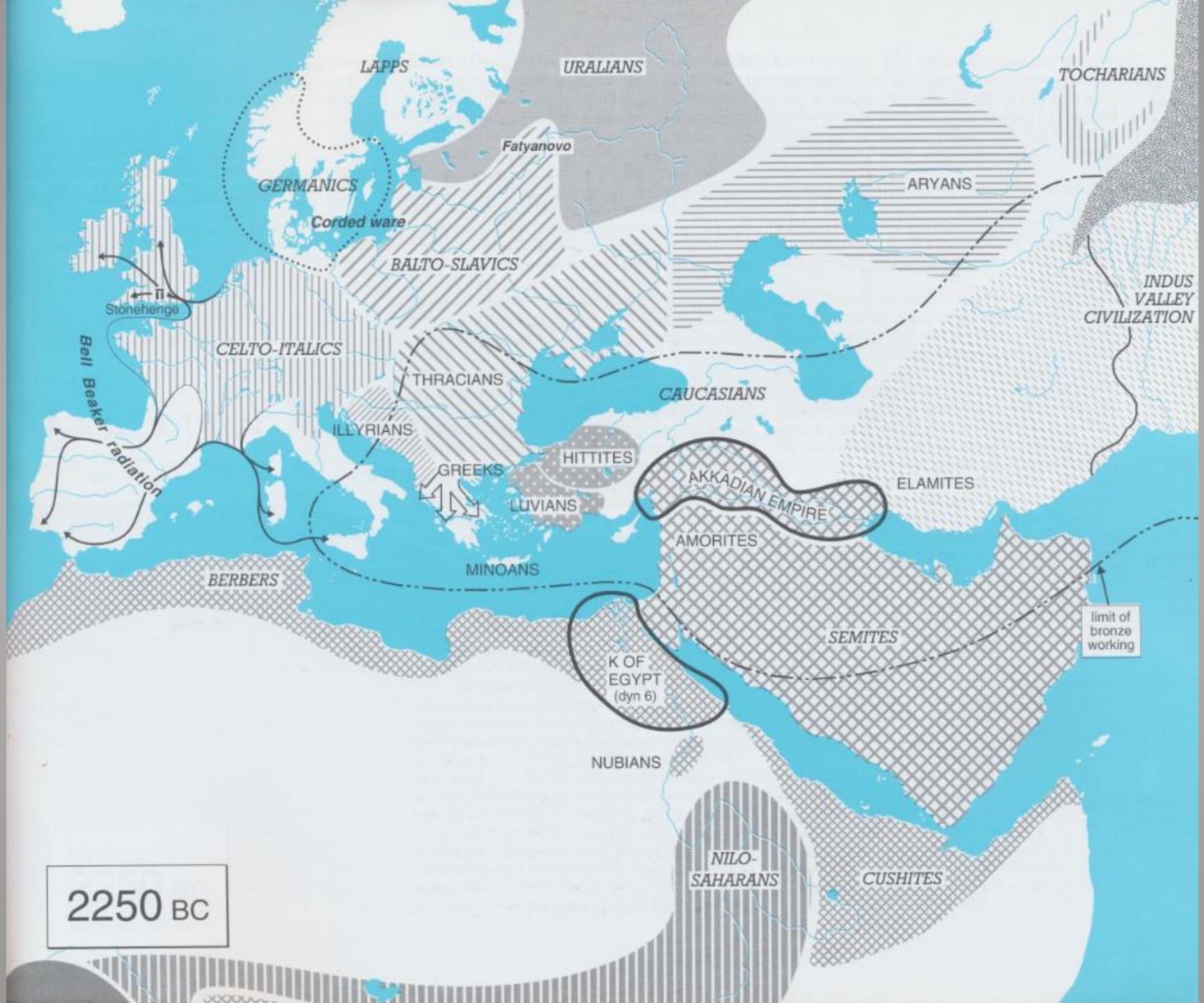
A barrow featuring a low, wide mound, which in turn is surrounded by a ditch that could be accompanied by an external bank.



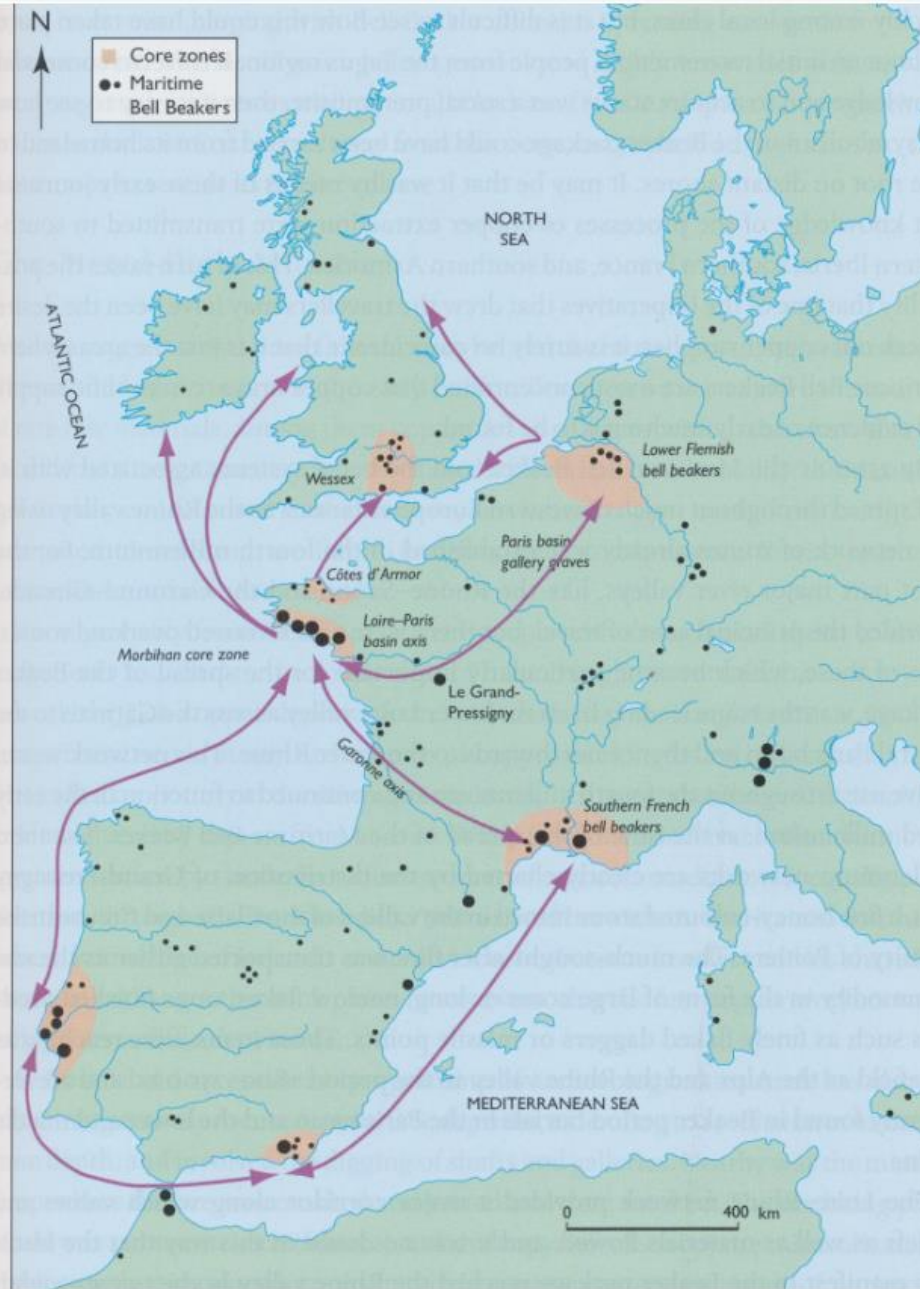
7.23 A Beaker grave group from Culduthel, Inverness-shire, Scotland. The wrist-guard and the arrow heads show that the deceased was provided with the equipment of an



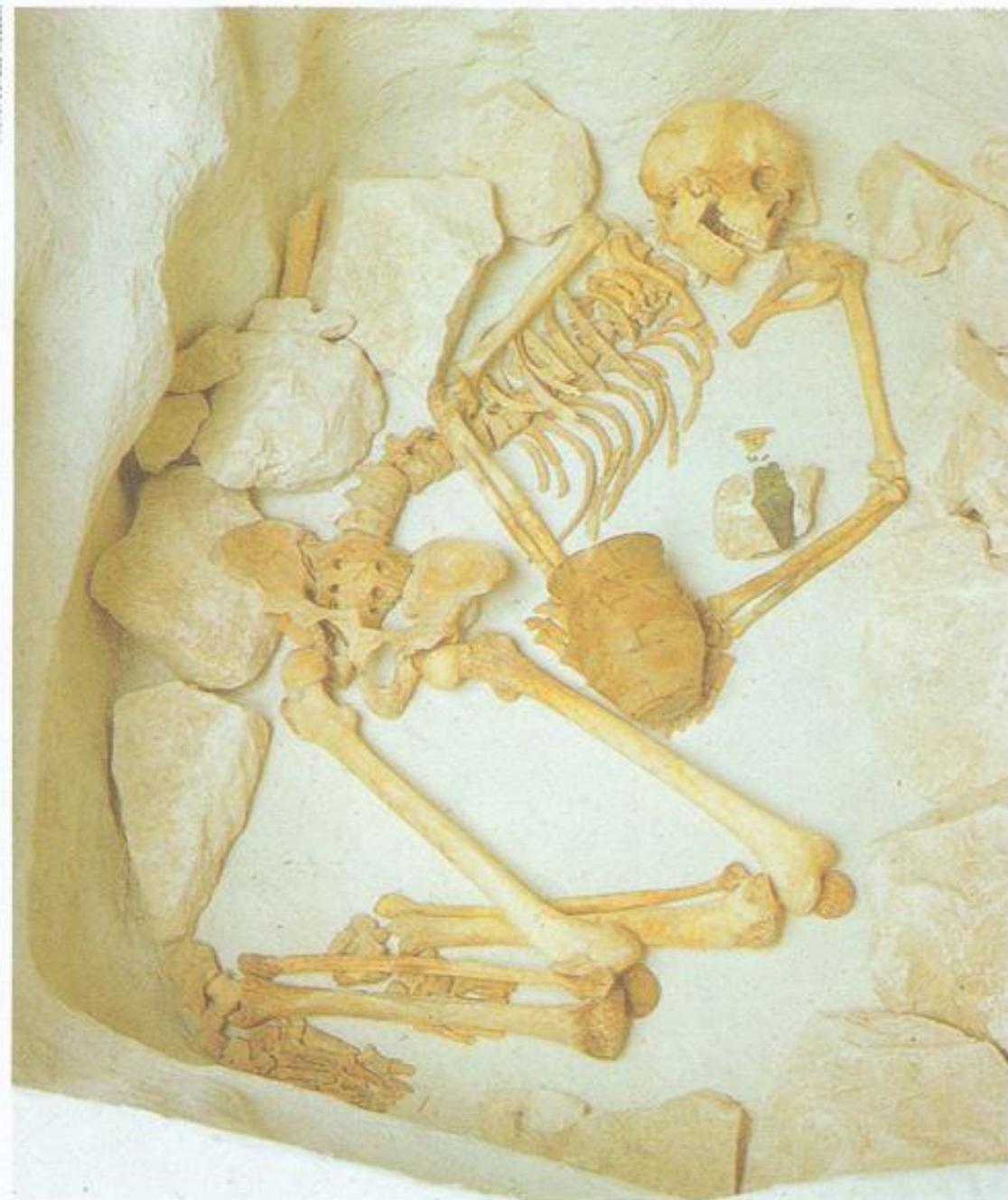
6.15 A classic Maritime Bell Beaker of the later third millennium BC from a burial at Barrow Hills, Radley, in Oxfordshire



2250 BC



6.16 The Maritime Bell Beaker developed in the Tagus region of Portugal in the first half of the third millennium BC and the idea spread from there to many parts of western Europe, including Britain and Ireland. The distribution of the distinctive type of beaker gives an indication of the routes in use at the time. The sea played an important role



LEFT Skeleton of a man buried about the time when the bluestones were brought to Stonehenge. He holds a pottery drinking vessel and was buried with his bronze dagger (Salisbury Museum)



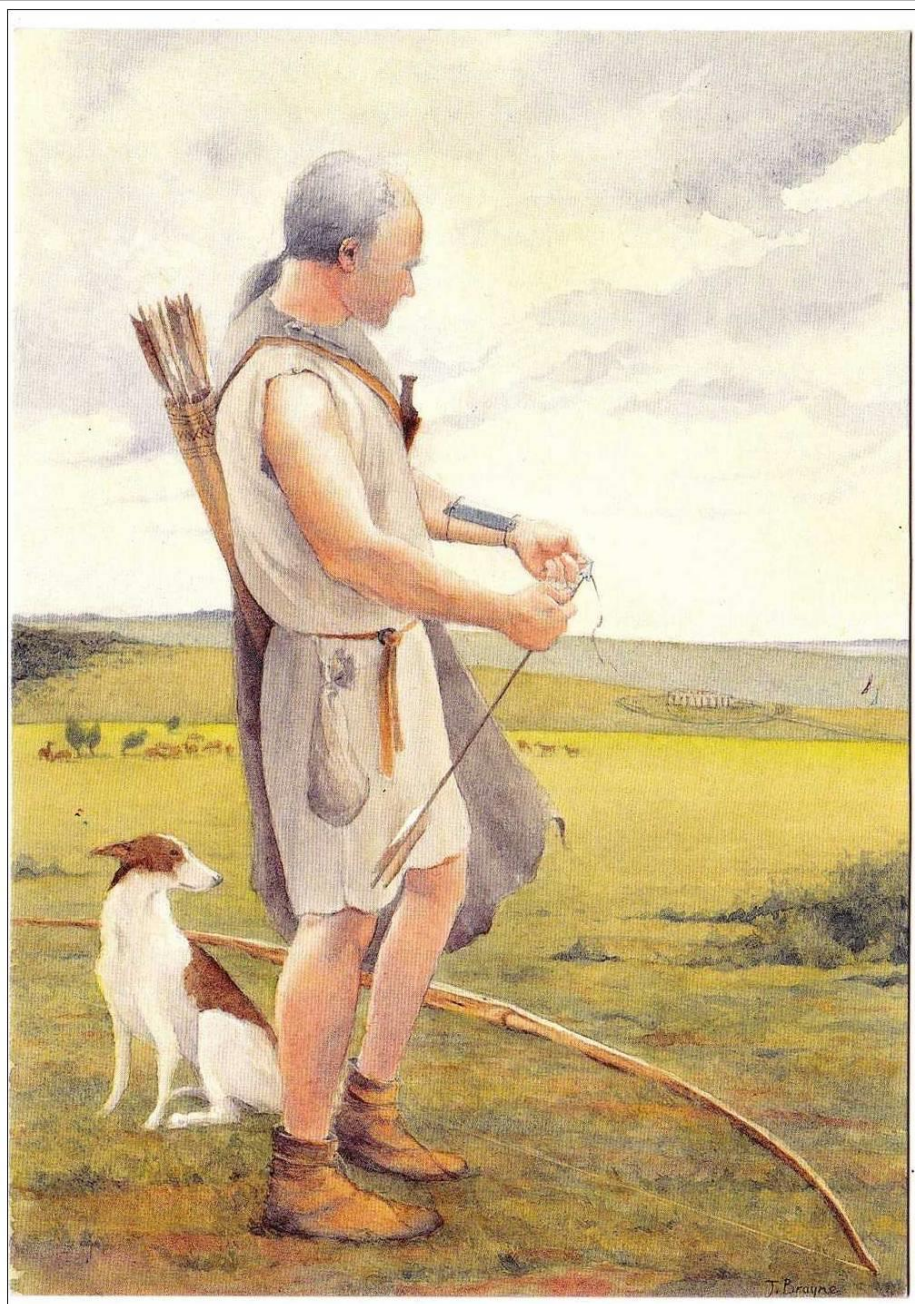
ABOVE Bronze dagger, with replica haft, similar to the burial on left (Devizes Museum)

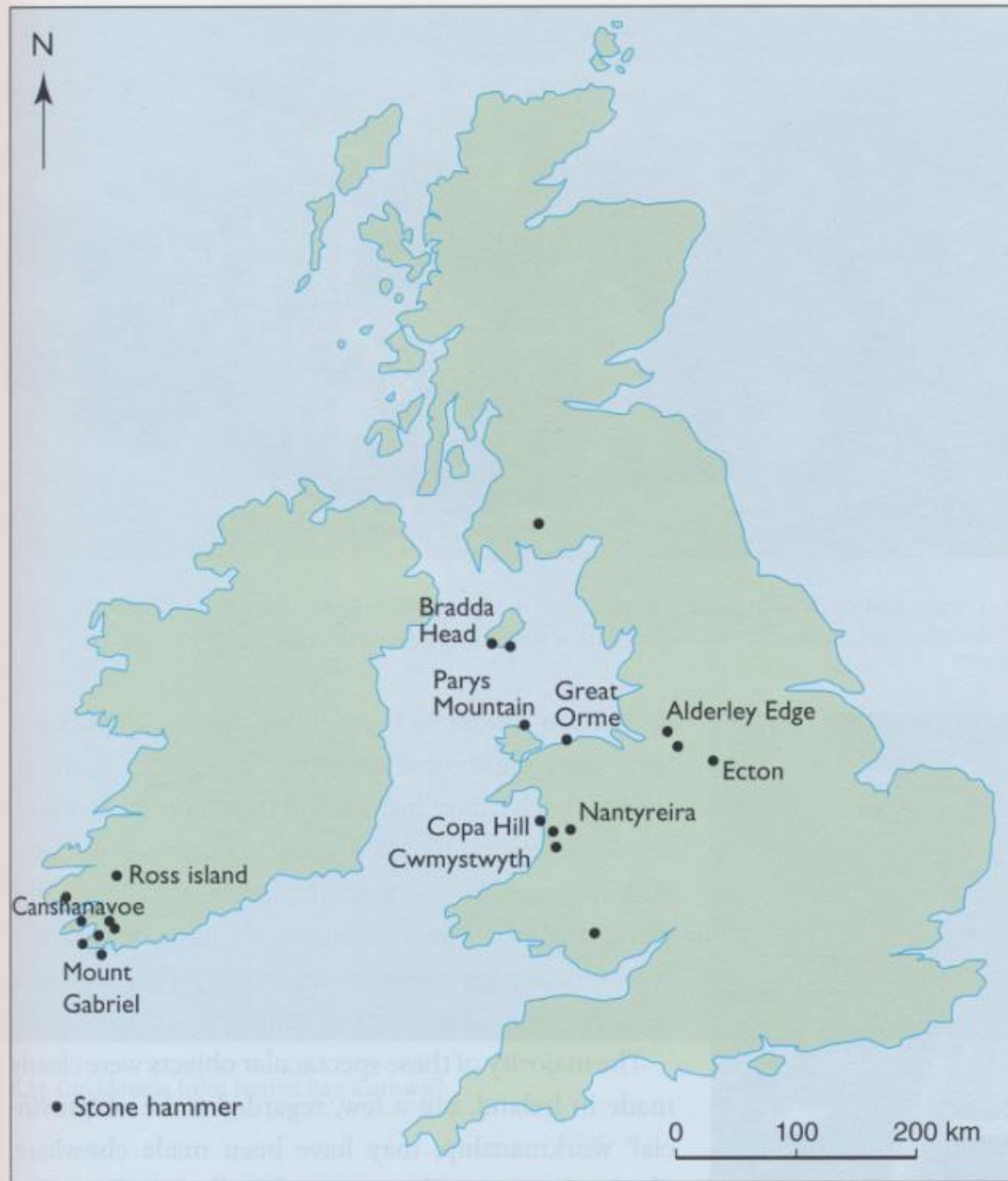


ABOVE Barbed flint arrowheads (Salisbury Museum)



Drawing 2. A Beaker wedding at Stonehenge II. (David Alexovich)





6.20 The copper-mining sites of Britain and Ireland in use during the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age. Some are known from extensive workings, others from the occurrence of distinctive hammer stones

Bronze Age Britain, 2400 to 700 BCE

- Distribution of stone circles
- Distribution of Late Bronze Age regional metalworking traditions

Distribution of mineral resources

- Copper
 - Gold
 - Silver
 - Tin
 - Shale
 - Jet
 - Copper mine
- Distribution of Early Bronze Age elite burials
 - Major Middle Bronze Age enclosure
 - Late Bronze Age circular enclosure

Other sites

- Barrow or cairn
- Stone circle
- Chambered tomb
- Wedge tomb
- Fort
- Other important site



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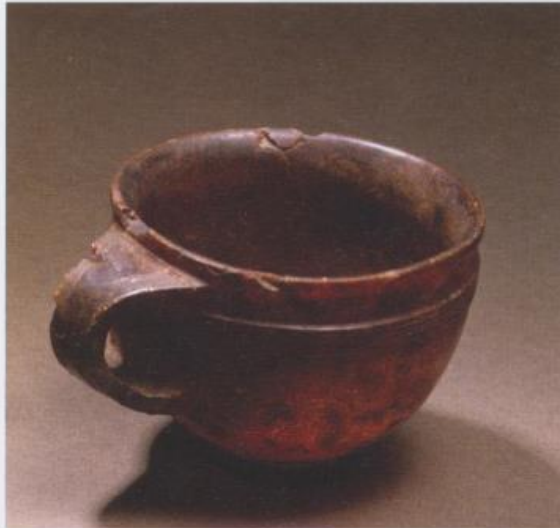
Bronze Age Britain
 The Bronze Age in Britain and Ireland covers the period from around 2400 BC to around 700 BC. Initially, there were strong elements of continuity with Neolithic traditions, with the ongoing use of stone circles and communal burials in chambered tombs. By the early second millennium BC, new traditions had arisen, including that of individual elite burials under cairns or barrows. Towards the end of the period, warfare became more important and the first hill-forts appeared. Because of the uneven distribution of metal ores, trade links were important in the Bronze Age, but these did not prevent the development of distinctive regional metalworking traditions.



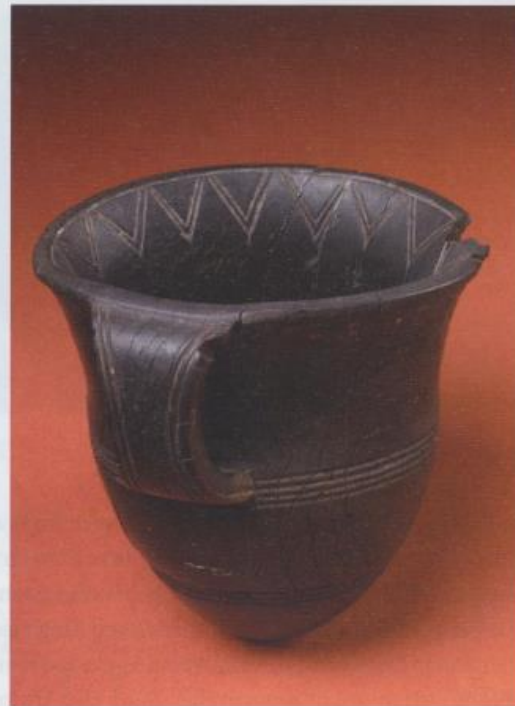
(a)



(b)




(c)

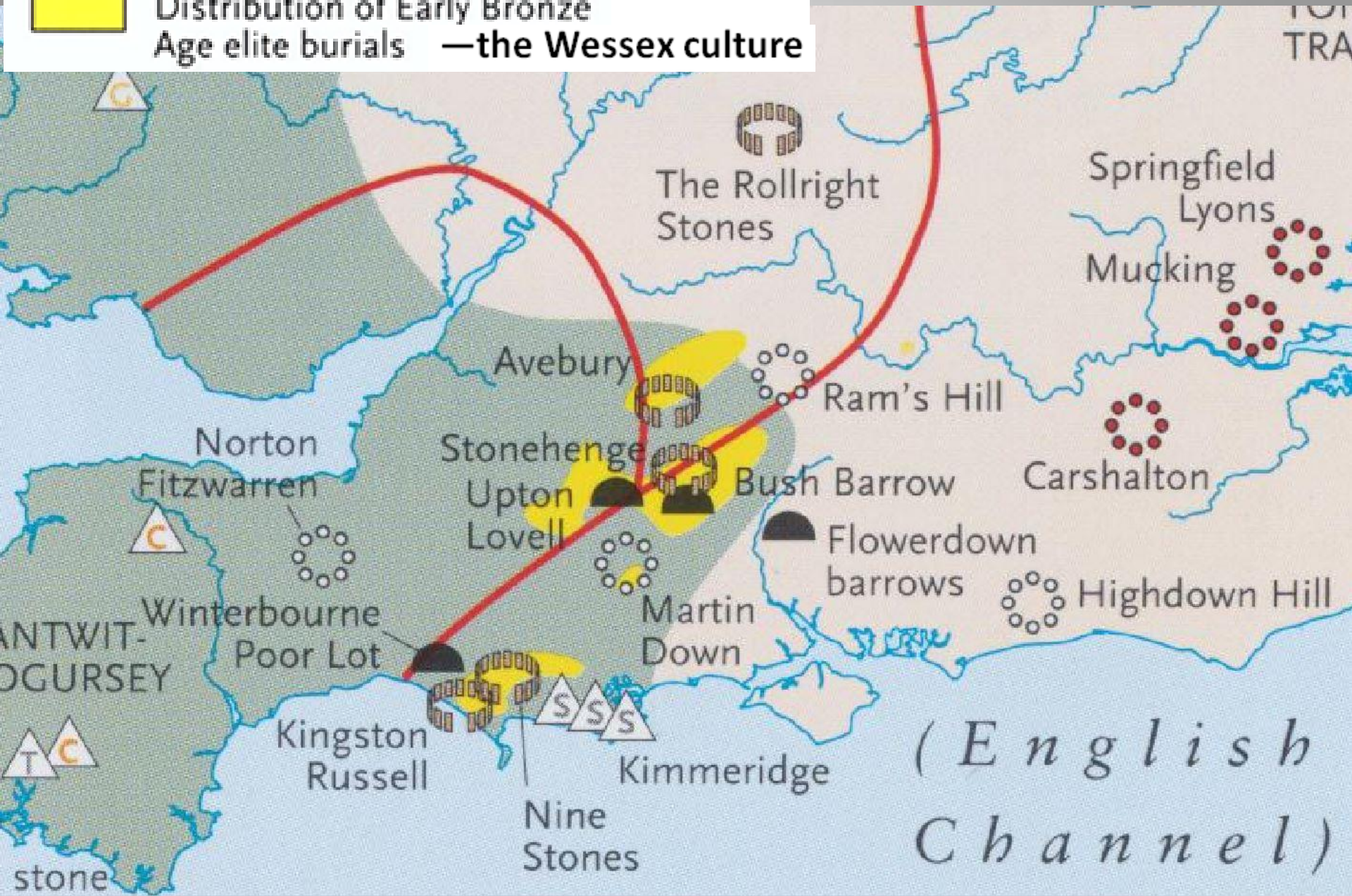


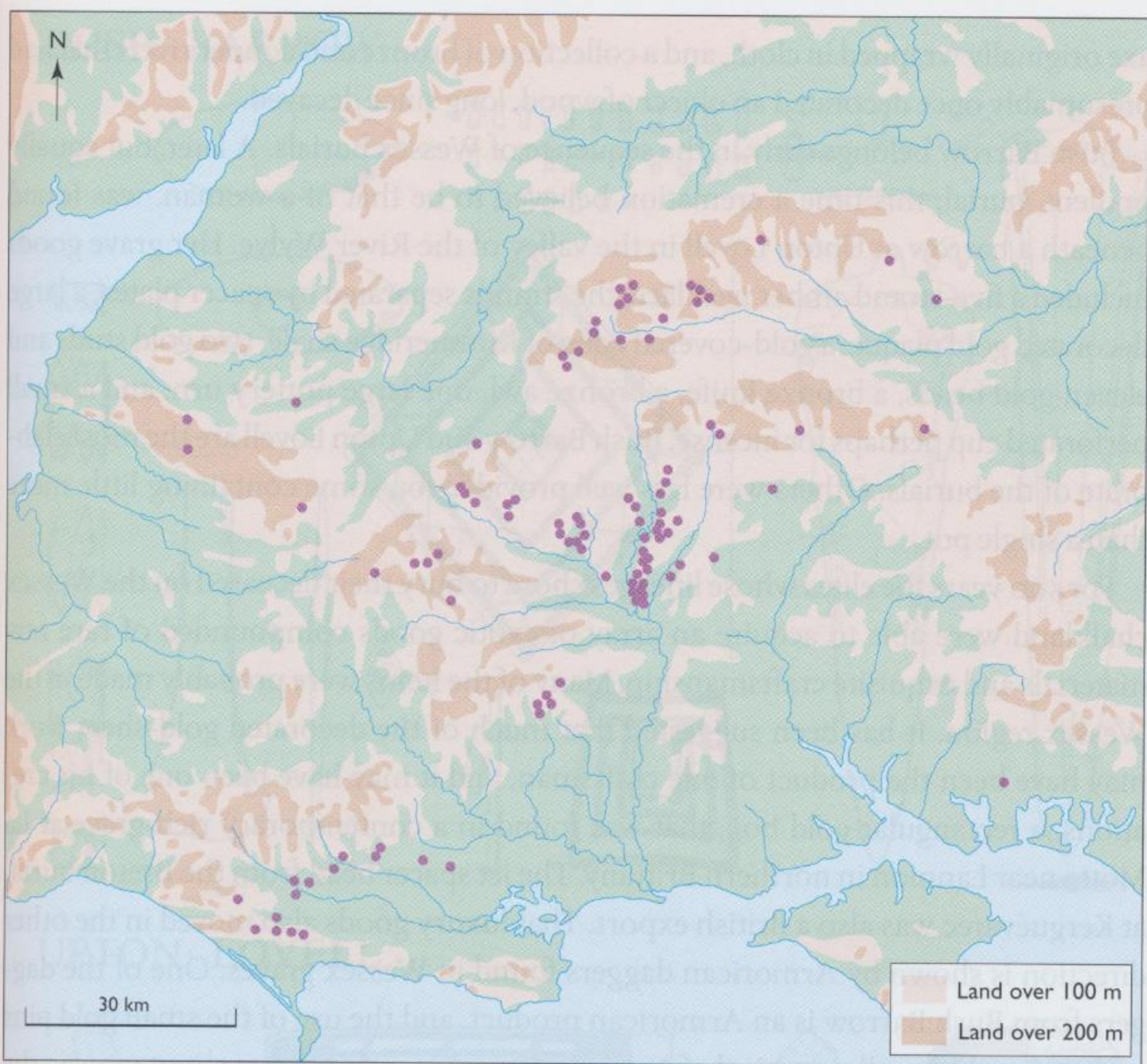
6.35 Three Early Bronze Age cups: (a) in gold from Rillaton, Cornwall; (b) in amber from Hove in West Sussex; (c) in Kimmeridge shale from Farway in Dorset





 Distribution of Early Bronze Age elite burials —the Wessex culture





Distribution of rich Wessex burials

Wiltshire · Normanton Down

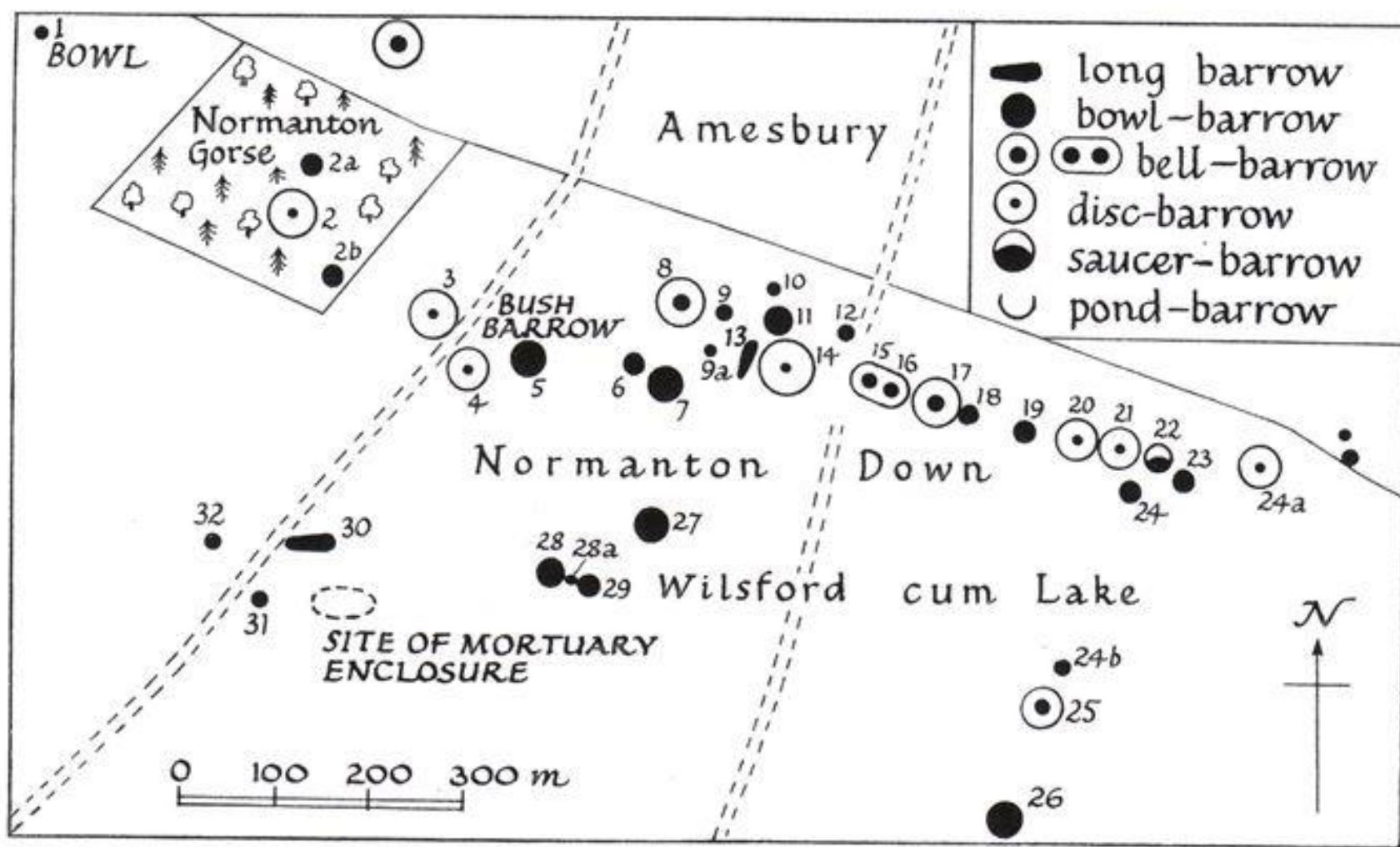
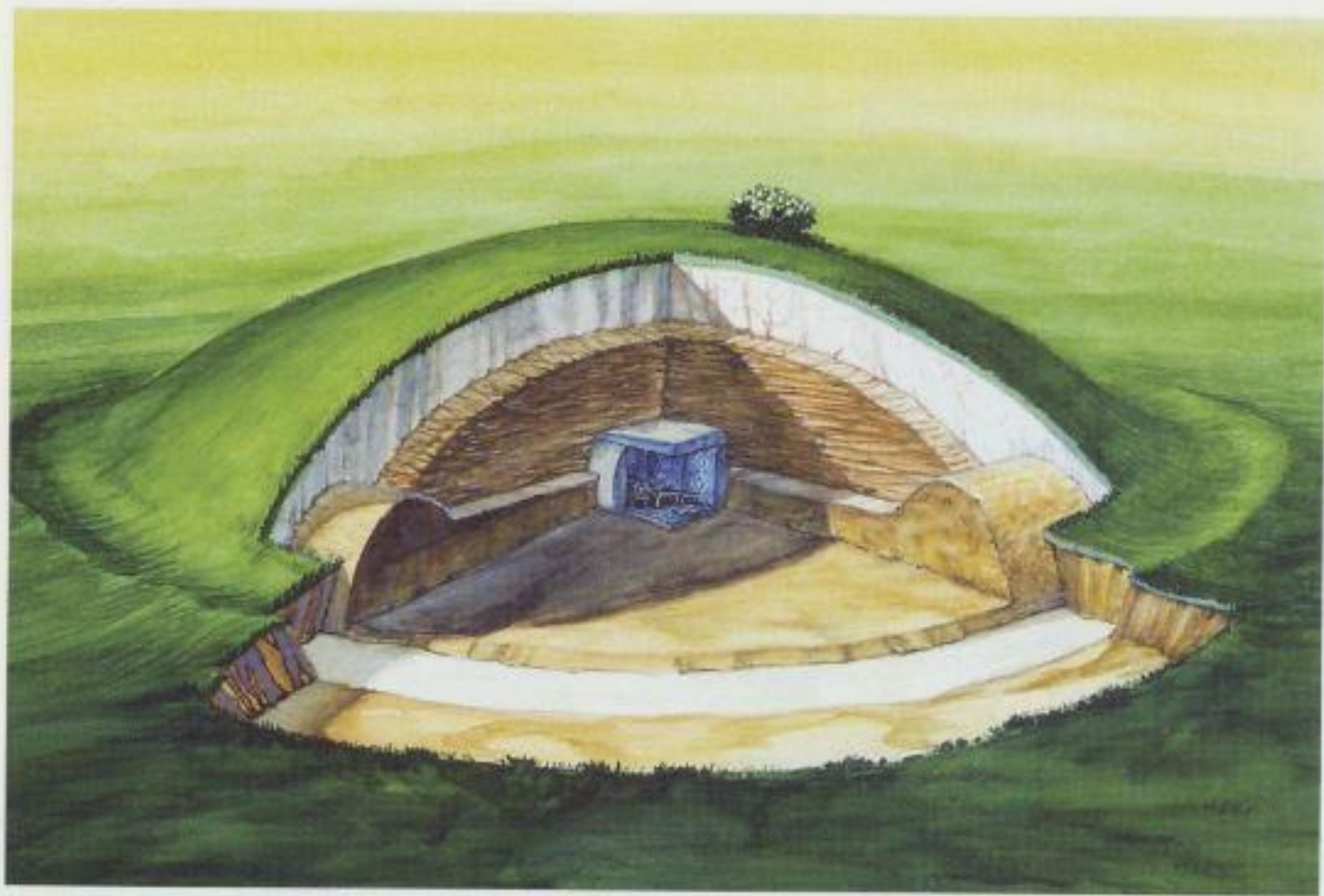


Fig 26. The Normanton group, Wiltshire (after L. V. Grinsell)





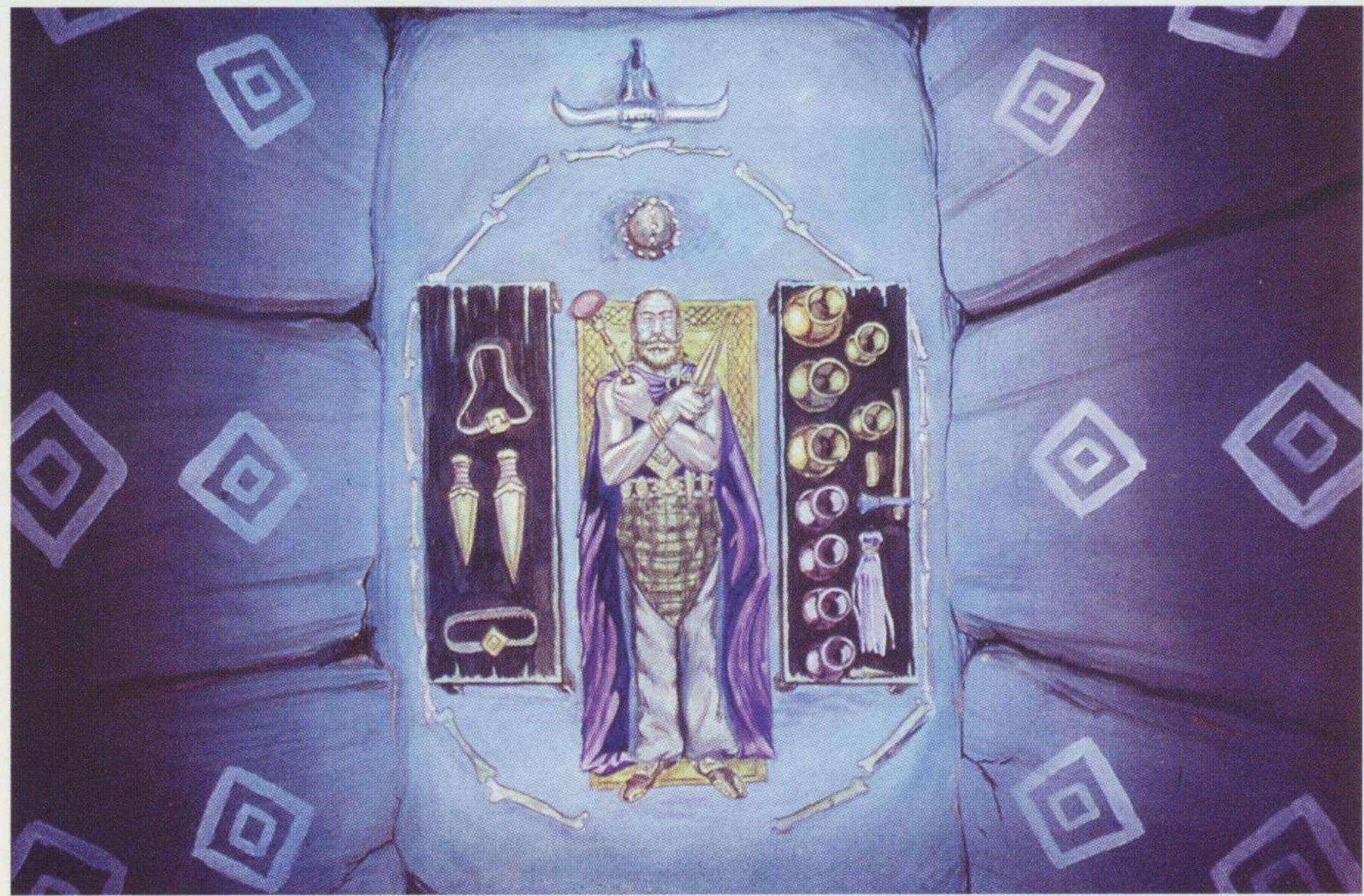


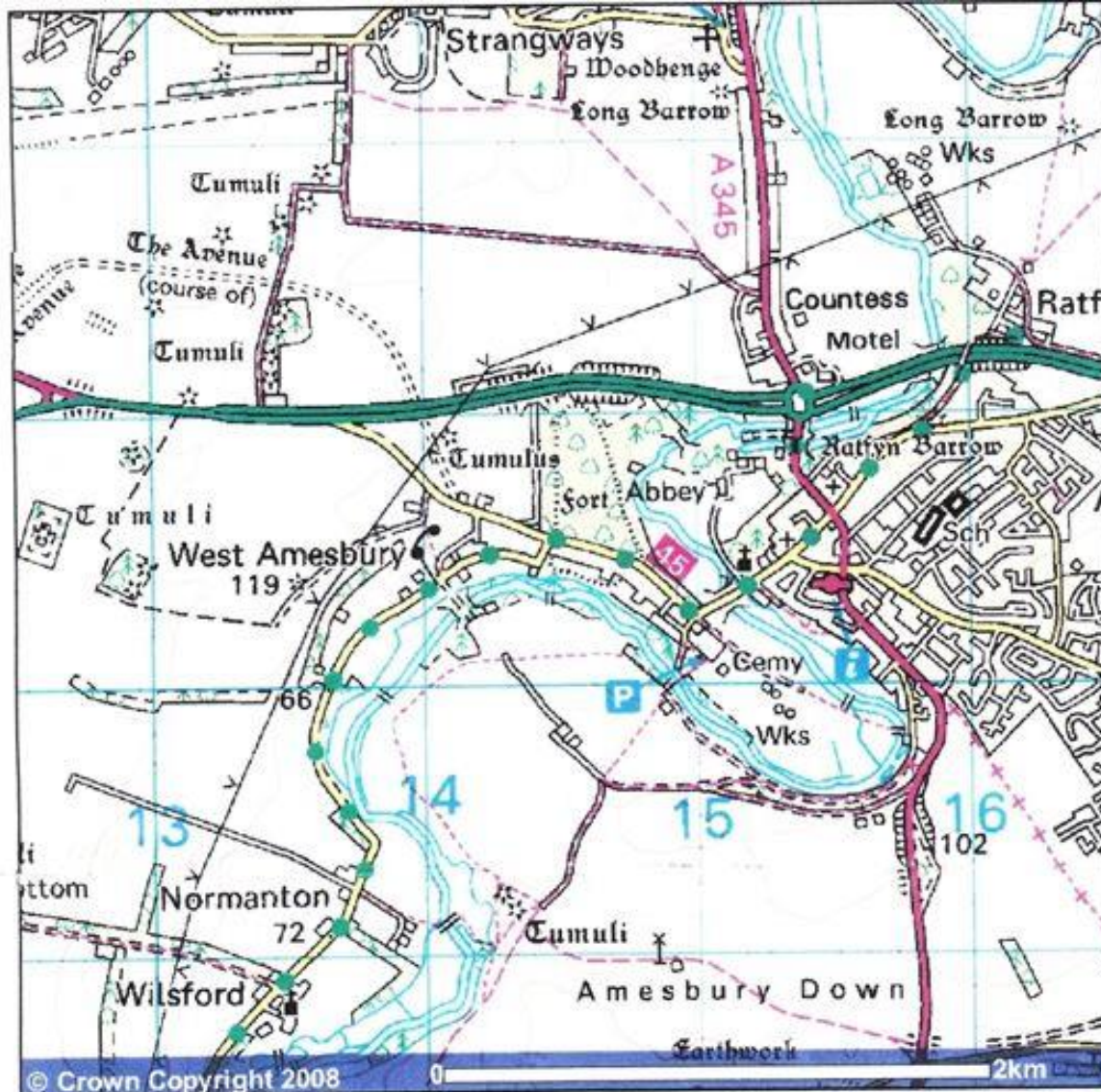
II:2. *Flat ax left, flanged ax right.*



PHOTO: ENGLISH HERITAGE

LEFT *Pottery funerary vessels of the early Bronze Age, of the sort found in burial mounds surrounding Stonehenge (Devizes Museum)*

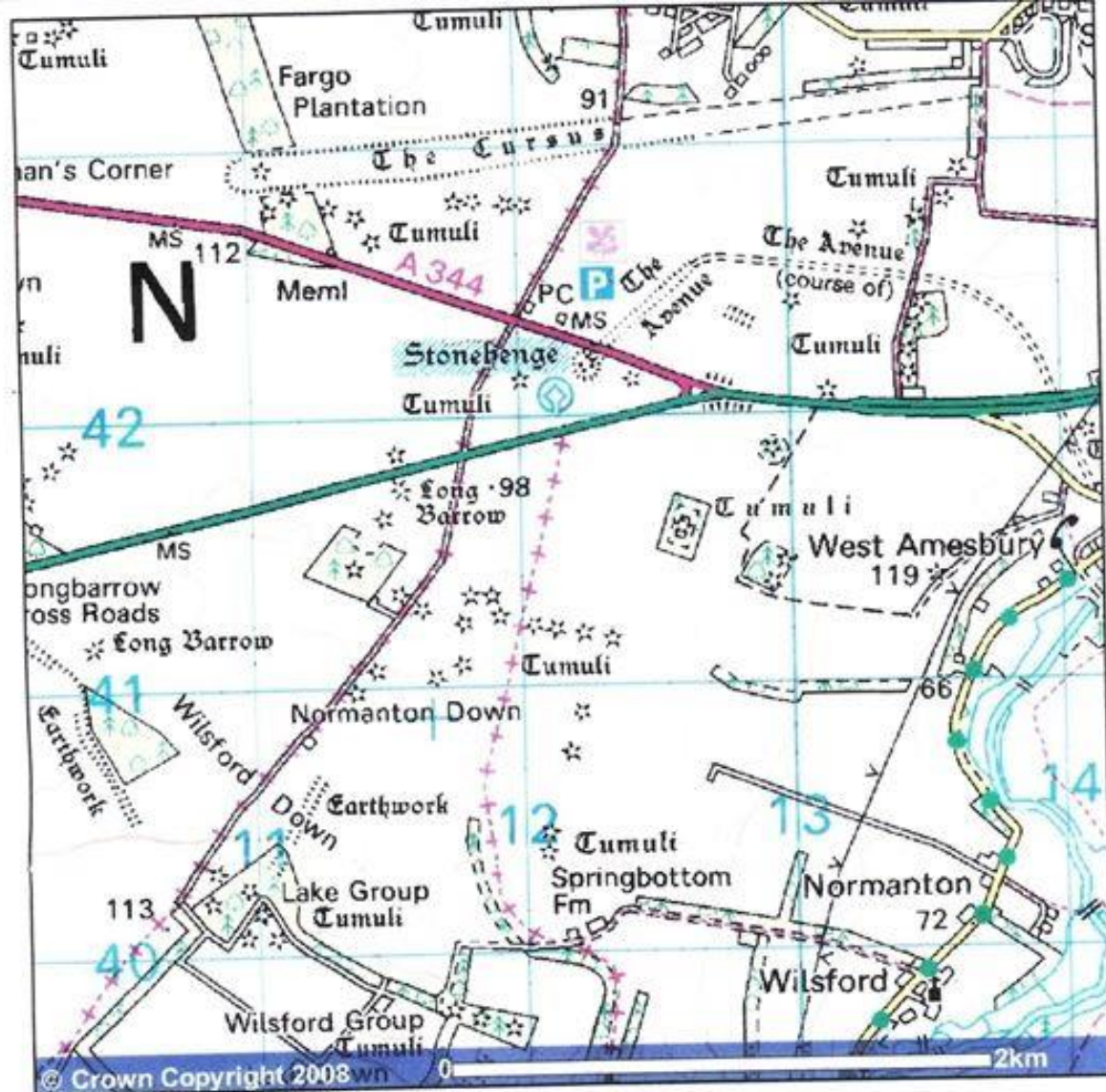




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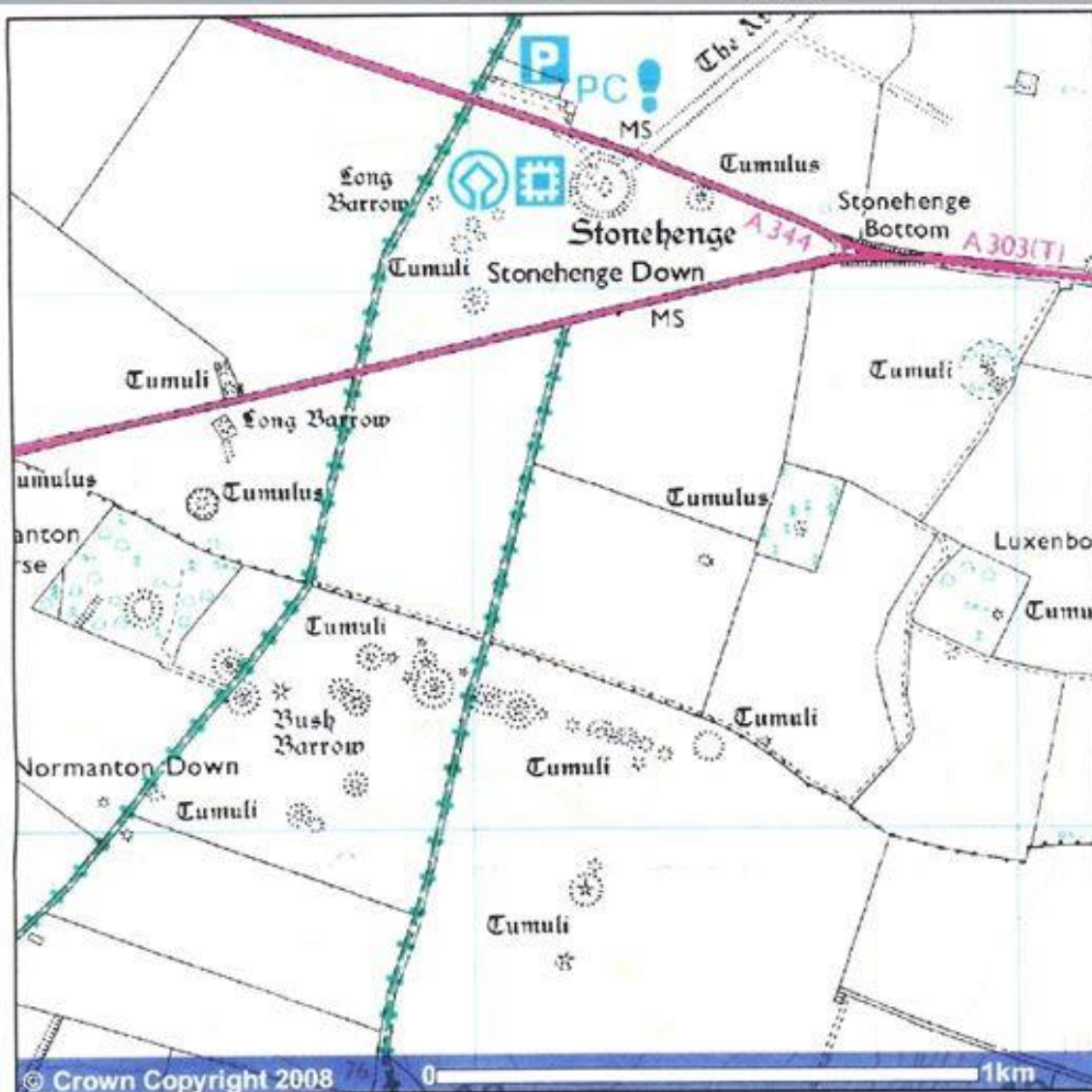
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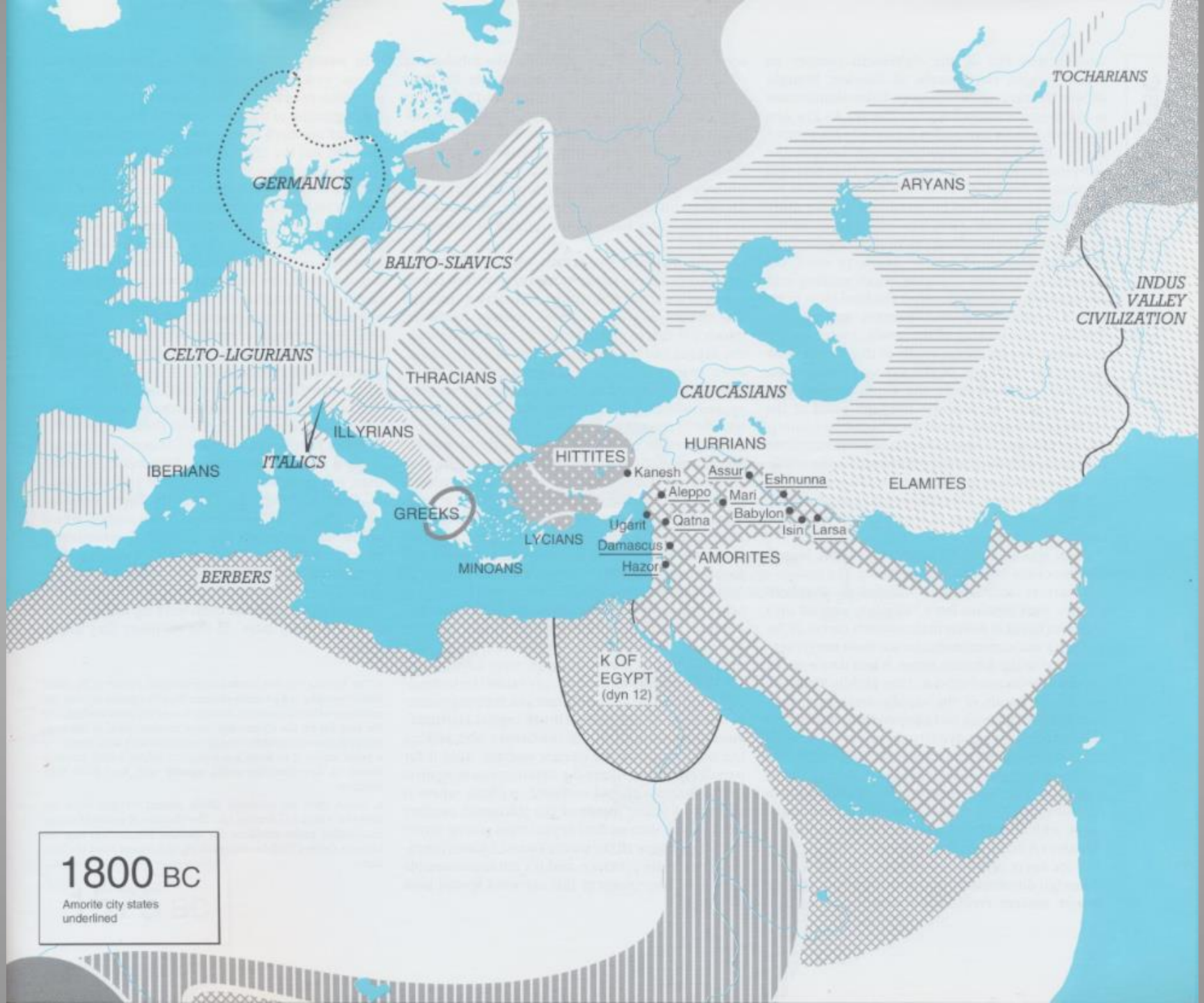
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TOCHARIANS

GERMANICS

ARYANS

BALTO-SLAVICS

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

CELTO-LIGURIANS

THRACIANS

CAUCASIANS

ILLYRIANS

HURRIANS

IBERIANS

ITALICS

HITTITES

ELAMITES

GREEKS

LYCIANS

AMORITES

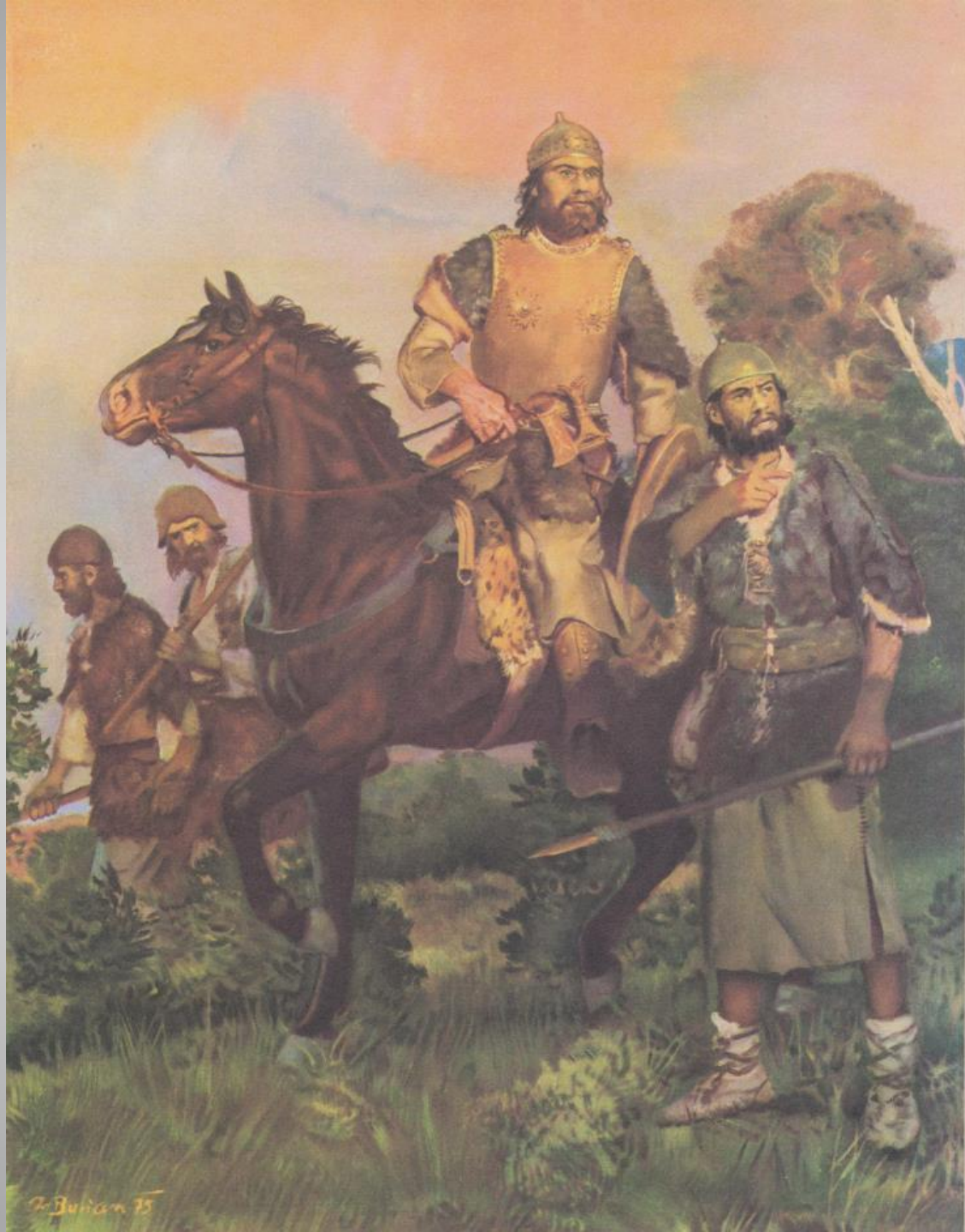
BERBERS

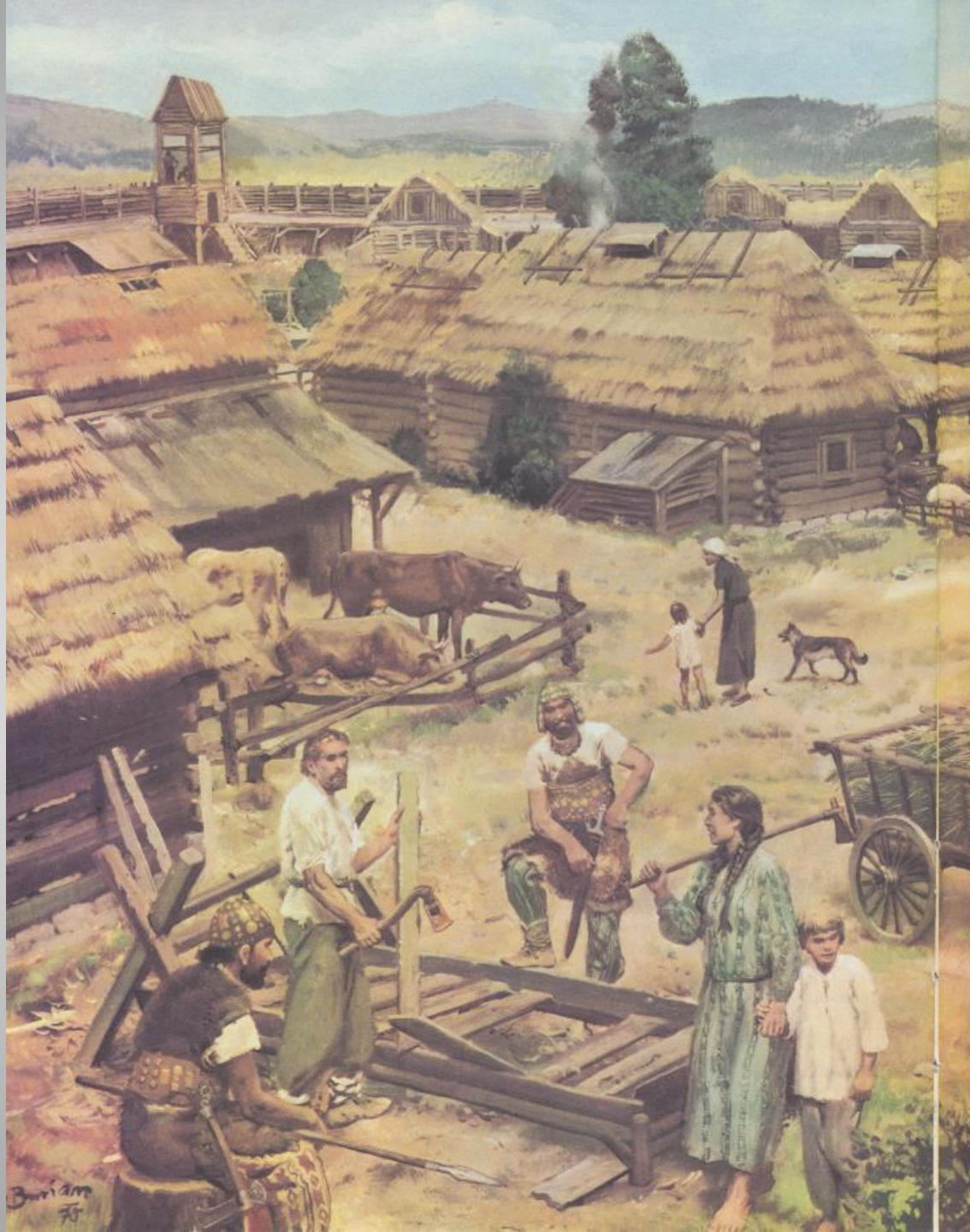
MINOANS

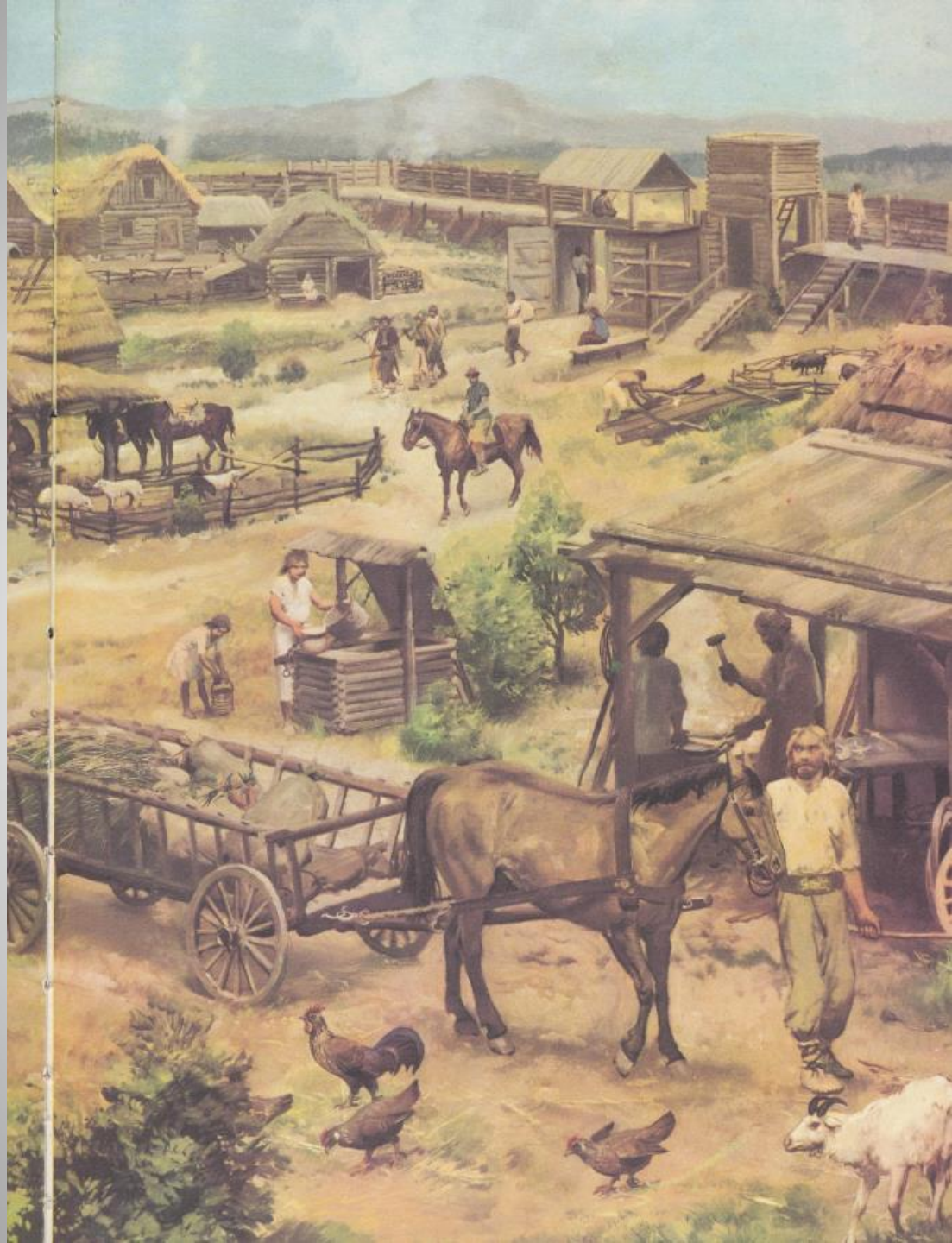
K OF EGYPT (dyn 12)

1800 BC

Amorite city states underlined







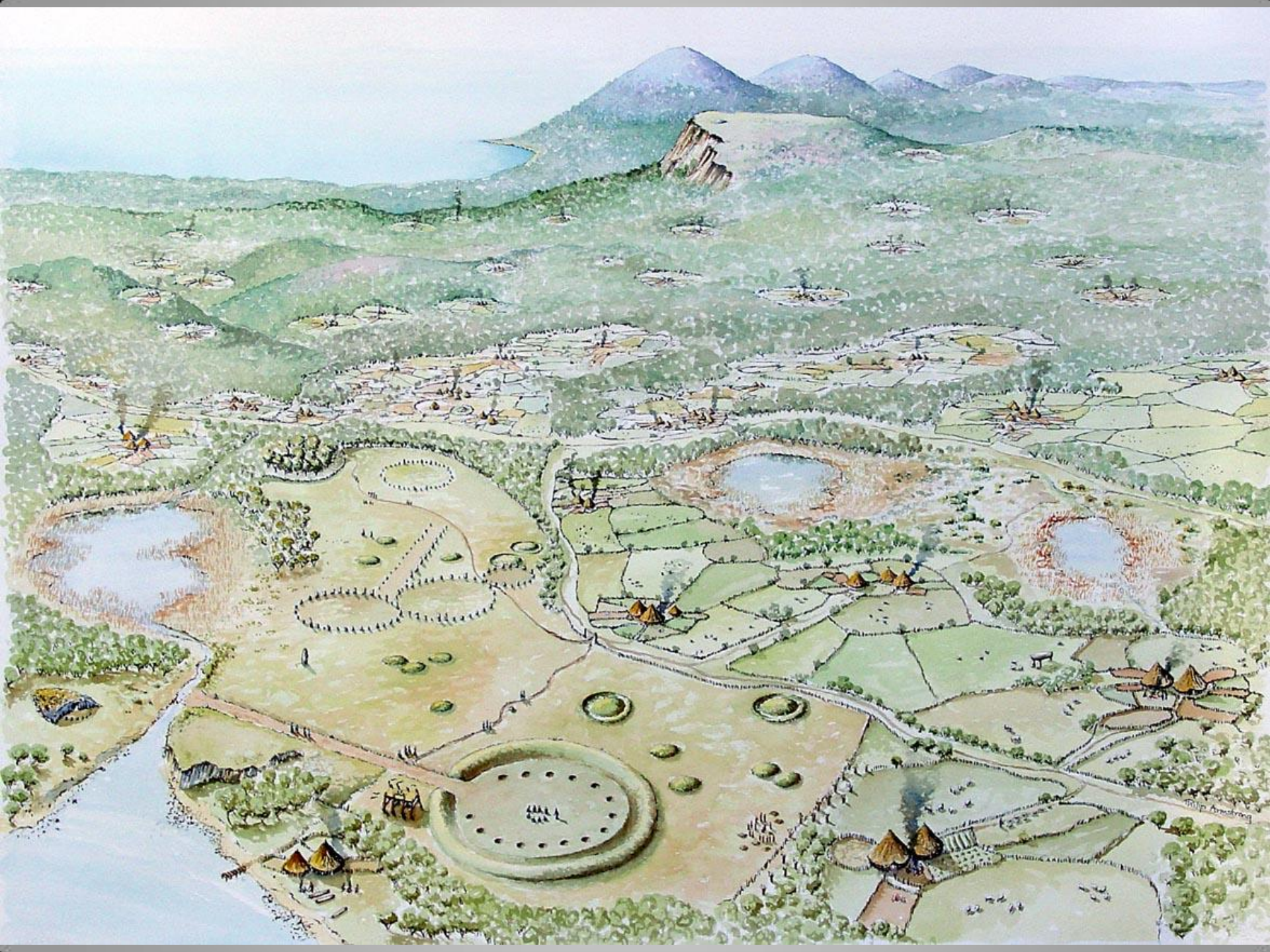


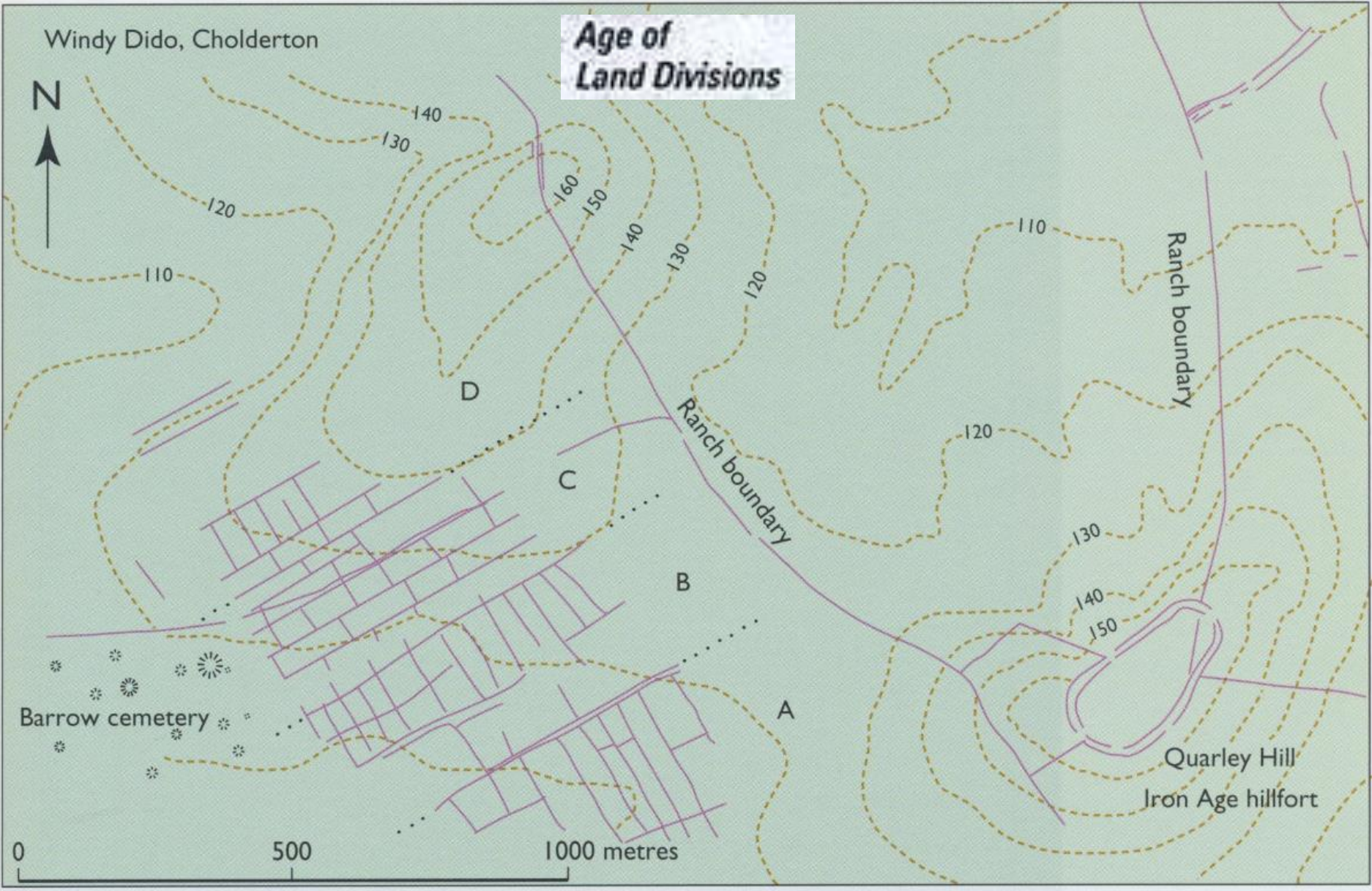








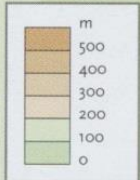
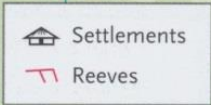
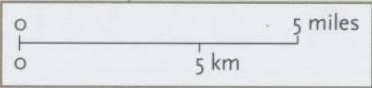
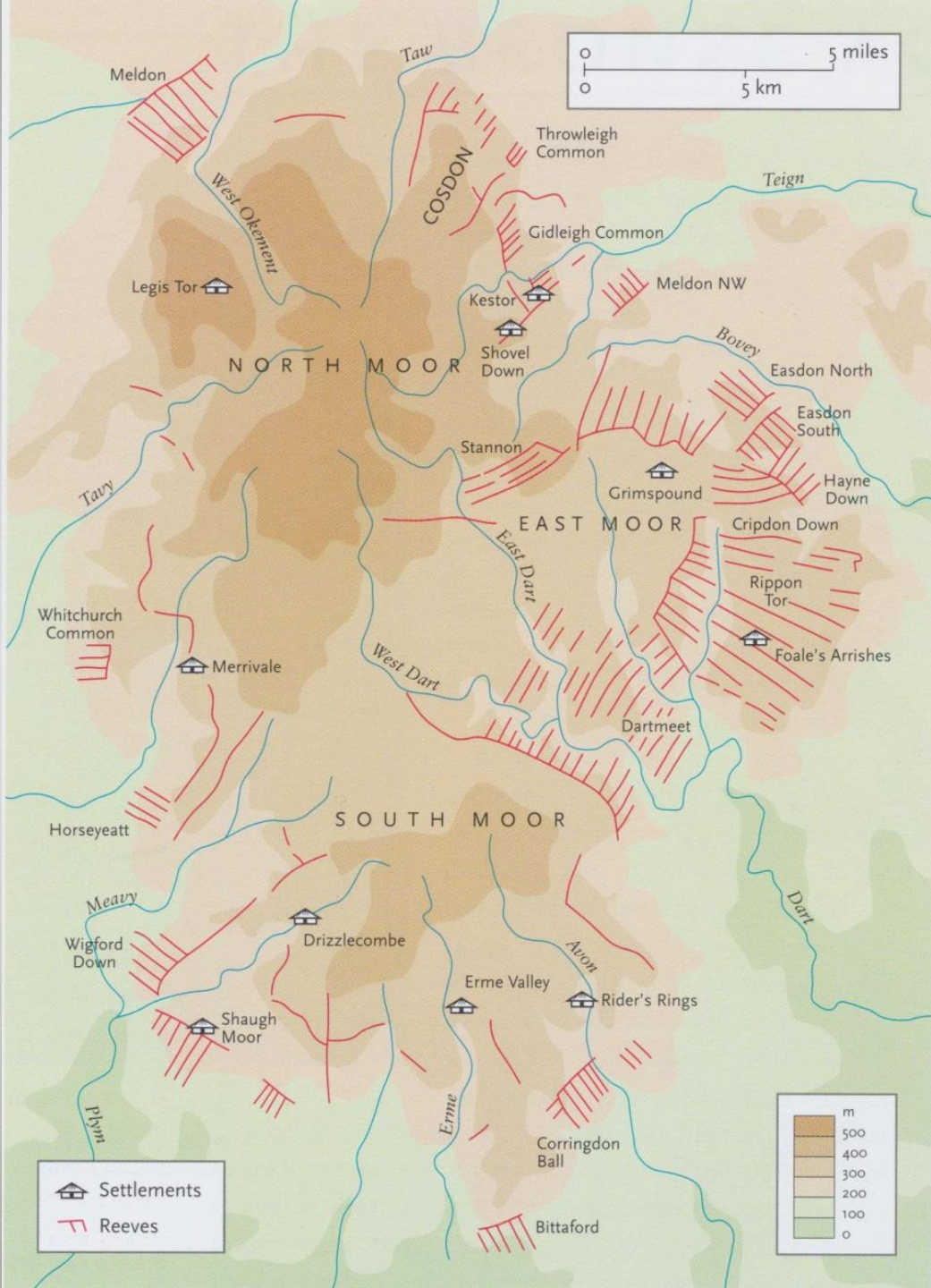


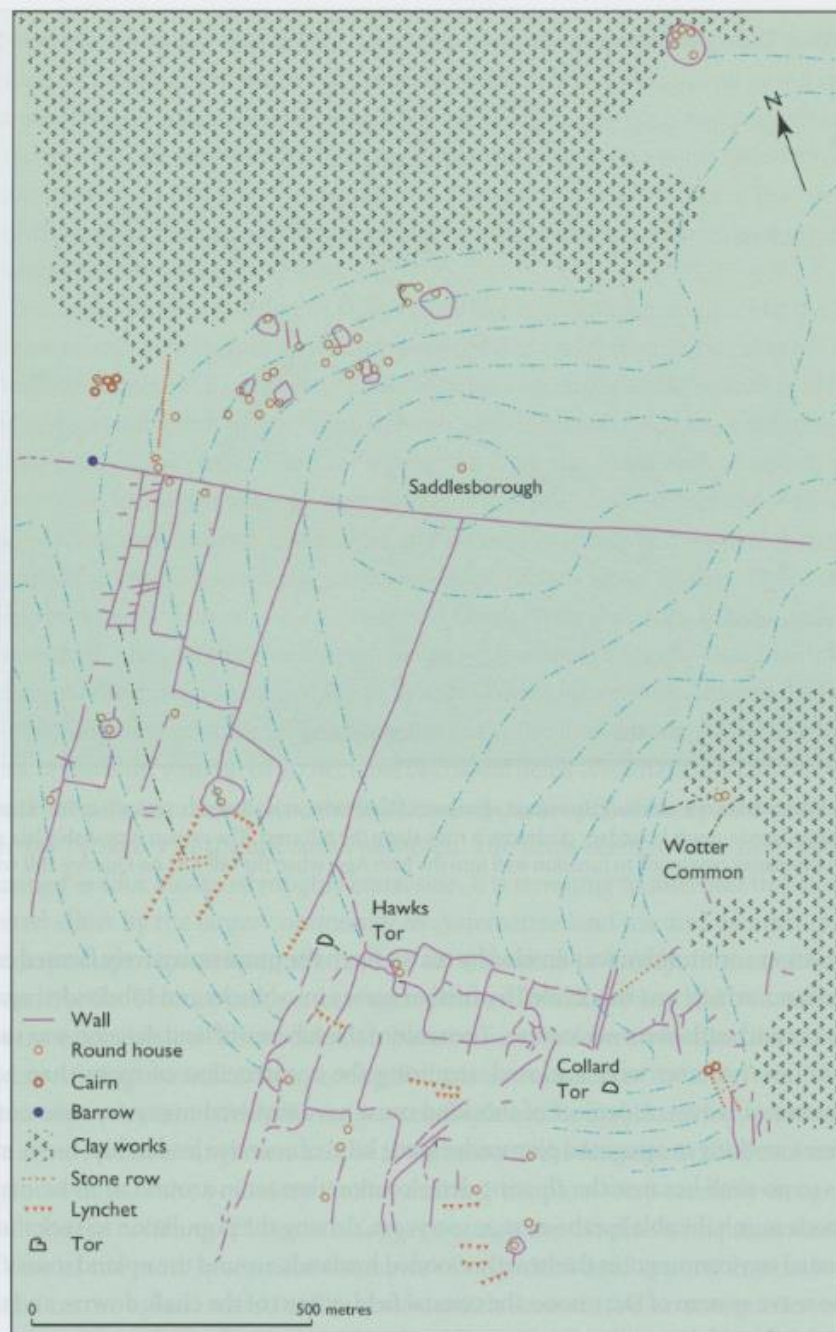


8.1 At Windy Dido, on the chalk downland of western Hampshire, it is possible to trace four blocks of regularly laid-out fields spreading downslope from a ranch boundary ditch which runs along the hill crest. The system is probably late second millennium BC in date. The ranch boundaries continued to function well into the Iron Age, when the hill-fort on Quarley Hill was built



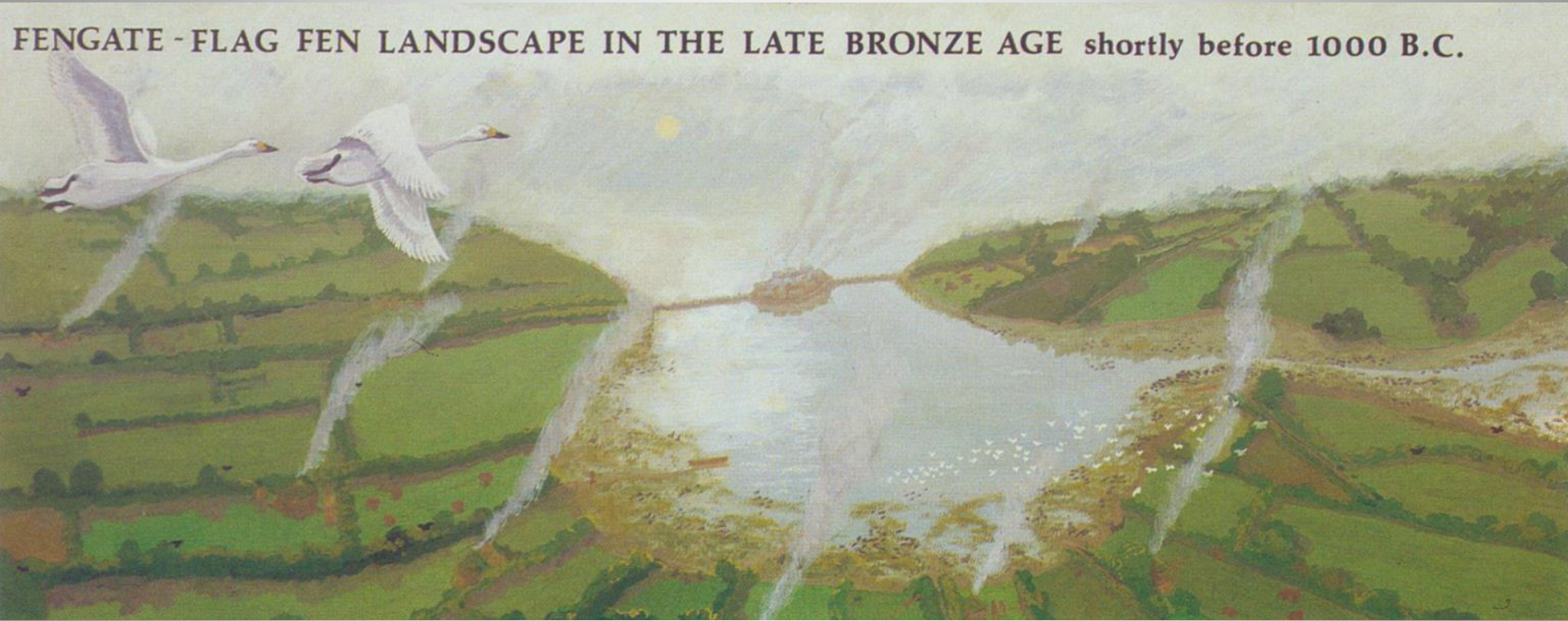
8.3 Part of the system of parallel reaves at Rippon Tor, Horridge Common, Dartmoor





8.2 The system of reaves, paddocks, and settlements on Shaugh Moor and Wotter Common on Dartmoor dates largely to the late second and early first millennium BC

FENGATE - FLAG FEN LANDSCAPE IN THE LATE BRONZE AGE shortly before 1000 B.C.



FRANCIS PRYOR



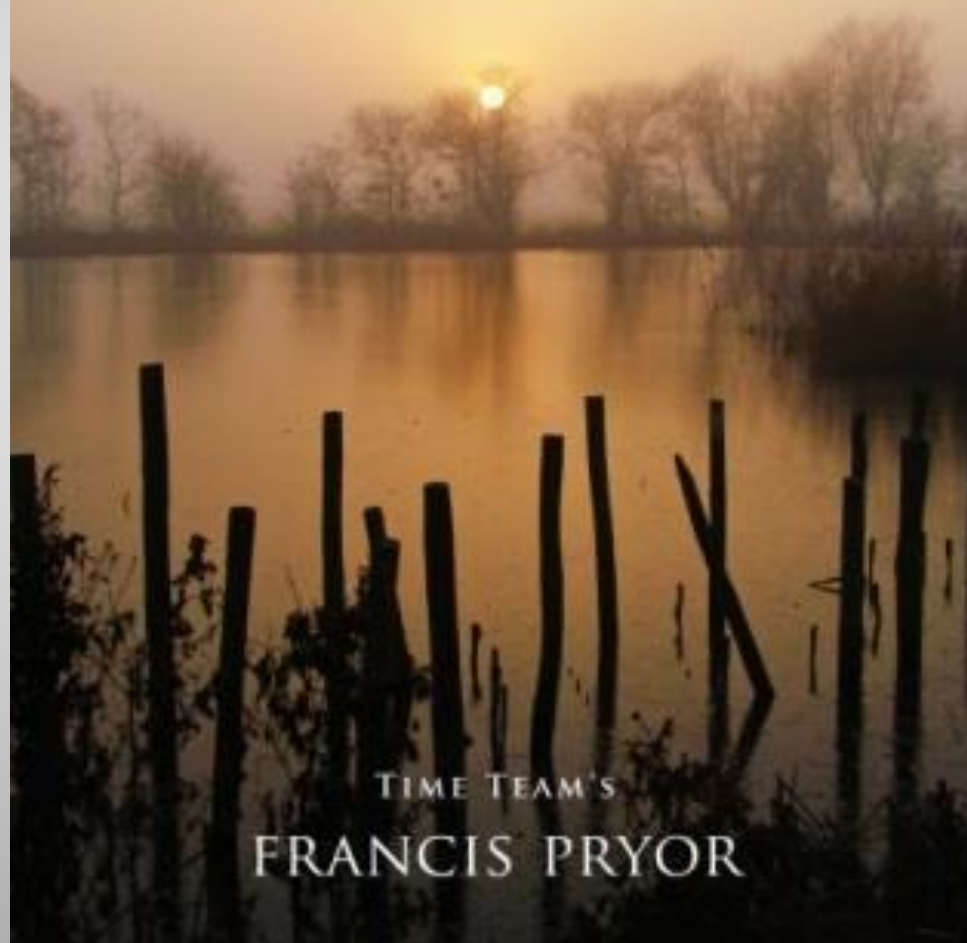
FLAG FEN



LIFE AND DEATH OF A PREHISTORIC LANDSCAPE

FLAG FEN

A CONCISE
ARCHÆOGUIDE



TIME TEAM'S

FRANCIS PRYOR

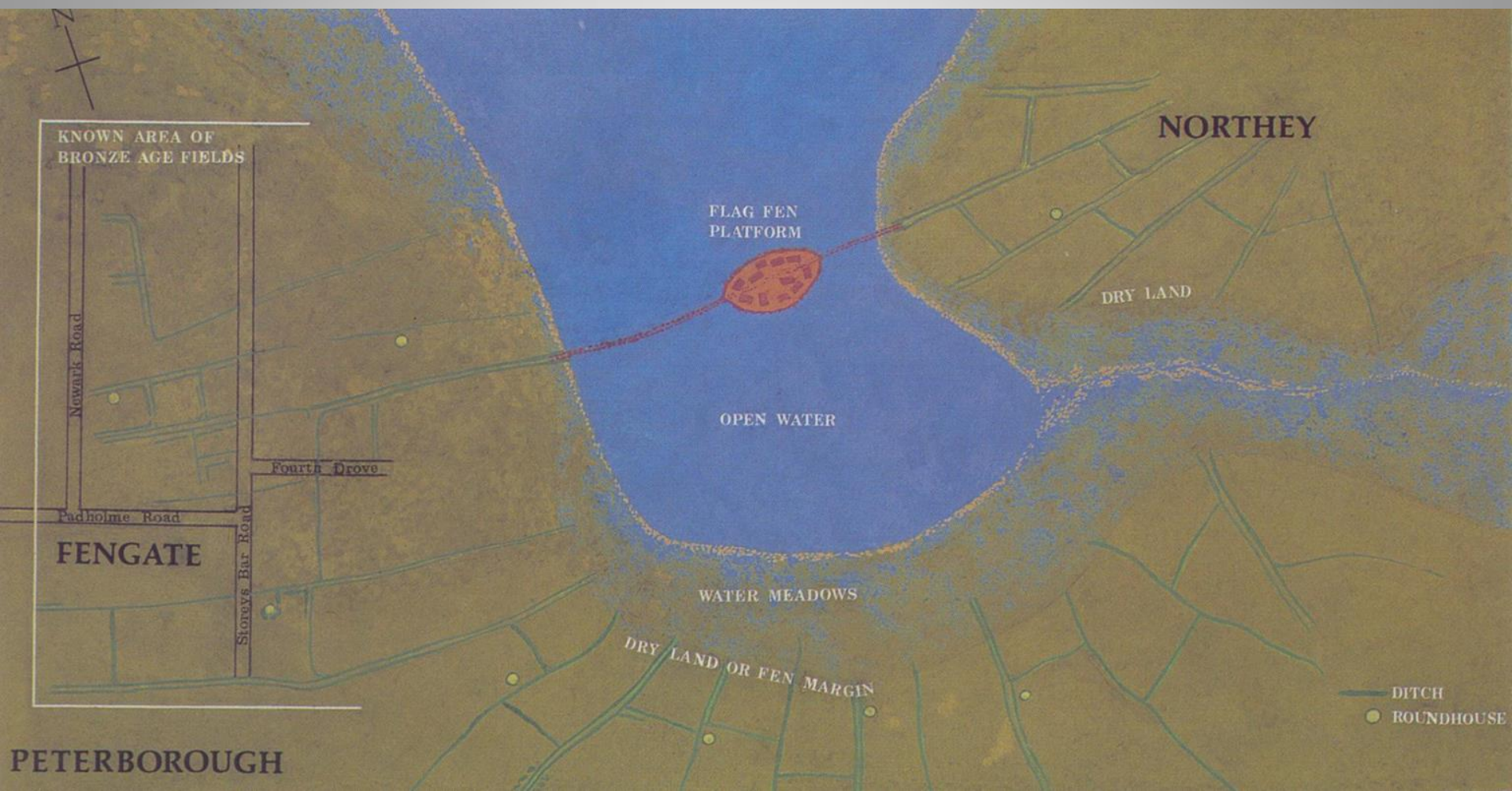
Flag Fen video











KNOWN AREA OF
BRONZE AGE FIELDS

NORTHEY

FLAG FEN
PLATFORM

DRY LAND

OPEN WATER

FENGATE

WATER MEADOWS

DRY LAND OR FEN MARGIN

DITCH
ROUNDHOUSE

PETERBOROUGH



- Distribution of stone circles
 - Distribution of Late Bronze Age regional metalworking traditions
- Distribution of mineral resources*
- △ Copper
 - △ Gold
 - △ Silver
 - △ Tin
 - △ Shale
 - △ Jet
 - ▽ Copper mine
- Distribution of Early Bronze Age elite burials
 - Major Middle Bronze Age enclosure
 - Late Bronze Age circular enclosure
- Other sites*
- Barrow or cairn
 - Stone circle
 - Chambered tomb
 - Wedge tomb
 - Fort
 - Other important site

Bronze Age Britain

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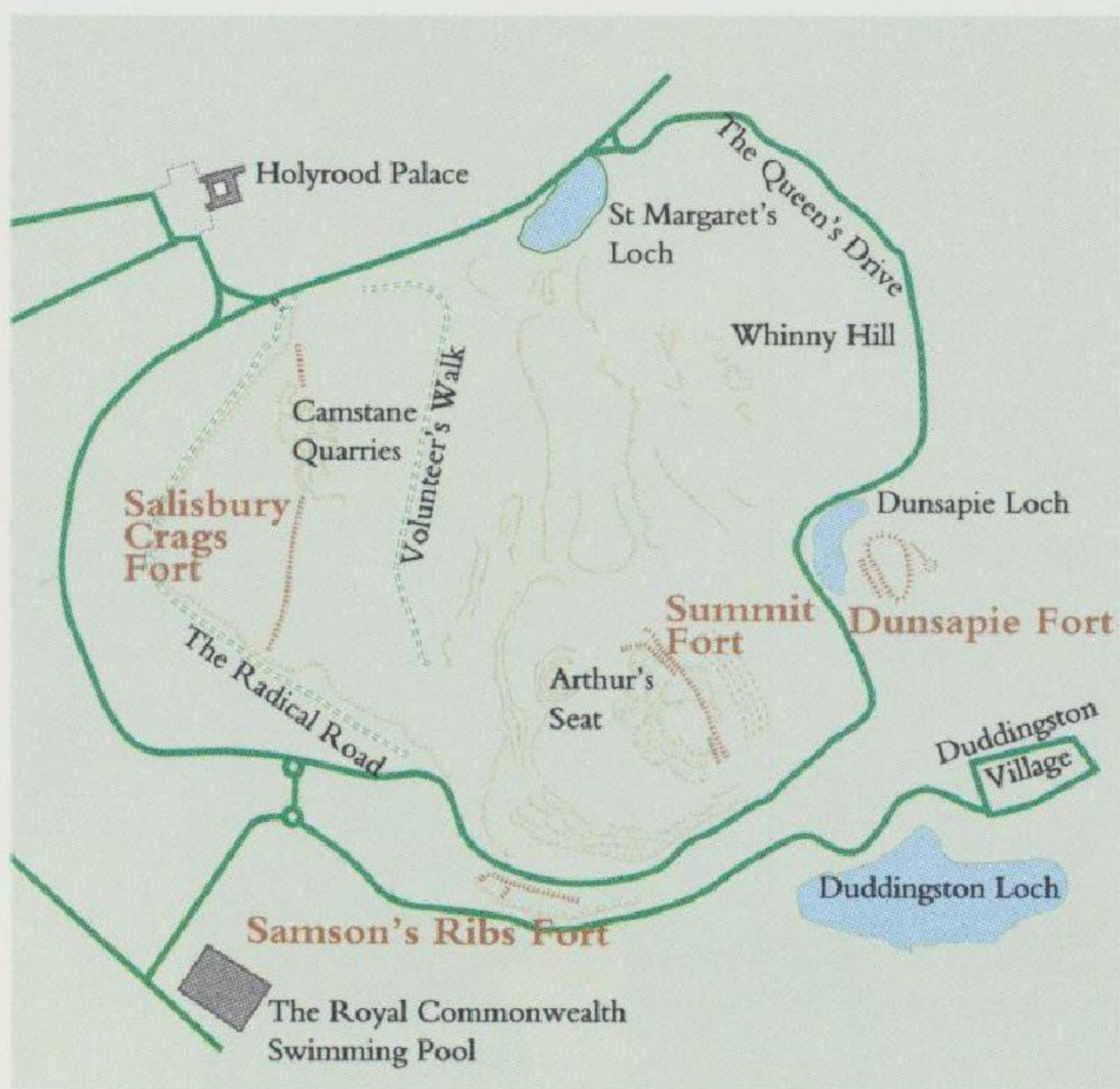


Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh



Holyrood Park today with the principal landmarks. Main roads are shown in red, tarmac footpaths in purple.

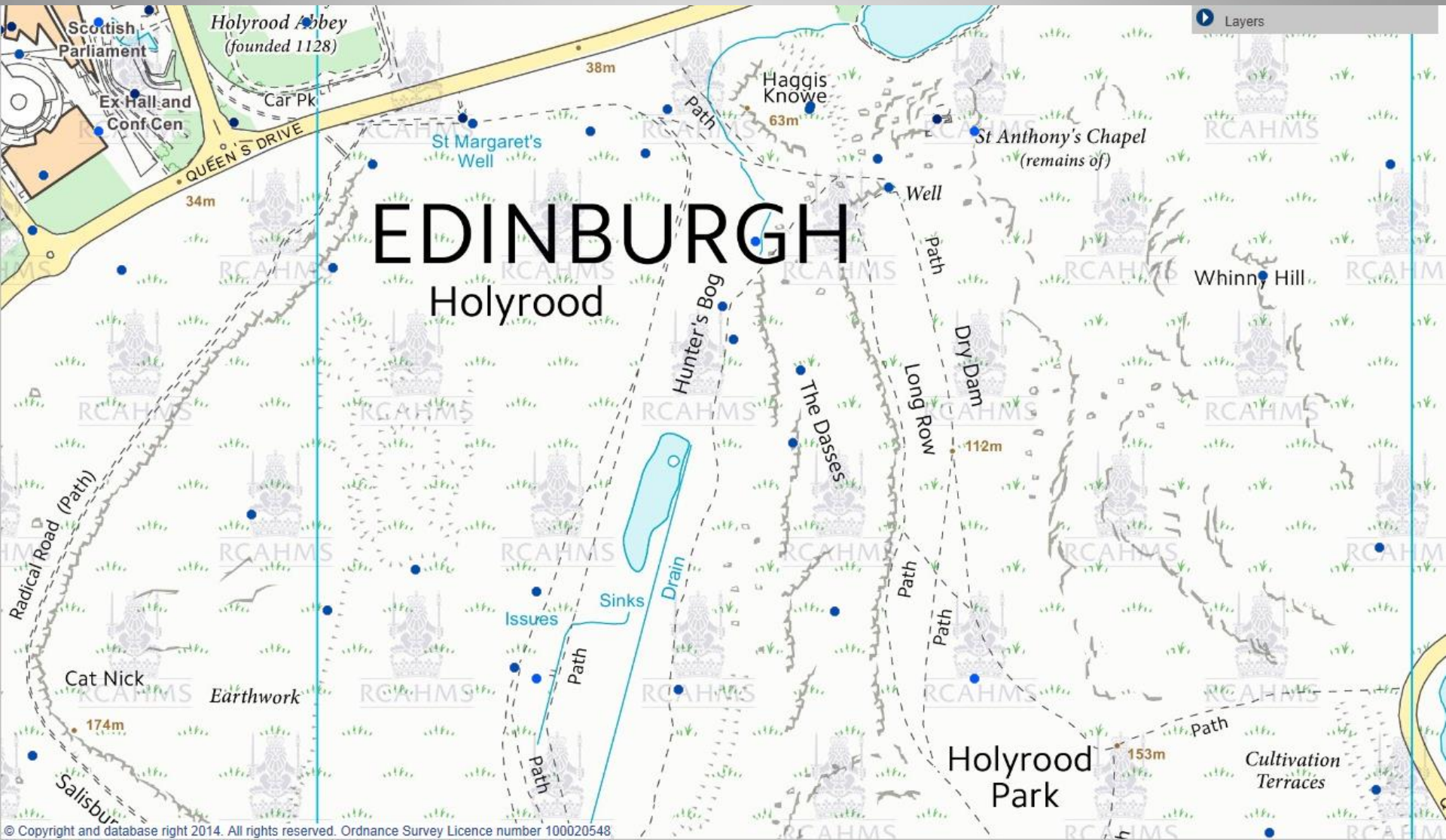
P Main carparks.



The locations of the fortifications in the Park.

Arthur's Seat video





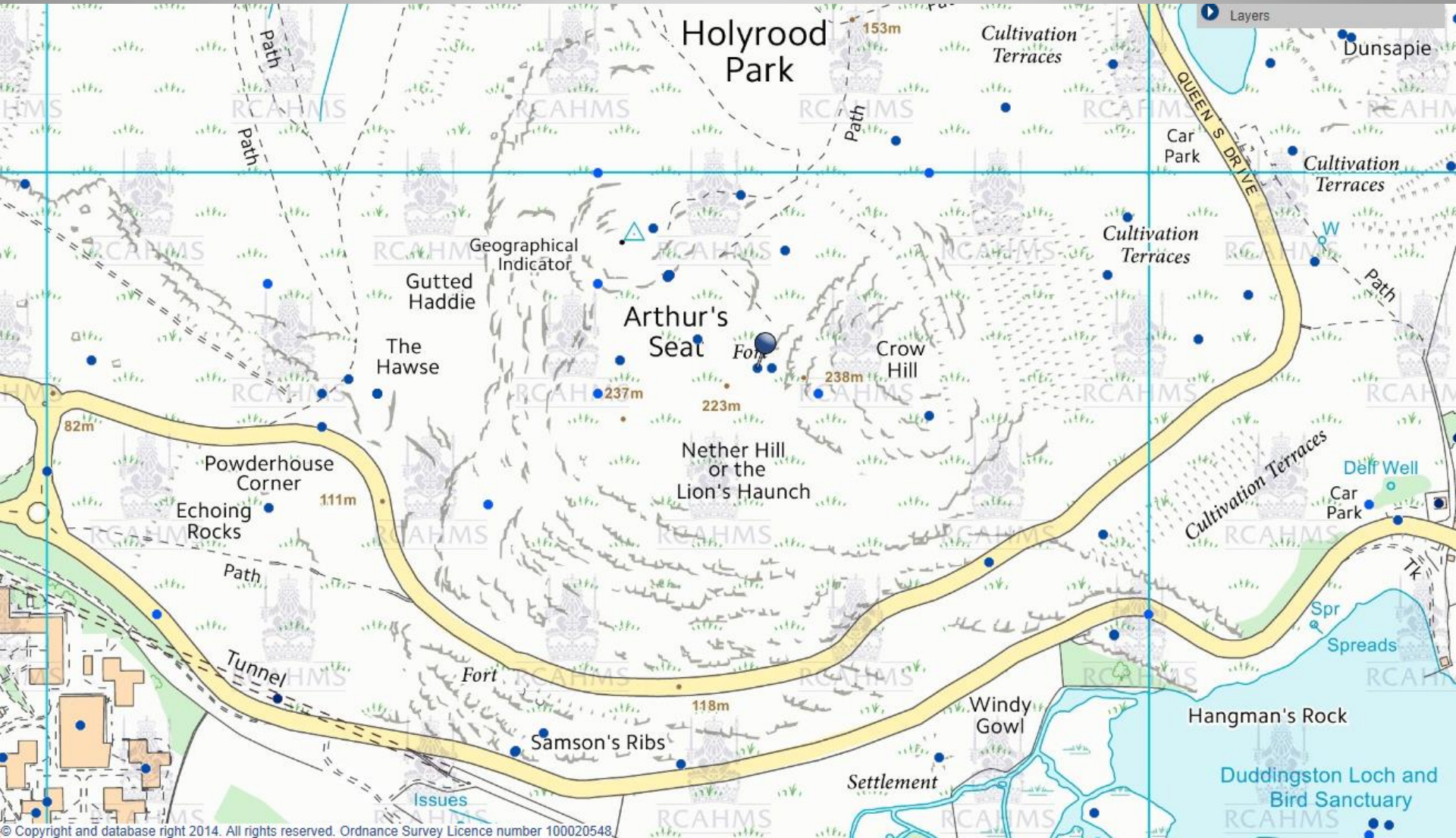
EDINBURGH

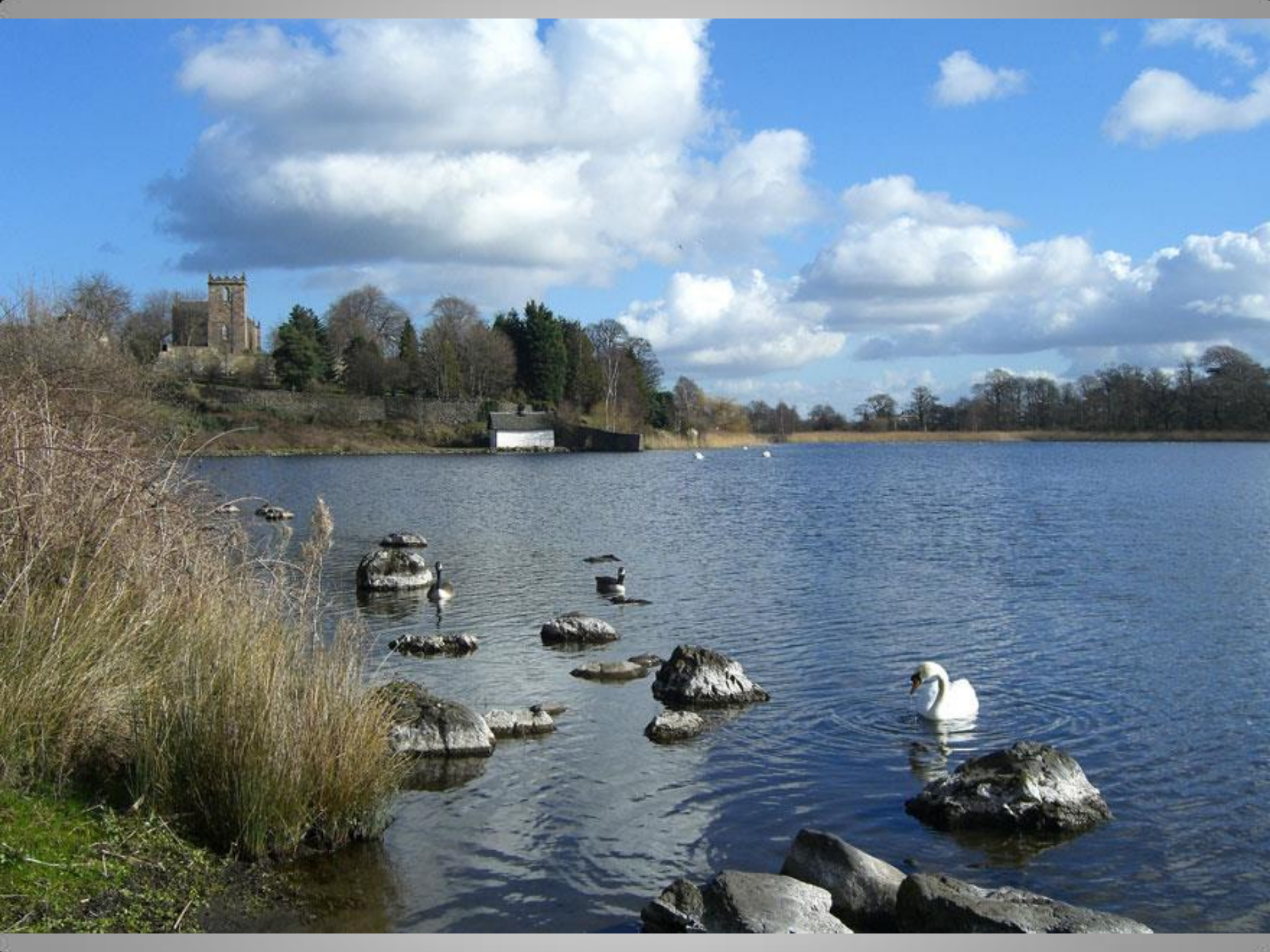
Holyrood

Layers

(below) An artist's reconstruction of the fort on Salisbury Crags.

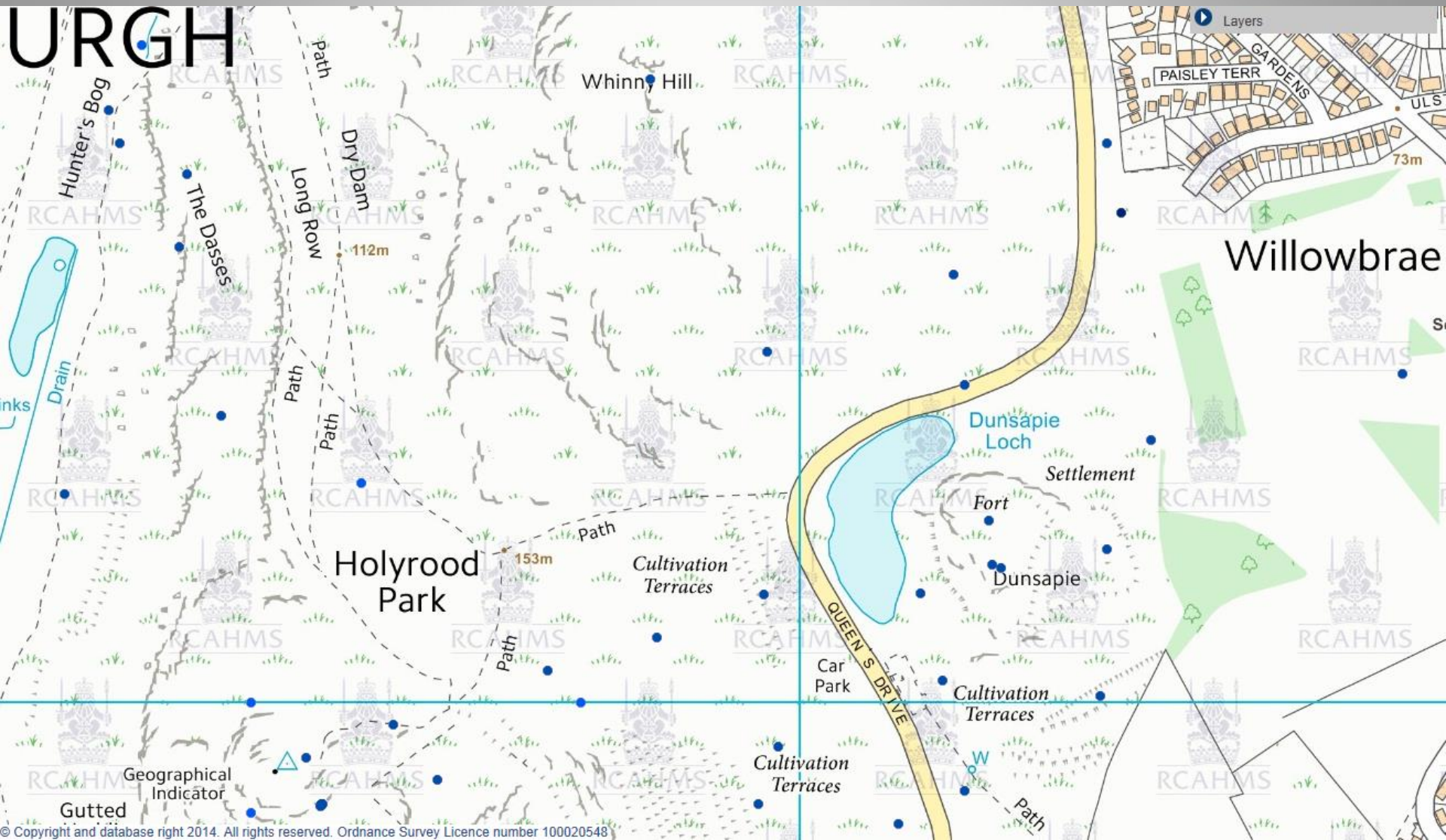


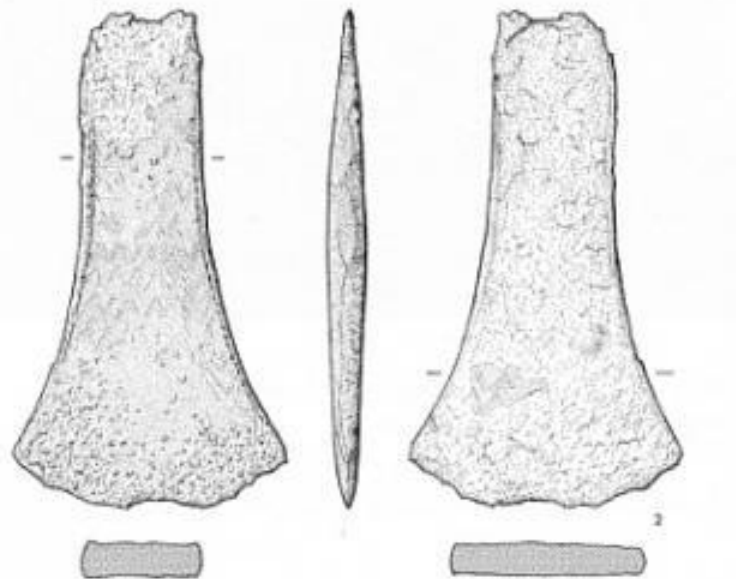
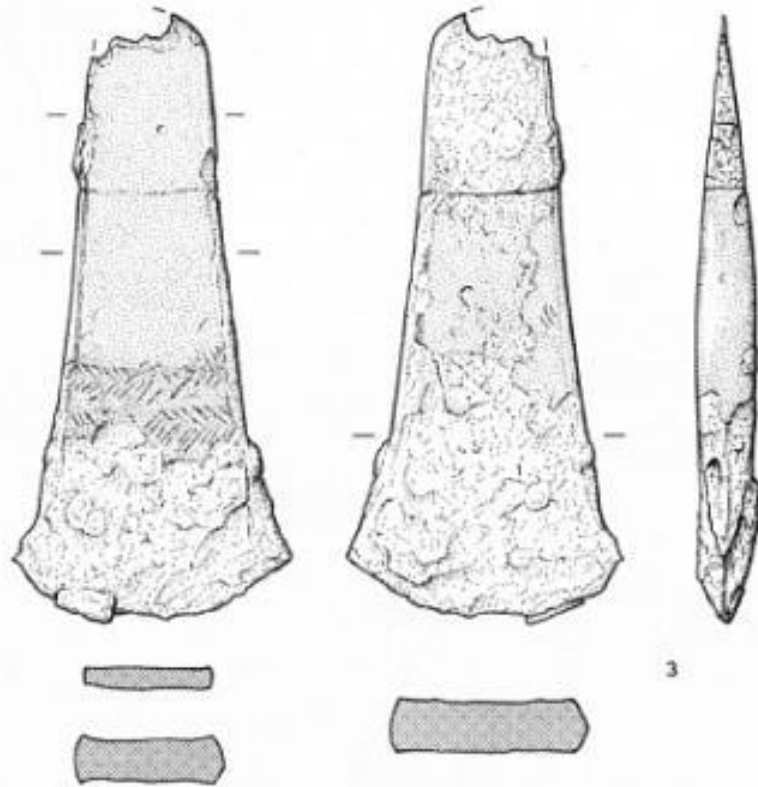
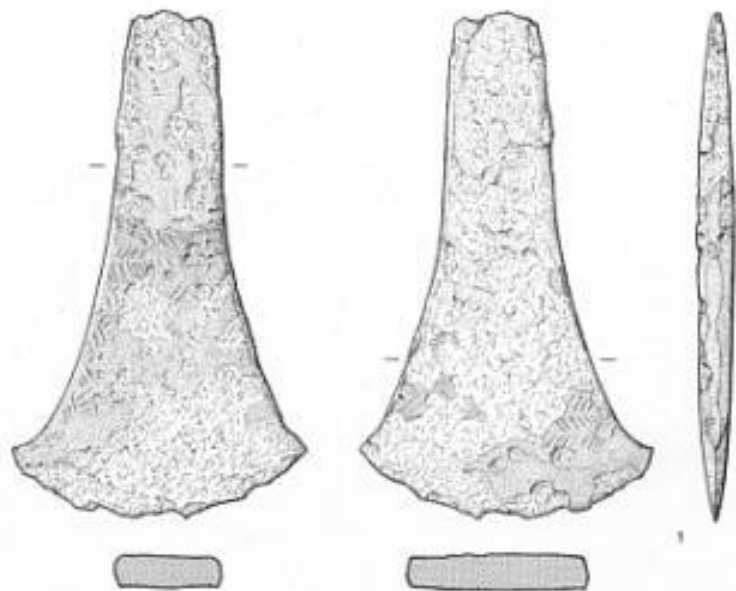






URGH





mentation

resources

and

ents

ARF

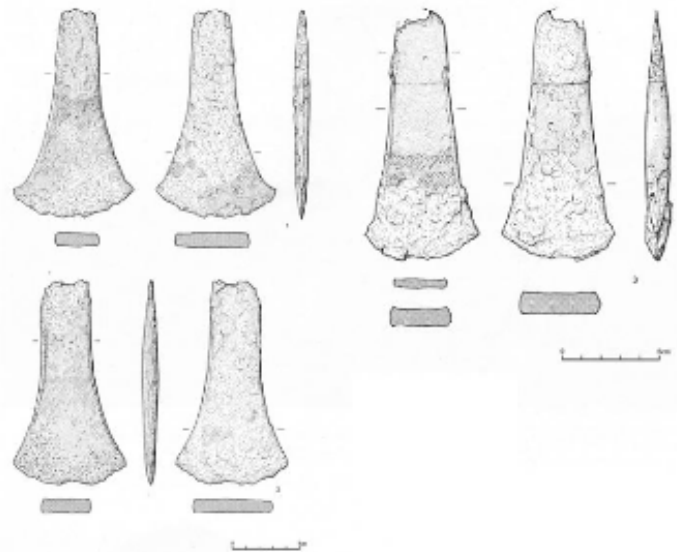
associated with them.

Other eye-catching features of the natural landscape, for example rock outcrops, mountain tops, mountain passes and caves, were also a focus of votive deposition. For instance, a hoard of three Early Bronze Age flat axes was found below the summit of Arthur's Seat on Dunsapie Crag, Edinburgh (Cowie 2004), while two further artefacts of the same type were found in the Pass of Ballater, Aberdeenshire (Ralston 1974, 77-78). In the Sculptor's Cave at Covesea, Moray, a large quantity of bronze objects and human remains were retrieved (see the ScARF Case Study : [Sculptor's cave, Covesea](#)). The stairwell and paved entranceway at High Pasture Cave on the Isle of Skye probably date to the Iron Age, but there is evidence for activity at this site during the Late Bronze Age including – possibly – feasting and metalworking. On Orkney, souterrains – underground dry-stone walled chambers accessed via a long, narrow passage – may have provided a localised and man-made equivalent of sacred caves in other areas. The souterrain at Ness Breck, Orkney, dates to the Later Bronze Age (Carruthers and Lee [forthcoming](#)).

Rock Art

It is possible that open air rock art continued to be created during this period, although it is now thought that this practice predominantly dates to Late Neolithic or earlier (e.g. Waddington 1998). The most common motifs are geometric – notably cup marks and cup-and-ring motifs. These were pecked onto outcrops and boulders.

As elsewhere along the Atlantic facade, there are concentrations of rock art in particular landscapes, for example on the



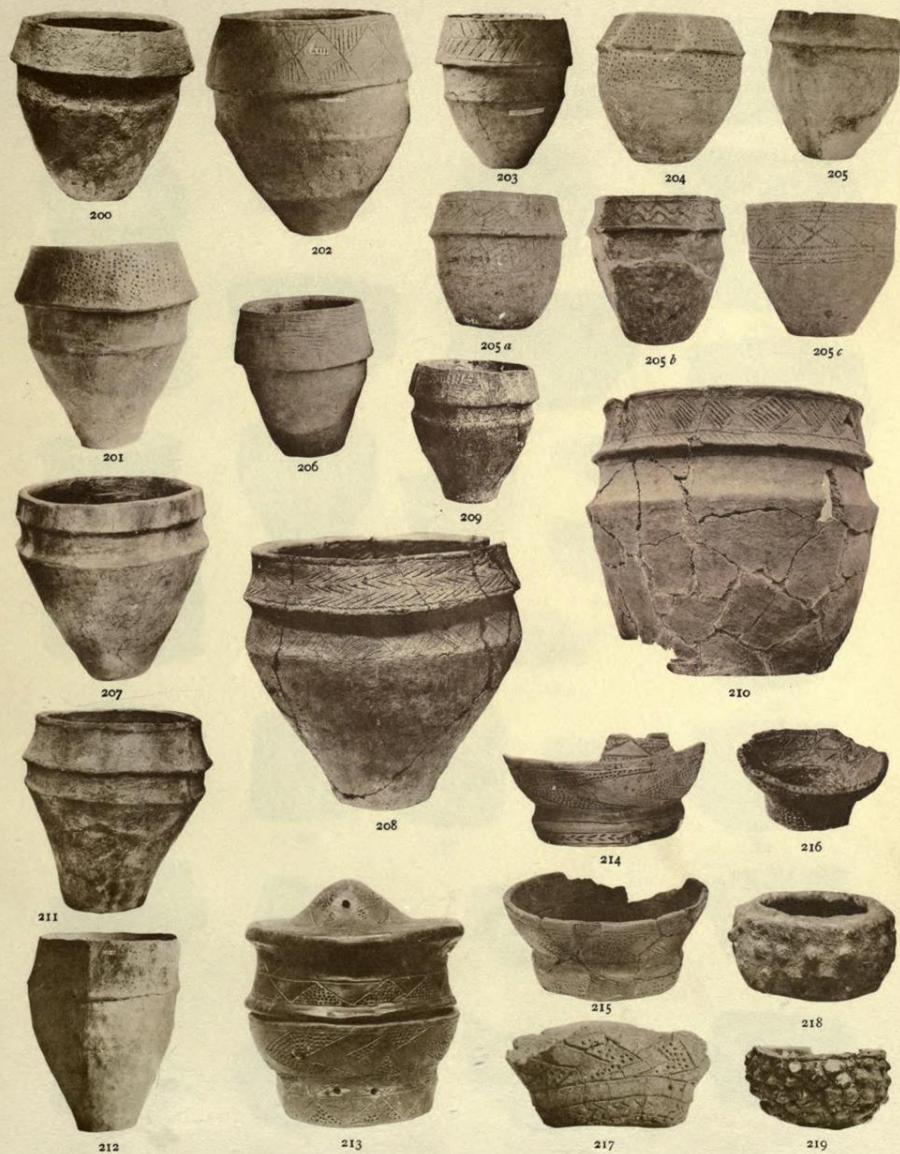
The three decorated axes from Dunsapie Crag, Edinburgh (after Cowie 2004, fig. 20.5). Axes like this were exported to Scandinavia and central Europe.



1 A reconstruction of a hut circle settlement in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh



*An artist's reconstruction of the small
scooped settlement on the back of
Dunsapie Crag.*



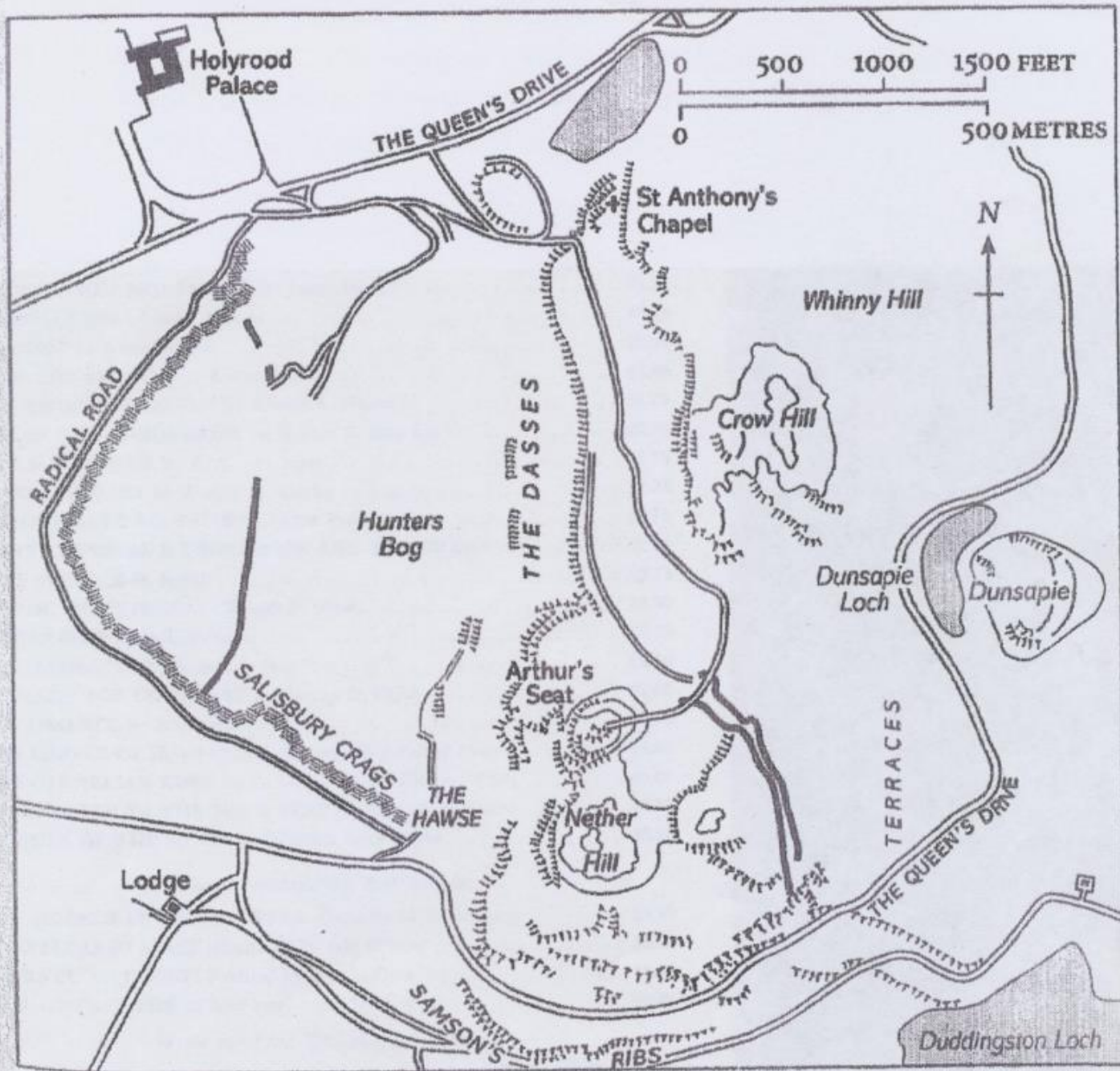
CINERARY URNS

200 Forfar, 11". 201 Clackmannan, 15½". 202 Kinross, 16½". 203 Clackmannan, 12½". 204 Lanark, 10". 205 Ayr, 11½". 205 a-205 c Great Cumbrae, 7", 7¾", 4½". 206 Midlothian. 207 Down, 14½". 208 Down, 11½". 209 Antrim, 9¾". 210 Antrim. 211 Antrim, 13". 212 Ulster (?), 14". 213 Wilts, 1½" without the cover. 214, 215 Wilts, 1½", 1½". 216 Dorset, 1½". 217 Wilts, 2¾". 218 Wilts. 219 Somerset, 1¾".



9 Iron Age cultivation of freely draining slopes in Holyrood Park. The remains of such terraces are clearly visible in the park even today

Map of monuments in Holyrood Park (after RCAHMS)





Holyrood Park today with the principal landmarks. Main roads are shown in red, tarmac footpaths in purple.

P Main carparks.



6.37 Some distinctive peripheral groups



Loanhead of Daviot, Recumbent Stone Circle (*Historic Scotland*)

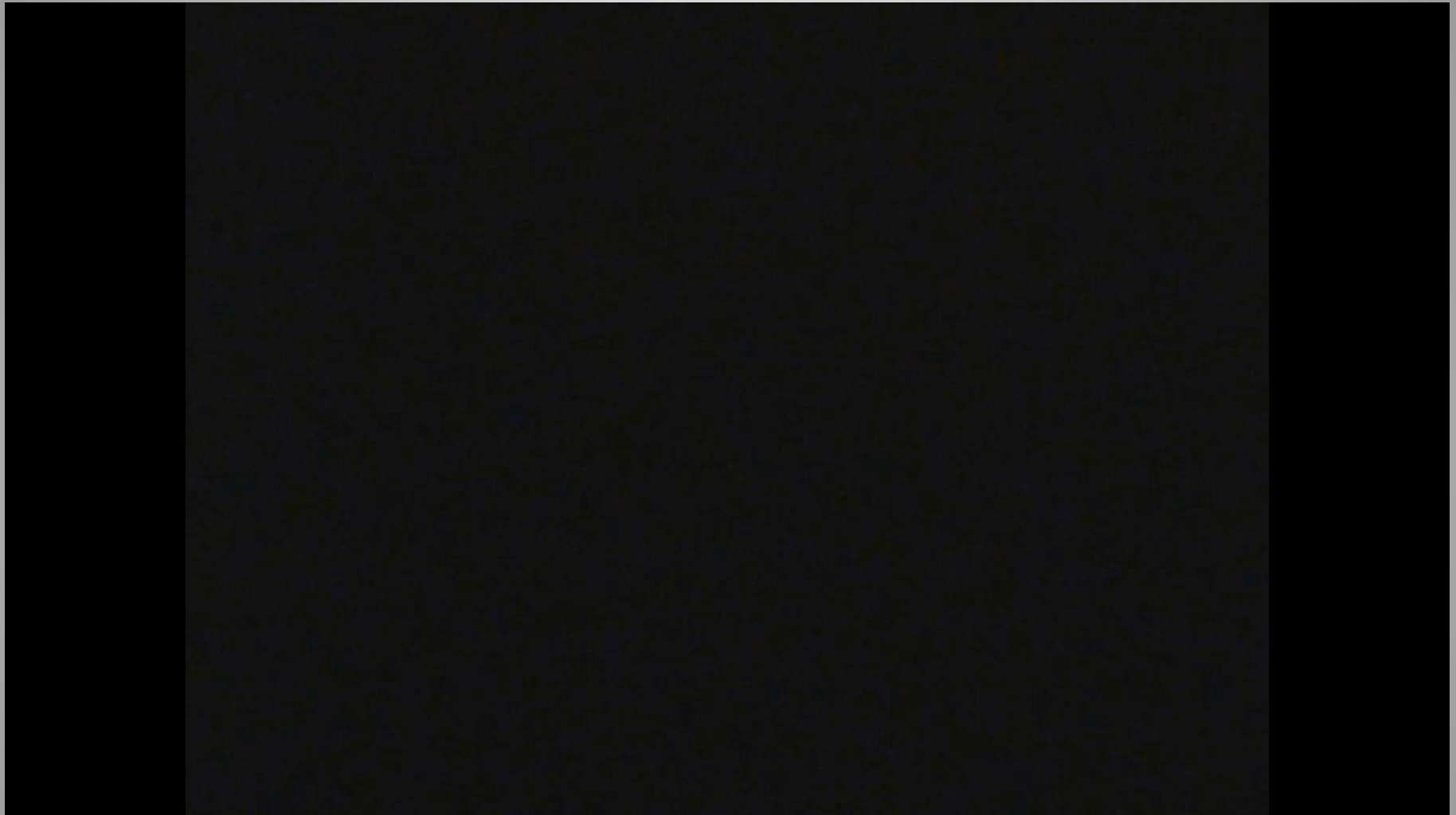
Recumbent stone circles form a tightly-knit group of Early Bronze Age monuments found in Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire. They represent the locations of rituals, which took place over a number of years, culminating in the erection of a cairn over the central area. This was followed by the erection of a stone circle, the dominant feature of which was a large horizontal stone slab flanked by the two tallest stones of the circle. Photo: © Crown copyright RCAHMS [SC 851588]





Balnuaran of Clava, Bronze Age Cairn Cemetery (*Historic Scotland*)

The Clava Cairns video

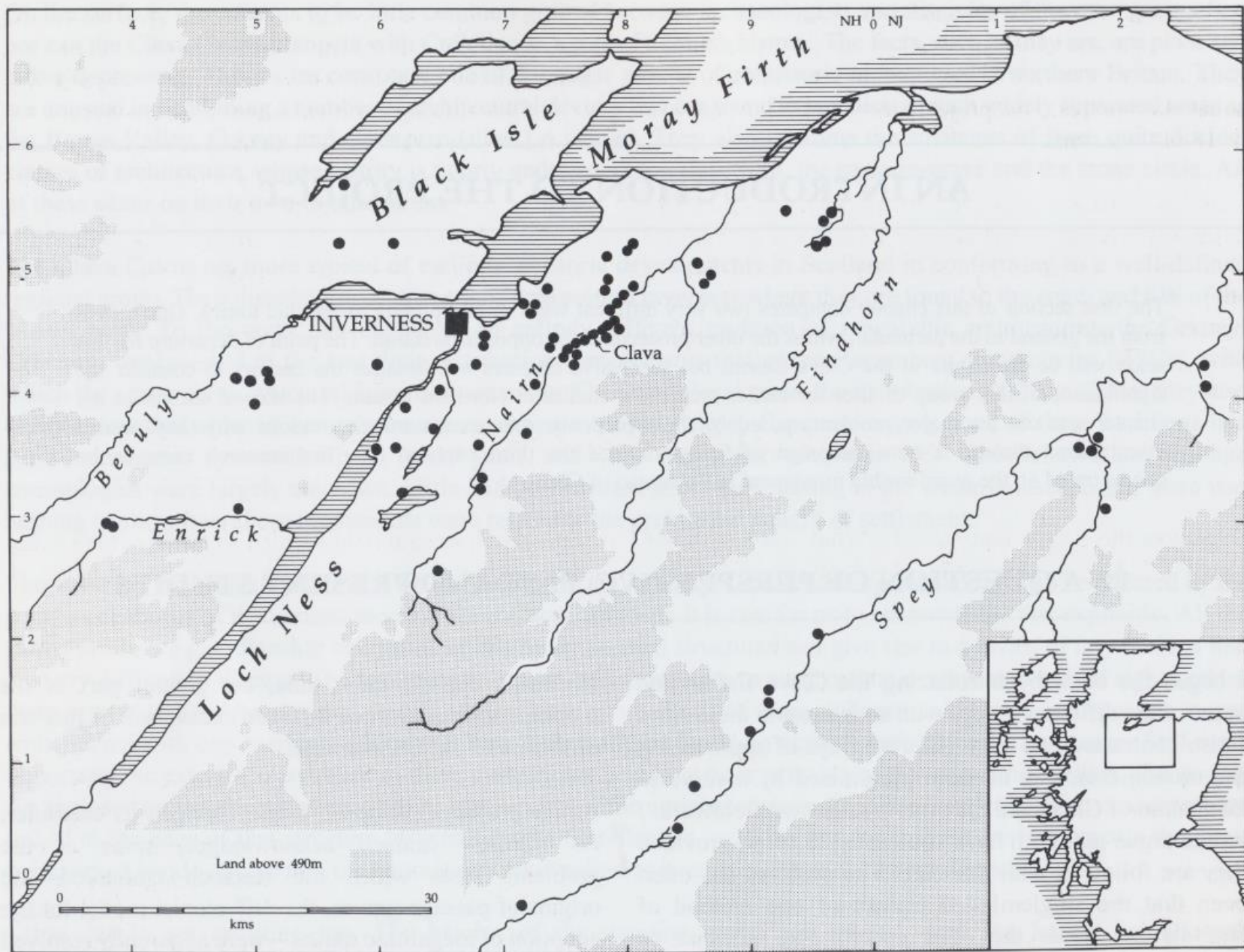




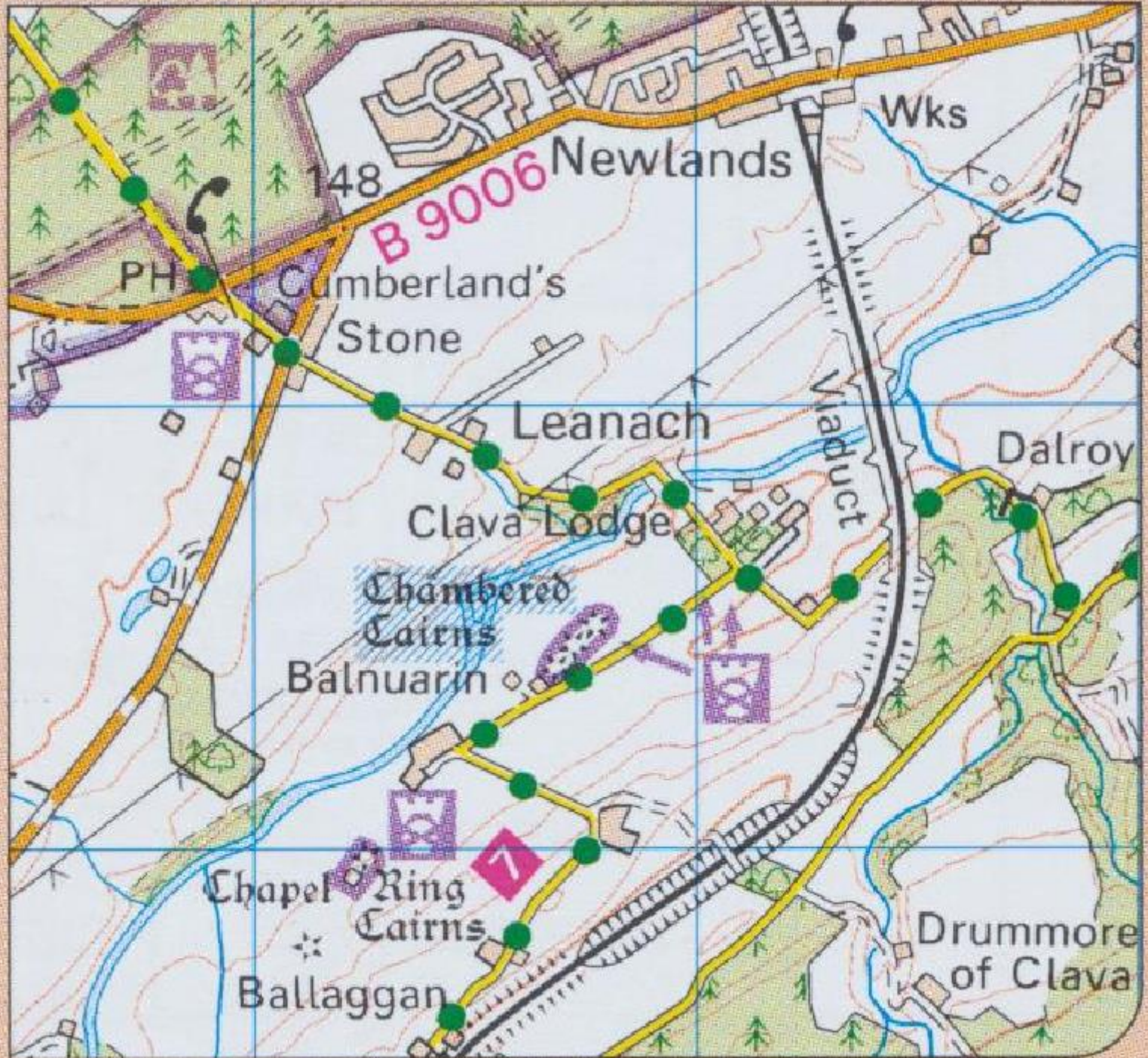
★ **Balnuaran of Clava, Bronze Age Cairn Cemetery** (*Historic Scotland*)

Excavation of this linear cemetery has shown that five of the cairns date to the Early Bronze Age, while another three were not built until the Late Bronze Age. The best-preserved of the cairns comprise two passage graves and a ring cairn, each of which is surrounded by a stone circle. These types of cairn belong to a tradition of monument building in eastern Scotland that includes the Recumbent Stone Circles of Aberdeenshire.





illus 2
 The distribution of the Clava Cairns. (Based on the Ordnance Survey map © Crown copyright)



148
B 9006 Newlands

Wks

PH

Cumberland's Stone

Leanach

Clava Lodge

Chambered Cairns

Balnuarin

Viaduct

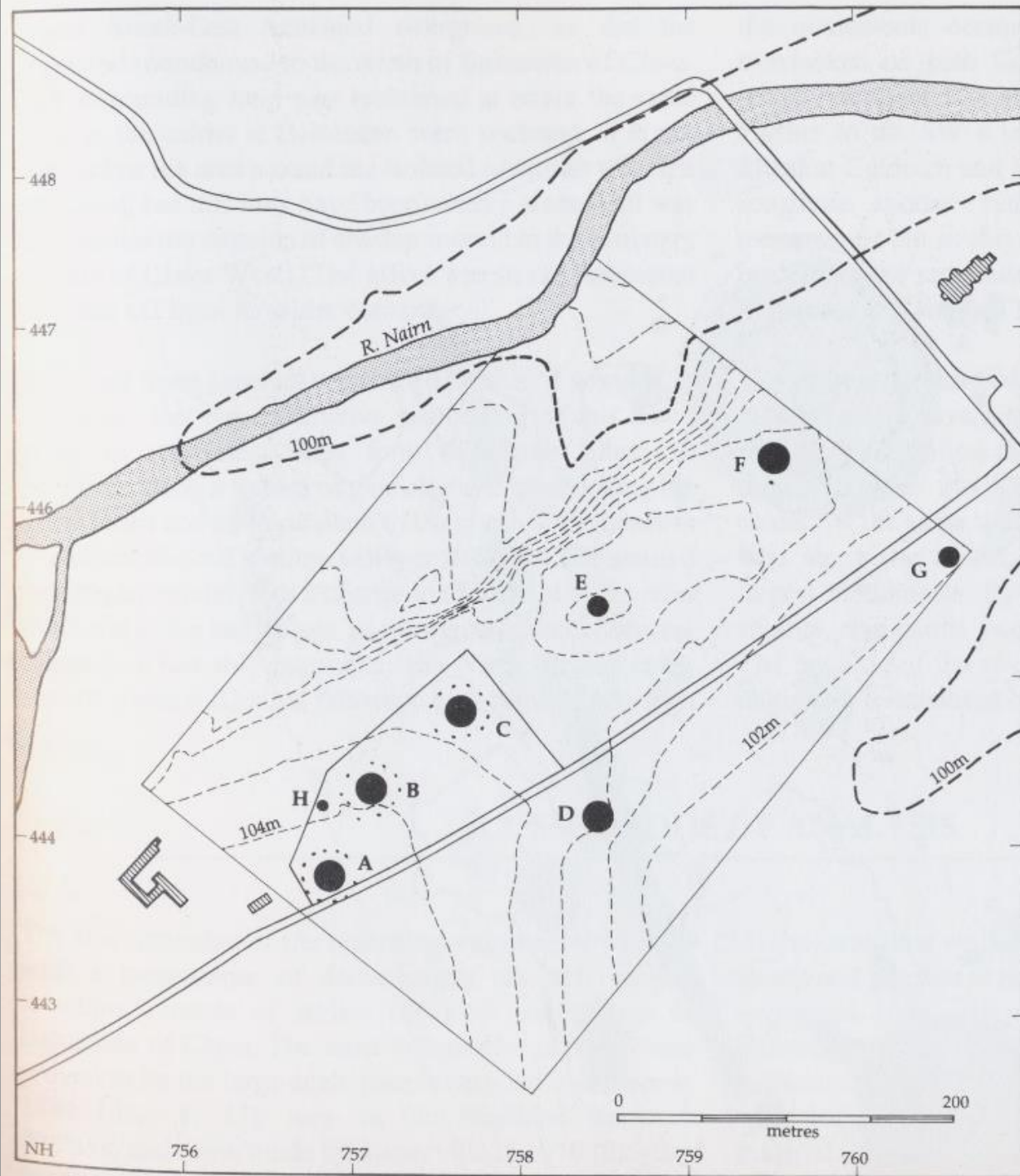
Dalroy

Chapel Ring Cairns

7

Ballaggan

Drummore of Clava



illus 10

The setting of the Clava cemetery. In the area of the cemetery itself the contours are at 1m intervals. Key: A: Balnuaran of Clava SW passage-grave; B: Balnuaran of Clava central ring-cairn; C: Balnuaran of Clava NE passage-grave; D: Balnuaran of Clava South; E: Mains of Clava West; F: Mains of Clava North-West; G: Mains of Clava South-East; H: Balnuaran of Clava kerb-cairn. (Based on the Ordnance Survey map © Crown copyright)





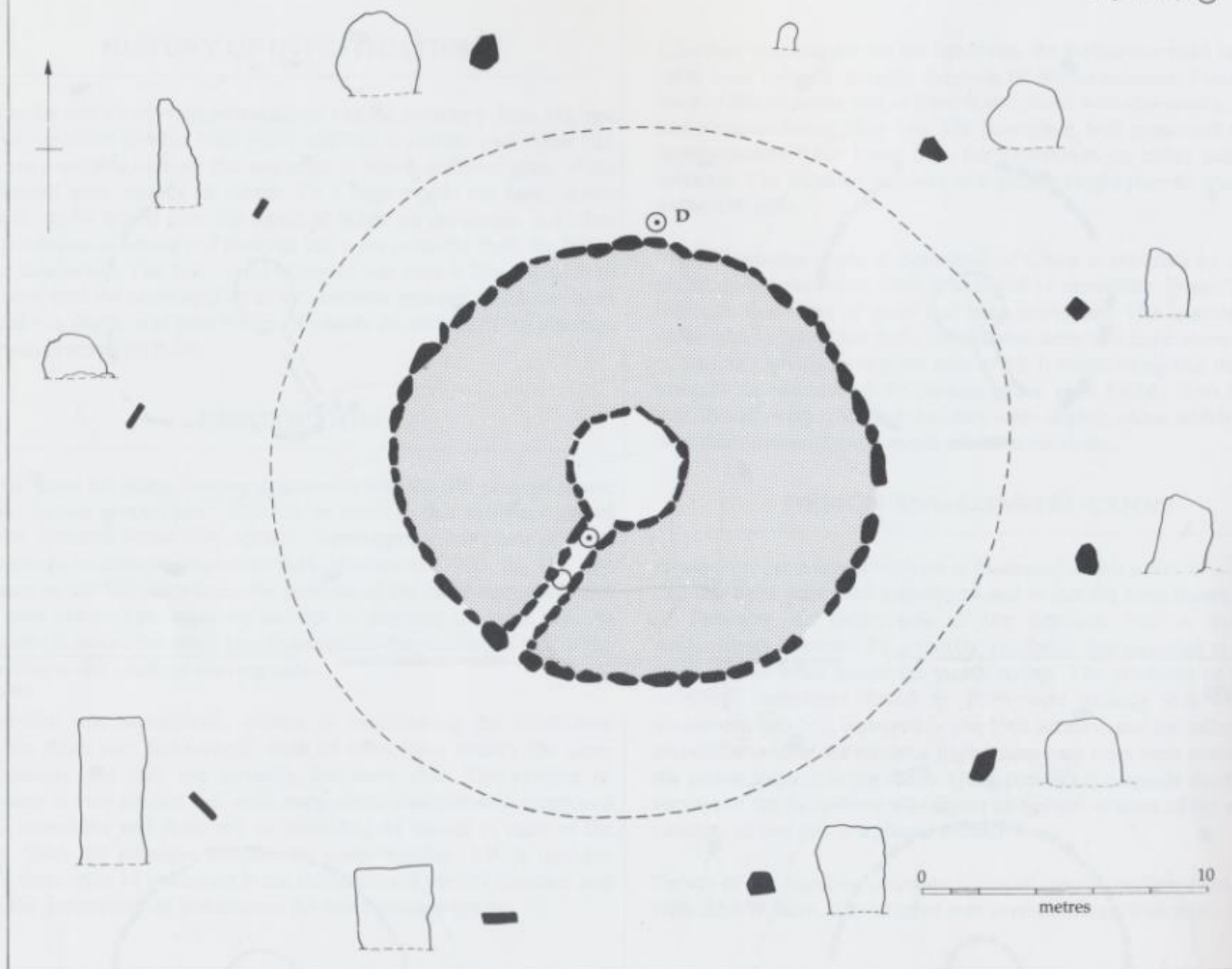
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THE NORTH-EAST CAIRN

Structural elements

Cup-marked stone (2 or more cups) ○

Cup-and-rings ⊙



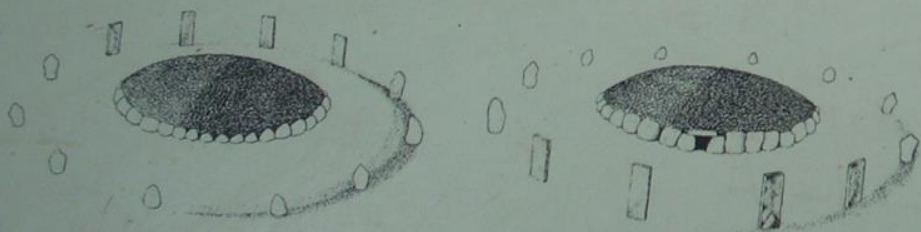
illus 33

The structural components of the NE passage-grave at Balnuaran of Clava (after Henshall & Ritchie).

NORTH-EAST PASSAGE GRAVE



An artist's impression of the tomb as it was when completed with twelve stones making up the circle (Aaron Watson).



A 'typical' Clava cairn from the front and back showing the different height of the stones (Aaron Watson).

The appearance of this 'passage grave' is rather deceptive.

Today it is open to the elements, but originally it took a different form. The central chamber had a dome-shaped roof that rose to around three and a half metres. This was built entirely of overlapping stones, sealed by a single large slab.

The passage leading to the chamber was covered by lintels and so low that people would need to crawl along it.

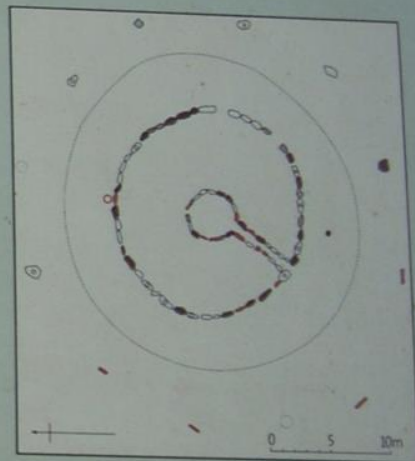
For most of the time the chamber and passage were dark, but they are carefully and deliberately aligned on the midwinter solstice. On the shortest day of the year the rear of the chamber is illuminated by the setting sun. Towards the back of this cairn particular use was made of quartz which would be illuminated by the rising sun. The monument probably contained burials but the record is rather confused.

The foundation course of the chamber is not of even height.

It is lower towards the rear and higher towards the entrance. The same applies to the kerbstones which support the edges of the cairn. They seem to have been selected for their colour and texture and one of them is decorated with abstract designs.

After a short interval the tomb was closed.

A bank of rubble was piled against the kerb and prevented access to the passage. At the same time the cairn was enclosed by a ring of standing stones, also graded by height. The tallest monoliths are by the entrance.



A plan of the passage grave showing the location of the different coloured stones.

- Red Sandstone
- Red Conglomerate
- Pink
- 'White'
- 'White' with mica
- ◻
 'White' with quartz
- ◻
 Gneiss (white)
- Cup marks
- Probable location of missing stone
- Platform

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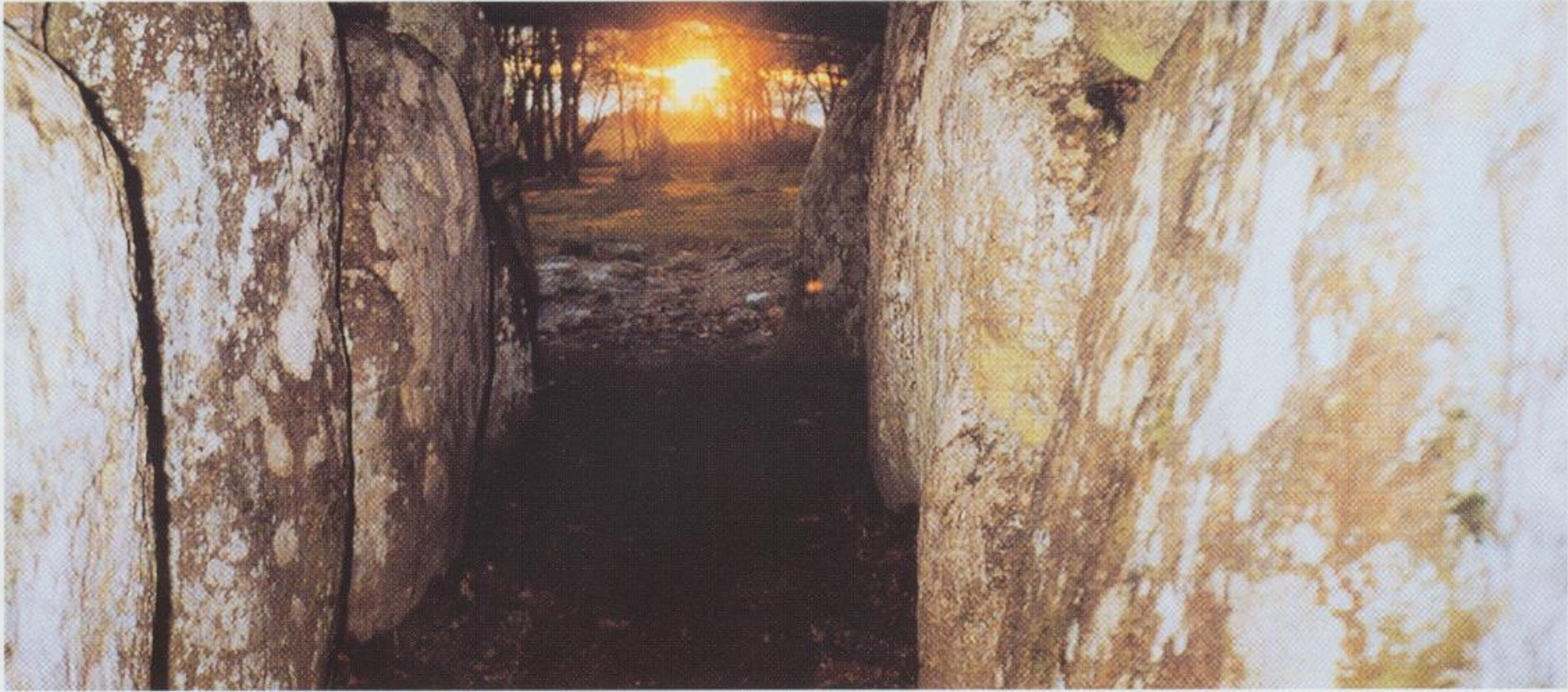


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SOUTH-WEST PASSAGE GRAVE

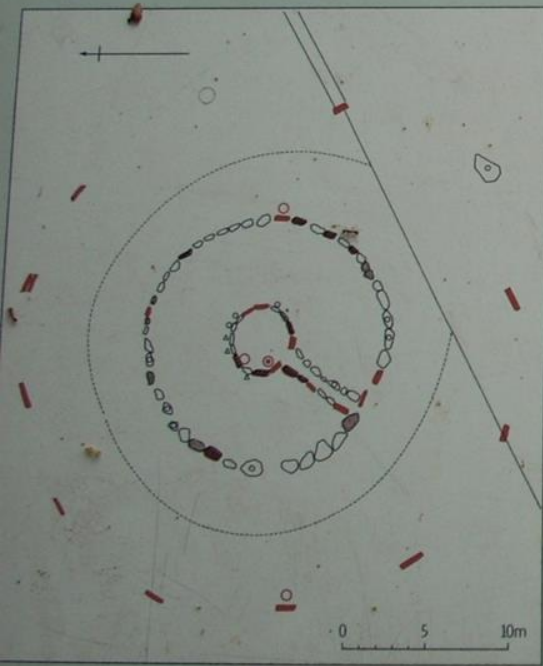
The construction of this cairn is almost identical to the other passage grave at Clava.

The passage grave was built first and used for a short period of time before being deliberately closed and surrounded by a cobbled bank and stone circle. The chamber was excavated in 1828 but little is known of the human remains that were unearthed although the monument was certainly reused for a series of cremation burials dating from about 1000 BC. The line of the modern road has separated the southernmost stones of the circle and the cairn.

The view of the midwinter sunset from this cairn.
(Aaron Watson)



A plan of the SW passage grave showing the location of the different coloured stones.



- Red Sandstone
- Red Conglomerate
- Pink
- 'White'
- 'White' with mica
- 'White' with quartz
- Gneiss (white)
- Cup marks
- Cup and rings
- Platform
- Probable location of missing stone

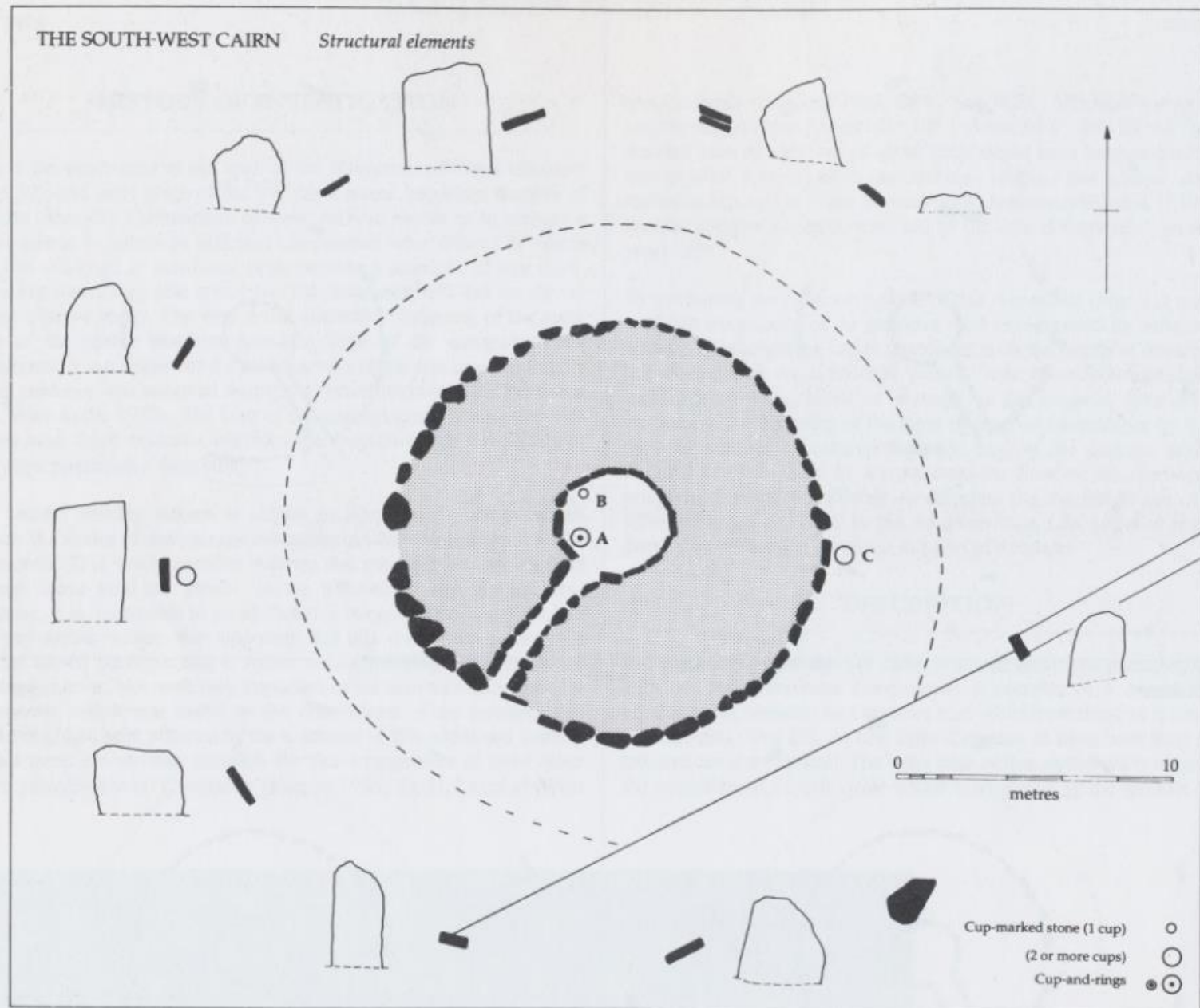
A common feature of these tombs is the use of decorated stones, carved with abstract designs.

The entrance to this chamber is marked by two tall slabs, one of which is carved with cup marks and cup and rings. There are more cup marks on the kerb. We can only guess at their significance. Were they carved specially to be incorporated into this tomb or were they taken from another structure?

This cairn shares the same alignment with the setting sun as the north-east passage grave.

Seen from this tomb, the midwinter sun would have set on the valley side, but, viewed from its counterpart, it would have seemed to rest on top of this cairn. Both Clava passage graves made use of graded rings of stones whose use is thought to be related to the winter sun.

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illus 22

A plan of the six main structural components of the SW passage-grave at Balnuaran of Clava: circular cairn, massive kerb, platform, stone circle, passage and chamber; (after Henshall & Ritchie).



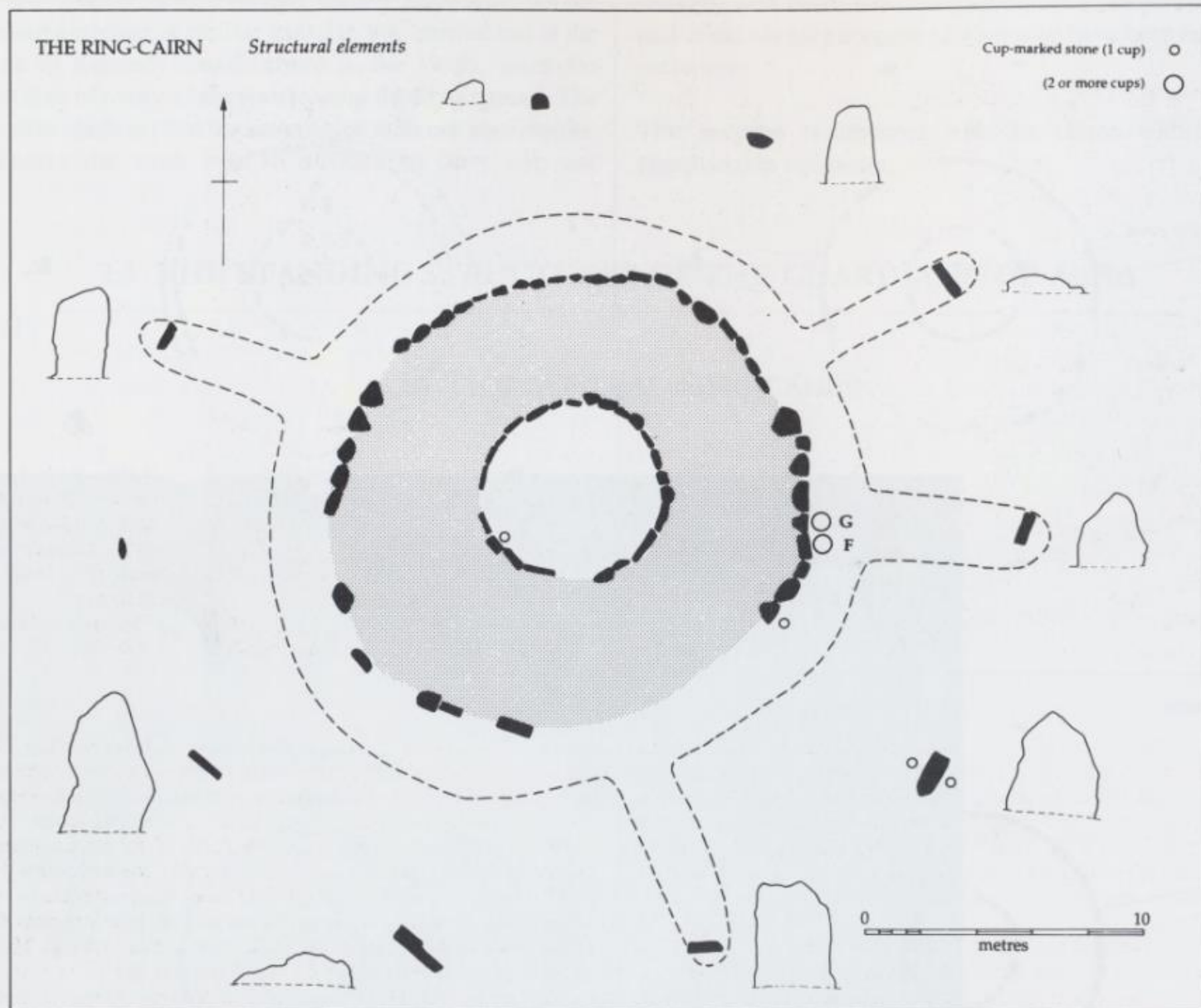
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illus 14

A plan showing the six main structural components of the central ring-cairn at Balnuaran of Clava: wall of rubble, inner and outer kerbs, platform, stone circle and rays; (after Henshall & Ritchie).



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CENTR RING CAIRN

Unroofed and with no entrance or passage way, this ring cairn was an open circular enclosure, built at about the same time as the passage graves at Clava.

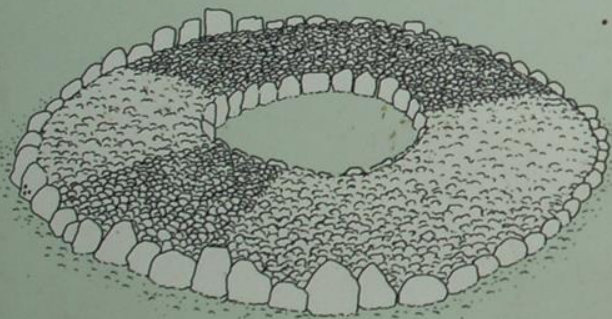
The original structure consisted of a rubble wall, supported on both sides by a kerb. Both these kerbs were graded by height, with the lowest stones in the direction of the rising sun, and the tallest towards the south-west where the sun sets at midwinter. In the inner kerb the effect is so subtle that it is difficult to recognise. It seems possible that the surface of the enclosure wall was divided into segments of differently coloured stones like the slices of a cake.

On excavation the interior contained human bones and signs of burning.

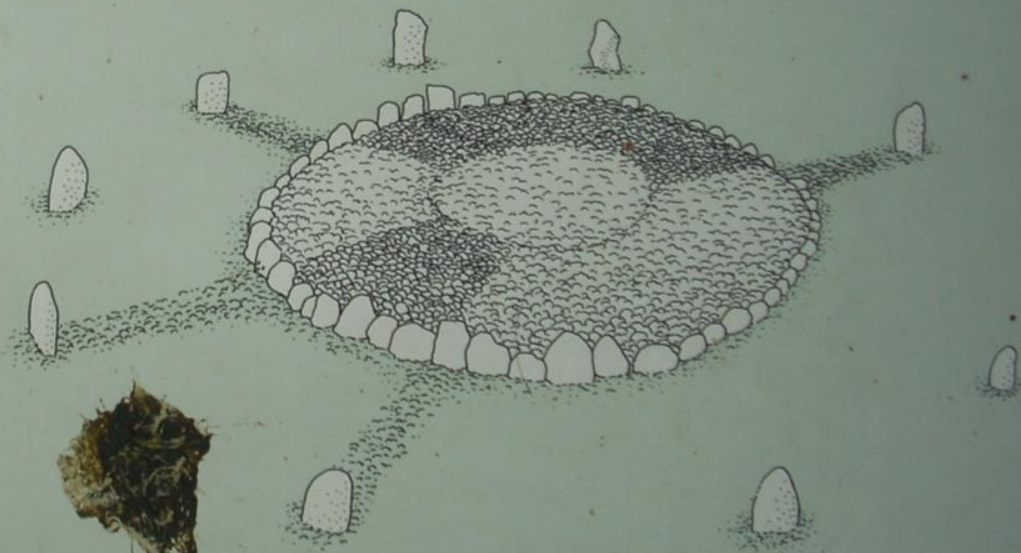
The cairn could have been used as a tomb, but it could also have marked the position of a pyre, built to hold the ceremonies that may have accompanied the burials in the adjacent passage graves. The stones forming the cairn were never piled very high, creating a platform.

When its use was over, the enclosure was filled with rubble to make it level with the wall, and the ring cairn was enclosed by a stone circle.

This was also graded by height. When that happened, some of the divisions built into the enclosure wall were extended from the outer kerb to the standing stones. These can still be identified as banks of rubble. The builders also tried to match the colour, shape or material of the monoliths to the nearest stones in the inner and outer kerbs.



The first phase of use of the ring cairn
(reconstruction by Aaron Watson)



The second phase of the cairn
(reconstruction by Aaron Watson)



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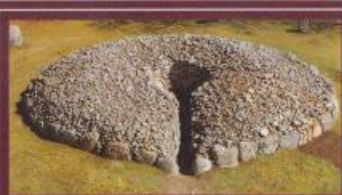
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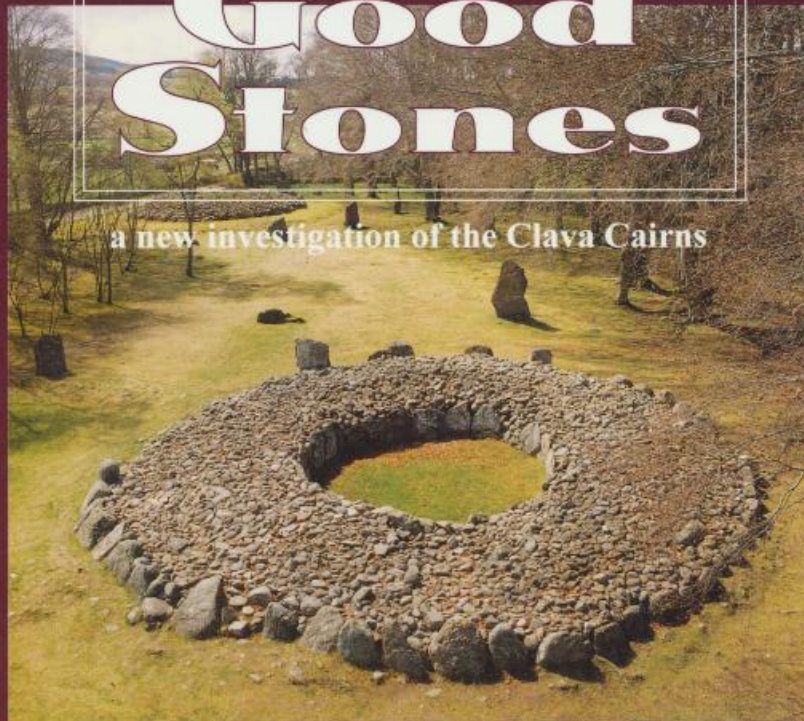


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The Good Stones

a new investigation of the Clava Cairns



Richard Bradley





CORPORATION
OF LONDON

HAMPSTEAD HEATH

EAST HEATH ROAD

HEATH CONSTABULARY
020 8340 5260



NO CYCLING

NO LITTER OR DUMPING
NO ENTRY TO HORSE RIDE



NO BARBECUES



Area	Area	Area
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18
19	20	21
22	23	24
25	26	27
28	29	30
31	32	33
34	35	36
37	38	39
40	41	42
43	44	45
46	47	48
49	50	51
52	53	54
55	56	57
58	59	60
61	62	63
64	65	66
67	68	69
70	71	72
73	74	75
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100	101	102

Hampstead Heath barrow video













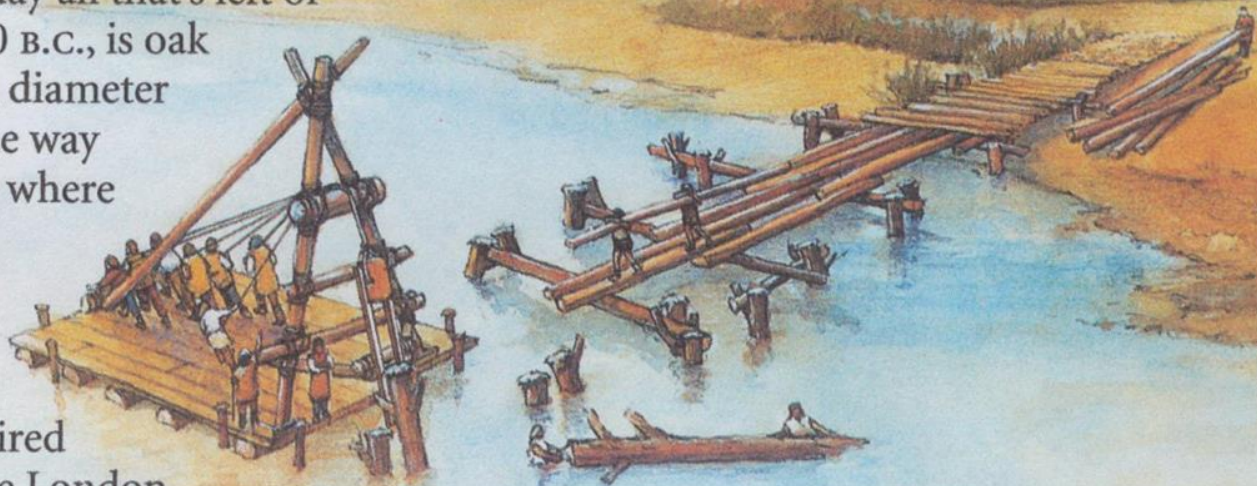
Here is a close-up of the barrow, with the vegetation now cleared off it, so that it shows quite clearly the extent of the mound.



Barrow or Tumulus, 1887

Bridge to the Past

This London Bridge fell down a lot earlier than the one in the nursery rhyme. Today all that's left of the structure, built about 1500 B.C., is oak footings as large as two feet in diameter stretching at least a third of the way across the River Thames, near where Parliament now stands. The bridge may have led to a now vanished island, says Fiona Haughey of University College, London. Building it required great effort, suggesting that the London area was the site of a major settlement more than a thousand years earlier than previously believed.



STEVE PATRICIA

TEXT BY BORIS WEINTRAUB

