

A photograph of the Stonehenge monument, showing several large, weathered grey stone blocks arranged in a circular formation. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The entire image is framed by a dark, textured border that looks like aged leather or wood.

Mysterious Encounters

Stonehenge

Q. L. Pearce

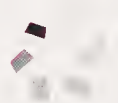
Mysterious Encounters

Stonehenge

by Q.L. Pearce

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Chapter 1

A Monumental Mystery

The Salisbury Plain in the southwest of England is a grassy landscape dotted with charming towns, villages, and farms. The tranquil countryside is also home to rabbits, badgers, and flocks of grazing sheep. At first the 300 square miles (777 sq. km) of rolling hills and lowlands may seem unremarkable. However, in a windswept stretch of the plain, a mysterious stone structure draws nearly a million visitors a year. People travel from near and far to experience the magic of Stonehenge, the best known and arguably most puzzling of the world's stone **monoliths** and circles. The massive creation has stood for thousands of years, but researchers are not certain of who built it or why.

Word Play

Stonehenge means "hanging stones." The word *henge* is the Middle-English term for "to hang." Today it is used to describe a circular ditch surrounded by a bank of earth.

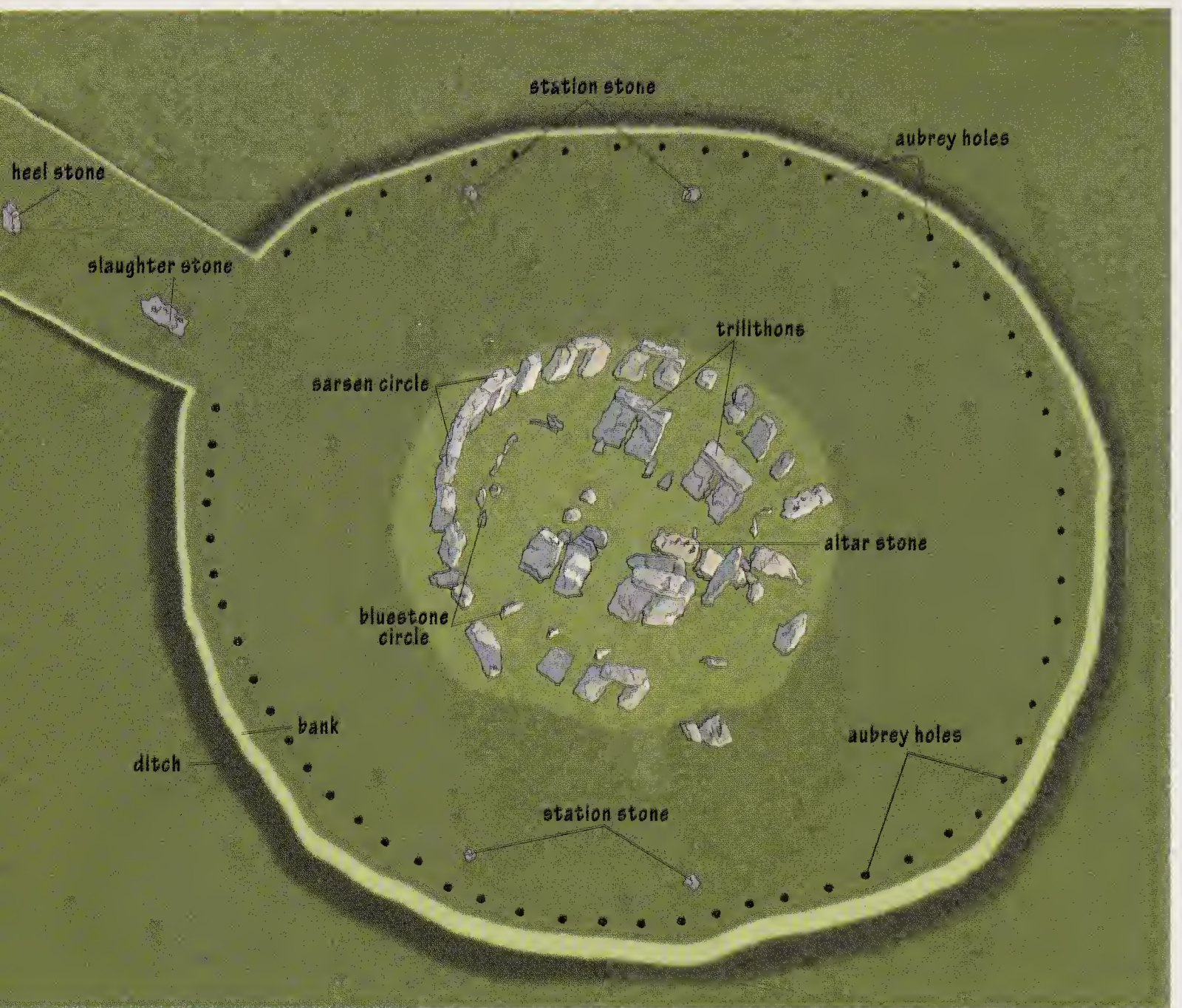
The Building of Stonehenge

Thousands of years ago dense woodlands of pine, birch, and hazel covered the Salisbury Plain. Flowing south through the region, the River Avon made it ideal for raising animals and crops. Local farmers cleared the forests for livestock, fields, and villages. Many researchers believe that it may have been those farmers who began to build Stonehenge about 4,500 years ago.

Barrows, mounds, monoliths, and stone circles are common throughout Britain and other parts of Europe, but Stonehenge is unique because of its craftsmanship. Its construction took place in three main phases over the course of nearly 2,000 years.

A Work in Progress

The building of Stonehenge began some time between 3000 B.C. and 2900 B.C. when an ancient civilization made two circular banks of earth with a ditch between them. The low, wide, outer earth



The construction of Stonehenge occurred in three main phases. The Aubrey holes form the edge of the inner circle. Next, a circle of bluestones was placed inside the circular ditch. In the final phase, the bluestones were replaced with sarsen stones and positioned in a circle. Then, about 60 bluestones were placed to create an inner ring.

bank is 360 feet (110m) around. Inside the circle, around the edge of the inner circle, are more than 50 holes between 2 and 4 feet (0.6m and 1.2m) deep. They are named Aubrey holes after John Aubrey who discovered them in the 17th century. The circle has a large entrance on its northeast side and is positioned so that a person standing in the

center of Stonehenge can see the Sun rise over the entrance during the midsummer **solstice**.

Then, some time between 2900 B.C. and 2400 B.C. a new generation of builders packed areas of the ditch with fresh chalk and animal bones. Post-holes at the main entrance suggest that the builders added a series of wooden walls there.

Stonehenge Takes Shape

Next workers widened the approach road and raised a simple double circle of about 80 upright blue-stones inside the circular ditch. The stones weighed 4 tons (3.6 metric tons) each, and their source was the Preseli Mountains some 250 miles (402km) away. **Geologists** have been able to pinpoint the exact square mile where the stones came from. It was a site that may have been sacred to the builders.

A researcher from Bournemouth University

Hidden Treasures

The ditch around Stonehenge is filled with valuable artifacts. Researchers have discovered broken pottery as well as digging tools made of red deer antlers and oxen shoulder blades.



The eighty upright bluestones inside the circular ditch of Stonehenge came from the Preseli Mountains. Weighing over four tons each, they were quarried from these mountains and then transported nearly 250 miles to Stonehenge.

in England describes the region as a place where strange things happen. She mentions climbing up to the top of a rocky outcrop and finding the lifeless body of a fox pierced through by a sharp rock. She reasoned that a large bird, such as a hawk, might have dropped the dead animal there, but it was a spooky sight. The bluestones of Stonehenge are said to carry the mood of that lonely, eerie place deep within.

The final building phase took place sometime between 2600 B.C. and 1600 B.C. This phase was the longest and most complex. It appears that the

builders developed a new idea for the site. This included using giant blocks of hard sandstone called sarsen stones. Geologists have not found similar sandstone **bedrock** near the area, so they think that the sarsens were somehow transported from Marlborough Downs nearly 30 miles (48km) away. It is an amazing feat considering that each stone weighs up to 50 tons (45 metric tons).

The builders removed the circle of bluestones that were placed during the earlier phase. They replaced the bluestones with five tall pairs of sarsen stones in a horseshoe formation in the center of the circle. Each pair was topped with cross stones called lintels. The 10-foot-long lintels (3m) were attached to the tops of the stones with special joints like those that woodworkers use. To create the joints, workers cut a hole, called a mortice, in the end of one stone. They inserted the end, or tenon, of another stone into the hole and wedged it tightly to secure the joint. Each stone was cut and shaped precisely, and no mortar was used to keep them in place. Such three-part stone constructions are called trilithons.

Next the builders created an outer ring of sarsen stones that they positioned into a nearly perfect circle. Sometime later about 60 bluestones were placed to create an inner ring and also an oval within the horseshoe formation. Two rows of pits were dug around the outer stones. The pits are known as Y and Z holes.

Special Stones

There are several important individual stones at Stonehenge. The altar stone is a rectangular block of sandstone that is unlike the sarsen sandstones. Scientists think it is from the Senni Beds of the Old Red Sandstone formation in Wales. The altar stone is about 16 feet (5m) long and probably once stood upright. Now it is on the ground and broken in two.

The heel stone stands upright near the northeast entrance. During midsummer solstice, the Sun rises beside the heel stone. That leads many researchers to believe that at one time there may have been a pair of stones and the Sun would have appeared to rise between them.

The slaughter stone now lies flat by the main entrance. At one time people thought it was used as a site for blood

The Heel Stone is one of the individual stones at Stonehenge. The stone stands upright near the northeast entrance and the sun rises beside it during the midsummer solstice.



From Ancient Greece

The first description of Stonehenge in literature may be in the book, *Histories Book V* (50–30 B.C.) by Diodorus Siculus. The author mentions an island, possibly the British Isles, with a notable spherical temple.

sacrifice because it is stained red in a few places. Modern scientists explain that the red stains are due to the reaction between iron in the stone and rainwater. The researchers believe that the slaughter stone was originally one of an upright pair, which were not used for sacrifice. Four sarsen stones were set up just inside the circular ditch. These stones are called the station stones. They form the four corners of a huge rectangle. The center of the rectangle lines up with the center of Stonehenge.

Moving Stones

One of the big mysteries about Stonehenge is how primitive people managed to transport stones weighing many tons over great distances. There are two ideas about how the gigantic stones were moved. Some scientists have suggested that glaciers did the hardest part of the work. They speculate that during the last Ice Age, moving ice picked up



One of the biggest mysteries of Stonehenge is how the stones were transported there in the first place. There is speculation that the lintels (pictured here) may have been raised slowly in a seesaw action.

giant blocks of stone, carrying them across great distances. Then the ice melted, leaving the blocks all over the landscape.

A more popular theory is that workers traveled many miles to **quarry** the stones, then floated them on rafts in rivers and dragged them over land on wooden sleds pulled by teams of animals or people. It would have been long hard work. Larger stones might have been pulled on huge tracks made of logs rubbed with animal fat.

Getting the stones to the site was only the first part of the challenge. Once there, they were shaped,

smoothed, and then tugged into a standing position. When a stone was ready to be placed, workers dug a large pit at one end of the stone. They sloped the pit to form a ramp, tugged the stone into the pit, and then pulled it upright. There is evidence that the builders filled up the pits with rock chips to keep the stones in place.

The lintels may have been raised slowly in a seesaw action. Workers lifted one side and placed supporting stones or timbers under it then lifted the other side. By repeating the process, the lintel was gradually moved higher until it was level with the top of the upright stones and could be slid into place.

The Living and the Dead

A site 2 miles (3.2km) northeast of Stonehenge holds clues to part of the ancient puzzle. Durrington Walls is another henge enclosure, but

The Power of the Stones

For centuries many people have believed in the healing power of the bluestones of Stonehenge. In 1700 Reverend James Brome suggested that a person could heal a wound by rubbing it with damp stone scrapings.



Archaeologists' trenches reveal the clay floors of the Neolithic houses at Durrington Walls. Human remains have been found at Stonehenge, but not at Durrington Walls, leading many researchers to believe that the two may be connected and Stonehenge may have been built for the dead and Durrington Walls for the living.

it measures nearly 1,500 feet (457m) across. Its banks are up to 100 feet (30m) wide and 10 feet (3m) high. Within the enclosure, archaeologists who work at the site have uncovered the foundations of eight small houses complete with cooking hearths. They believe that there may be hundreds of such homes that were part of a very large village. Other finds include arrowheads, pottery, and ani-

mal bones that show there may have been feasting at Durrington Walls. What has not been found are human remains.

In contrast Stonehenge has little pottery but plenty of human remains nearby. **Cremated** remains have been found in many of the Aubrey holes. Researchers have also discovered eight barrow groups around the monument. They are made up of at least 460 graves. One of the largest clusters of barrows is at Normanton Down, less than a mile south of Stonehenge. Many graves include bronze daggers, gold, amber, and other **artifacts**. It is possible that the people buried at the site include chiefs and nobles. Durrington Walls and Stonehenge appear to be connected. Perhaps one was built for the living while the other was mainly for the dead.

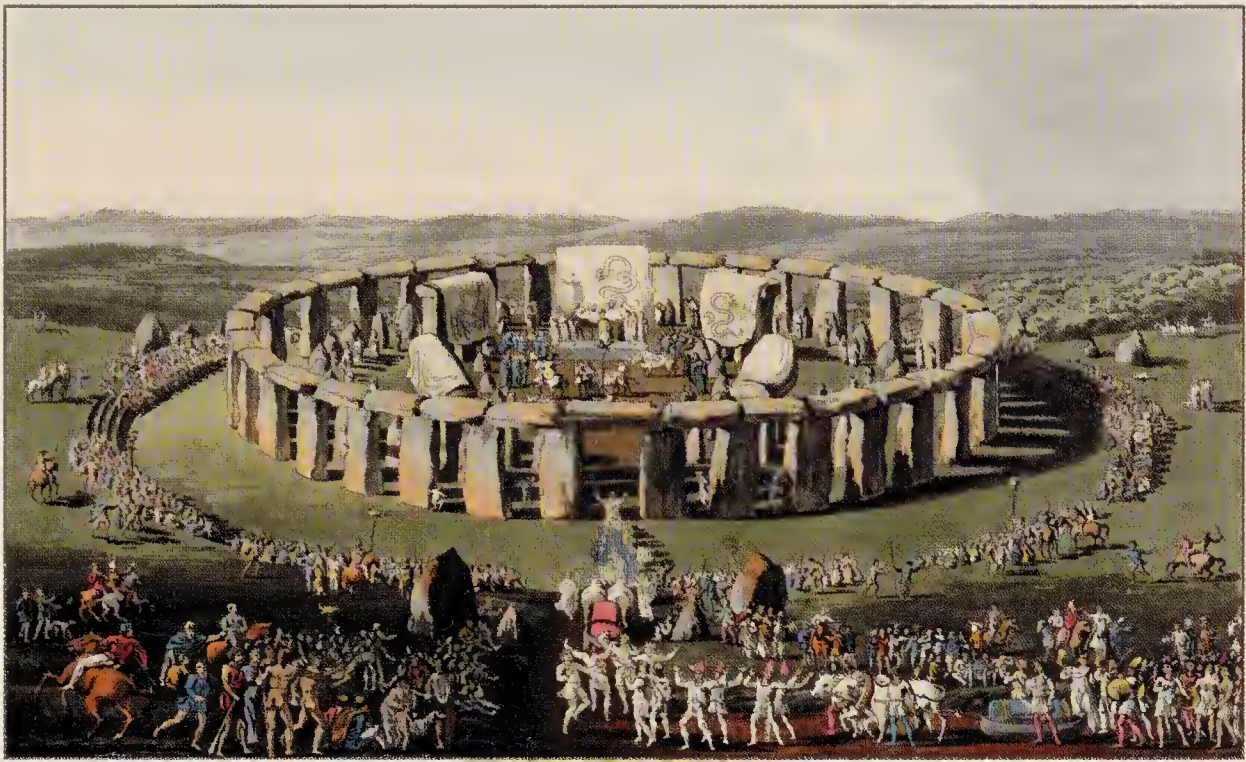
Chapter 2

Ancients to Aliens

Over the centuries, the building of Stonehenge has been credited to many cultures, including Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. Cremations and burials near the monument suggest that early **Britons** were the builders. Clues in their bones give interesting hints about the people who created the monument. They were lightly built, and they ate a healthy diet, which kept them strong. Although science seems to point to these simple farmers as the builders of Stonehenge, many myths and legends suggest otherwise.

Many Mythical Origins

The origins of one early myth are unclear, but it



Grand Conventional



Festival of the Britons.

Many cultures, including the early Britons, have been credited with the building of Stonehenge. The Grand Conventional Festival of the Britons is pictured here.

tells of a culture of Sun worshippers who wanted to build a temple. According to the story, the Sun guided them to a forest. The people cleared the land and dug an earthen ditch in the shape of the Sun. Next they built a temple of wood. The Sun was pleased. Over time the Sun grew stronger, so the people felt that the temple should be larger and more important. They rebuilt the circular temple out of stone. The Sun was very pleased and promised that as long as the temple stood, it would share its life-giving light.

Evil powers have often been associated with Stonehenge. According to one ancient legend, the devil is the builder of Stonehenge. When traveling through Ireland, the devil saw some huge stones

and wanted them for his own. He learned that they were the property of an old woman. Dressed as a fine gentleman, the devil visited the woman to ask if the stones were for sale. When she said no, he showed her a large pouch filled with golden coins. With a sly smile he told her that he would pay her all the gold she could count in the time it took him to move the stones to England. Thinking that a man could never move such large stones before she finished counting every coin, the woman accepted the deal. The devil immediately used magic to transport the stones to the Salisbury Plain before she could even shake the coins from the pouch. The cunning devil disappeared with the stones and all of his gold.

Happy that he had been able to cheat the woman, the devil set his stones up on the plain. Once they were in place, legend says that anyone who tried to count them came up with a different number every

An Impossible Task

During the Renaissance, it was said that one could not count the stones of Stonehenge twice and get the same number. It was also believed that anyone who tried to count the stones was tempting the devil and would soon die.

time. Thinking that he could trick the people of a nearby village, the devil demanded that they do his bidding unless someone could count all the stones and tell him how many there were. In answer a local friar said that there were more stones than could be told. The devil, furious that the friar had figured out the only possible correct answer, picked up a huge rock and threw it at the friar. It hit the holy man in the heel but did no damage. In fact, the blow only caused a dent in the stone, which to this day is called the heel stone.

King Arthur and Merlin

One of the earliest references to Stonehenge is in the book, *History of the English People* written by Henry of Huntingdon in 1130. The author describes a mysterious structure called Stanenges. He writes that it is built from stones of wonderful size.

In 1136 Geoffrey of Monmouth wrote *History of the Kings of Britain*. It is a mix of fact, myth, and legend. In it he explains that the great

In *History of the Kings of Britain*, Geoffrey Monmouth writes that the great wizard, Merlin (pictured), built Stonehenge to honor a battle between the Saxons and the ancient Britons.



A Battle of Wizards

Merlin is not the only wizard associated with Stonehenge. There is a myth that evil sorcerers once tried to take over the world. A powerful wizard named Blaise tied a magical cord around his oak wand. He used it to create a binding spell that turned the wicked sorcerers to stone.

wizard, Merlin, had built Stonehenge to honor a battle between the Saxons and the ancient Britons. The tale begins when several hundred British nobles are betrayed and killed by Saxons. King Aurelius of the Britons decides to build a monument to show respect for the dead nobles. Merlin tells the king about a structure called the Giant's Round on Mount Killaraus in Ireland.

The king's brother, Uther Pendragon, takes 15,000 men to Ireland to bring back the stones but they cannot move them. Merlin casts a spell that makes the stones fly and settle on the massacre site in perfect formation. The story says that King Aurelius and Uther were buried at the center of the site when they died. It is also the place where Merlin took young **King Arthur** to learn the ways of the Druids.

The Druids

An 18th-century archaeologist proposed that Stonehenge was built by the Druids. They were an order of priests in ancient **Gaul** and Britain. The Druids

It has also been said that Stonehenge was built by the Druids and that they used the site for rituals. In this illustration, the Druids offer a human sacrifice to the gods near the Stonehenge circle.



are often described in legend as sorcerers. Modern scientists have shown that Stonehenge was built long before the time of the Druids. In fact it is unlikely that they used the site for rituals until recent times. Trees and plants were sacred to the Druids, so followers probably conducted most of their rituals in forests.

Some researchers think that the Druids would have avoided a place like Stonehenge. Fairy lore is part of the beliefs of the Druids. For example, they thought that fairies sometimes kidnapped unwary people. They also believed that trilithons, like those at Stonehenge, were gateways to other worlds, such as the land of fairies, so they should steer clear of them.

The Druids are not the only people who told of magical openings to other worlds. Although the source is unknown, there is a legend that says modern humans came from another **dimension** and entered this earthly world through the Stonehenge gates. The legend also says that every 5,000 years or so, someone makes the mistake of trying to reopen the gate. If the person succeeds, it results in a terrible destructive event, such as a massive earthquake.

Extraterrestrials

The most unusual explanation for Stonehenge is that **extraterrestrial** visitors built it. In the last half of the 20th century, Swiss author Erich von

Giants of Stone

Stonehenge is sometimes called the Giant's Dance. There is a folktale about giants who once danced arm in arm around the Salisbury Plain. The noise bothered a powerful wizard, and he turned the giants to stone. Some say the outer sarsen ring resembles giants with their arms over each other's shoulders.

Däniken championed this idea. He proposed that many ancient sites, including Stonehenge and the Great Pyramid in Egypt, are the work of aliens. Mystery Park, a theme park devoted to the author's theories, was open briefly in Interlaken, Switzerland, between 2003 and 2006. The park included a MegaStones pavilion that featured a model of Stonehenge.

Chapter 3

From Sacred Site to Ghostly Lights

There is no doubt that the building of Stonehenge was an incredible achievement, but why was it built in the first place? Some people think that it was a temple. Others say that it was a sacred site for the burial of important people. People have also thought it could have been a healing center, an astronomical observatory, an ancient calendar, or even a beacon for space travelers.

Mysterious Meaning

In the middle of the 20th century, researchers discovered that the position of many of the monument's stones appeared to be **aligned** with movements of the Sun, Moon, and stars. In ancient



Many people wonder why Stonehenge was built in the first place.

times tracking the Sun was a matter of life and death. People planted and harvested by the season. Farmers could determine the seasonal cycle by noting where the Sun rose on the horizon.

Many people claim that Stonehenge was a religious site. Some even suggest that blood sacrifices and magical rites were regularly performed within the stone circles. In 2008 two archaeologists declared that the monument was an important healing center or shrine that attracted pilgrims hoping to be cured. By studying skeletons from nearby graves, the scientists learned that some of those buried there had been suffering from serious disease or

injury. They also pointed out that the bluestones were known for their healing qualities.

Pilgrims from Other Planets

The idea that pilgrims traveled great distances to Stonehenge is slowly gaining acceptance. Some people believe that visitors may even have come from beyond the solar system. The village of Warminster is about 10 miles (16km) from the monument, and it is known for a great number of reports of unidentified flying objects, or UFOs.

Stories tell of strange lights in the night sky that follow a path from east to west. Residents have also reported peculiar noises, odd electrical smells, and dark figures lurking in the shadows as flickering lights hovered over the ground. Skeptics point out that Stonehenge is close to military zones.

Perhaps military planes were the source of the oddities, but a possible UFO sighting was reported

Ancient Images

Faint carvings have been discovered on some sarsen stones. Ax and dagger images were noted several decades ago. In 1997 an archaeologist observed a simple face carved into the side of one of the stones.

Earth Energy

Ley lines are described as invisible, straight lines of energy in the earth that link ancient places of worship, burial chambers, and stone circles. Those who believe that ley lines exist suggest that the Stonehenge site was chosen in order to tap into those powerful earth energies.

before the bases existed. In 1670 John Aubrey wrote in his notes that he had seen a strange figure on the plain and asked it if it was good or evil. He claimed it was a ghost. It disappeared with a bell-like sound and left behind an odd smell, much like some of the strange sightings reported more than 400 years later.

Strange Happenings

Sometimes the armed forces were involved in the weird events on the Salisbury Plain. One mysterious story tells of a **war game** held between two military units in August 1957. The soldiers defending the plain were equipped with five tanks. Before the games began, the crew of one of the tanks called in a bizarre report about a large, silver, cigar-shaped object in the sky. When the games began, the tank



Strange events have occurred on the Salisbury Plain. Several people have reported seeing strange objects in the sky above Stonehenge.

was nowhere to be seen. It had disappeared without a trace.

One Englishman reported an unusual experience when he stopped to fly a kite on the windy plain near Stonehenge. When the kite reached a certain height, a surge of energy coursed through his hands, and he passed out. When he awoke, he found that his hands had been scorched.

Reports of sightings continued to surface. In 1968 a man named Arthur Shuttlewood claimed that he saw a circle of fire that rose from Stonehenge. An object hovered above the flames. When Shuttlewood tried to get a closer look, the UFO

shot straight up into the sky. Similar fiery rings were also reported in November 1977. Several people said that the objects moved in formation across the sky and changed direction suddenly.

In the same year, two families were camping not far from Stonehenge. The campers hiked to the site to take an 8-mm film of the stones. What they filmed was remarkable. At first their compasses and battery-powered equipment began to fail. Next, bright lights appeared in the sky. One pair seemed to circle around each other while a third light remained motionless for nearly an hour.

The photographer took his film to Kodak laboratories to be examined. Kodak determined that the film was genuine and had not been tampered with. Experts suggested that the lights were **ball lightning**. When the home movie was shown on British television, a scientist speculated that the

A Curious Likeness

A researcher noted that part of Stonehenge looks like an unidentified flying object, or UFO when seen from the air. The banks and ditches are the outer rim. The Aubrey holes are outer lights, and the inner stone ring is the cabin.

lights were army flares. This was discounted because the army had not released any flares on that date and the lights were observed moving down, then up, something flares do not do. The source of the lights filmed that evening on the plain remains a mystery.

Crop Circle Connection

Crop circles are large patterns made in fields by flattening food crops, such as corn or wheat. The circles are often very complex and sometimes appear mysteriously overnight. In the 1990s crop circles began to appear in the fields and grasslands around Stonehenge. Although some people believe that the circles were the result of human pranks,

In 1996 a crop circle appeared in the fields around Stonehenge.



others credited them to UFOs. In 1996 a crop circle researcher found a faint pattern on one of the bluestones at Stonehenge. The pattern was almost identical to crop circles that had appeared in nearby fields. These amazing designs are not new to the area. In 1678 a circle appeared in England in a field of oats. It frightened the farmer so badly that he refused to harvest his crop.

Modern witnesses claim to have seen a reddish glow before crop circles suddenly formed. There is evidence that such circles give off radiation and people nearby notice a rise in the surrounding air temperature.

Chapter 4

In Modern Times

Today Stonehenge is a confusion of stones, many standing, many fallen or missing, a few broken or worn down by the harsh climate, but peoples' fascination with it is not fading in the least. Over the centuries it has changed ownership several times. It belonged to King Henry VIII when he took possession of the Amesbury Abbey and surrounding lands. The king granted the estate to the earl of Hertford, and it later passed to the marquis of Queensbury. The Antrobus family bought it in 1824. The family sold the property at auction in 1915. Local livestock breeder Cecil Chubb bought



Stonehenge is a protected World Heritage historical site and has become a popular tourist attraction.

it for about 6,600 British pounds. In 1918 he donated the site to the British government. Stonehenge is now a World Heritage Site cared for and managed by various government and charitable organizations, including English Heritage and the National Trust, which conserve and protect historical sites and natural spaces in England.

The Stonehenge World Heritage Site includes some 6,500 acres (2,630ha) of land that are also protected. These lands have many prehistoric burial

mounds and sites associated with Stonehenge, such as Durrington Walls. Two highways give tourists easy access, and Stonehenge has become a popular tourist attraction. This has led to some damage to the structure. In the past visitors would break off bits of stone to keep as souvenirs, so the general public is no longer allowed to touch the stones or walk freely through the monument.

Feeding the Fascination

For those who will never have the chance to visit Stonehenge, filmmakers and television producers bring the experience to them. There have been dozens of documentaries and television programs made about Stonehenge and the other ancient sites of the Salisbury Plain. Many of these focus on efforts to solve the mysteries of Stonehenge. Audiences seem endlessly interested in the latest information researchers have to offer.

Secrets of the Lost Empires: Stonehenge, is a docu-

A Bad Idea

During World War I, the British Air Ministry wanted to tear Stonehenge down because it was tall enough to be a danger to low-flying aircraft.

mentary filmed for the television series *Nova*, and it was released in 1997. Although it is not as recent as some documentaries, it takes an interesting look at how Stonehenge may have been built. The film follows an archaeologist, an engineer, and a stonemason as they try to move and raise a Stonehenge-style trilithon using only Stone Age tools.

National Geographic's 2008 documentary, *Stonehenge Decoded* uses special effects to show the building of the monument and what Stonehenge probably looked like when it was completed. *Stonehenge Decoded* also examines the most recent information about the huge Stone Age settlement that appears to have existed at Durrington Walls and the latest information about a nearby site known as Woodhenge. Research shows that the area may have once been home to thousands of people. Most of the information in the documentary is based on excavation and landscape studies done during the recent Stonehenge Riverside Project, conducted from 2003 to 2008.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) filmed a dig led by professors Tim Darvill and Geoff Wainwright for their television series *Timewatch*. The dig began on March 31, 2008, and the archaeologists excavated a small area within the stone circle at Stonehenge. Although the actual event took place over about two weeks, researchers will be studying the excavated material for years.

The film of the dig aired on *Timewatch* in the

An Historic Gathering

By the end of the 19th century, Druid groups gathered at Stonehenge for ceremonies. The first mass meeting took place in August 1905, when 700 members of the Ancient Order of Druids congregated, dressed in white robes and sporting long fake beards.

fall of 2008. Viewers watched as the scientists dug through a recent layer of soil that contained articles from the 19th century, including a broken clay pipe, broken glass and picnic dishes, and a hair clip. As they dug deeper, the researchers found many artifacts, such as a Roman coin, broken Roman pottery, animal bones, grain, rock chips from bluestones, and even snail shells. Some of the surprising discoveries were that the bluestones appear to have been moved several times and that they may have first been placed later than expected.

Stonehenge in Art

Stonehenge has also drawn the attention of artists and writers. Among the famous paintings are those by J.M.W. Turner and John Constable. After visiting the site, each British painter captured the brooding structure in a different style. In 1825



Stonehenge has appeared in many paintings, including a painting in 1836 by John Constable that depicts the monument in a threatening storm.

Turner used watercolors to depict Stonehenge beneath a glowing, turbulent sky. In the foreground is a dead shepherd near his dead and dying sheep. Constable's painting of 1836 is a scene of the monument in the path of a threatening storm. A lone figure is seated on a fallen stone.

✓ Stonehenge is referenced in poems and books, both fiction and nonfiction. It is the main subject in books of photography and countless travel guides. Perhaps its most memorable use in fiction is as a setting for the doomed lovers in the 1891 novel, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, by Thomas Hardy. Chased

by the police, Tess and her true love, Angel, find themselves among the sarsen stones. Tess symbolically stops to rest on the altar stone.

Paul Zindel, a popular author of young-adult fiction, set his 1995 supernatural thriller, *The Doom Stone*, near Stonehenge. In the fast-paced tale, young Jackson moves from New York to live with his aunt in a cottage on the Salisbury Plain and finds himself battling a monster. The author packs the book with Stonehenge lore and images of the local scenery.

Copycats

For almost a century, people have been paying tribute to Stonehenge by creating replicas of it. Some are serious and others are funny. Sam Hill of Maryhill, Washington, created a full-size copy overlooking the Columbia River. He built it to honor soldiers who died in World War I. Construction began in 1918, and the monument was completed in 1930.

Six families worked together to build a structure they call Carhenge in Alliance, Nebraska. It was completed in 1987. The unusual creation is made up of wrecked cars spray painted gray and tipped up on one end or balanced across two other cars. It may not look like the real thing, but it has become a popular tourist attraction. Fridgehenge in Santa Fe, New Mexico, was begun by artist Adam Jonas Horowitz in 1996. He completed the structure



Several replicas of Stonehenge have been created, including Carhenge in Alliance, Nebraska that is made up of wrecked cars.

made of junked refrigerators in 2005 and dismantled it in 2008.

Foamhenge, in Natural Bridge, Virginia, is made from Styrofoam, and was created by sculptor, Mark Cline. Completed in 2004, it is an exact copy in every detail. The artist checked his designs and measurements with an expert in England. It is even positioned so that it is astronomically correct.

A Place of Mystery

Stonehenge has clearly captured the imagination

Another Mystery

The American Stonehenge in New Hampshire is a maze of man-made chambers, walls, and ceremonial meeting places. At 4,000 years old it is probably the most ancient man-made construction in the United States. No one knows who actually built it.

of millions. There are countless legends, myths, and folktales about it. For centuries, experts have argued about who built it and how. It is one of the most-photographed sites in the world. Visitors travel from distant parts of the world to visit the site and imagine what it might have been used for. Is it really a beacon for space travelers? Is it a door to another world? It seems that Stonehenge gives up its secrets grudgingly and each answer creates more questions. Perhaps that is one of its greatest attractions.

Glossary

aligned: Objects arranged in a straight line, or in the correct position relative to another object.

archaeologists: Scientists who study human history by uncovering and analyzing objects and structures.

artifacts: Objects made by human hands and often of historical interest.

ball lightning: A rare form of lightning that takes the shape of a moving, glowing ball, typically disappearing without an explosion.

barrows: Ancient burial mounds.

bedrock: Solid rock beneath a layer of soil.

Britons: Natives of Great Britain.

cremated: A body that has been burned to ashes.

dimension: A thing's location in space and time; also a realm of time and space parallel to earthly time and space.

extraterrestrial: From outside of Earth's atmosphere.

Gaul: An area in ancient Europe that included France, Belgium, and parts of Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands.

geologists: Scientists who study the history, structure, and certain natural processes of Earth.

King Arthur: A legendary British king possibly of the 6th century. The folklore of Arthur may have been based loosely on a real person but that is a matter of debate.

lore: A body of knowledge, stories, and traditions about a subject or group.

monoliths: Single upright blocks of stone.

quarry: To cut or dig stone usually from a pit.

Renaissance: A time of the revival of classical art and literature in Europe that took place from the 14th to the 16th centuries.

Saxons: Germanic people who conquered and settled in England during the 5th and 6th centuries.

solstice: Time of the year marked by the longest day (summer) or shortest day (winter).

war game: A staged military conflict conducted for practice or learning.

For Further Exploration

Books

Toney Allman, *Stonehenge: Mysterious & Unknown*. San Diego, CA: Referencepoint Press, 2008. The reading level of this nonfiction book is 9-12. It is 96 pages so there is plenty of detailed information about Stonehenge and many theories about the people who built it. The book includes color photos and maps.

Morgan Beard, *Stonehenge: Build Your Own Ancient Wonder*. Philadelphia, PA: Running Press, 2008. This is a model and book kit that includes a 32-page booklet, a small numbered mat, and 16 Stonehenge “rocks” ready to assemble.

Leon Gray, *Solving the Mysteries of Stonehenge: Digging Into History*. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish Children’s Books, 2009. This 32-page nonfiction book explores Stonehenge through photos, sidebars and text. It includes information about the scientific research conducted at the site and important discoveries made there.

R.A. Montgomery, *Forecast From Stonehenge*. Waitsfield, VT: Chooseco, 2007. This book is a middle-

grade mystery about druids, summer solstice, and the disappearance of the heel stone. In this book the reader controls the direction the story takes and its outcome.

Ann M. Ridout, *Cedric Goes to Stonehenge*. Salisbury, England: Wessex Books, 2002. This picture book follows Cedric the mouse as he travels to Stonehenge to attend the summer solstice druid ritual.

Kate Riggs, *Stonehenge: Places of Old*. Mankato MN: Creative Education, 2009. This 24-page picture book is a basic overview of Stonehenge for readers from 4 to 8. It addresses questions such as how and why the monument was built.

Web Sites

Art History Resources on the Web (<http://witcombe.sbc.edu/earthmysteries/EMStonehenge.html>). This Web site is presented by Christopher L.C.E. Witcombe, an art history professor at Sweet Briar College in Sweet Briar, Virginia. It includes an overview of the phases of building at Stonehenge with charts and photographs.

English Heritage (www.english-heritage.org.uk). This is the official Stonehenge Web site. It includes historical information, photographs, a time map, a time line, an interactive map, a virtual walk around the area, 360 views, video clips, and much more.

National Geographic.com (<http://ngm.national-geographic.com/2008/06/stonehenge/alexander-text>). There are many activities to explore on this website from *National Geographic Magazine*. It includes a feature article, plenty of photographs, a 3-D video, and an interactive page on the stages of Stonehenge.

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A nineteenth-century ship captain facing certain death at sea glimpses a ghostly figure guiding his ship to safety. Was it a pirate ghost, as the captain later claimed, or a hallucination brought on by extreme stress and dehydration? Eyewitness accounts of paranormal encounters like this one will and enthrall young readers. Short sidebars develop critical thinking skills by prompting to consider alternative explanations, credible sources, and other elements of basic reasoning. color illustrations and photographs, an annotated bibliography, and an index enhance each



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