

**ANCIENT MYSTERIES  
AND MODERN DISCOVERIES  
STONEHENGE**

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## IMAGES

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## **WHO BUILT IT? AND WHY?**

For centuries people have puzzled over the same questions. Now after almost 20 years of excavations at Stonehenge and at the source of its bluestones in Wales, archaeologists finally have some answers.

*Stonehenge: Ancient Mysteries & Modern Discoveries* looks to hundreds of ancient artifacts and the latest in cutting-edge scientific research to answer questions about this iconic, mysterious World Heritage Site.

The exhibition tracks the development of Stonehenge as a special place in the landscape, and explains the origins of the monument while illuminating the lives of the people behind it.

Stonehenge is unique among stone monuments around the world because it is the only one in which the stones were: **1**

- ... moved long distances.
- ... shaped with stone tools.
- ... jointed together.

Stonehenge was not built in isolation but is part of a larger landscape of burial mounds and ceremonial sites. It may have been built to unify the west and east of Britain. **2**

Stonehenge was created to celebrate the movement of the sun. **3**

The people who lived in the area were prehistoric, not primitive. **4**

Scientists and archaeologists continue to develop new methods with the latest technologies to study the monument and the landscape. **5**



After centuries of speculation, we are finally reaching an understanding of Stonehenge: who built it, when, how and why. Thanks to archaeological campaigns and advances in scientific techniques in recent decades, we have a new comprehension that is built on evidence recovered not just from Stonehenge itself, but also from remains in its surrounding landscape and more widely within Britain.

Working from those surviving remains, archaeologists study people, how they lived and how they formed communities in the distant past. The people who built Stonehenge were among Britain's earliest farmers, living 4500–5000 years ago, or around 200 generations ago.

We now know that Stonehenge did not appear 'out of the blue'. This particular part of Salisbury Plain had been considered sacred for hundreds if not thousands of years before the first Stonehenge was built. That first Stonehenge, built round 3000 BC, looked very different from its second incarnation, built 500 years later, when it took the form in which it broadly appears today. Its story is one of change and evolution—a story we are piecing together for the first time.

## ABOUT MIKE PARKER PEARSON



Mike Parker Pearson is Professor of British Later Prehistory at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. He is also a Fellow of the British Academy and has published 21 books and over 200 academic articles. Since the 1970s he has worked on archaeological sites around the world in Britain, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Syria, the United States, Madagascar and Easter Island. He has been directing research on Stonehenge since 2003 and was voted the UK's Archaeologist of the Year in 2010.





## ARCHITECTURE & CONTENT

- **Size** 7,500 to 15,000 sq. ft (700–1300 m<sup>2</sup>)
- **Number of objects** Approx. 300 original objects. Venue to provide Facility Reports. Final loans dependent on approved Facility Reports.
- **Exhibition furniture** All immersive structures including entry theatre and maker space.
- **Display cases** Approximately 48 come with the exhibition and have their own lighting and internal environmental controls. Standard museum gallery environmental conditions required at venue.
- **Graphics** Approx. 200 graphic panels including all texts, which can be adapted for two languages.
- **Interactives** 2 interactive tables, 4 touch screen animations for children. All furniture, displays and control systems included.
- **Videos** 22. All Projectors, video displays, speaker systems, media players and control systems included.
- **All audio/visual material** are available in two languages.
- **Lighting** All showcases are equipped with light.
- **Catalogue/Book** Yes.

## LOGISTICS

Included in the all-inclusive exhibition fee

- **Insurance and shipping.**
- **Installation and dismantling crew** from *MuseumsPartner*. plus couriers from the lending museum, including travel and accommodation.

## PUBLICATION

- A **catalogue** is available on consignment. Venues can also produce their own with supplied content from our partners.

## MARKETING MATERIAL

- **High resolution images** of the key images, objects and the exhibition are available to the venue at no cost.

## ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR HOST VENUE

- Marketing and promotion
- Merchandise
- Maintenance during display period
- Gallery lighting
- Walls, wall painting
- Operational costs—ticketing, security, programming, etc.

# FLOORPLAN AND KEY FACTS



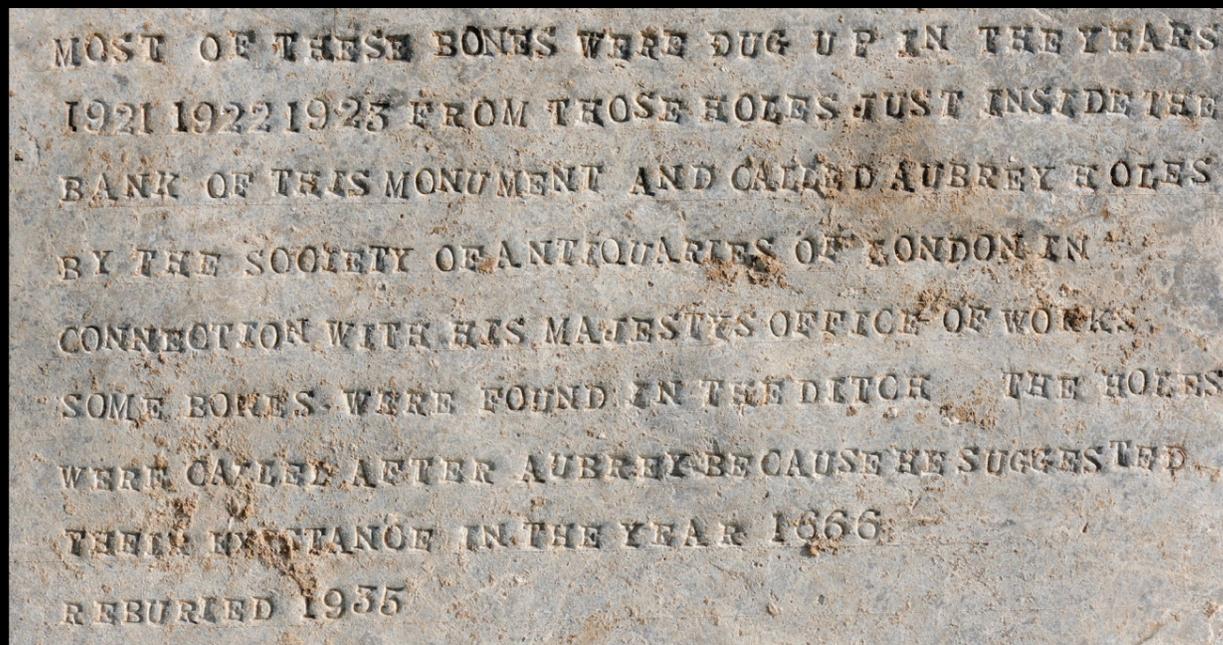
- What do we know? **01** **05** How has it changed?
- Who made this place? **02** **06** Archeoastronomy
- How was it made? **03** **07** Exit theatre
- Why was it made? **04**

## OBJECT LOANS

Over 300 artifacts from leading UK museums and institutions.

- English Heritage ●
- The National Trust ●
- The Salisbury Museum ●
- Wiltshire Museum ●

As visitors enter, they are introduced to the exhibition with a 3 minute immersive video of the Stonehenge monument featuring archeologist and curator Mike Parker Pearson. The projected video surrounds them in a circular gallery space, providing a sense of scale and simulating the experience of being present at the ancient site.



## MAIN MESSAGES

- Stonehenge is the only linteled prehistoric stone circle in the world.
- Its stones were transported incredible distances, were shaped and jointed. The site is set within a vast, sacred landscape in which people gathered for millennia before and during the time of the monument's use.
- Using the latest results of scientific analyses of this ancient monument and surrounding landscape, the exhibition reconstructs how these people lived, how they constructed and used this monument, and what its purpose may have been.

## AV ELEMENTS

- Entry video projection on large screen, featuring curator Mike Parker Pearson, providing an overview of the exhibition and current findings on Stonehenge.
- Children's animated video—Mike Parker Pearson introduces Stonehenge.



## KEY OBJECTS

- Scale model of Stonehenge Today
- Lead plaque covering Aubrey Hole 7

**A MEETING PLACE  
12,000 TO 5,000 YEARS AGO**

Upon leaving the theatre, the next area reveals the Salisbury Plain’s cultural and spiritual significance, which predates the monument by a millennium. Using models of the site and objects this area tells the early history of the location before the monument was built.



**MAIN MESSAGES**

- From about 6,000 to 10,000 years ago, the Stonehenge site was established by huntergatherers as a meeting place which was the center of a network of paths and routeways across southern Britain.
- Stonehenge lay between different territories in a neutral zone, where neighboring communities could gather.
- Around 6,000 years ago farmers arrived and started building burial mounds and having big feasts in the area.

**AV ELEMENTS**

- Video: Making a micro flint arrowhead
- Video: Where did the first farmers come from?
- Video: Julian Thomas—What was in the landscape before Stonehenge?



**KEY OBJECTS**

- Jadeite axe
- Coneybury Anomaly

**5,000 YEARS AGO**

The next area reveals the first incarnation of Stonehenge, which is unrecognizable as the monument we know today. Using scale models and objects to illustrate how the first Stonehenge was built. Additionally, there are two highly detailed dioramas which illustrates the bank and ditch construction and working Bluestones with human figures.

**MAIN MESSAGES**

- Stonehenge's first stage of construction occurred shortly after 3000 BC.
- This first Stonehenge was a large stone circle, 250 ft (90 m) in diameter, formed of small stones (*bluestones*) under 13 ft (4 m) tall.
- This was one of the earliest henges in Britain.
- What made Stonehenge unique as a stone circle was that most of its stones were brought from Wales, 155 mi (250 km) to the west.

**AV ELEMENTS**

- Seven videos featuring scientists highlighting current research about Bluestones and Sarsens.
- Children's animated video about Bluestones and their transport from Wales.

**KEY OBJECTS**

- Cremation burial SH (Aubrey 007): These are the cremated bones of a woman buried at Stonehenge when it was first built. She lived possibly as far away as Wales where the bluestones came from. Her remains were brought to Stonehenge and were buried beside a standing bluestone.

**THE WORLD OF THE LIVING AND THE DEAD  
4,500 YEARS AGO**

What makes Stonehenge special? Learn how the builders moved, shaped and jointed the stones from lands near and far. The largest exhibition section focuses on the construction of the iconic monument we recognize today. Includes an examination of the builders with evidence from recent archaeological finds at Durrington Walls.



**MAIN MESSAGES**

- Stonehenge was drastically remodeled around 2500 BC, (500 years after it was first built).
- Reconstructing this great monument was a massive task, and the builders' settlement has been found about 1.9 mi (3 km) away at Durrington Walls.
- Whereas Stonehenge with its many burials was a place of the dead, Durrington Walls formed the world of the living.
- Both the stone world of the dead and the wood world of the living were linked to the River Avon by solstice-aligned ceremonial avenues.

**AV ELEMENTS**

- Video: "Testimony of a Woman"
- 4 Videos featuring scientists current research analyzing animal remains DNA and what it means about Stonehenge's builders.



**KEY OBJECTS**

Arrowheads, fabricators and scrapers of Durrington Walls. ●

## TRANSFORMATION OF STONEHENGE 4,400 YEARS AGO

The fifth area exemplifies and explains the use and adaptation of Stonehenge by a new group of people who migrated from Continental Europe. This area also asks “Why did Stonehenge attract so many people and draw them from far away?”



### MAIN MESSAGES

- Stage 3 of Stonehenge represents a cultural transformation of the site, when the so-called ‘Beaker people’ had arrived in Britain from Europe, burying their dead on Salisbury Plain and leaving their pottery ‘beakers’ at the sacred site.
- The main reason why the Beaker people, (and afterwards the people of the Wessex culture), came to Salisbury Plain was their preference for chalklands, most suitable for the herding of their sheep and cattle.
- During this time the not (yet) contested land of Salisbury Plain was known as a neutral zone, not settled by other groups, and was therefore attractive to these newcomers.

### AV ELEMENTS

- 3 Videos of scientists discussing the Wessex and Beaker people that came after the builders of Stonehenge and adopted the monument.
- Children’s animated video—“Dressing a Beaker Man and Woman”.



### KEY OBJECTS

- Bronze axe Great Durnford
- Bush Barrow Burial



### SECTION 5A MAKER SPACE

A Maker Space is available with the exhibition. In this area visitors can create their own Stonehenge model to take home. Simply made with small stones and model making supplies. Consumables to be provided by host museum.

**STONEHENGE, THE SUN AND THE MOON**

Visitors will observe a multimedia display explaining the connection between the formations of Stonehenge and the movements of the sun and the moon, and exploring the potential intentions behind these celestial connections. The emotional experience ends with the view of Stonehenge how it was intended to be seen... with the sun setting between the uprights of the tallest trilithon on the winter solstice.

**MAIN MESSAGES**

- Once a year, on midsummer's morning (on or around June 21st) you can see the sun rise at Stonehenge aligned between the tallest trilithons.
- On midwinter's day, (on or around December 21st), the sun sets in the southwest, in the opposite direction.
- Major lunar orientations are also marked by Stonehenge's four Station Stones and the northeast entrance.
- Some astronomers have speculated that Stonehenge was an observatory for predicting complex phenomena such as the occurrence of eclipses of the sun and moon.

**AV ELEMENTS**

- Video: Clive Ruggles discussing the astronomic characteristics of the stones.
- Projection map video on Stonehenge white model illustrates the astronomical movements in concert with the stones.

**KEY OBJECTS**

- Copy of Gerald Hawkins book, *Stonehenge Decoded*.

Multimedia displays provide visitors an understanding of Stonehenge's meaning today. The exit hallway brings them back to the present. It features a text panel explaining why Stonehenge stopped being used and high-resolution images of Stonehenge today.

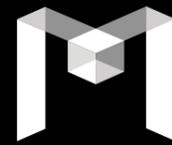
**MAIN MESSAGES**

- In a modern and fast-changing world, Stonehenge is an icon for the mysterious ancient past.
- Early theories about Stonehenge have led to modern-day beliefs surrounding it.
- Modern-day druids consider it to be their main temple, along with Avebury and other stone circles.
- Interest in its astronomical alignments in the 1960s led to wilder speculation about it being built by space aliens.
- Stonehenge carries different meaning for different people. Some consider it a place of mysterious earth energies and other mystical forces. Others regard it solely as impressive testament to the skills of prehistoric people.

**AV ELEMENTS**

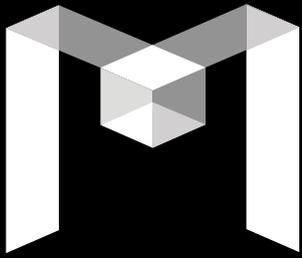
- Video "Stonehenge Revisited": The spectator/visitor gets an immersive view of the monuments and a recap of the key message of the exhibition.
- Multi-screen carrousel structure of photos showing tourists at Stonehenge today.





In cooperation with international museums, *MuseumsPartner* has conceived a range of travelling exhibitions that are informative and engaging for a multitude of audiences and easy to adapt to different spaces. We offer these exhibitions under a turnkey contract which ensures that our clients are guaranteed a secure investment customized for their own institution without any surprises. Drawing on our extensive experience in fine art transport, we provide full services to our partners and offer project management, logistics and financial management.





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