

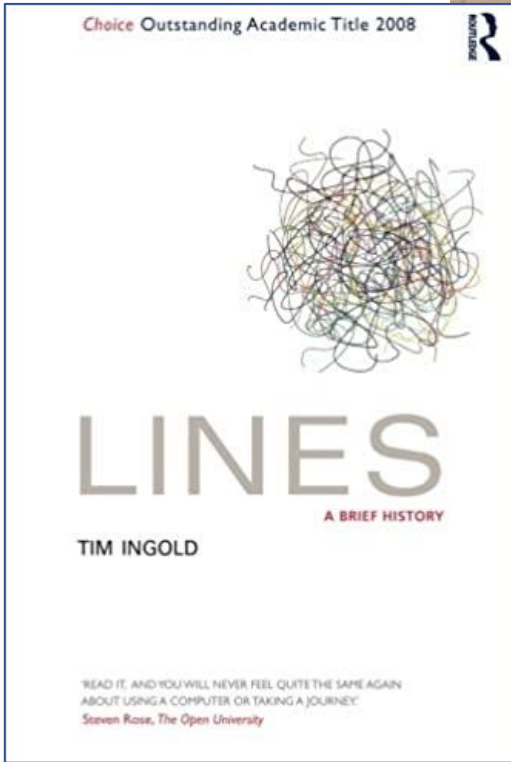
Lines, Paths and Walking

Sacred Geography

Dr Bernadette Brady

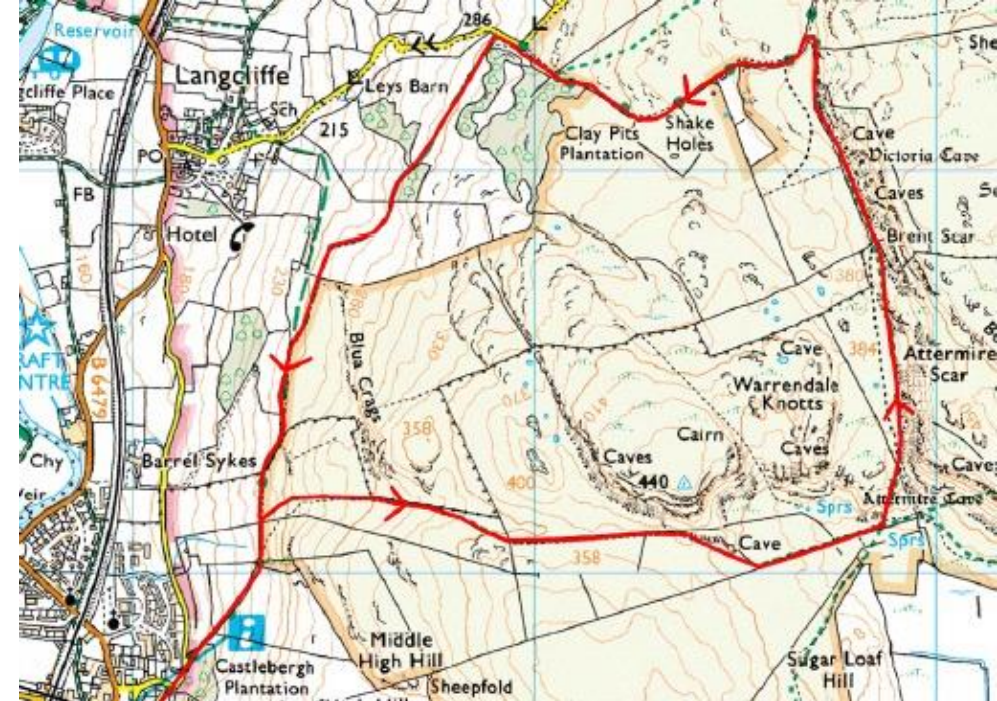
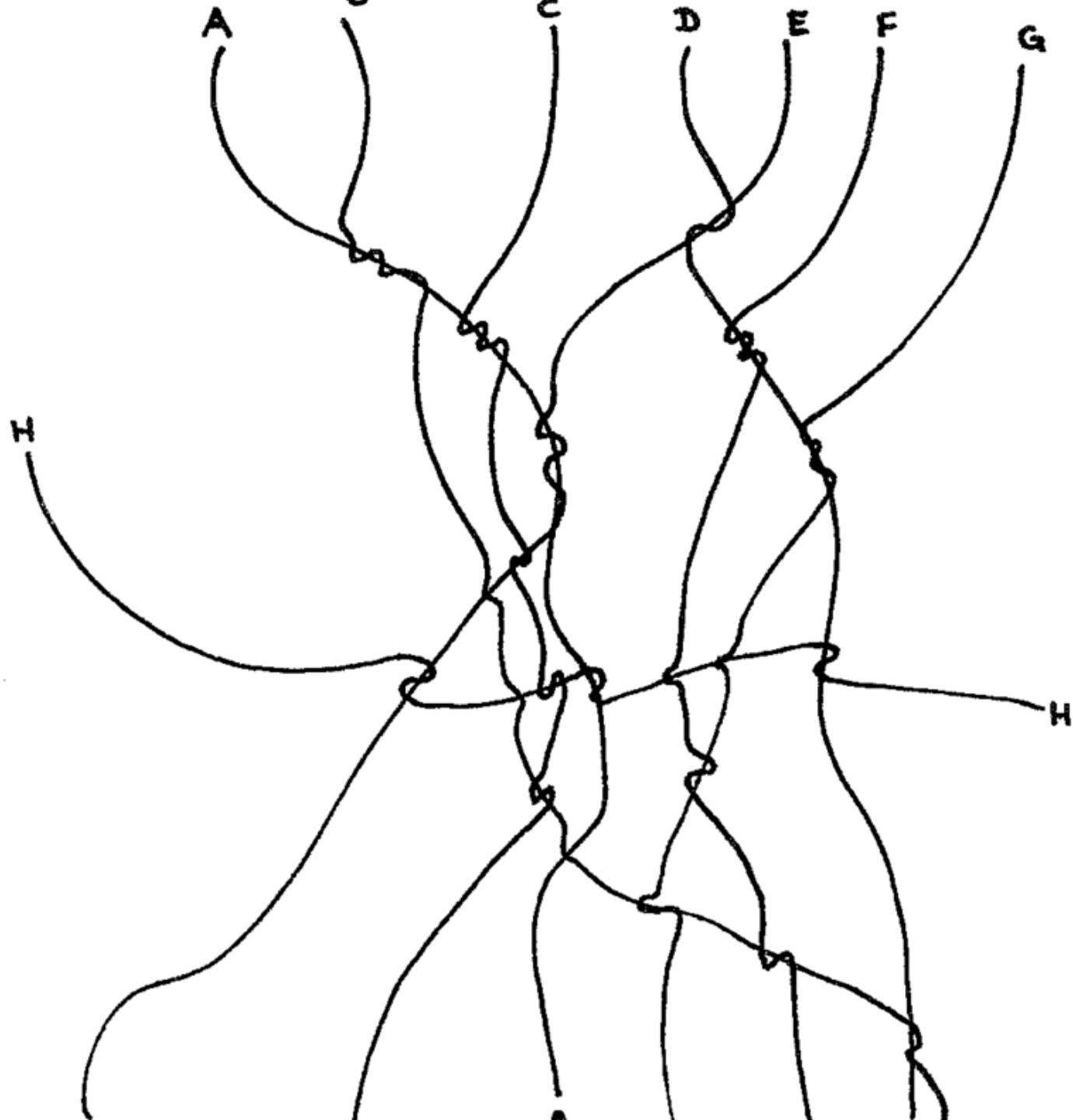


Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David



Timothy Ingold

‘Life is lived along paths, not just in places, and paths are lines of a sort’.



A hand is shown holding a small, detailed globe of the Earth. The globe features green continents, blue oceans, and a small town with a church spire. In the background, three large white wind turbines are visible against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. A semi-transparent blue box with white text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

‘People inhabit a world that consists, in the first place, not of things but of lines. After all, what is a thing, or indeed a person, if not a trying together of the lines – the paths of growth and movement – of all the many constituents gathered there?’

Different types of
movement and the lines
they create

Walking Lines



Lines made by walking
- Richard Long



A LINE MADE BY WALKING

ENGLAND 1967

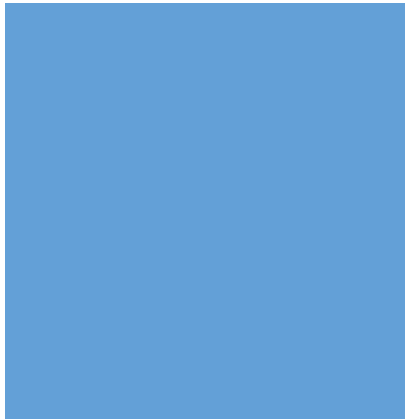
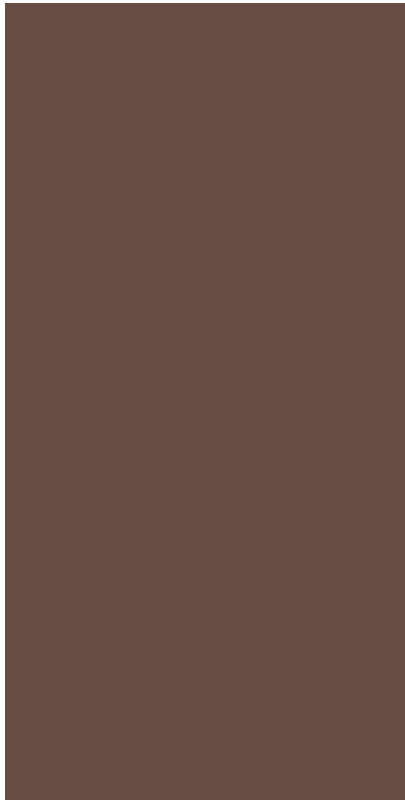
Walking along lines



The line with intent is in a hurry – its goal is the journey end.

A line which develops freely, and in its own time, is a line that 'goes out for a walk'. Its goal is the journey itself.





Wayfaring produces Places

The landscape contains knots of human interreacting, connections – villages, markets, meeting places or just conversations.



When Wayfaring is replaced by destination-oriented transport.

The contemporary understanding or perception of landscape shifts from being a **knot tied from multiple and interlaced strands of movement and growth to a set of nodes in a static network connections.**





Wayfaring and Point to Point travel



Animal migration is point to
point travel but can also be
consider a form of pilgrimage



- What lines we choose to move **on** changes how we think of a landscape.
- **How we move** on those lines changes how we see that landscape.
- How we move in any landscape **changes the 'places'** within that landscape.





Loss or reduction of Places

For Point-to-Point places there are only connections
– anything in-between is ignored

Ingold's main argument is:

‘An ecology of life, in short, must be one of threads and traces, not of nodes and connectors. And its subject of inquiry must consist not of the relations between organism and their external environments but of the relations along their severally emmeshed ways of life. Ecology, in short, is the study of the life of lines.’

Special paths

The labyrinth –
a single path

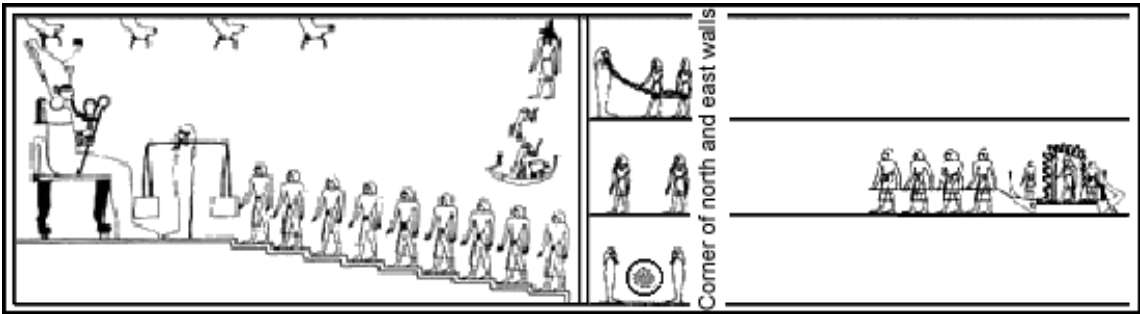
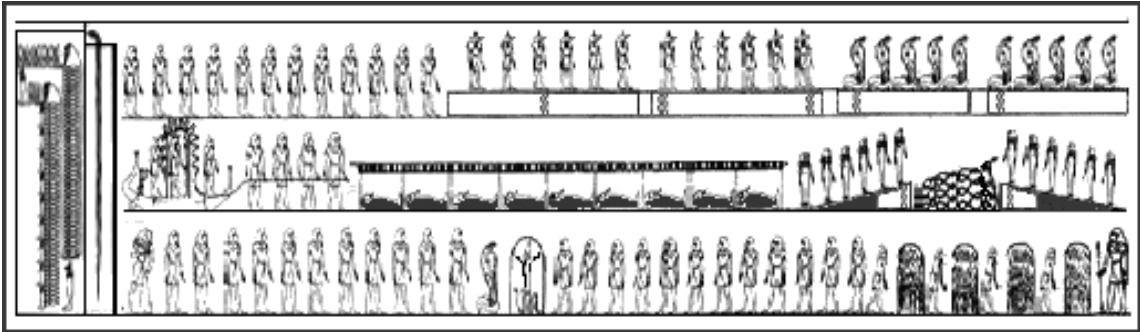


The Chartres Labyrinths

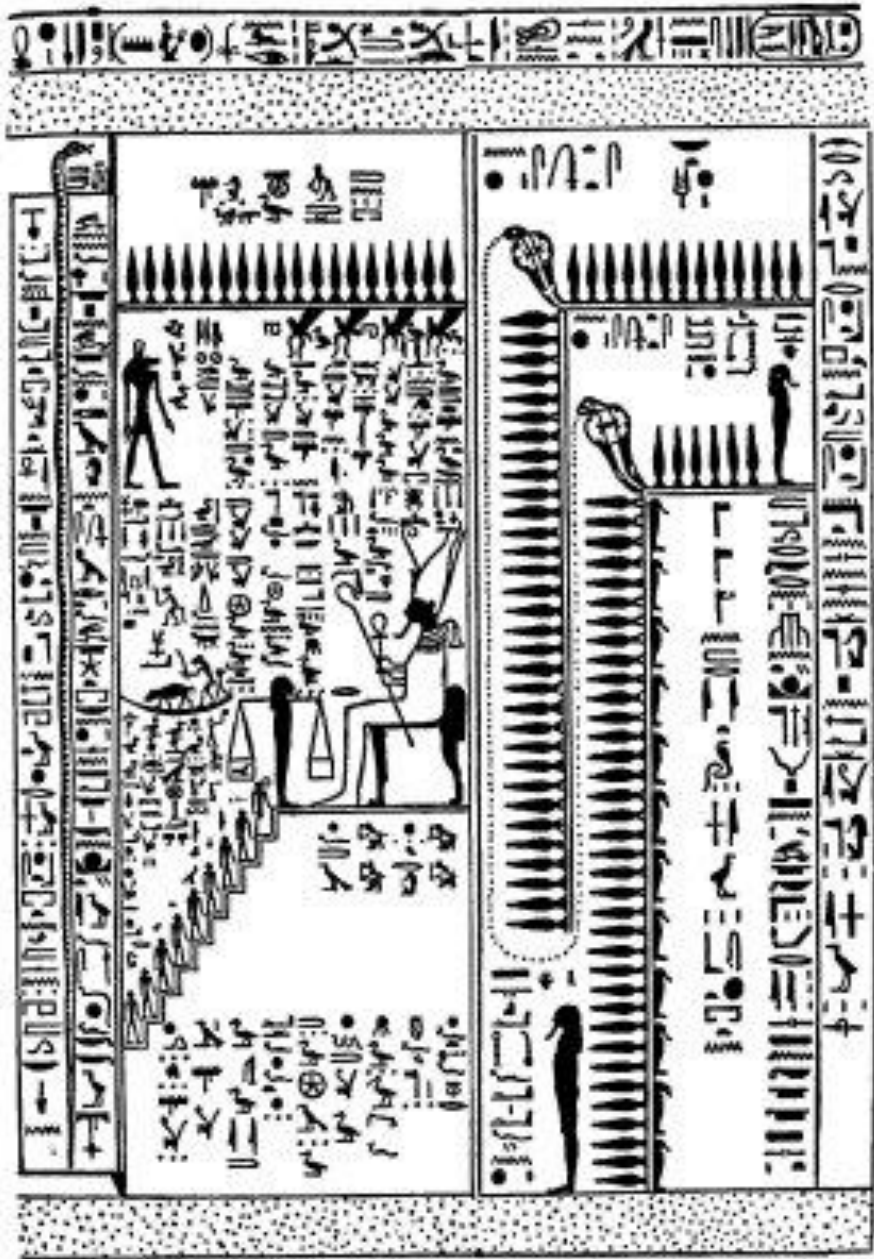
The Maze – many ways



Book of Gates – New Kingdom, Egypt



Pathways in the geography of the other world





Walking in
Circles –
circumambulation



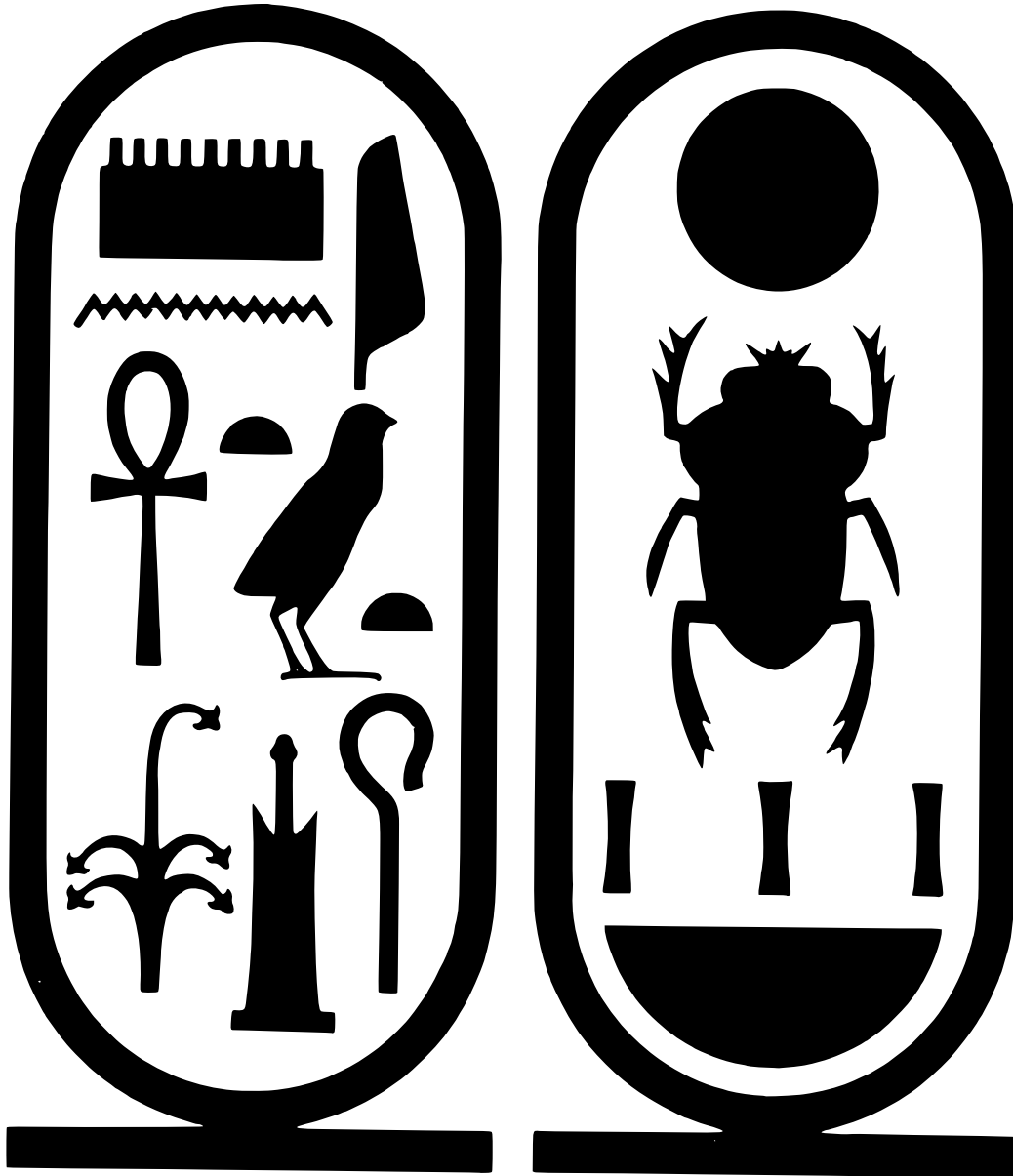


The daily path of the sun across the sky encircled the living world.

The shen ring symbolised this movement and was divine.



Cartouche of Tutankhamun



The shen ring was extended to form the cartouche – used in pharaonic Egypt around the name of the king.

Use to protect the king but also protect others from the raw divine power of the king.



To encircle something is to :

- To move in a divine manner around an object.
- To move in the direction of the heavens – clockwise.
- To gain harmony with that divine force.
- Thus **circumambulation** is linked with sacred places.



Delphi

To be in the inner-circle is to be close to the source of power for a group!

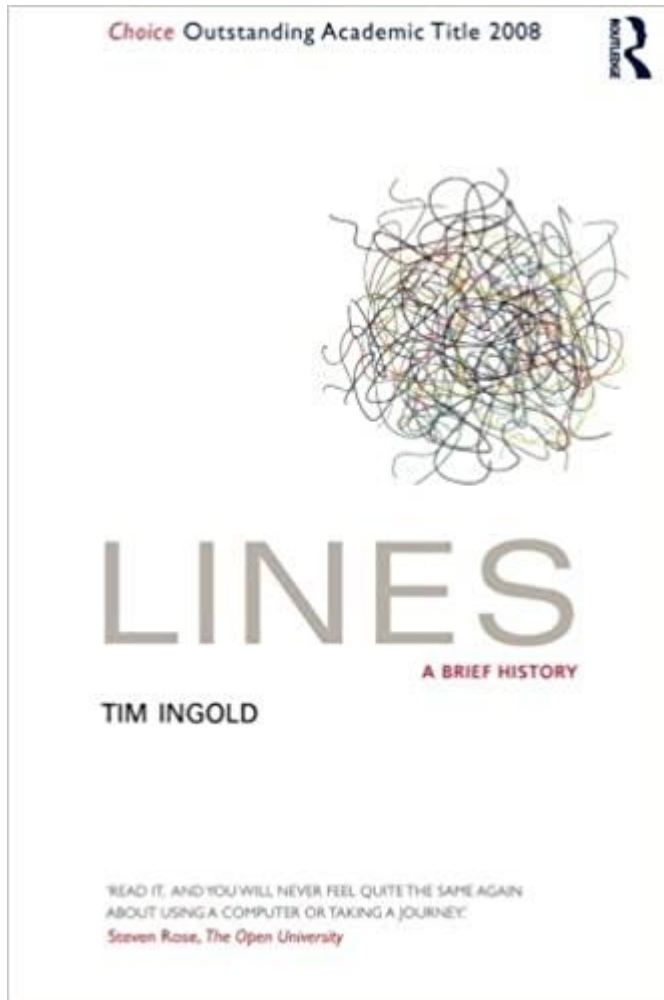
The omphalos of a nation – the centre of power.



In sacred geography we need to ask questions not only about a place but about how people or animals **travel to the place**.

Is the sacredness of a place changed by the travel required?





Tim Ingold – A history of lines

- Offers new definitions on the nature of place
 - knots or nodes
- Different types of lines and movement
 - Labyrinths and mazes
- Wayfaring verses Point-to-Point travel.

Ingold's work on lines opens up our thinking around ideas of movement within a landscape.

Is movement and ways of travelling to a place, an attribute of that place's sacredness?