

Stonehenge and Avebury:

Prehistoric Celestial Processional Complexes?

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Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Introduction: Stonehenge



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Introduction: Stonehenge



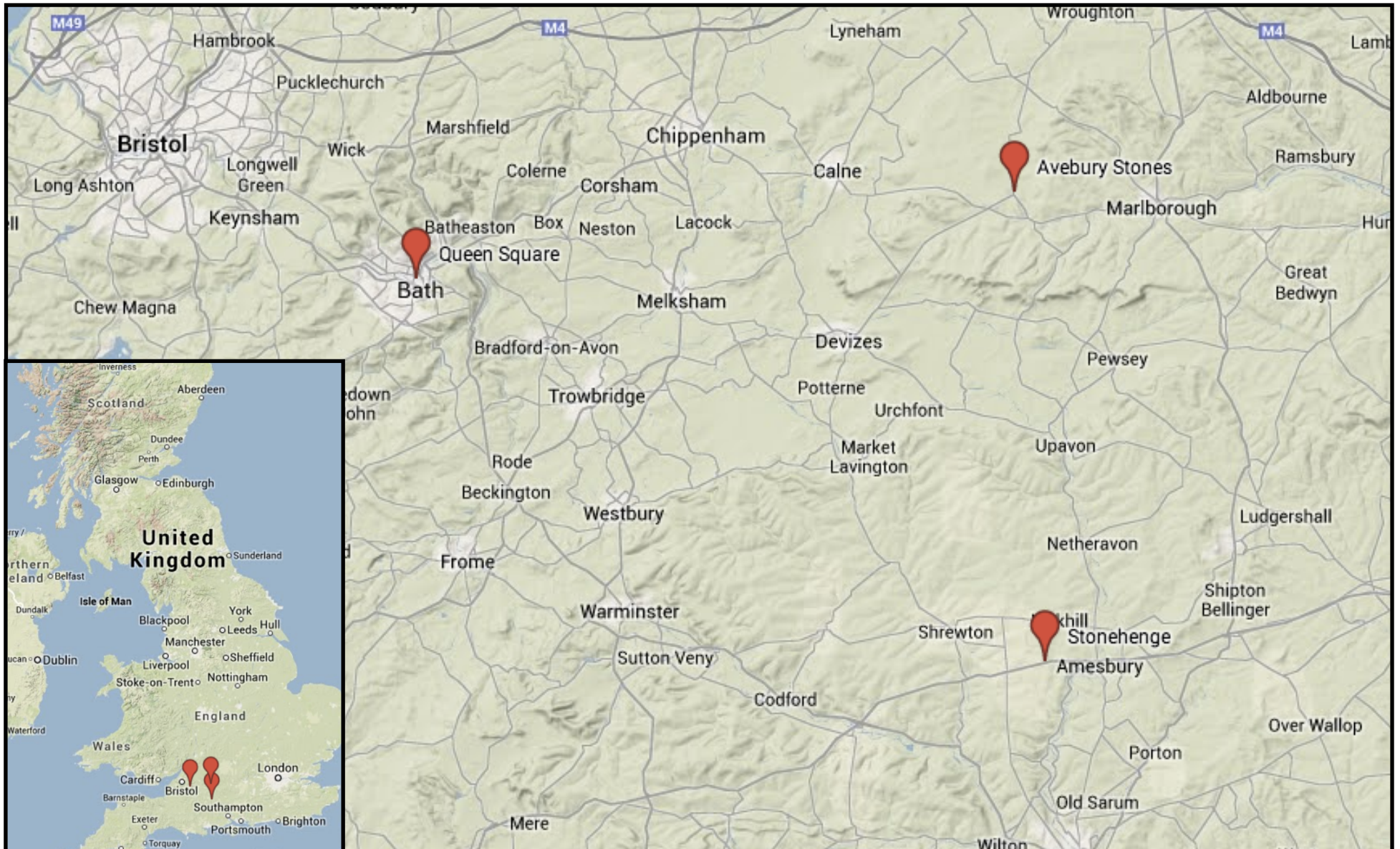
Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Introduction: Stonehenge

8820 – 6590 BCE	Early Mesolithic post holes
3630 – 3370 BCE	Greater Stonehenge Cursus
3000 – 2620 BCE	Earthwork enclosure (bank and ditch) Aubrey holes
2620 – 2480 BCE	Trilithon horseshoe Sarsen circle Double bluestone circle Heel stone in present location Durrington Walls Southern Circle (phase 1)
2480 – 2280 BCE	Bluestone central circle Construction of Avenue Durrington Walls Southern Circle (phase 2)
2280 – 2020 BCE	Bluestones rearranged as inner oval and outer circle
2020 – 1520 BCE	Round barrows in the landscape

Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Introduction



Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Introduction: Avebury

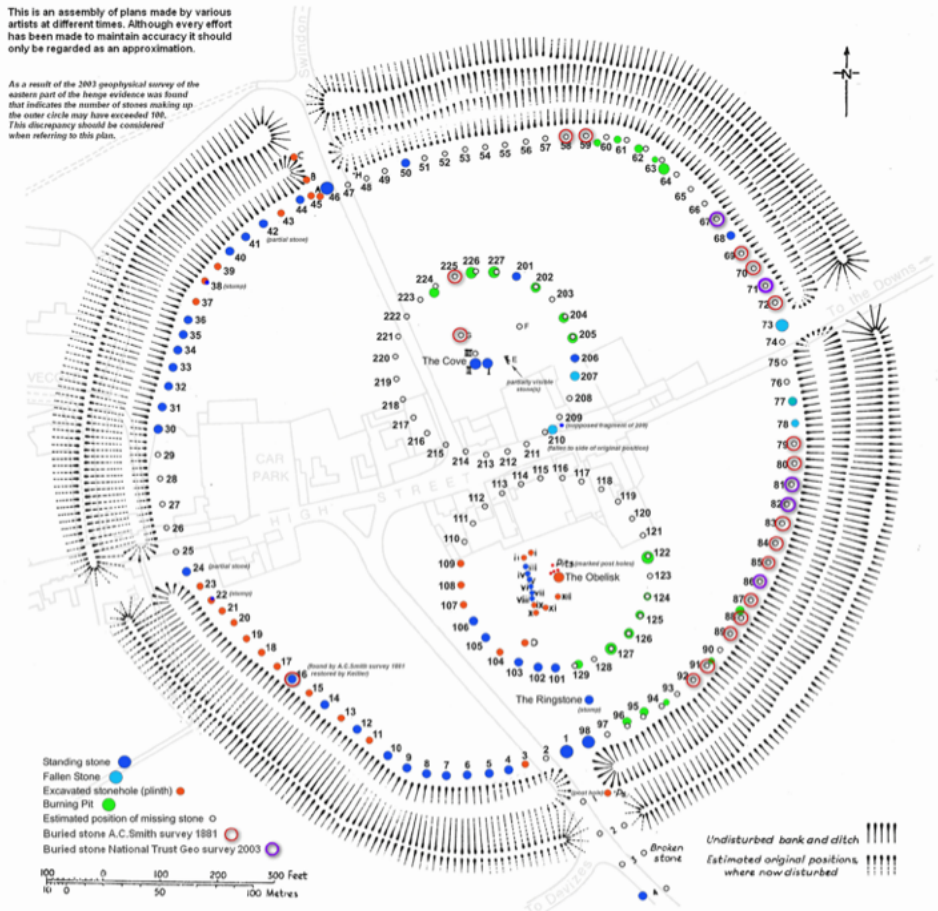


THE AVEBURY HENGES

Showing the full numbering & estimated positions of missing stones.
Also the estimated position of the original bank & ditch at the entrances.

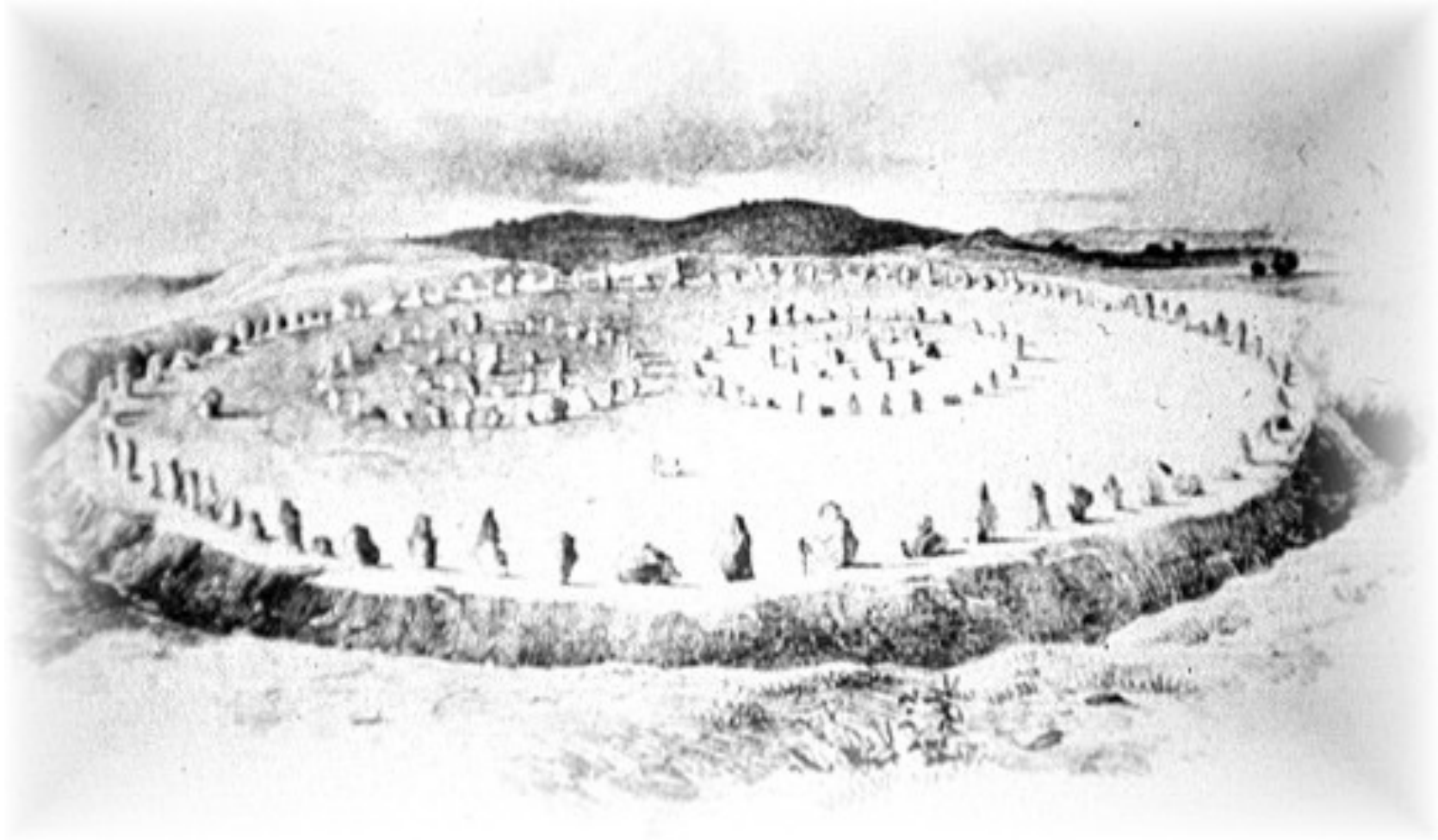
This is an assembly of plans made by various artists at different times. Although every effort has been made to maintain accuracy it should only be regarded as an approximation.

As a result of the 2003 geophysical survey of the eastern part of the henge evidence was found that indicates the number of stones making up the outer circle may have exceeded 100. This discrepancy should be considered when referring to this plan.



Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Introduction: Avebury

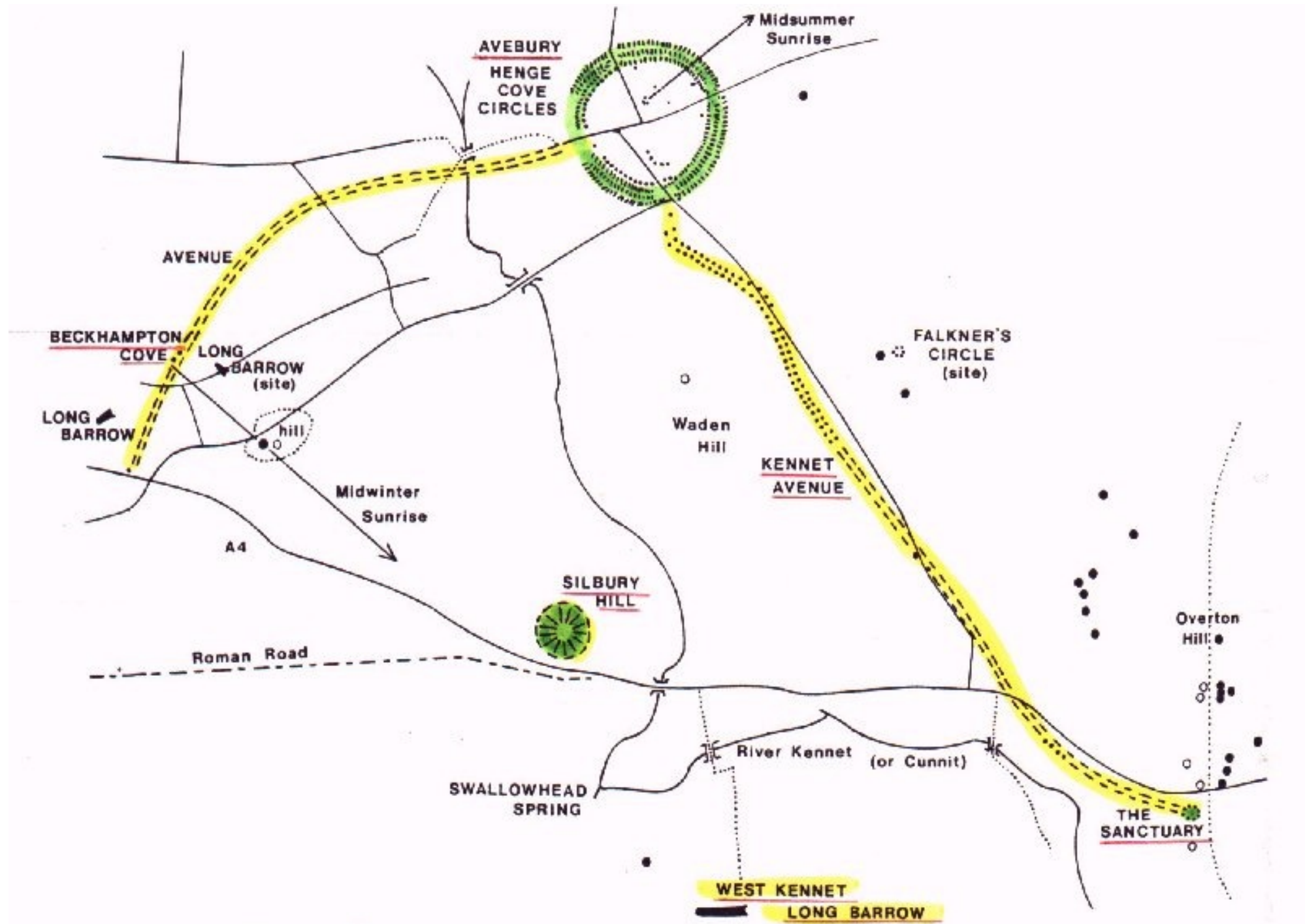


Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Introduction: Avebury

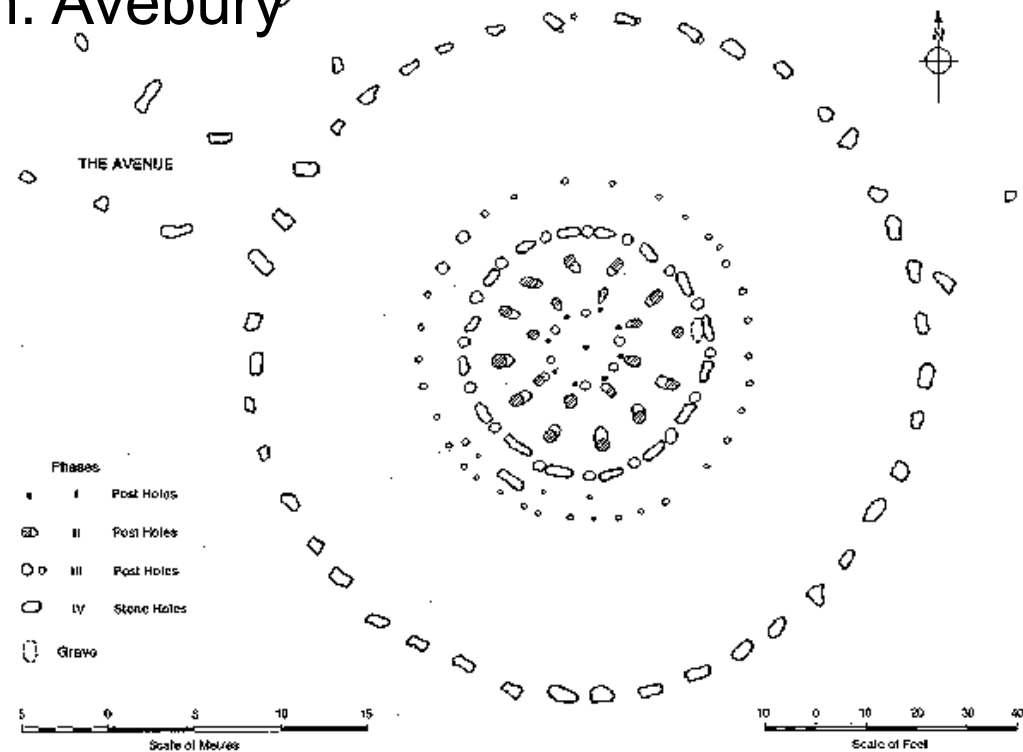


Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?



Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Introduction: Avebury

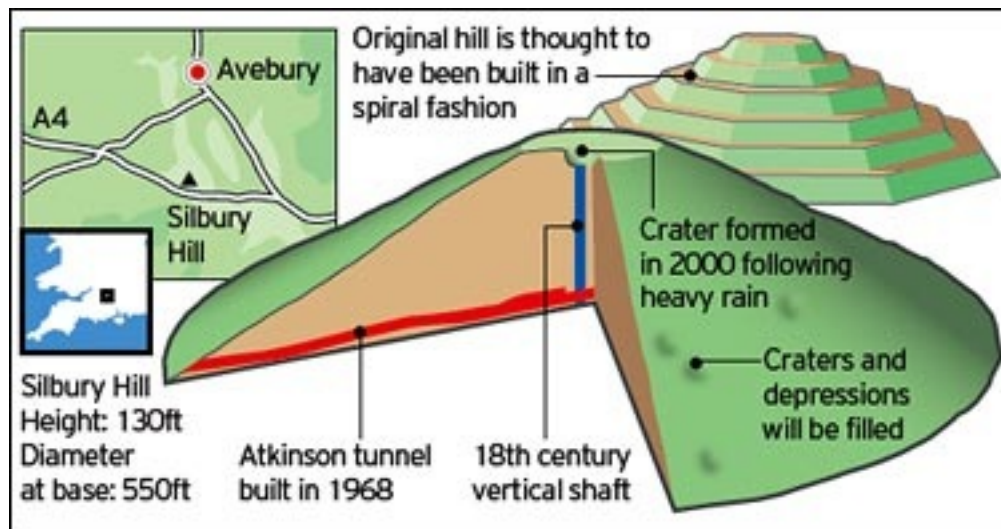


Plan of the Sanctuary, showing Phases 1-4



Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Introduction: Avebury



Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Introduction: Avebury

3700 BCE	Construction of West Kennet Long Barrow
3000 BCE	Sanctuary (phase 1)
2900 BCE	Inner circles of the henge
2800 BCE	Henge (ditch and bank, phase 1)
2700 BCE	Henge (ditch and bank, phase 2)
2600 BCE	Outer circle
	Construction of Silbury Hill starts (?)
2500 BCE	Completion of Silbury Hill
2400 BCE	Beckampton and West Kennet Avenues
2200 BCE	West Kennet Long Barrow sealed

Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Similarities

Stonehenge

- complex stone circle
- complex timber circle(s)
- avenue connecting the two
- henge: 3,000 - 2,600 BCE
- avenue: 2,480 - 2,280 BCE

Avebury

- complex stone circle(s)
- complex timber circle
- avenue connecting the two
- henge: c. 2,800 - 2,700 BCE
- avenues: c. 2,400 BCE

Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Pilgrimage and Procession Today



Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Nomadic Hunter-Gatherers



Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

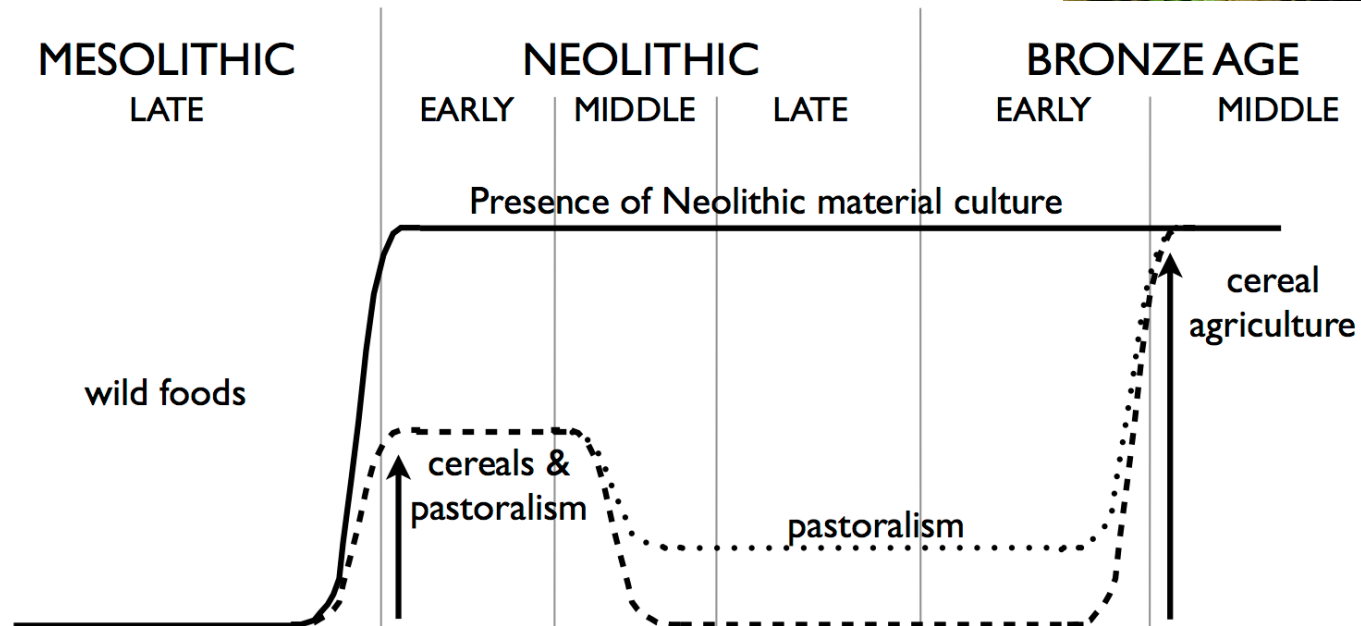
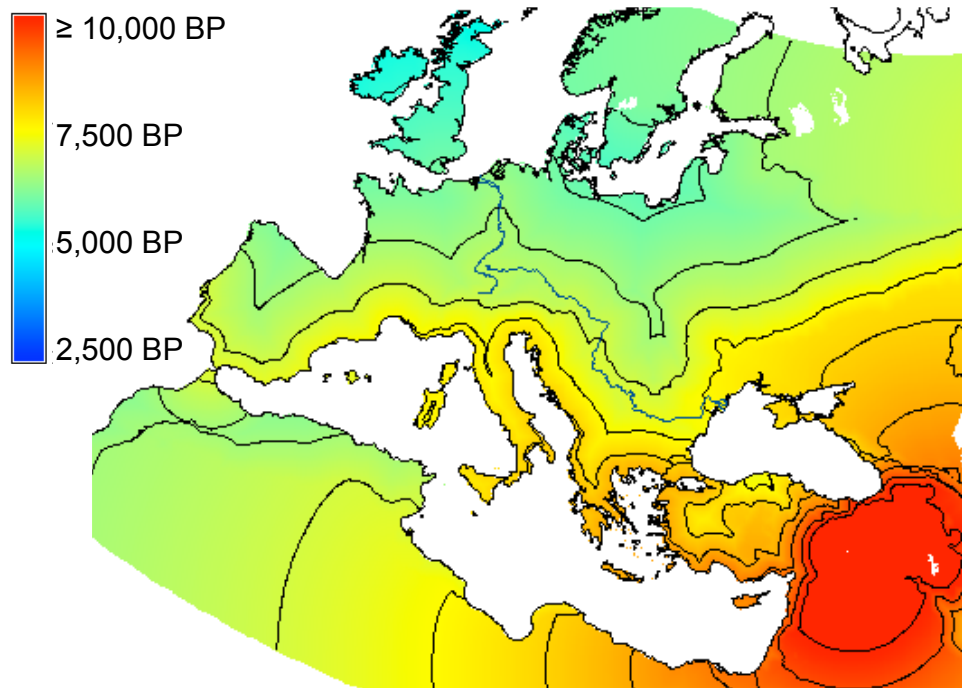
Time and Hunter-Gatherers



Figure 4. The cluster of black dots near this bull's head bears a similar spatial relationship to the Pleiades star cluster in relation to the constellation Taurus, which a number of scholars have remarked upon (image courtesy of Jègues-Wolkiewiez).

Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

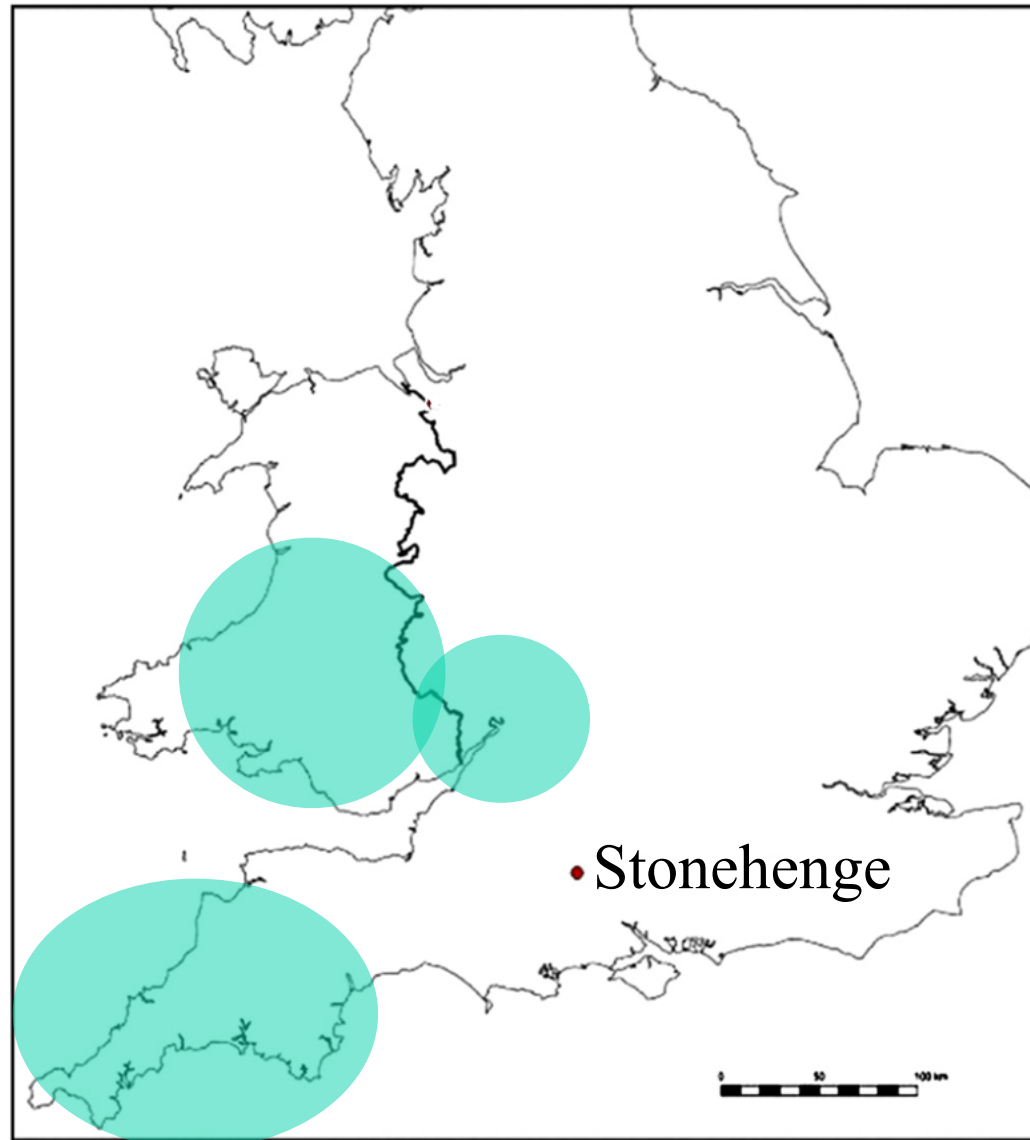
Neolithic: Introduction of Farming



Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Evidence for long-distance travelling at Stonehenge

cattle bone
evidence



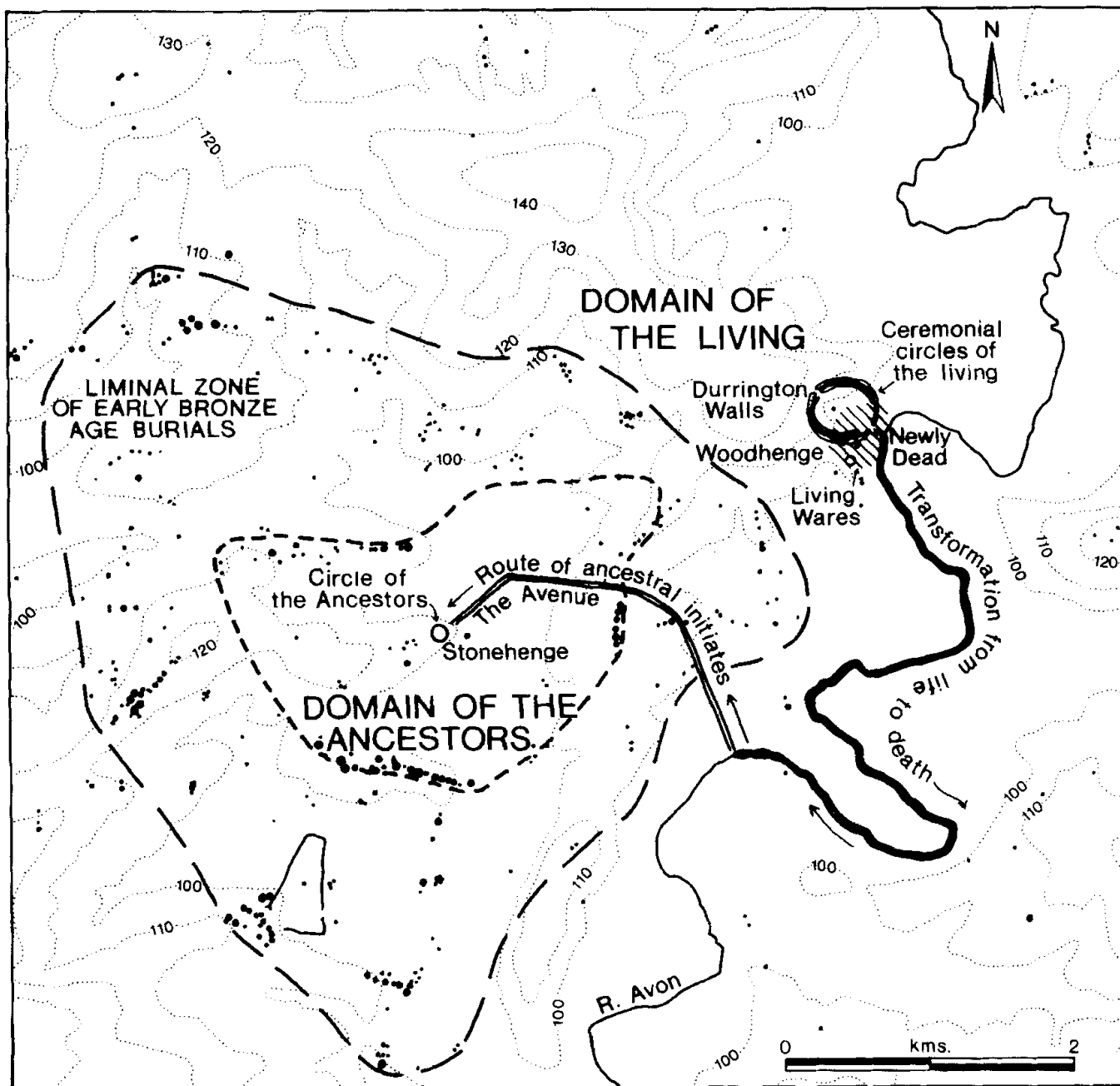
minimum
100km

Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Stonehenge Processional Route

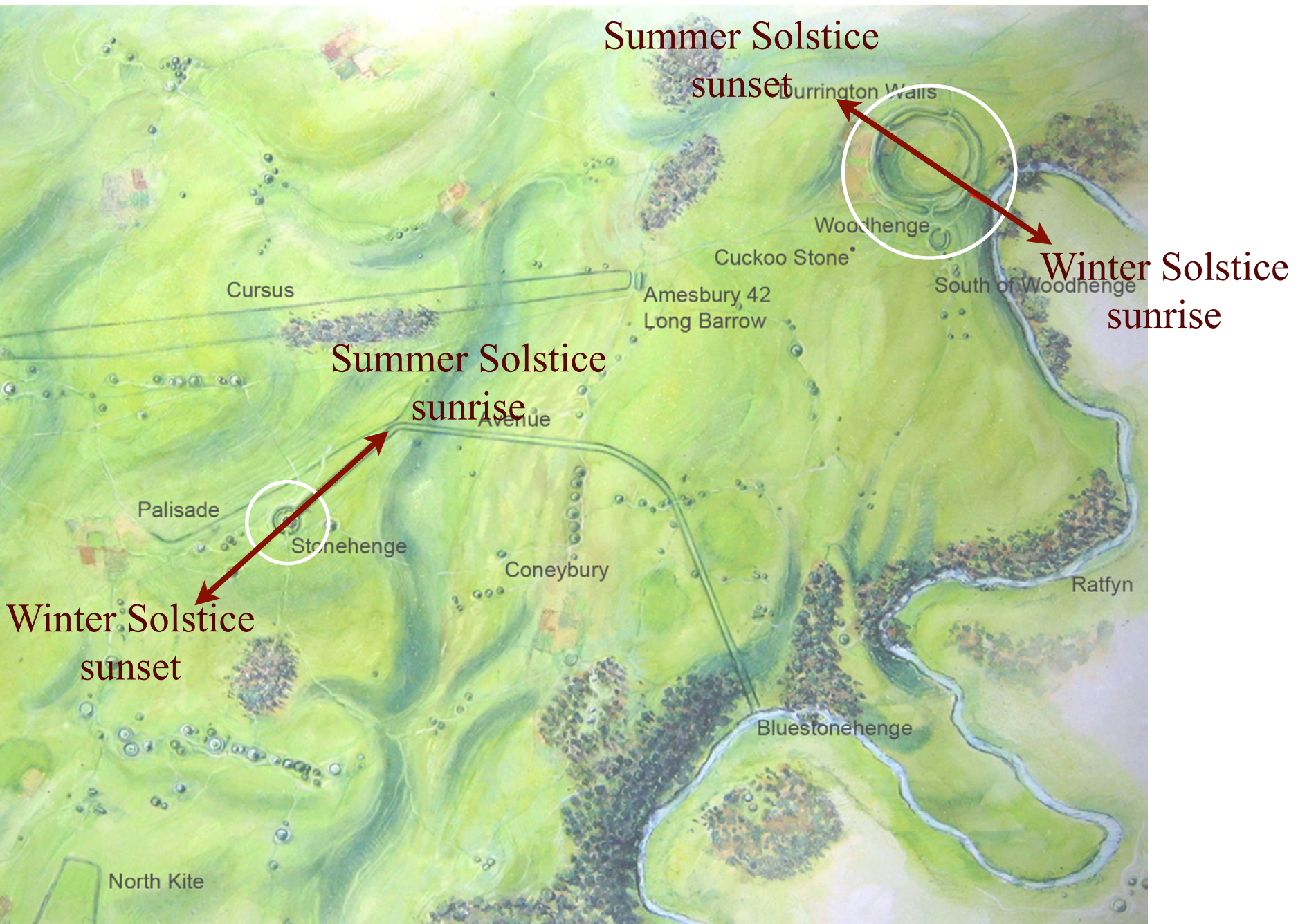
M Parker Pearson and Ramilisonina
(1998) Stonehenge for the ancestors:
the stones pass on the message.
Antiquity 72 (276): 308-26.

Durrington Walls : Stonehenge
wood : stone
living : dead



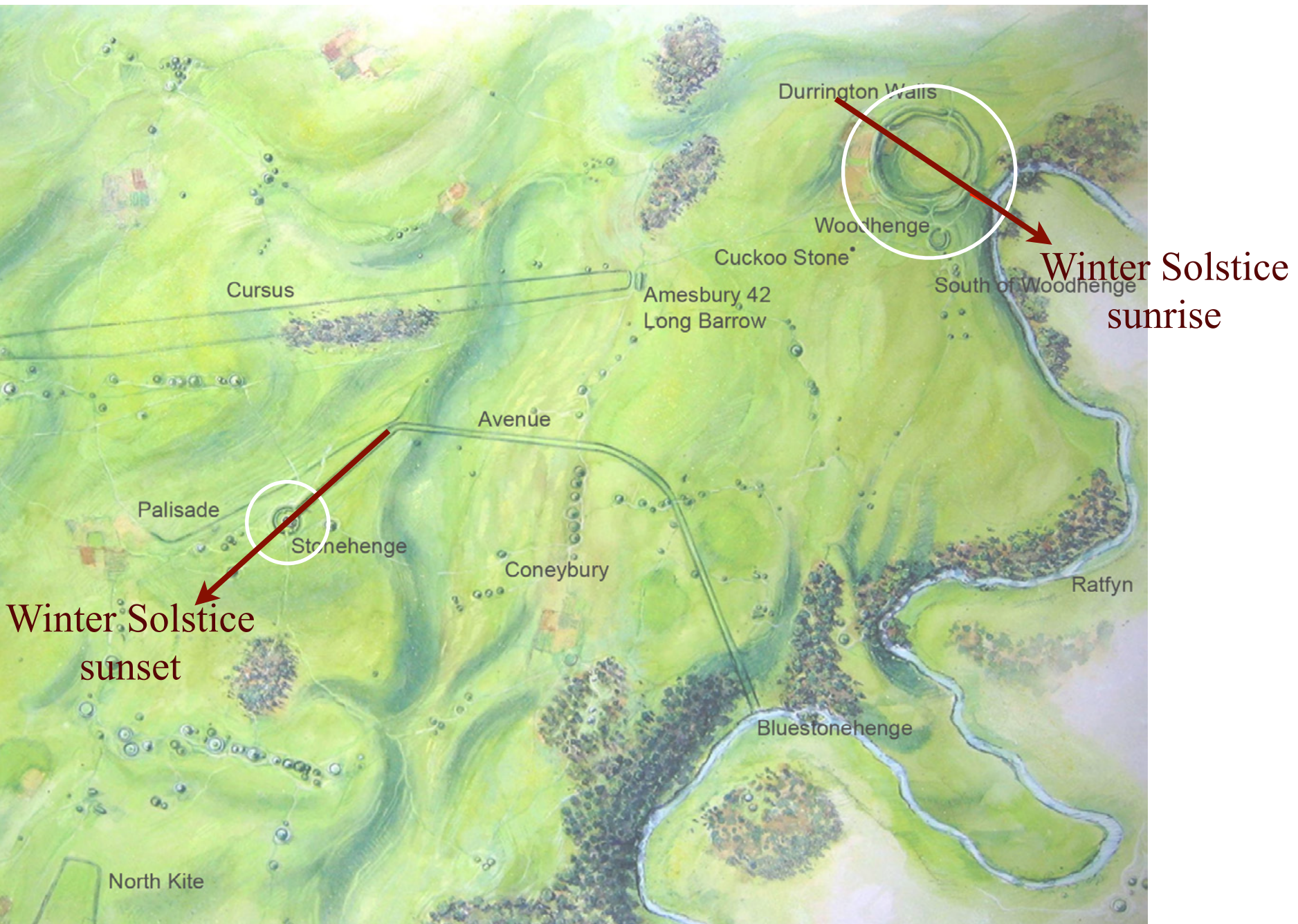
Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Stonehenge Processional Route 2



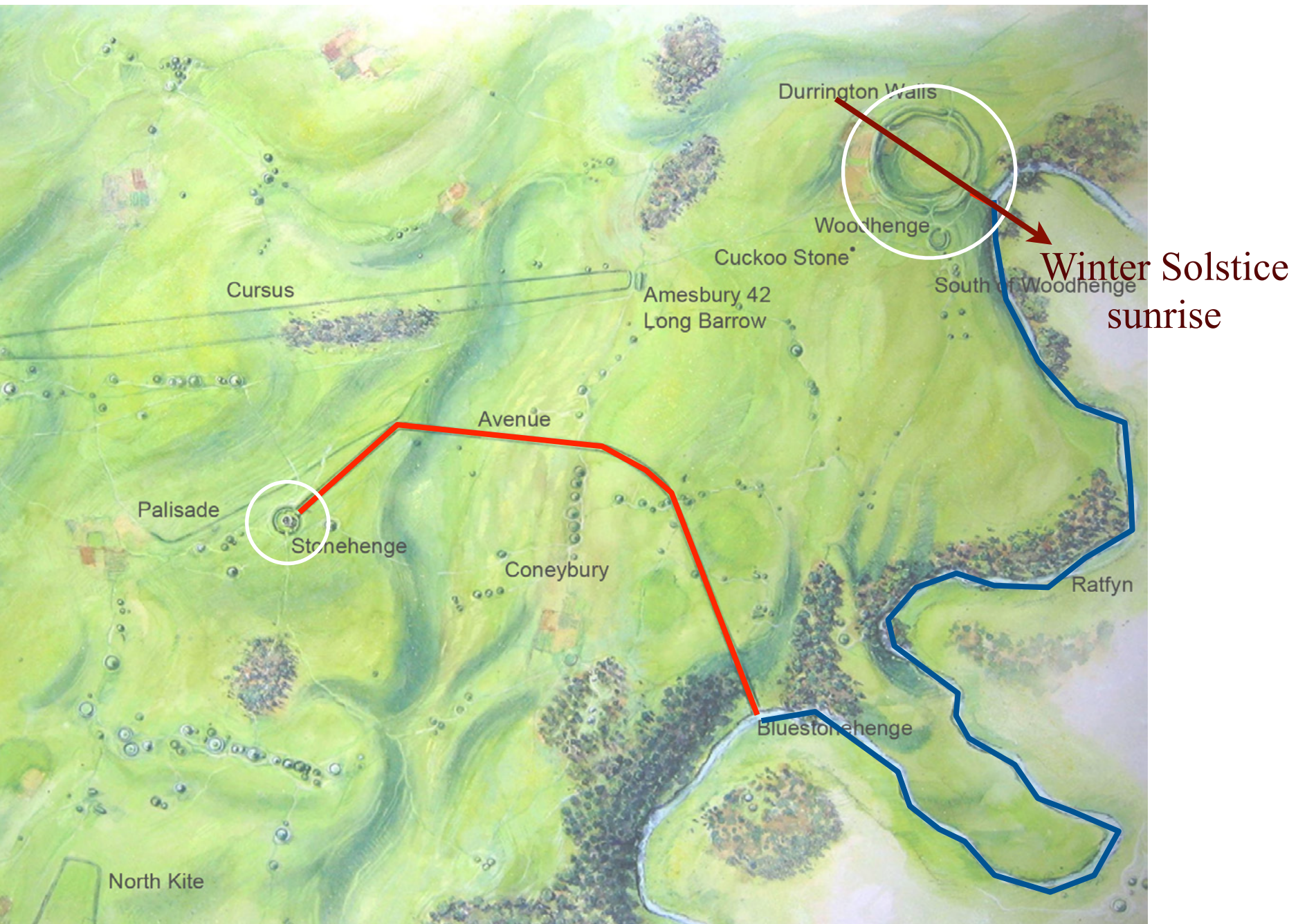
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Stonehenge Processional Route 2



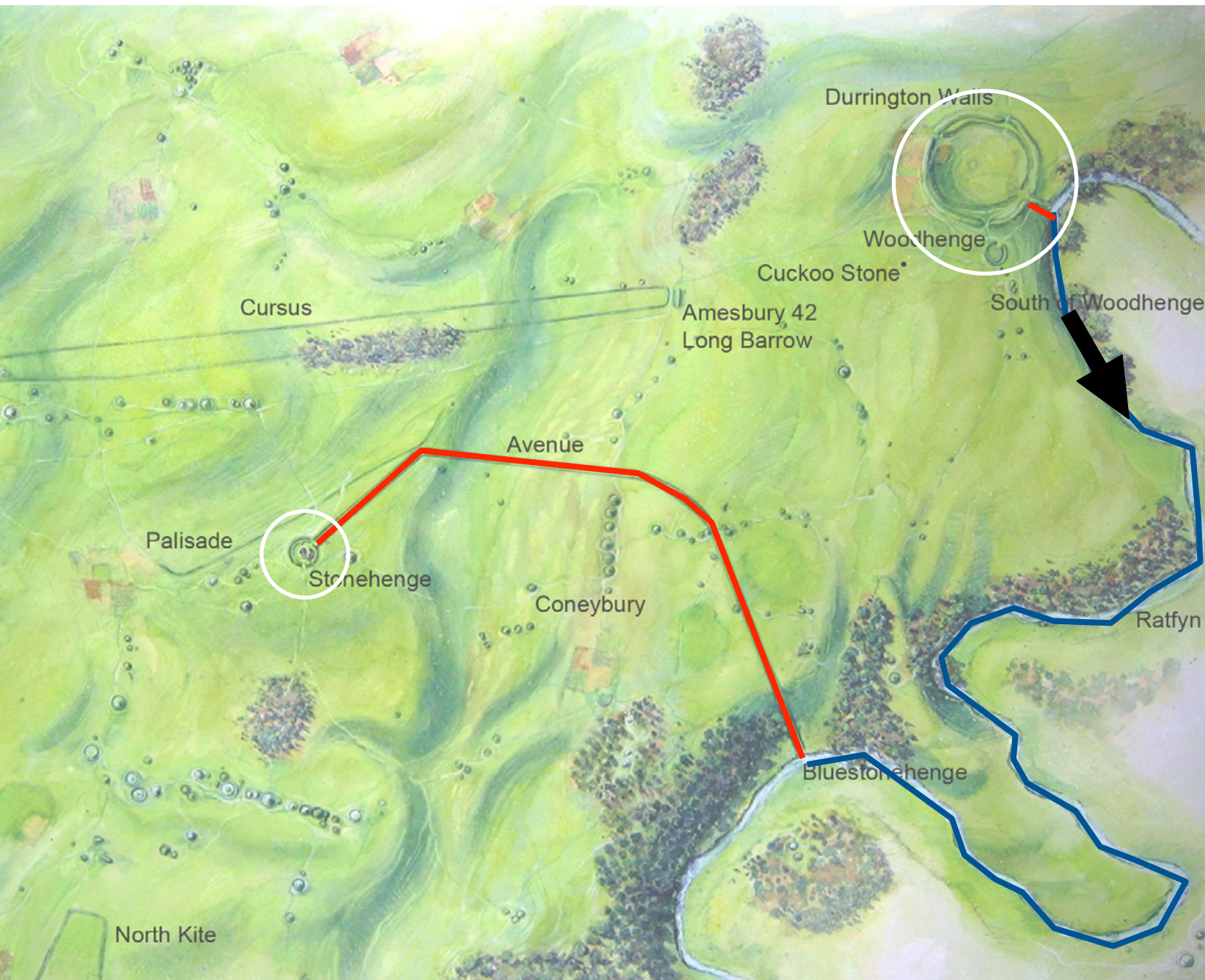
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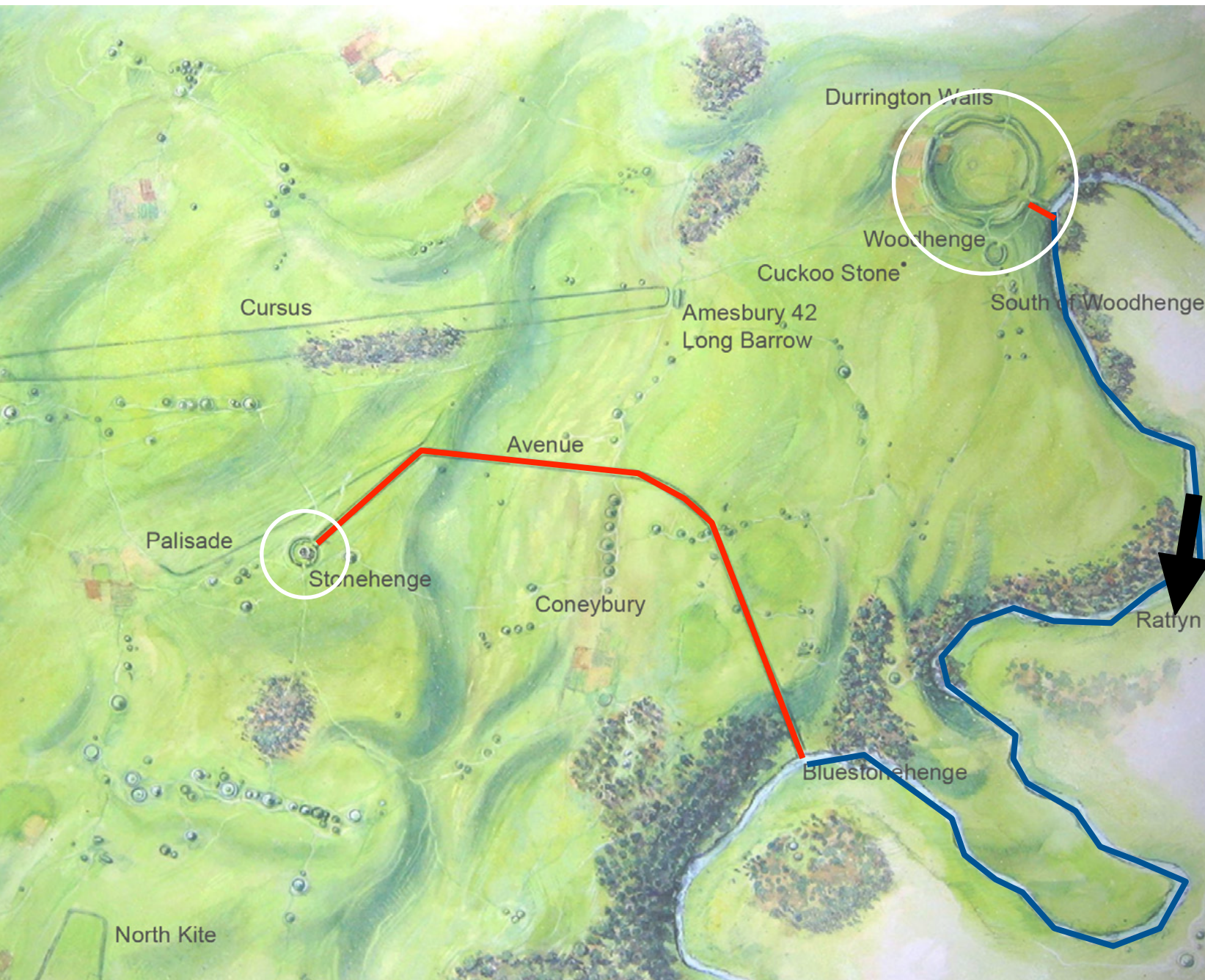
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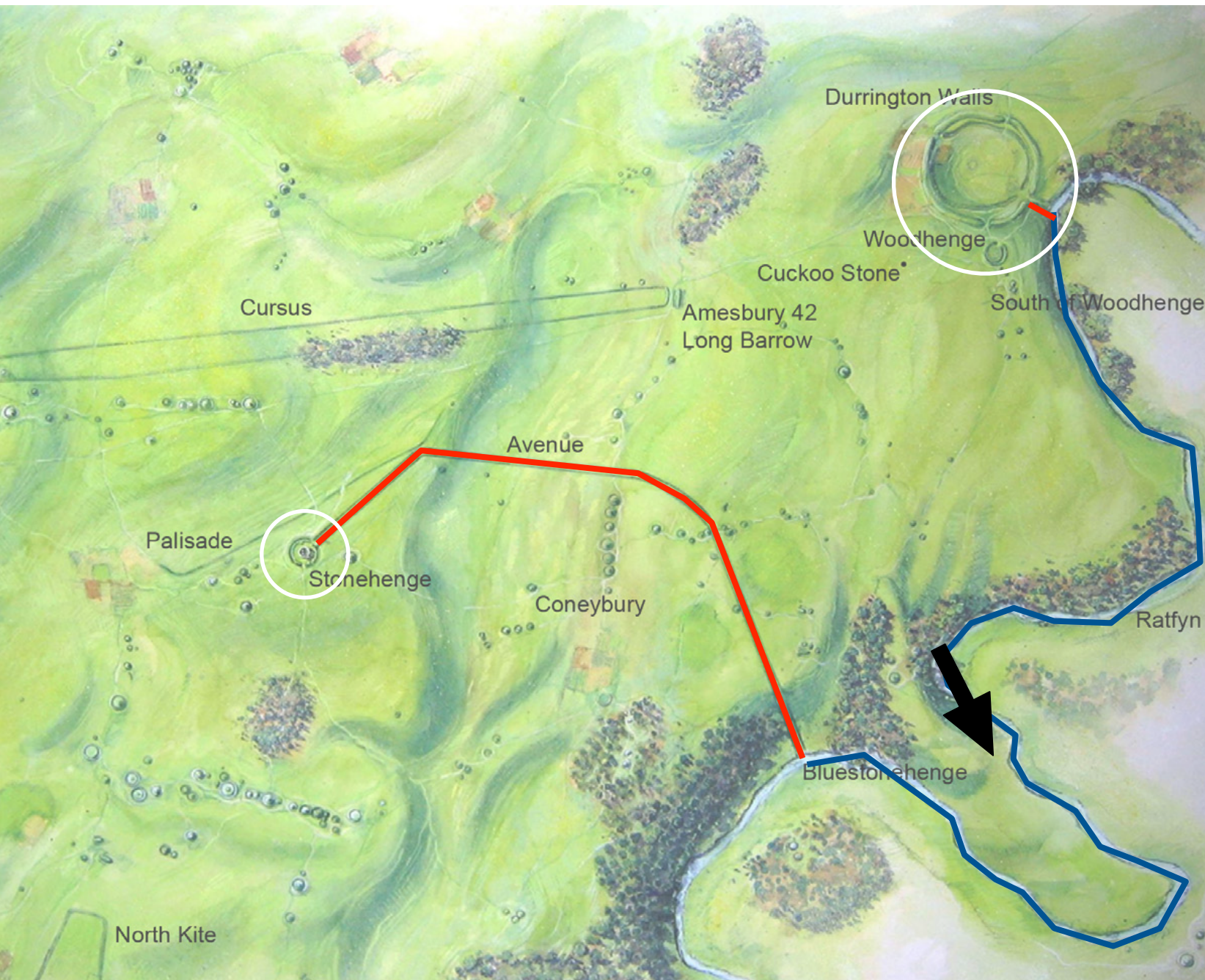
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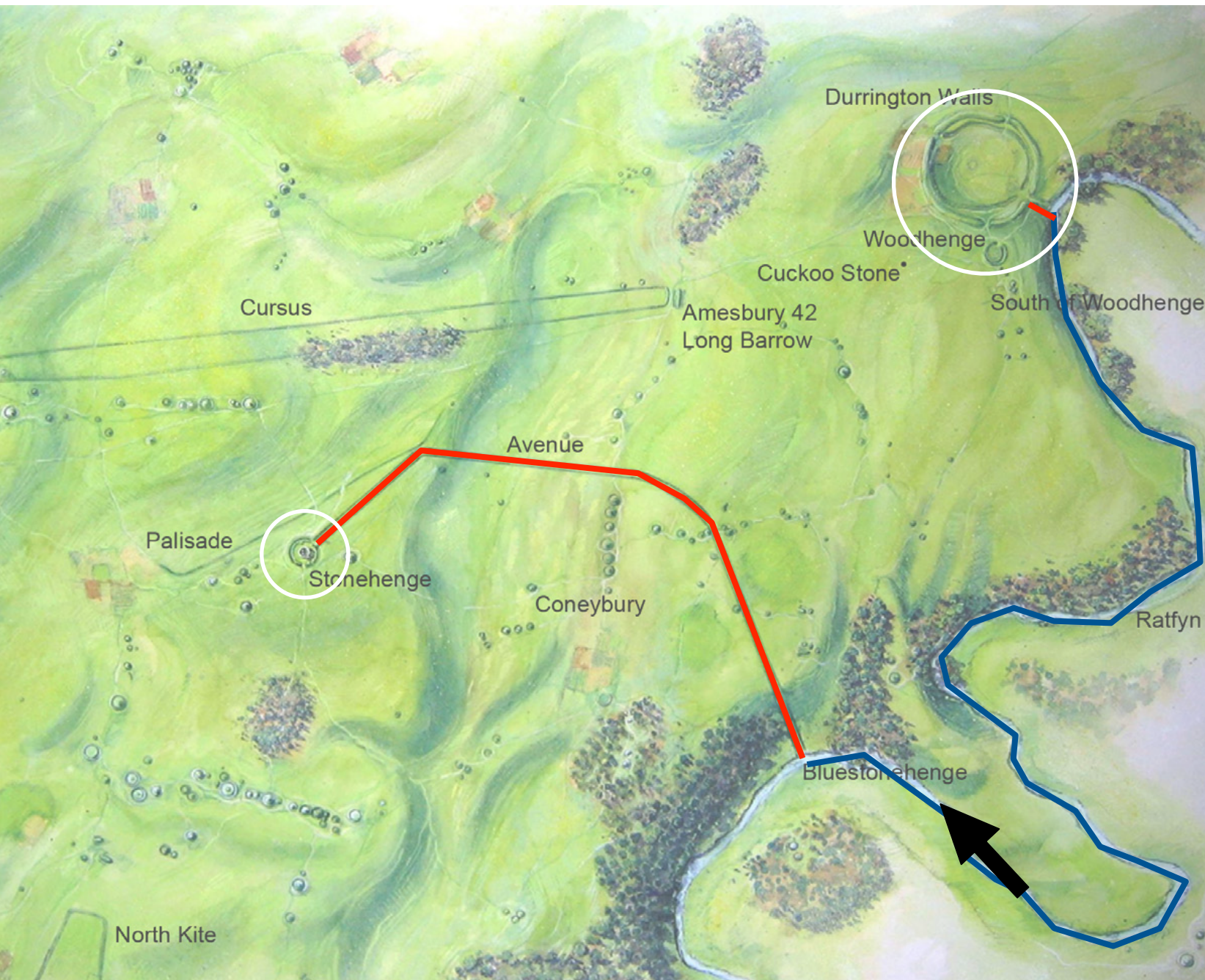
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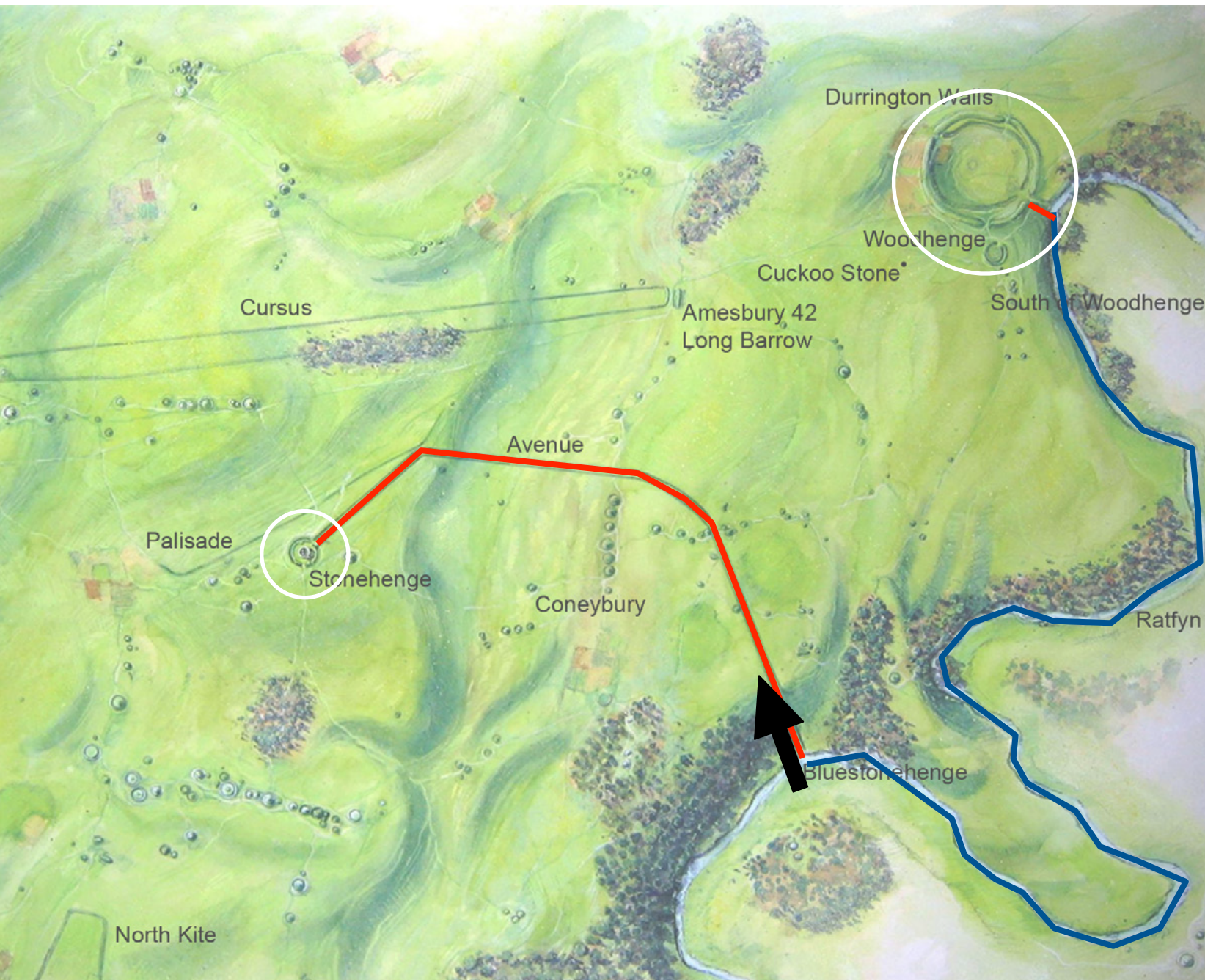
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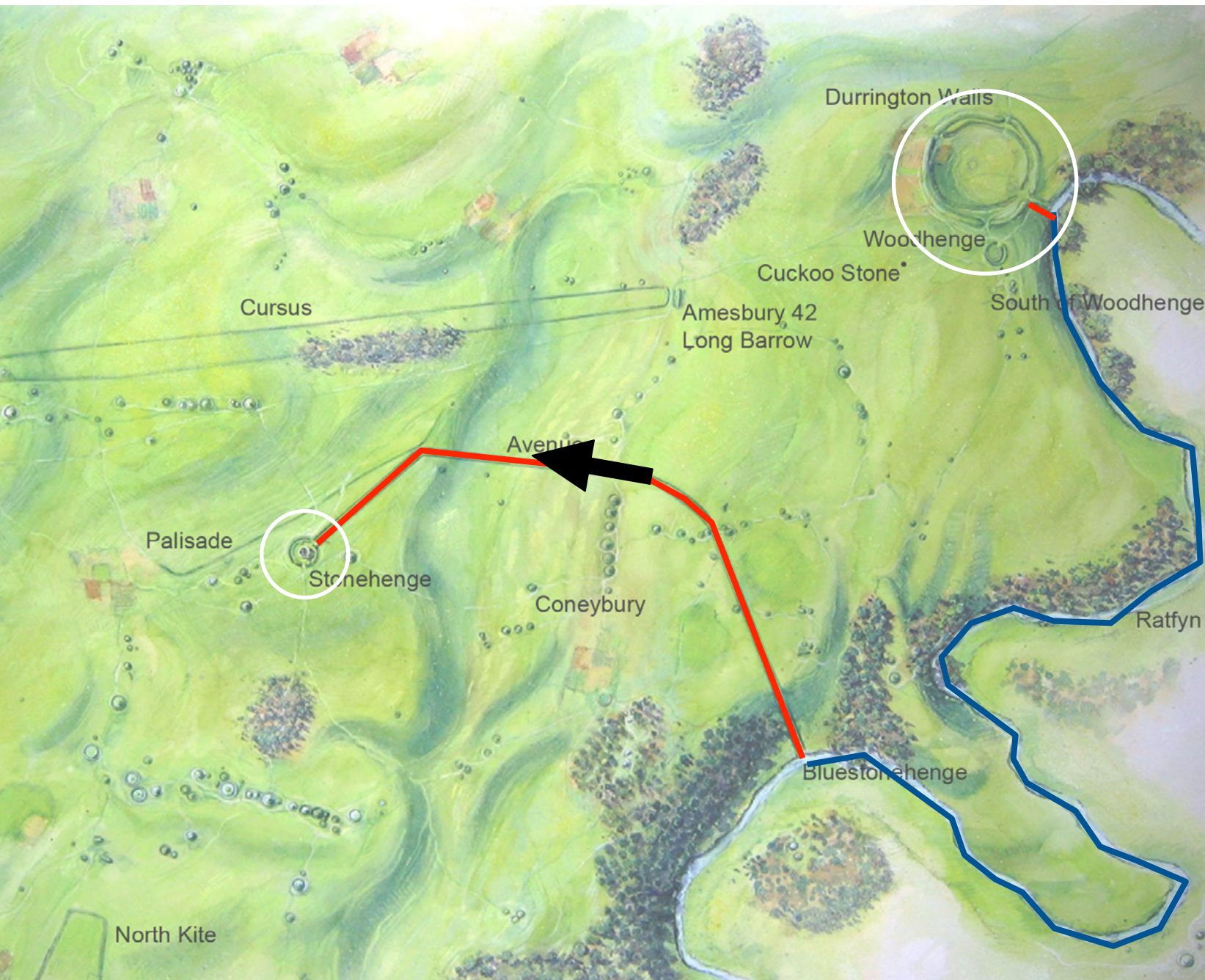
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Stonehenge Processional Route 2



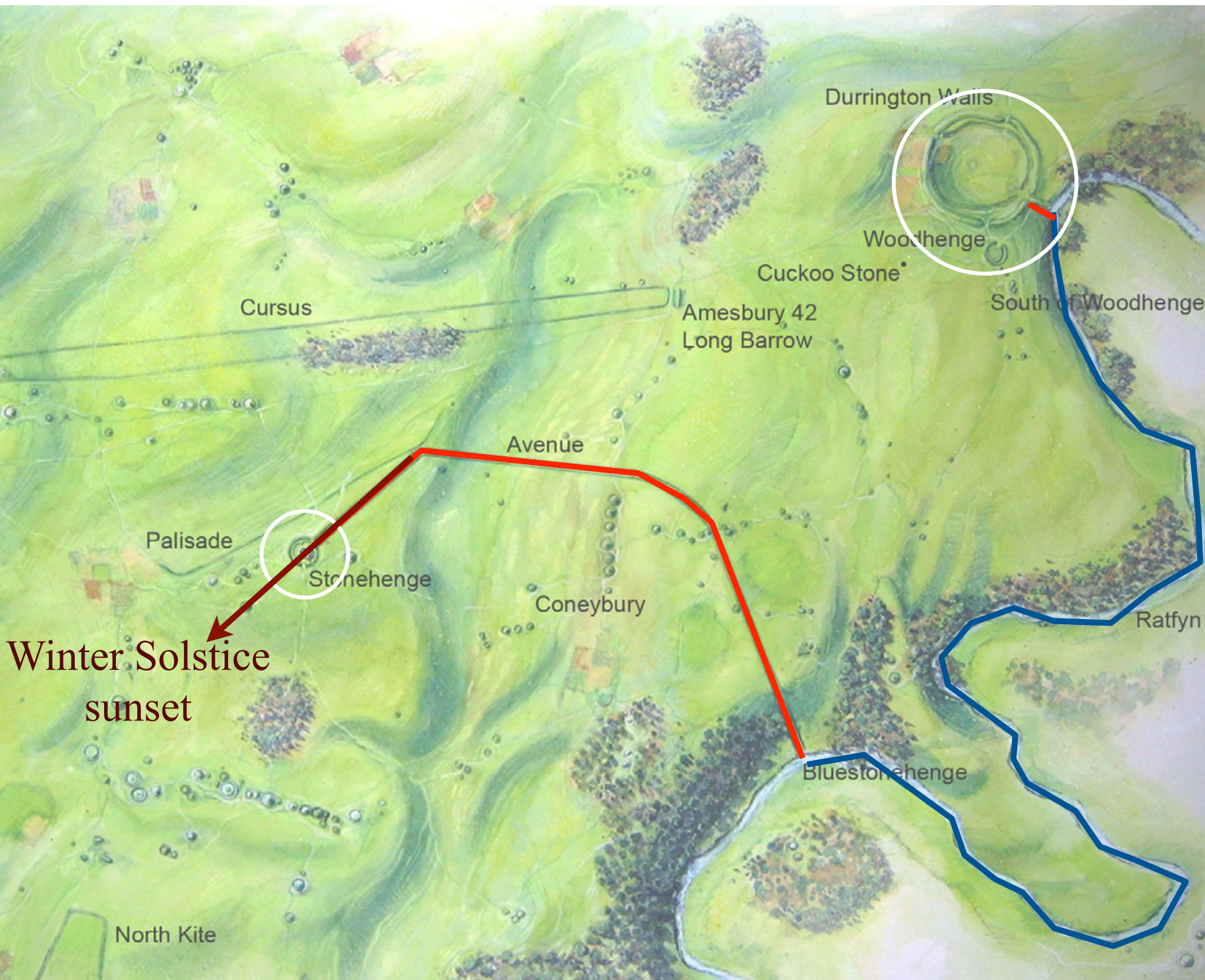
Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Stonehenge Processional Route 2



Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Stonehenge Processional Route 2



8 hrs from
sunrise to set

9.3 km route

average speed:
1.2 km/h

0.75 mph

Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Stonehenge Processional Route 3



Stonehenge Processional Route 4

Lionel Sims, 2006. “The ‘Solarization’ of the Moon: Manipulated Knowledge at Stonehenge.” *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 16 (2).

Stonehenge at the crossroads between hunter-gatherer (lunar) and farmer (solar) cosmologies

Knowledge being manipulated by a (male) elite in order to effect a ‘solarization of the moon’

Dual alignment, of sunset at Winter Solstice and dark moonset at minor Lunar Standstill occurs once every 19 years

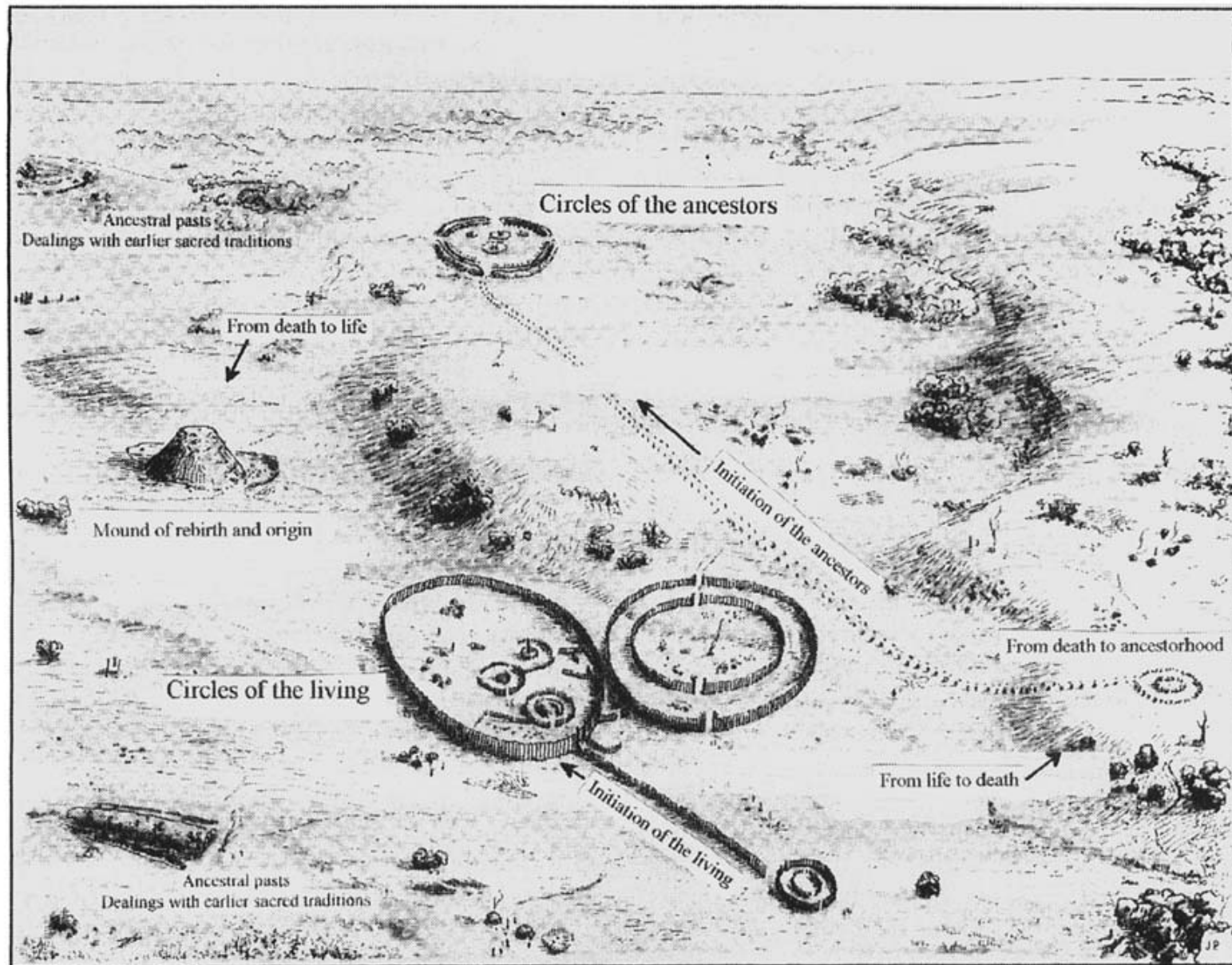


Stonehenge as an instrument of social revolution

Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Avebury Processional Route

M Parker Pearson and
Ramilisonina (1998)

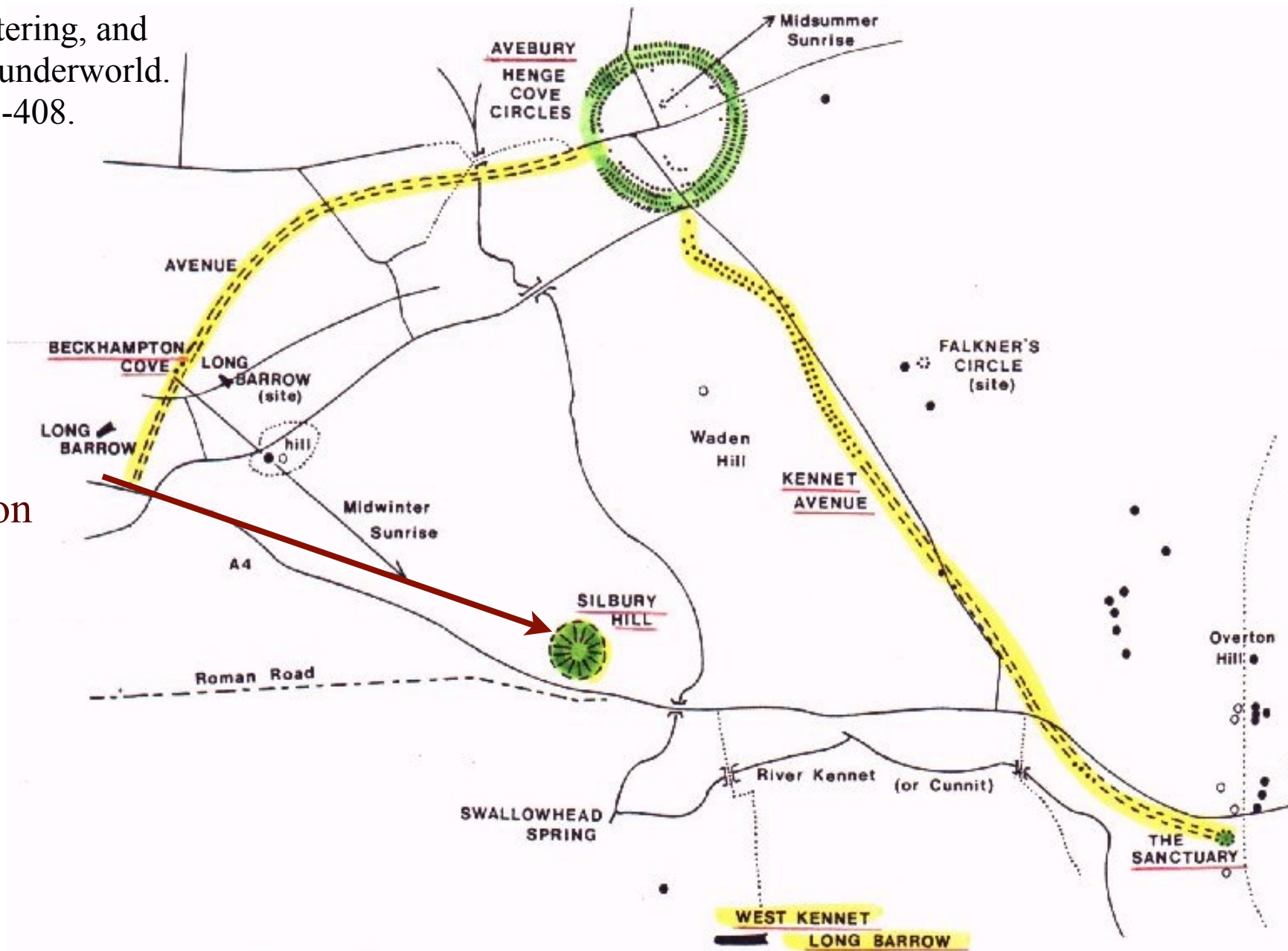


Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Avebury Processional Route 2

L Sims (2009) Entering, and
returning from, the underworld.
JRAI 15: 386-408.

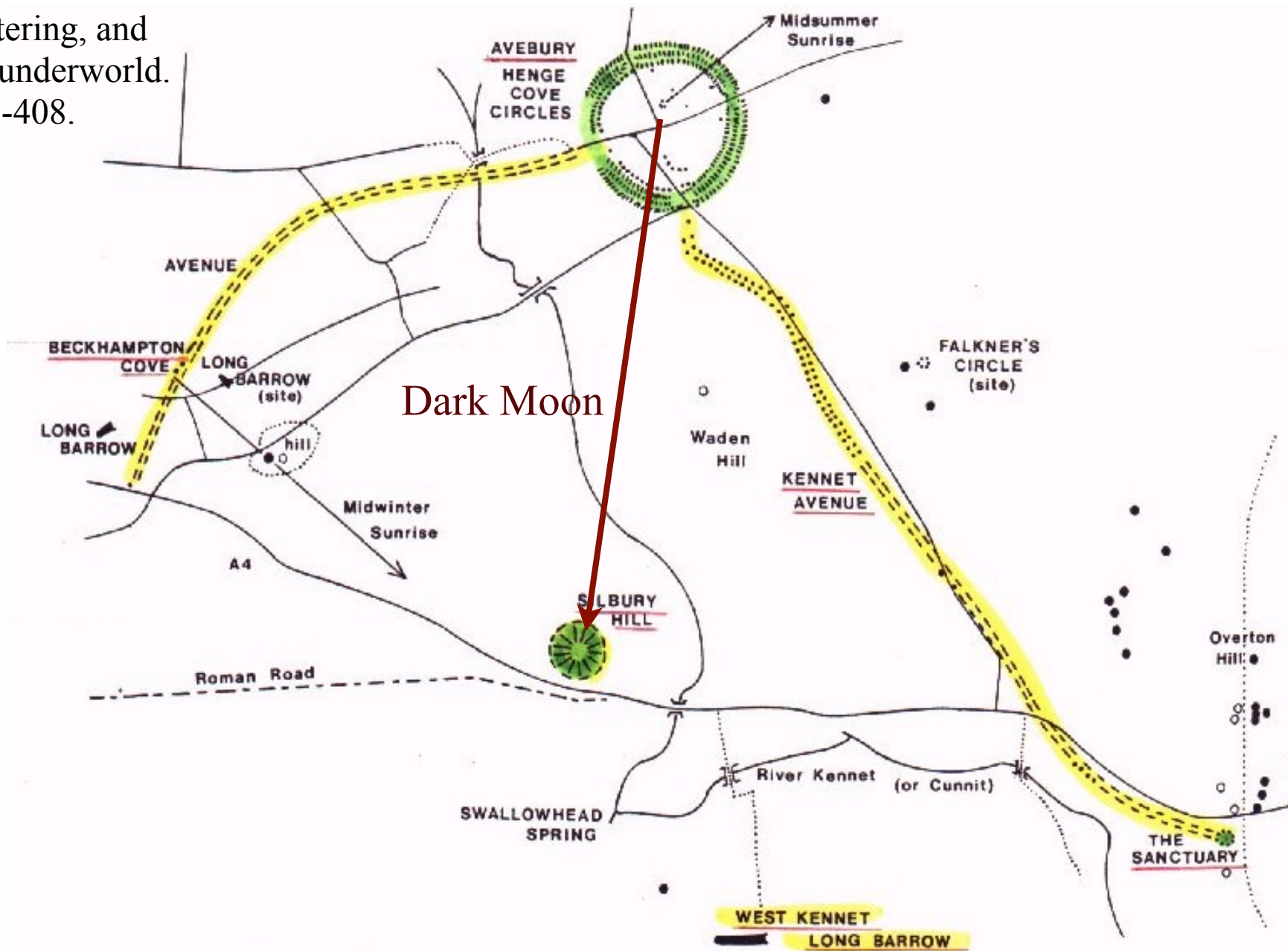
rising Last
Crescent moon



Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Avebury Processional Route 2

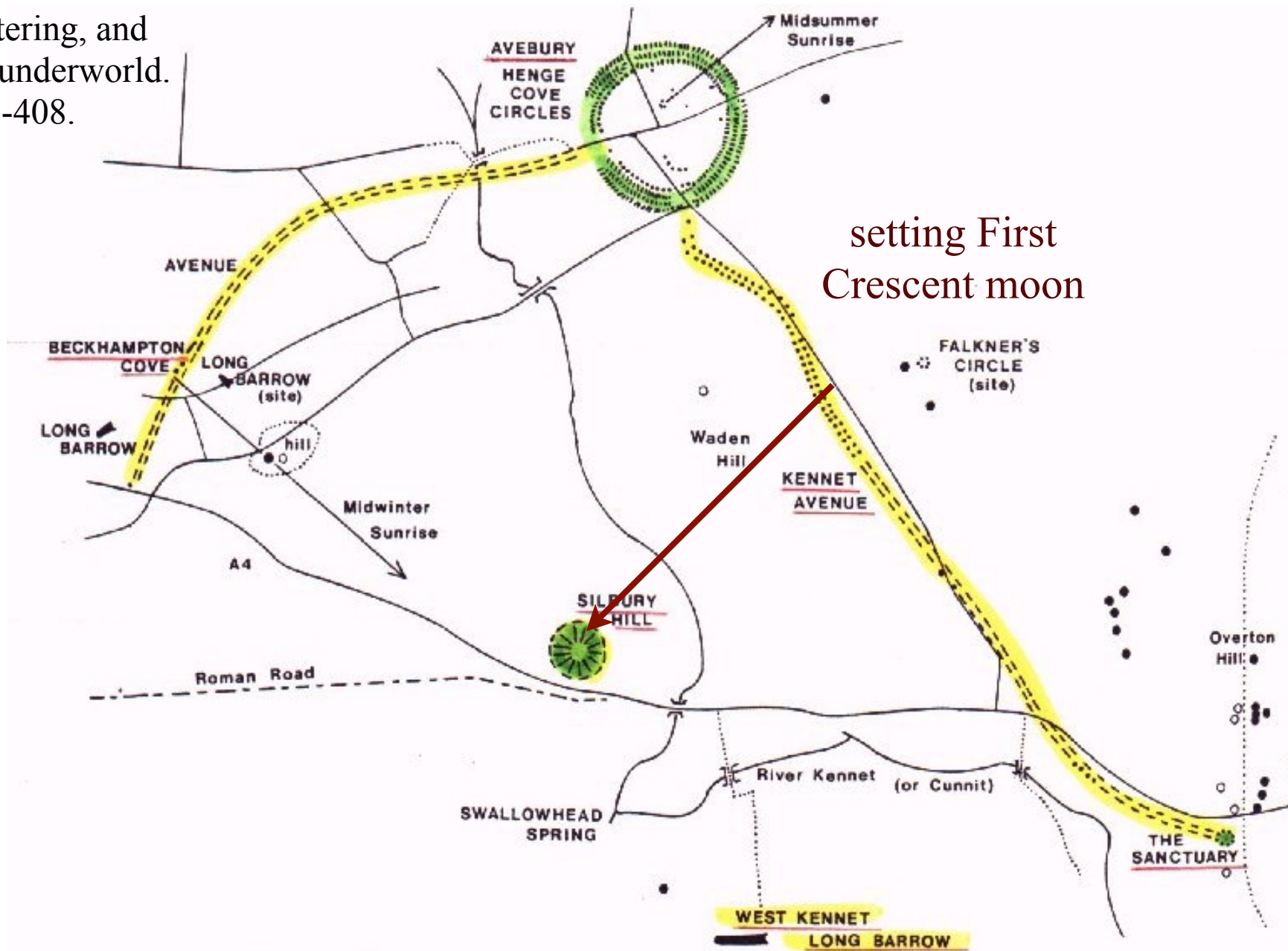
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Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Avebury Processional Route 2

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Discussion

Were Stonehenge and Avebury part of the same complex?

Or competing complexes?

Was astronomically-timed procession a key feature of both?

Did Stonehenge materialize the sun, and Avebury the moon?

Or did both sites encode sun and moon (and stars?)

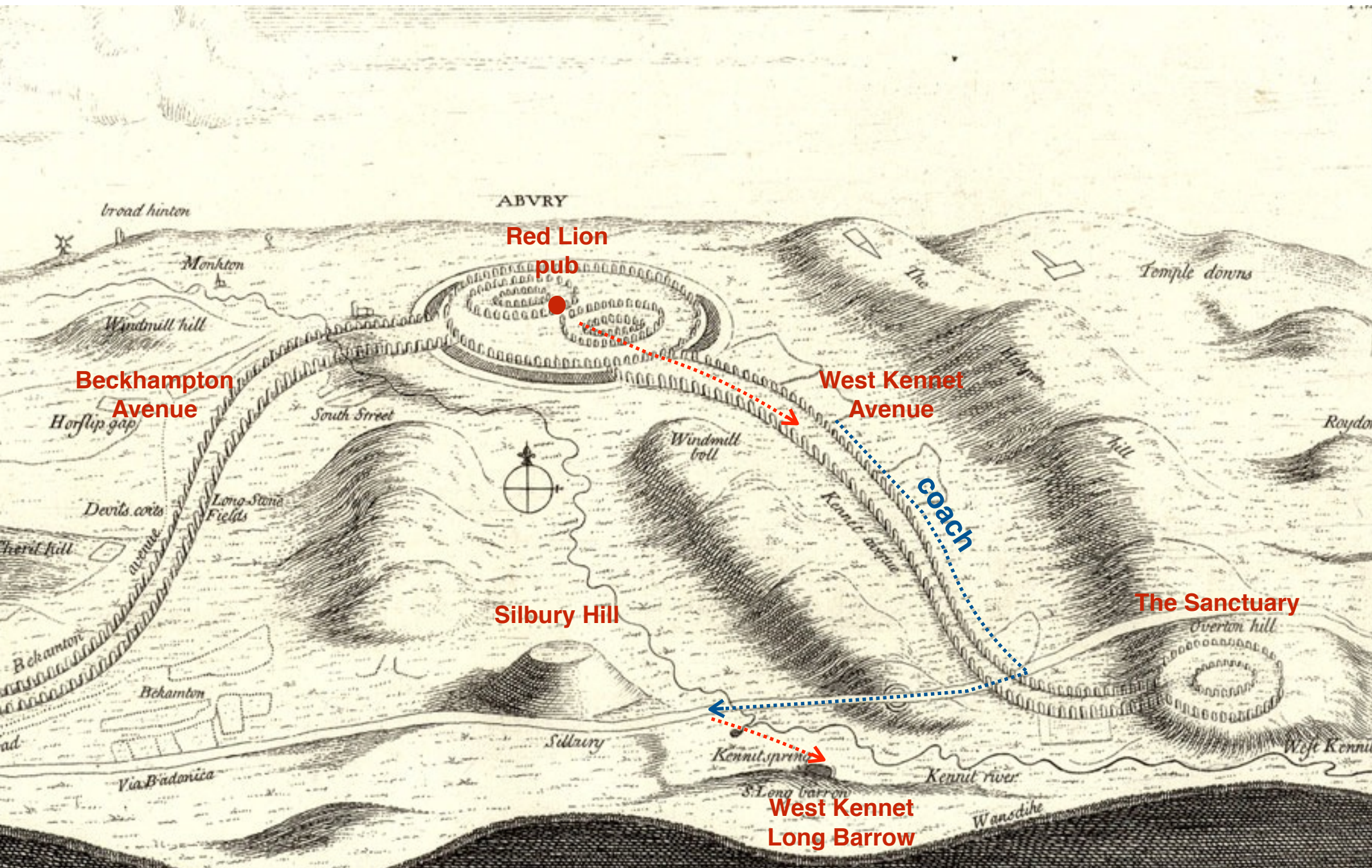
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Summer School Tour: Stonehenge



Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Summer School : Avebury



Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Summer School

Tour Schedule

- 8 am Departure from Queen Sq, Bath
- 9.30 am Arrival at Stonehenge. 1 hour to see the visitor centre (in comfort facilities)
- 10.30 am One hour walk to, and visit, stone circle
- 11.30 pm Landscape walk or relaxing time at cafeteria
- 12.30 pm Both groups meet at Woodhenge for a short visit

- 1 pm Departure to Avebury
- 2.15pm Lunch at the Red Lion pub
- 3.30pm Avebury stone circle and West Kennet Avenue
- 4.30pm Coach to West Kennet Long Barrow
- 4.50pm Visit West Kennet Long Barrow
- 6 pm Departure
- 8 pm Arrival in Bath

Stonehenge and Avebury: Pilgrimage Complexes?

Summer School

Lunch at the Red Lion

2-course set menu £8.95 + drinks

small caesar salad **or** veg soup

and

veg chilli, beef chilli **or** Cheddar & Tewkesbury chicken breast

Please let me have your choices by 5pm today!!!