

INTRODUCTION TO ANCIENT RELIGIONS AND ANCIENT MONOLITHIC STRUCTURES

August 30, 2012

Dr. Cindy Ausec

Learning Objectives

- ▣ Know the common elements of early religions
- ▣ Know the important terms used in discussing religions
- ▣ Understand the importance of monolithic structures for the ancient peoples
- ▣ Understand the importance of Stonehenge and its connection to Durrington Walls
 - Concept of stone for the ancestors and wood for the living
 - Importance of the winter and summer solstices

Beginnings of Religions

- ▣ Neanderthal Religion – 125,000 to 30,000



Beginnings of Religions

- ▣ Early Modern Human Religion – 30,000



Cave Art – Lascaux France



Venus of Laussel

Beginnings of Religions

- ▣ Neolithic – 7,000 to 3,000



Stonehenge



Catal Hoyuk, Turkey



Thessaly, Greece

Common Elements of Early Religions

- ▣ Animism
- ▣ Magic
- ▣ Divination
- ▣ Taboo
- ▣ Totems
- ▣ Sacrifice
- ▣ Myth
- ▣ Rituals
- ▣ Rites of Passage
- ▣ Ancestor Veneration

Terms

Polytheism

Henotheism

Monolatry

Monotheism

MONOLITHIC STRUCTURES

Hagar Qin



http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/malta/hagar-qim_mnajdra.php



Gardner's Art Through the Ages,
Enhanced 13th Edition, fig. 1-1

Hagar Qim

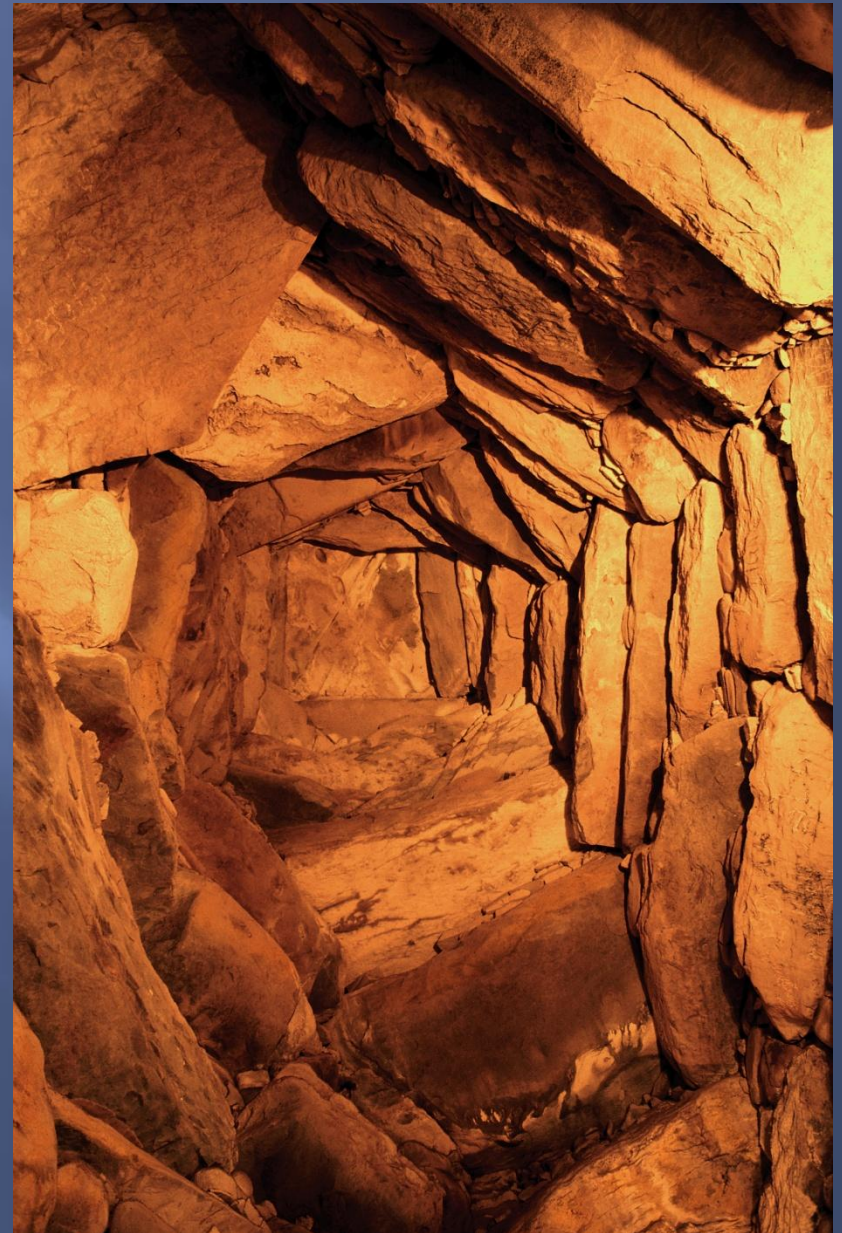


VENUS OF MALTA - Standing female
clay statuette covered in red ochre.
- is extremely well modelled
- especially its back muscles.
MUSEUM MALTA



http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/malta/hagar-qim_mnajdra.php

Newgrange Ireland Megalithic Tomb



Gardner's Art Through the Ages,
Enhanced 13th Edition, Fig 1-19

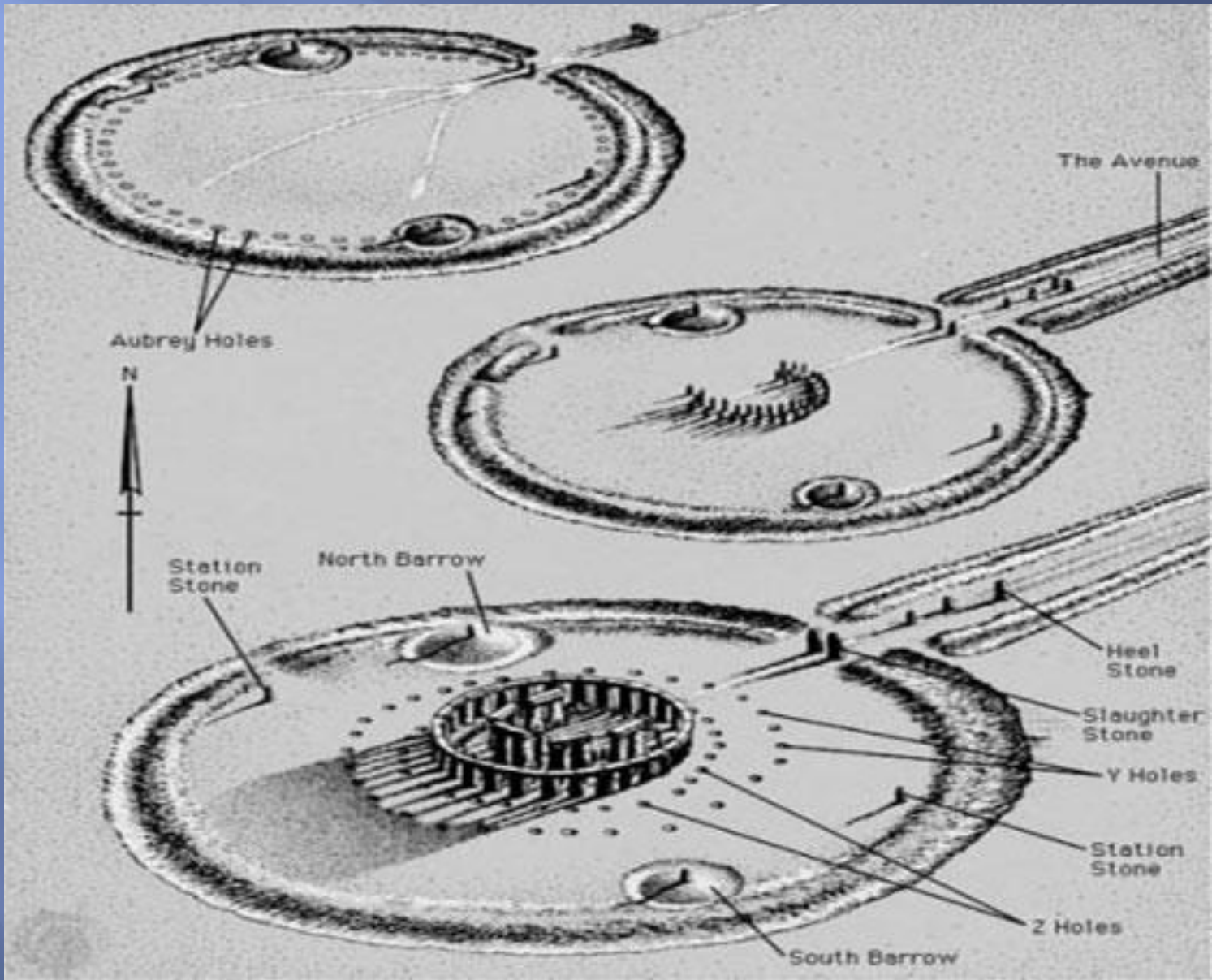
STONEHENGE & DURRINGTON WALLS

Stonehenge Riverside Project
Mike Parker Pearson Co-director

Stonehenge



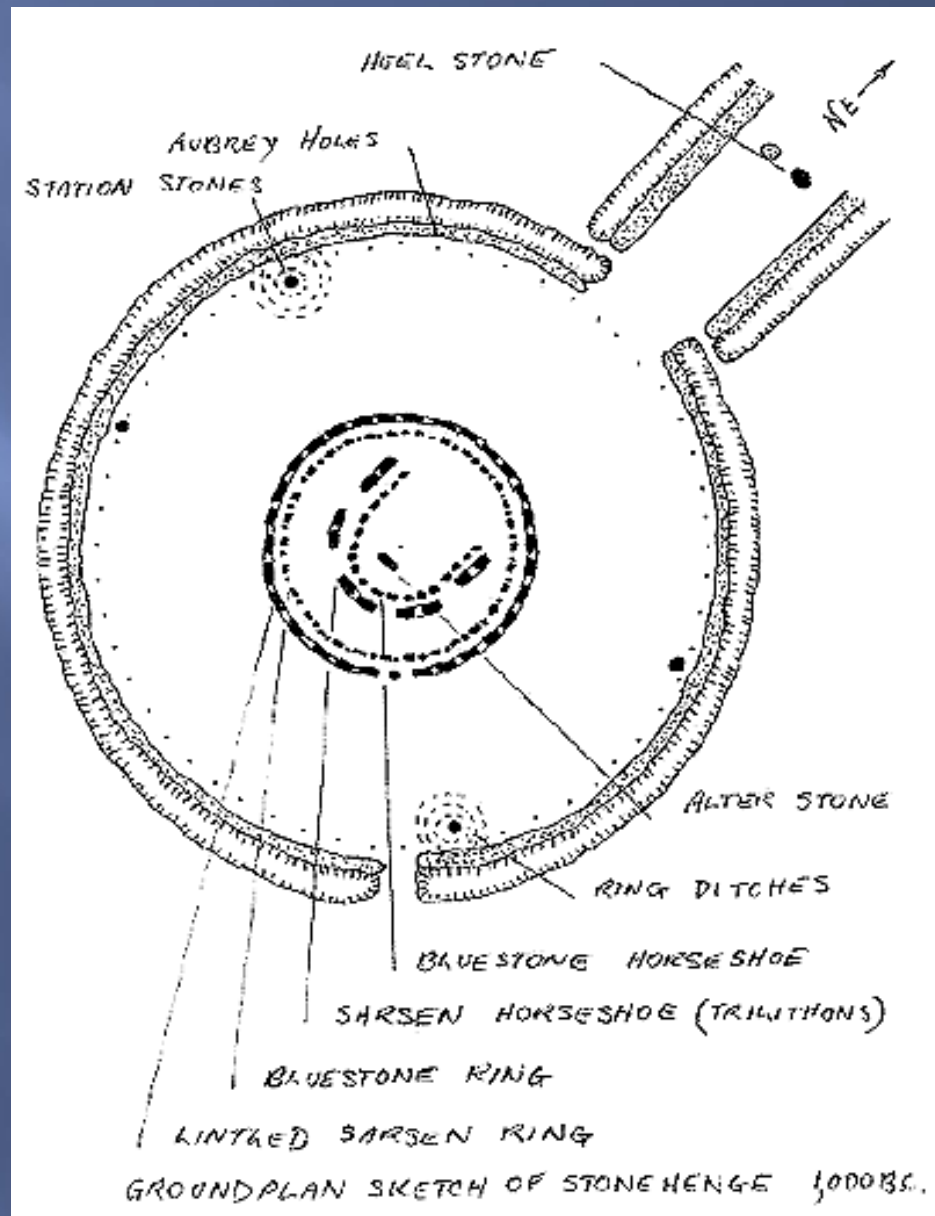
Gardner's Art Through the Ages,
Enhanced 13th Edition, Fig 1-20

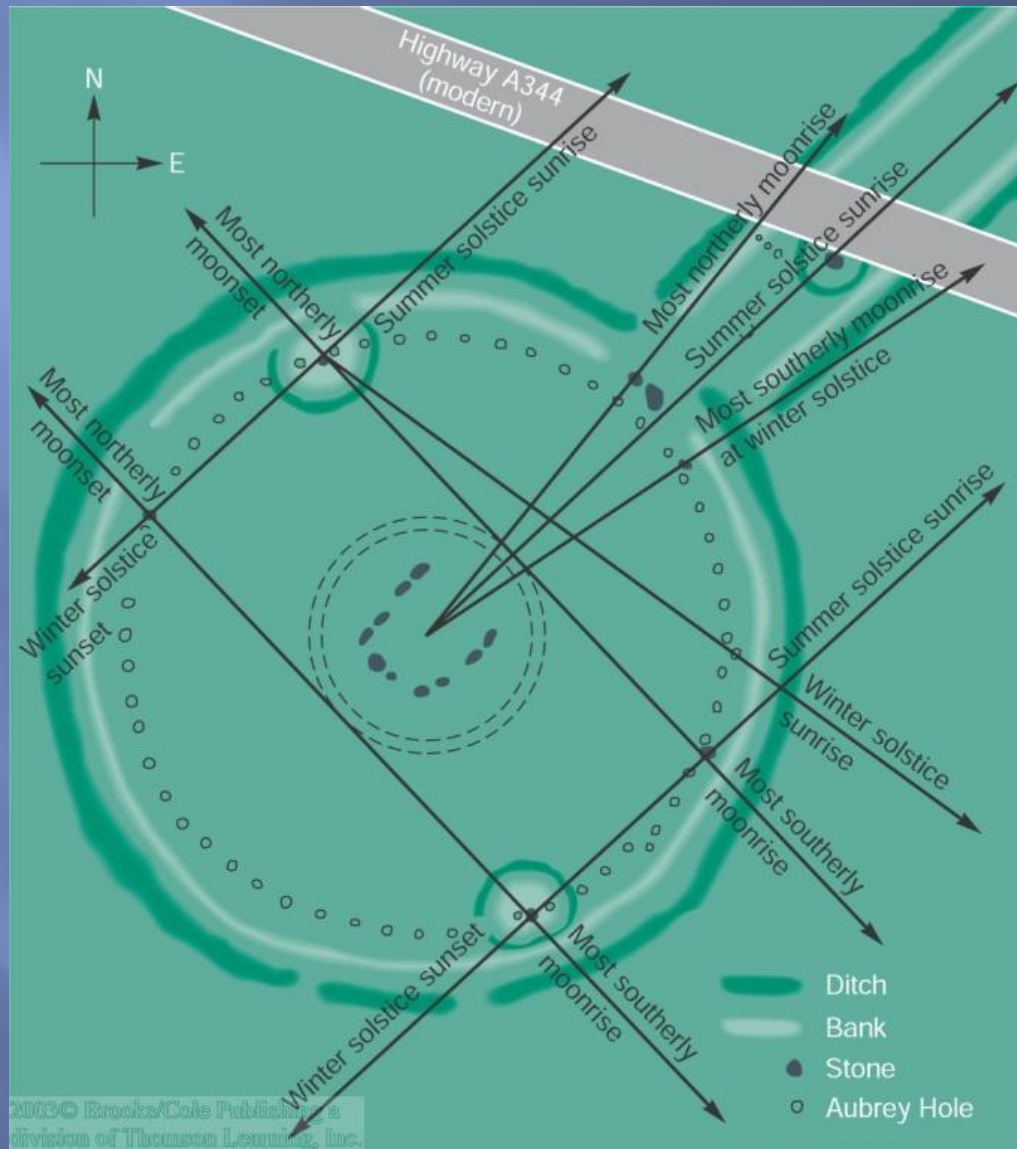


<http://abyss.uoregon.edu/~js/glossary/stonehenge.html>

- ▣ Sarson stones
 - 5 Trilithons
 - 30 stone uprights capped by lintels
- ▣ Blue stones ca. 60
- ▣ Altar Stone

- ▣ Heal stone





<http://www.astro.virginia.edu/class/occonnell/astr1210/im/stonehenge-diag-lines-seeds.jpg>

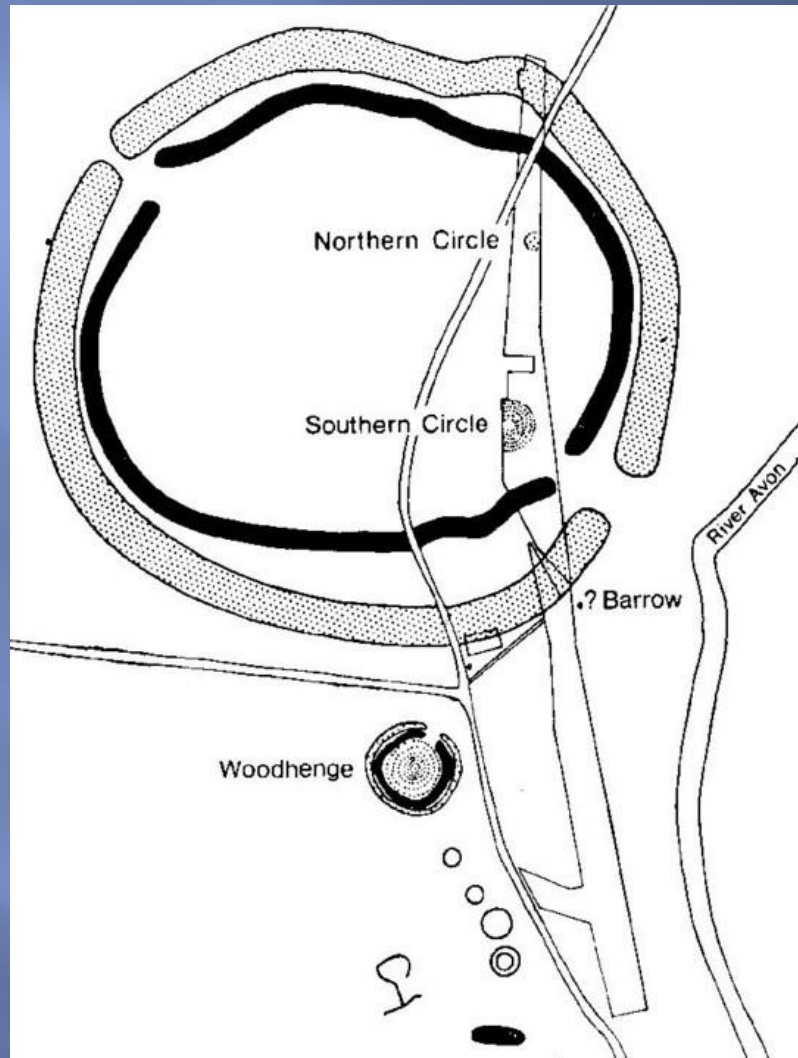
Durrington Walls

- ▣ Large Seasonal Village
 - No evidence for raising animals or growing and processing grain
 - Possibly contained hundreds of houses



Stonehenge/Durrington Walls: Photo Gallery

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/archaeology/research/stonehenge/intro>



http://www.themodernantiquarian.com/img_fullsize/74108.jpg

Southern Circle



S A L I S B U R Y P L A I N

Newly discovered avenue

Durrington Walls

DOMAIN OF THE LIVING

River Avon

Woodhenge

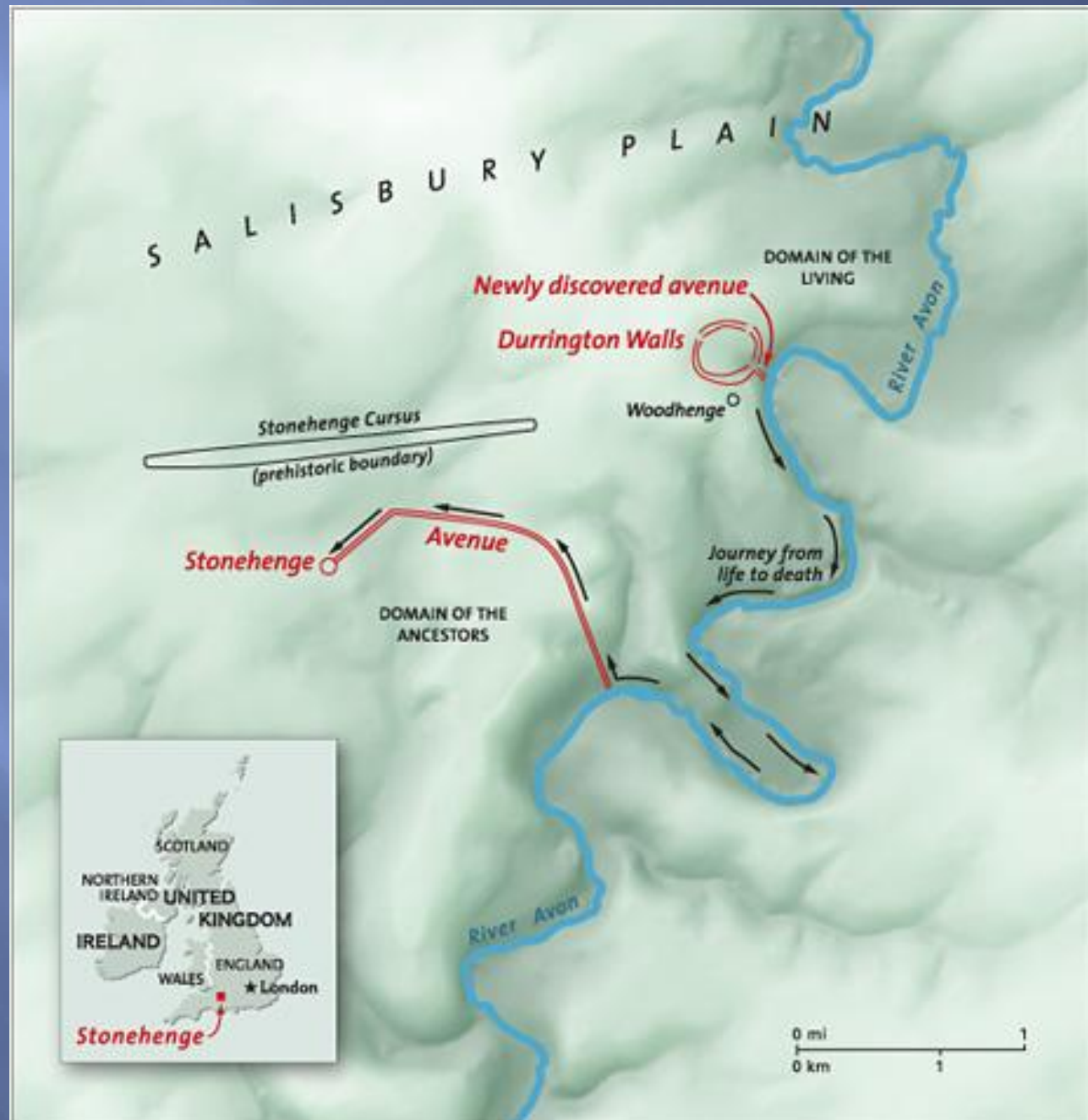
Stonehenge Cursus
(prehistoric boundary)

Stonehenge

Avenue

DOMAIN OF THE ANCESTORS

Journey from life to death



Learning Objectives

- ▣ Know the common elements of early religions
- ▣ Know the important terms used in discussing religions
- ▣ Understand the importance of monolithic structures for the ancient peoples
- ▣ Understand the importance of Stonehenge and its connection to Durrington Walls
 - Concept of stone for the ancestors and wood for the living
 - Importance of the winter and summer solstices