

## 87. 3000, Woodhenge, England

*ReGenesis* is the first open-access encyclopedia to  
liberate pre-colonial research  
to its rightful 3,000,000 BCE origins  
- and -  
liberate female spirituality.  
(RGS.)

\* \* \*

### *Woodhenge.*

The largest of its six concentric oval pit rings  
is 144 feet long,  
and the site shares some design features with Stonehenge;  
both are oriented to the summer solstice sunrise.  
(THB: 48-50.)

### *Seasonal Rites.*

The overall purpose of the entire ensemble was to celebrate  
the annual life cycle of the Great Goddess at temples  
which were her seasonal portraits. The worshippers moved around  
this extended gallery of symbolic architecture in time  
with the changing seasons and the farming year,  
synchronized with the comparable events  
in the lives of the human community namely  
birth, puberty, marriage, and death.  
(TAC: 122.)

The Woodhenge Circle is located in the Salisbury plains, two miles northeast on the Amesbury to the Marlborough Road. (TOL: 63.) It overlooks and is contemporaneous with Stonehenge. Woodhenge like Stonehenge is also oriented to the solstices. In addition to ancient solstice sunrise rituals, it is also known as a communal meeting and feasting center. (GS: 102.) As discussed earlier, Old European ritual monuments “were not built for the protection of people and their property, as it was believed earlier, but as festival centers and meeting places for funerary rituals, including music and dances, perhaps also as grounds and courses for sports and games. (COG: 341.) Selections from Mike Pitts’ 1990 archaeological study, include:

The term ‘henge’ was first used independently of its stone namesake in 1926, when archaeologists excavated an unusual arrangement of postholes two miles northeast of Stonehenge. The site was first noticed by World War I ace pilot Gilbert Insall as he flew over a field where the chalky fill of ancient pits showed up as white spots. Called Woodhenge, the largest of its six concentric oval pit rings is 144 feet long, and the site shares some design features with Stonehenge; both are oriented to the summer solstice sunrise (THB: 48-50).

Archaeologists soon appropriated the word ‘henge’ – probably Anglo-Saxon for gallows – for a variety of circular ritual structures unique to Late Neolithic Britain (3000-2200 BC). As further post rings were excavated across the country, the phrase “timber henge” became common (THB: 48-50).

In 1967, archaeologist Geoffrey Wainwright discovered such a site just north of Woodhenge, in excavations conducted before a road sliced through the previously ignored earthwork henge of Durrington Walls. The newly discovered timber henge was named the Southern Circle. A second timber henge at the site, called the Northern Circle, had been nearly obliterated by farmers’ plows. However, the Southern Circle’s enormous postholes – an estimated 166 set in six rings – were particularly well-preserved. The site’s function has been debated ever since (scholars have only recently noticed that its entrance aligns with the rising winter solstice sun), and the new excavation of the structure, begun in 2005, has drawn intense interest (THB: 48-50).

An important question is whether the wood henges were roofed. Had they been huge cult [?] houses or arrangements of free-standing posts similar in design to Stonehenge? For a variety of reasons, however, most archaeologists now envision Woodhenge, the Southern Circle, and other oak henges as unroofed arrays of posts. English Heritage geophysicists made the key discovery that led to this change of opinion in 1997. When they surveyed the stone circle at Stanton Drew, 35 miles northwest of Stonehenge, they were astonished to see nine concentric rings within the stones, consisting of 400 to 500 postholes. The largest circle is 300 feet across – far too large to roof. Roofing would also have channeled rainwater into gullies on the ground, and archaeologists found no signs of such erosion at the excavation of the southern circle at Durrington Walls (THB: 48-50).

Further Woodhenge research:

Berry, Thomas. *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*. New York, NY: Bell Tower, 1999. (GWO.)

Burl, Aubrey. *Rings of Stone: The Prehistoric Stone Circles of Britain and Ireland*. London, England: Francis Lincoln, 1979. (RS.)

Devereux, Paul and Ian Thomson. *The Ley Hunter’s Companion: Aligned Ancient Sites: A New Study with Field Guide and Maps*. London, England: Thames and Hudson, 1979. (LHC.)

Devereux, Paul. *Shamanism and the Mystery Lines, Spirit Paths, Shape-Shifting and Out-of-Body-Travel*. St. Paul, MN: Llewellyn Pub. 1993. (SAM)

Gibson, Alex M. *Stonehenge and Timber Circles*. Stroud, England: Tempus Publishing, 2000. (STC.)

Gimbutas, Marija Alseikaite. *The Civilization of the Goddess: The World of Europe*. San Francisco, CA: Harper, 1991. 208. (COG.)

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Living Goddesses*. Supplemented and Ed. by Miriam Robbins Dexter. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1999. 99-111. Proof copy. (TLG.)

Greig, James R. A. “The British Isles.” *Progress in Old World Palaeoethnobotany: A Retrospective View on the Occasion of 20 Years of the International Work Group for Palaeoethnobotany*. Eds. Willem

- Van Zeist, Krystyna Wasylikowa, and Karl-Ernst Behre. Brookfield, VT: Balkema, 1991. 299-344. (BI.) (BI.)
- Hawkins, Gerald S. *Stonehenge Decoded*. New York, NY: Barnes & Noble 1993. (SD.)
- Levy, Gertrude Rachel. *The Gate of Horn: A Study of the Religious Conceptions of the Stone Age, and Their Influence upon European Thought*. London, England: Faber and Faber, 1948. 123-166. (GOH.)
- Lubell, Winifred Milius. "Temples of the Great Goddess." *Heresies: A Feminist Publication on Art and Politics* 2.1, Issue 5 (1982): 32-39. (TGG.)
- Meaden, George Terence. *The Goddess of Stones: The Language of the Megaliths*. London, England: Souvenir, 1991. 26, 56-60, 100-104. (GS.)
- Pitts, Mike. "The Henge Builders." *Archaeology* 61:1 (Jan.-Feb. 2008): 48-55. (THB.)
- Ross, Anne. *Pagan Celtic Britain: Studies in Iconography and Tradition*. London, England: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1968. (PCB.)
- Scarre, Chris. "New Wood Henge." *Archaeology* 51.1 (1998): 19. (NWH.)
- Scully, Vincent. *The Earth, The Temple, The Gods*. 1962. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1979. (ETG: 22-24.)
- Thom, Alexander, et al. *Megalithic Rings*. BAR British Series 81 (1980). (MR.)
- Zink, David. *The Ancient Stones Speak: A Journey to the World's Most Mysterious Megalithic Sites*. London, England: Paddington Press, 1979. (ASS.)

For a discussion on Near Eastern 'sacred standing stones architecture' called *Masseboth* at: Mt. Sinai; Megiddo; Hazor; Gezer; Tel el-Hayyat and Tel Kitan (Jordan Valley); Serabit El-Khadem (Egypt); and Byblos (Lebanon):

Avner, Uzi. "Sacred Stones in the Desert." *Biblical Archaeology Review* 27.3 (May-Jun. 2001): 31-41. (SSD.)

Ben-Ami, Doron. "Mysterious Standing Stones." *Biblical Archaeology Review* 32.2 (Mar.-Apr. 2006): 38-45. (MSS.)

Silberman, Neil Asher. "Standing Stones: Masseboth and Stelae." *Biblical Archaeology Review* 15.2 (Mar.-Apr. 1989): 58-59. (SS.)

Further stone circle information: <http://www.stonepages.com/england/england.html>

Further Re-Genesis research on ancient healing/re-generating centers, some more well-known than others includes: Anatolian Bursa, Pergamon/Asclepion, Perge, Pamukkale, Ephesus and Bogazkoy; Egyptian Philae, Dendera, Abu Simbel/Abshek's Sacred Cave, and Kom Ombo; Roman Villa of Mysteries, Herculaneum, and Pompeii; Greek Kos; Minoan Crete; Megaliths Stonehenge, Avebury, Woodhenge, and West Kennet Long Barrow; ancient chalk mound Silbury Hill; Celtic Glastonbury/Chalice Well, and Brythonic Bath; Breton Gavrinis; Eire/Ireland's Knowth and Newgrange; Syrian Palmyra, \* and Iberian/Roman Alhambra.

\* UNESCO world-heritage site Palmyra was invaded and seized by Islamic militants on 5-20-2015. Ancient Palmyra was a major caravan juncture for centuries, crossroad center of trade, dark-deity rituals, water-healing facilities, and mercantile information exchange resource for Greek, Roman, Persian and Islamic cultures. As a world-crossroad repository, Palmyra's archaeology is/was (?) an iconic legacy and archive of ancient civilizations.

IMAGE: SOLSTICE ORIENTED WOODHENGE CIRCLE: SALISBURY PLAINS, ENGLAND.

DESCRIPTION: SOLSTICE ORIENTED WOODHENGE CIRCLE, ENGLAND.

SLIDE LOCATION , SHEET , ROW , SLEEVE , SLIDE # , BCE.

SHOT ON LOCATION: WOODHENGE CIRCLE: SALISBURY PLAINS, ENGLAND.

NOTE 1:

THE WOODHENGE CIRCLE IS LOCATED IN THE SALISBURY PLAINS, TWO MILES NORTHEAST ON THE AMESBURY TO MARLBOROUGH ROAD (TOL: 63). IT OVERLOOKS AND IS CONTEMPORANEOUS WITH STONEHENGE. WOODHENGE LIKE STONEHENGE IS ALSO ORIENTED TO THE SOLSTICES (RGS). (SOURCE: ENTRY ABOVE.)

NOTE 2:

FOR RE-GENESIS RESEARCH ON OTHER BCE EAST FACING TEMPLE – TOMB ENTRIES THAT ARE LIT AT THE SOLSTICES: 3500-3200, KNOWTH, IRELAND; 3200, NEWGRANGE, IRELAND (SEE 3200, IRISH NEOLITHIC ENTRY); 3100, STONEHENGE, ENGLAND; 2500, WEST KENNET LONG BARROW, ENGLAND; 1490-1468, HATSHEPSUT TEMPLE, EGYPT; 1290-1223, ABU SIMBEL, EGYPT; AND CHACO CANYON, NEW MEXICO (RGS). (RGS: 3100, STONEHENGE, ENGLAND).

NOTE 3: WOODHENGE IS PART OF A LARGE CEREMONIAL COMPLEX THAT INCLUDES: AVEBURY, STONEHENGE, SILBURY, WINDMILL HILL, AND WEST KENNET LONG BARROW. (ETG: 23; SOTG: 124.)

NOTE 4: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1980-1998.

PHOTO NOTE: ILLUSTRATION TBD. CHRISI KARVONIDES.

PHOTO NOTE: FOR FURTHER WOODHENGE RESEARCH AND IMAGES:

RESOURCE: (MUSEUM ART RESOURCE.)

RESOURCE: (BRITISH MUSEUM: LONDON, ENGLAND.)

RESOURCE: (ARCHAEOLOGY, ARCHITECTURE & ART.)

IMAGE: GAVRINIS SOLSTICE ORIENTED TEMPLE – TOMB: GAVRINIS, FRANCE.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: AERIAL VIEW OF EAST FACING GAVRINIS PASSAGE TOMB. BEEHIVE DESIGN SIMILAR TO CRETE'S THOLOS TOMB AND NEWGRANGE IN IRELAND.

SLIDE LOCATION FRANCE, SHEET 3, ROW 1, SLEEVE 3, SLIDE #1, 4000-3000 BCE.

CO\_FRA\_S3\_R1\_SL3\_S1.jpg

SHOT ON LOCATION: GAVRINIS, MORBIHAN GULF OF BRITTANY, FRANCE.

NOTE 1:

FOR RE-GENESIS RESEARCH ON OTHER BCE EAST FACING TEMPLE – TOMB ENTRIES THAT ARE LIT AT THE SOLSTICES: 3500-3200, KNOWTH, IRELAND; 3200, NEWGRANGE, IRELAND (SEE 3200, IRISH NEOLITHIC ENTRY); 3100, STONEHENGE, ENGLAND; 2500, WEST KENNET LONG BARROW, ENGLAND; 1490-1468, HATSHEPSUT TEMPLE, EGYPT; 1290-1223, ABU SIMBEL, EGYPT; AND CHACO CANYON, NEW MEXICO (RGS). (RGS: 3100, STONEHENGE, ENGLAND).

NOTE 2: FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, SEE: [www.stonepages.com/england/england.html](http://www.stonepages.com/england/england.html)

NOTE 3: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1989.

IMAGE: MAP INC. SOLSTICE ORIENTED KNOWTH: IRELAND.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: MAP OF KNOWTH (SOLSTICE ORIENTED) PLUS DOWTH AND NEWGRANGE PASSAGE TOMBS IN IRELAND.

SLIDE LOCATION IRELAND, SHEET 4, ROW 1, SLEEVE 2, SLIDE #2, BCE.

CO\_IRE\_S4\_R1\_SL2\_S2.

SHOT ON LOCATION: NEWGRANGE, IRELAND, BOYNE VALLEY, AND COUNTY MEATH, IRELAND.

NOTE 1:

FOR RE-GENESIS RESEARCH ON OTHER BCE EAST FACING TEMPLE – TOMB ENTRIES THAT ARE LIT AT THE SOLSTICES: 4000-3500 GAVRINIS, BRITTANY, FRANCE; 3200, NEWGRANGE, IRELAND (SEE 3200, IRISH NEOLITHIC ENTRY); 3100, STONEHENGE, ENGLAND; 2500, WEST KENNET LONG BARROW, ENGLAND; 1490-1468, HATSHEPSUT TEMPLE, EGYPT; 1290-1223, ABU SIMBEL, EGYPT; AND CHACO CANYON, NEW MEXICO (RGS). (RGS: 3100, STONEHENGE, ENGLAND).

NOTE 2: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1989.

IMAGE: CLOSE-UP OF STONEHENGE: SALISBURY PLAINS, ENGLAND.  
PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: CLOSE-UP OF STONEHENGE.  
SLIDE LOCATION ENGLAND, SHEET 4, ROW 3, SLEEVE 2, SLIDE #7A, 3100-1000 BCE.  
CO\_ENG\_S4\_R3\_SL2\_S7A.jpg  
SHOT ON LOCATION: STONEHENGE: SALISBURY PLAINS, ENGLAND.  
NOTE 1: ACCORDING TO FRANK BATTAGLIA, STONEHENGE IS THE “PRODUCT OF MATRILINEAL SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS DESCENDED FROM THE NEOLITHIC AND PRACTICING GODDESS RELIGION” (GR: 55-57; RGS). (SOURCE: ENTRY ABOVE.)  
NOTE 2: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1997.

IMAGE: SOLSTICE ORIENTED STONEHENGE: SALISBURY PLAINS, ENGLAND.  
PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: AERIAL VIEW OF SOLSTICE ORIENTED STONEHENGE.  
SLIDE LOCATION ENGLAND, SHEET 4, ROW 2, SLEEVE 3, SLIDE #23, 3100-1000 BCE.  
CO\_ENG\_S4\_R2\_SL3\_S23.jpg  
SHOT ON LOCATION: STONEHENGE: SALISBURY PLAINS, ENGLAND.  
NOTE 1: ACCORDING TO FRANK BATTAGLIA, STONEHENGE IS THE “PRODUCT OF MATRILINEAL SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS DESCENDED FROM THE NEOLITHIC AND PRACTICING GODDESS RELIGION” (GR: 55-57; RGS). (SOURCE: ENTRY ABOVE.)  
NOTE 2:

FOR RE-GENESIS RESEARCH ON OTHER BCE EAST FACING TEMPLE – TOMB ENTRIES THAT ARE LIT AT THE SOLSTICES: 4000-3500 GAVRINIS, BRITTANY, FRANCE; 3500-3200, KNOWTH, IRELAND; 3200, NEWGRANGE, IRELAND (SEE 3200, IRISH NEOLITHIC ENTRY); 2500, WEST KENNET LONG BARROW, ENGLAND; 1490-1468, HATSHEPSUT TEMPLE, EGYPT; 1290-1223, ABU SIMBEL, EGYPT; AND CHACO CANYON, NEW MEXICO (RGS). (RGS: 3100 BCE, STONEHENGE, ENGLAND).

NOTE 3: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1997.

IMAGE: SOLSTICE ORIENTED WEST KENNET TEMPLE – TOMB: WILTSHIRE, ENGLAND.  
PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: ENTRANCE TO WEST KENNET LONG BARROW TEMPLE – TOMB, WILTSHIRE, ENGLAND.  
SLIDE LOCATION ENGLAND, SHEET 4, ROW 4, SLEEVE 3, SLIDE #261, BCE.  
CO\_ENG\_S4\_R4\_SL3\_S261.jpg  
SHOT ON LOCATION: WEST KENNET TEMPLE – TOMB: WILTSHIRE, ENGLAND.  
NOTE 1:

FOR RE-GENESIS RESEARCH ON OTHER BCE EAST FACING TEMPLE-TOMB ENTRIES THAT ARE LIT AT THE SOLSTICES: 4000-3500 GAVRINIS, BRITTANY, FRANCE; 3500-3200, KNOWTH, IRELAND; 3200, NEWGRANGE, IRELAND (SEE 3200, IRISH NEOLITHIC ENTRY); 3100, STONEHENGE, ENGLAND; 1490-1468, TEMPLE, EGYPT; 1290-1223, ABU SIMBEL, EGYPT; AND CHACO CANYON, NEW MEXICO (RGS). (RGS: 3100, STONEHENGE, ENGLAND).F

NOTE 2: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1989.

**IMAGE: SOLSTICE ORIENTED TEMPLE – TOMB: ABU SIMBEL, EGYPT.**  
PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: RAMESES GREAT TEMPLE IN NUBIA, SACRED TO ANCIENT HATHOR. RAMESES TEMPLE WAS BUILT OVER EARLIER CAVES OF GODDESS HATHOR ABSHEK.  
SLIDE LOCATION EGYPT, SHEET 10, ROW 2, SLEEVE 3, SLIDE #24, 1290-1223 BCE. ON CO\_EGY\_S10\_R2\_SL3\_S24.jpg: UPDATE HARD DRIVE  
SHOT ON LOCATION: SOLSTICE ORIENTED TEMPLE – TOMB: ABU SIMBEL, EGYPT.  
NOTE 1:

FURTHER BCE ENTRIES OF EAST FACING TEMPLE – TOMBS THAT ARE LIT LIT AT THE SOLSTICES INCLUDE: GAVRINIS, FRANCE; KNOWTH, IRELAND; NEWGRANGE, IRELAND; STONEHENGE, ENGLAND; WEST KENNET LONG BARROW, ENGLAND; HATSHEPSUT TEMPLE, EGYPT; AND CHACO CANYON, NEW MEXICO (RGS). (RGS: 3100, STONEHENGE, ENGLAND).

NOTE 2: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1986.