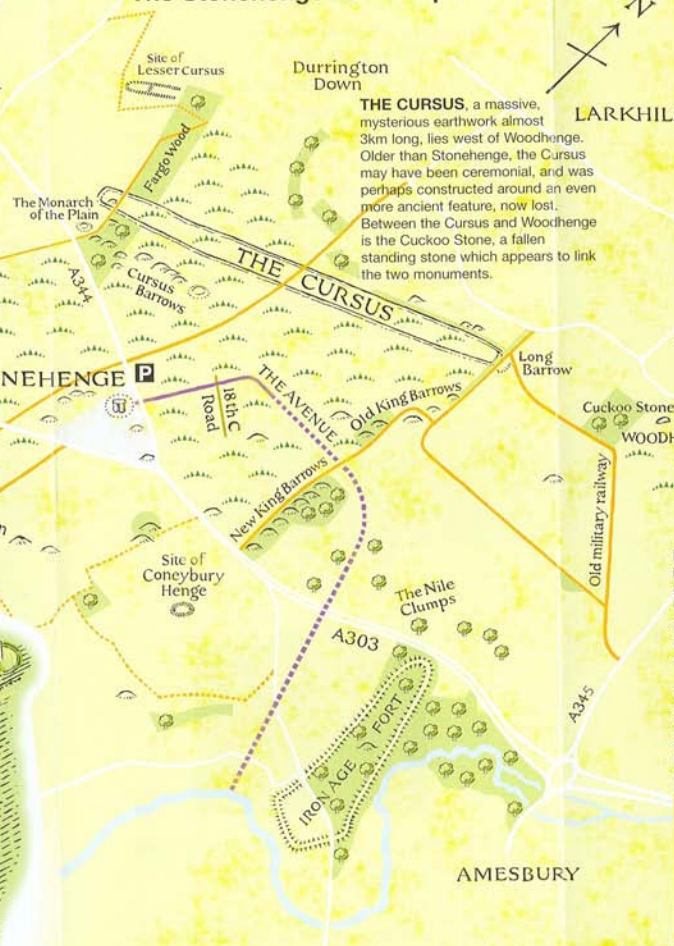
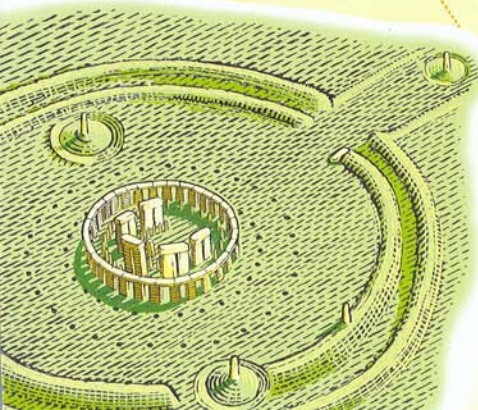


# The Stonehenge Landscape

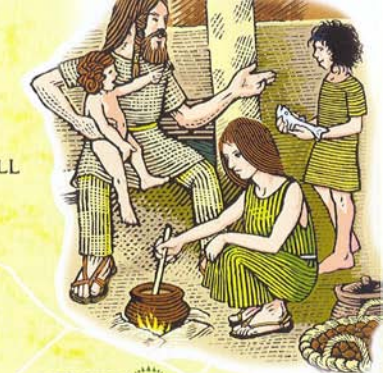


**WINTERBOURNE STOKE** This group of burial mounds is famous for its diversity. From a communal long barrow runs a line of round barrows in bell, bowl, pond, saucer, and disc forms, used over hundreds of years.

**STONEHENGE** stands on the slope of a low hill, ringed by burial mounds on nearby ridges, at the centre of an ancient ceremonial landscape. Bronze Age visitors to Stonehenge may have approached along the Avenue which, like the stone circle itself, is aligned on the axis of Midsummer sunrise and Midwinter sunset.



**THE CURSUS**, a massive, mysterious earthwork almost 3km long, lies west of Woodhenge. Older than Stonehenge, the Cursus may have been ceremonial, and was perhaps constructed around an even more ancient feature, now lost. Between the Cursus and Woodhenge is the Cuckoo Stone, a fallen standing stone which appears to link the two monuments.



**DURRINGTON WALLS** is the largest henge in Britain, with earthworks some 500m across. Excavations show that it contained three huge wooden structures similar to nearby Woodhenge and buildings which have been interpreted as shrines. Like Stonehenge, it is linked to the River Avon by an avenue.

In 2005 traces of a Neolithic village were found just outside the henge banks. Contemporary with the stone building phase of Stonehenge – about 2500BC – this is the earliest known settlement in southern Britain. Unlike Stonehenge, Durrington Walls may be the 'land of the living' – there are very few burials close by.

	barrow		road
	National Trust open access		English Heritage
	public paths		woodland
	National Trust permissive paths		car park