

Stonehenge Fact Sheet

Stonehenge is a famous prehistoric monument just north of the city of Salisbury in Wiltshire, Southern England. It is in the middle of an area that contains many other prehistoric monuments and burial sites.

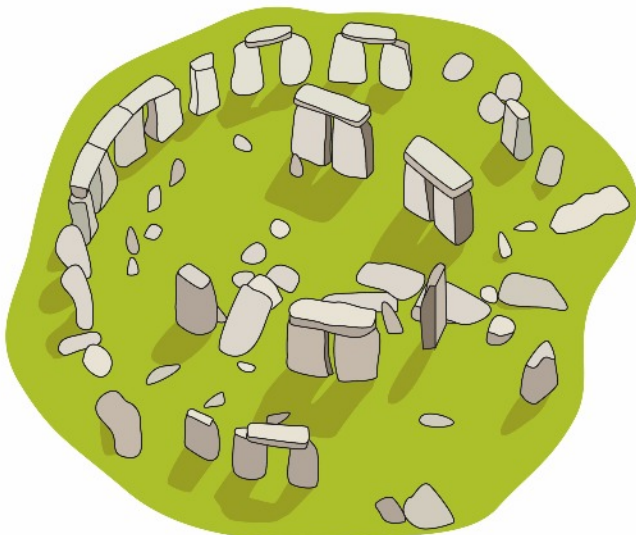
Stonehenge began life as a series of earthworks built around 3000BC. It is believed that the first use of Stonehenge was as a burial ground. Cremated remains dating from approximately 2500-3000BC have been excavated at the site.



Around 2500BC a series of stone circles were built. The stones placed on top of others are known as lintels.

There are two types of stones at Stonehenge. The larger, outer stones are called Sarcen stones. They are a type of sandstone and come from Southern England. It is believed those at Stonehenge came from Marlborough Downs, 32km away. The largest stone is called the Heel Stone and weighs about 35 tons.

The smaller, inner stones are bluestones and they came from the Preseli Hills in Pembrokeshire, Wales. Nobody knows how they were transported from Wales to Wiltshire.



The reasons Stonehenge was built remain a mystery. Ideas suggested include:

A burial site for important people.

A place of healing.

A temple to the sun.

A place for ceremonies.