

HIGH HEAD STONE CIRCLE

Created by Brian Cowper 2006

The Circle is aligned true North-South, this was achieved by marking a shadow direction at local noon.

Local noon = clock noon (1 o'clock BST) + longitude x 4 mins

Like many ancient megalithic sites the design of the Circle incorporates astronomical and landscape alignments (see diagram). The Circle also marks events special to Jonathan and Bernadette.

Once true north-south had been established the rest of the circle was plotted using a combination of observation, geometry and (because of the British weather) computer programming!

Stones 7 and 9 mark an event which took place in June 2006, the rising and setting of the full moon at the major southern lunar standstill, when the moon hangs low in the sky for only a few hours. The outlying stone marks the moon at its zenith. This event will not happen for approximately another 18.6 years.

The Circle also marks the cycle of the year and a rough correlation can be found between the Celtic and Christian festivals which celebrate its turning.

Stone 1 Winter Solstice, Christmas; **Stone 2** Imbolc, Feast of Bridget, Candlemas; **Stone 3** Spring Equinox; **Stone 6** Beltane, Easter; **Stone 8** Summer Solstice, Pentecost; **Stone 11** Lughnasadh, Lammass, Harvest Festival; **Stone 12** Autumn Equinox; **Stone 13** Samhain (Hallowe'en), All Saints Day.

