



Stonehenge: England's Most Amazing Structure.

On Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, there can be seen one of the most remarkable antiquities of Great Britain.

Although when seen from a distance on the plain, Stonehenge appears to be a haphazard collection of large boulders, when investigated more closely it can be seen that the apparently confused assembly of stones is really a carefully arranged design. The origin of Stonehenge is still somewhat obscure, and the opinions of experts who have investigated the matter differ. It is, however, an amazing example of industry and accuracy, and how the stones were brought to the spot and erected is a mystery.

From the art used in the construction, and also because some Roman remains were found within the enclosure, it is the theory of several people that it was not erected before the period of Roman ascendancy. Although there is no evidence to that effect, it is generally understood that Stonehenge was a Druidical Temple.

Stonehenge is enclosed in a double mound with a shallow, circular ditch, and there is an avenue from the north-east bounded by another mound and ditch. The outer mound is 15ft. high, and the ditch is 30ft. broad while the avenue is nearly 600 yards long. The whole work consists of two circles and two ovals. The outer circle is 108ft. in diameter, and originally consisted of 60 stones. The uprights are about 14ft. high and 7ft. broad, and the imposts were placed on top of these, making a continuous circle, a tenon in the upright fitting into a mortise in the one lying on top.

Seventeen uprights only are left standing of the outer circle. The space between the inner and out circles is 8ft., and the inner circle consisted originally of 30 stones, 6ft. high. Of these only 11 are now standing.

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