



THE HURLERS

The Hurlers are located in a wonderful wild location on Bodmin Moor. Known for its dark skies it is a lovely place to visit all year round.

After heavy rain it can get very muddy and slippery, so please take care.

Please park responsibly in the car park at the Hurlers.

BODMIN MOOR

Bodmin Moor is an important historic landscape. There are many megalithic sites that have archaeoastronomy links including a further eight stone circles most of these are aligned with the solstices.

If you wish to explore further, Craddock Moor stone circle is located along a track near the Hurlers. The remaining, including, Stannon, Goodaver and The Stripple Stones are a short drive away.

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Bright DARK SKIES Stars



THE HURLERS A SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Supported By:



THROUGH HISTORY

The Hurlers has always been of great interest throughout history. William Nordon's engraving dates to before 1589 shows the Hurlers looking from the West.

People have often tried to record what the stones mean. Richard Carew in 1602 records the first known reference to the myth that the stones represent men caught hurling on the Sabbath.



There is also a myth which relates to Rillaton Barrow. A druid who lived here owned a magic cup that could not be drunk dry. He would give weary travellers a drink from this cup. One

person did not believe it could not be drunk dry and accused the druid of lying. He was cursed to live in the barrow as a ghost with the cup. A golden cup was discovered in the barrow in 1837. It is now housed in the British Museum, a copy can be viewed in the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro.



ARCHAEOASTRONOMY

The people of the Neolithic and Bronze age would try to make sense of the motions in the sky. The stone monuments in our landscape leave us clues of how they did this. Many of them have been aligned to indicate positions of objects in the sky. Stones which are aligned to the solar cycle are the most common, such as the Heel Stone at Stonehenge marking a solstice point. At the Hurlers The summer solstice Sun sets behind Brown Willy when seen from Tiny Tom. Other sites are aligned to other celestial events such as lunar or stellar events. Archaeoastronomy attempts to understand the secrets that have been locked into the stones by studying the position and design of the monuments and linking them to the sky and landscape around them. One suggestion is that the design of the Hurlers reflects the belt of Orion. This is demonstrated by torchlight in the image below.



RECENT PROJECTS

There have been a number of recent collaborative projects at the Hurlers. The first in 2013 was called Mapping the Sun, this exposed the inter circle link. (Number 4 on our tour). A number of archaeoastronomy measurements and conclusions were made by the Roseland Observatory team.

The second project ran in 2016 it was called Reading the Hurlers. It excavated the possible fourth upper circle concluding that just one stone (position 6 on our tour) was an original Menhir. Also, the geologist deduced that the stones used to build the complex came from a number of locations on the Moor.



More about these projects can be found here: readingthehurlers.blogspot.co.uk/p/history.html



THE HURLERS TOUR

A FALLEN MENHIR

Found in 2016 (provisional name tiny tom) during the reading the hurlers project. It marks the first spot where brown willy becomes visible when walking up from the hurlers.



RILLATON BARROW

A very important Bronze Age burial site. A gold cup was found buried there. As only one other similar has been found in the whole of the UK it must have marked the last resting place of a very important person.



THE HURLERS

Moving across the moor the Hurlers are visible to the North. The southern circle has mostly disappeared. The central circle is much restored. In the centre of this circle is a small stone called the calendar stone. Looking directly East is Kit Hill an equinox sunrise position.



Between the centre and northern circle is the inter-circle link. This was exposed as recently as 2013 in an archaeological dig. It is some times known as the crystal causeway and people have mused that it looks a little like the Milky Way.

THE HERITAGE MUSEUM

Well worth a stop. Housed in the old engine house it is full of wonderful local information including local mining heritage as well as about much local fauna and flora.



THE NORTHERN CIRCLE

Also restored, forms a nearly straight line running NE - SW with the other two circles. In around 1700 BC the star Arcturus would have risen behind Rillaton Barrow when seen from this circle.

THE SOUTHERN CIRCLE

Remains a ruin and is often overlooked. The centre circle has been restored and south of centre is a small stone called the calendar stone. Stand on the platform stone look over the calendar Stone and Kit Hill to the East can be seen.

THE HURLERS CARPARK

Just beyond the Minions village sign. Take the time to read all the information boards in this car park.



THE PIPERS

Two large standing stones, positioned side by side. Stand between them and Stowe Hill is to the north, at night the Pole Star can be seen directly above the hill. When viewed edge on Kit Hill to the East is clearly visible. This may have been used to mark the equinox Sun rise point.



MINIONS

CHEESEWRING HOTEL

LONG TOM (OFF MAP)

On the Southwest approach to Minions, beside the road on the right hand side is a large standing stone. Known as Long Tom, the stone is a possible Menhir dating back to the Neolithic times.

