

Enclosing The Neolithic

[#Neolithic enclosures](#) [#prehistoric structures](#) [#Stone Age settlements](#) [#ancient archaeology](#) [#early human architecture](#)

The concept of "Enclosing the Neolithic" explores the monumental efforts by early human societies to define spaces during the Stone Age. This involved building a variety of structures, from defensive walls around nascent settlements to elaborate ritualistic henges, which served to delineate boundaries, protect communities, or signify sacred grounds, reflecting advanced communal organization and a profound connection to their environment.

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Enclosing the Neolithic

Contents: Introduction (Alex Gibson); Earthen Enclosures in Britain & Ireland: An Introduction to the study of henges: time for a change? (Alex Gibson); Henging, mounding and blocking: the Forteviot henge group (Kenneth Brophy & Gordon Noble); Henges in Ireland: new discoveries and emerging issues (Muiris O'Sullivan, Stephen Davies & Geraldine Stout); Journeys and Juxtapositions. Marden Henge and the View from the Vale (Jim Leary & David Field); Conformity, Routeways and Religious Experience - the Henges of Central Yorkshire (Jan Harding); Ringlemere: A Pit/Post Horseshoe and Henge Monument in East Kent (Keith Parfitt & Stuart Needham); Living with Sacred Spaces: The Henge Monuments of Wessex (Joshua Pollard); Neolithic enclosures: European case studies: Mid Neolithic Enclosures in Southern Scandinavia (Lars Larsson); Mid- Late Neolithic Enclosures in the South of France (Fabien Convertini); Kreisgrabenanlagen - Middle Neolithic Ritual Enclosures in Austria 4800-4500 BC (Wolfgang Neubauer); Mind the gap: Neolithic and Chalcolithic enclosures of south Portugal (Antonio Carlos Valera); The Neolithic enclosures in transition. Tradition and change in the cosmology of early farmers in central Europe (Jan Turek); Journey to the Centre of the Earth (Richard Bradley).

Enclosing the Past

No further information has been provided for this title.

Neolithic Enclosures in Atlantic Northwest Europe

Thirteen papers from the meeting of the Neolithic Studies Group. Contents: Neolithic enclosures in northwest Europe: some recent things (T Darvill & J Thomas); Enclosures and related structures in Brittany and western France (C Scarre); Neolithic enclosed settlements in Cornwall (R J Mercer); Early enclosures in southeast Cornwall (K Ray); Recent work on Neolithic enclosure in Devon (F M Griffith);

Clegyr Boia: a potential Neolithic enclosure and associated monuments on the St David's peninsular, southwest Wales (B Vyner); Bridging the Severn Estuary: two possible earlier Neolithic enclosures in the Vale of Glamorgan (S Burrow, T Driver & D Thomas); Survey at Hindwell Enclosure, Walton, Powys, Wales (A Gibson, H Becker, E Grogan, N Jones & B Masterson); A time and place for enclosure: Gardom's Edge, Derbyshire (J Barnatt, B Bevan & M Edmonds); Neolithic enclosures: reflections on excavations on Wales (J Thomas); Neolithic enclosures in Scotland (G Barclay); Neolithic enclosure in the Isle of Man (T Darvill); Donegore Hill and other Irish Neolithic enclosures (A Sheridan); Danish causewayed enclosures

Neolithic Settlement in Ireland and Western Britain

The past few years have seen an upsurge in the numbers of known Neolithic settlements in Ireland. Many of these sites have been excavated by archaeologists based in field units, but few are well-known to the wider archaeological community. The papers in this volume, which were presented at a conference held at Queen's University Belfast in 2001, provided a forum for a discussion of the new Neolithic material from Ireland in its wider geographical context. Although the bulk of the emerging Irish settlement evidence relates to substantial houses, many of these papers consider wider themes, including issues of contact and communication along the sea routes and coastal margins of northwest Europe, questions of diversity and regional patterns of sedentism and mobility, and variations in regional food production strategies. The volume includes twenty-six papers representing a series of studies ranging geographically from Orkney to the French Atlantic facade. Contents: Introduction (Ian Armit, Eileen Murphy, Eiméar Nelis and Derek Simpson); French Connections I: Spreading the marmites thinly (Alison Sheridan); French Connections II: Of cows and men (Anne Tresset); Contemplating some awful(ly interesting) vistas: Importing cattle and red deer into prehistoric Ireland (Peter Woodman and Margaret McCarthy); Terminology, time and space: Labels, radiocarbon chronologies and a 'Neolithic' of small worlds (Patrick Ashmore); Rooted or routed? Landscapes of Neolithic settlement in Ireland (Gabriel Cooney); The early farming settlement of south western England in the Neolithic (Roger Mercer); Neolithic settlement in the lowlands of Scotland: A preliminary survey (Gordon Barclay); Once upon a time Skara Brae was unique (David Clarke); The Drowners: Permanence and transience in the Hebridean Neolithic (Ian Armit); Neolithic Northton: A review of the evidence (Eileen Murphy and Derek Simpson); Billown and the Neolithic of the Isle of Man (Timothy Darvill); The Early Neolithic and the Manx environment (Peter J Davey and Jim B Innes); Rheast Buigh, Patrick: Middle Neolithic exploitation of the Manx uplands? (Peter J Davey and Jenny Woodcock); What do we mean by Neolithic settlement? Some approaches, 10 years on (Alex Gibson). The Irish 'house boom'. Irish Neolithic houses (Ian Armit, Eileen Murphy, Eiméar Nelis and Derek Simpson); Excavations at Thornhill, Co. Londonderry (Paul Logue); Neolithic houses in Ballyharry townland, Islandmagee, Co. Antrim (Dermot G Moore); Neolithic structure at Drummenny Lower, Co. Donegal: An environmental perspective (Cathy Dunne); The excavation of a Neolithic house at Enagh townland, Co. Derry (Cormac McSparran); Archaeological excavations of a Neolithic settlement at Coolfore, Co. Louth (Cóilín O Drisceoil); A Neolithic house in Cloghers, Co. Kerry (Jacinta Kiely); Neolithic beginnings on Roughan Hill and the Burren (Carleton Jones). Irish Neolithic settlement architecture: A reappraisal (Sarah Cross); Donegore and Lyles Hill, Neolithic enclosed sites in Co. Antrim: The lithic assemblages (Eiméar Nelis); Neolithic expectations (Richard Bradley).

Enclosures in Neolithic Europe

These papers come from a conference on Neolithic Causewayed Enclosures in Europe held in London in 1999. They present a series of snapshots of some of the sites and regions at the forefront of current research on causewayed enclosures in Europe, and as such are a complement to the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) project which has systematically recorded all known Neolithic enclosures in England by both analytical topographic survey techniques and aerial transcription. The detailed regional data collected by the RCHME project has allowed a radical reinterpretation of these sites and the recognition that there are regional groups of enclosures. This series of papers serves to broaden the discussion about the structure and form of causewayed monuments beyond lowland England, looking at a wide geographical range of sites across central Europe, as well as considering some sites which do not conform to the traditional type but which have been proved by excavation to have a Neolithic context. This collection of papers provides a long-awaited and important addition to the debate on these enigmatic prehistoric sites. Contents: Neolithic Enclosures of Scandinavia (Niels H Anderson) ; The Causewayed Enclosures of West-Central France from the beginning of the Fourth to the End of the Third Millennium (Claude Burnez and

Catherine Louboutin) ; Le Mourral, Trèbes (Aude) and the Final Neolithic Circular Enclosures of the Languedoc (Jean Vaquer) ; The Late Neolithic Settlement of La Hersonnais, Pléchatel in its Regional Context (Jean-Yves Tinevez) ; The Neolithic Ditched Enclosures of the Tavoliere, South-East Italy (Robin Skeates) ; An Interrupted Ditch Alignment at Rivoli, Italy, in the Context of Neolithic Interrupted Ditch/Pit Systems (Lawrence Barfield) ; Aerial Survey and Neolithic Enclosures in Central Europe (Otto Braasch) ; From Lilliput to Brobdingnag: The Traditions of Enclosure in the Irish Neolithic (Gabriel Cooney) ; Billown Neolithic Enclosures, Isle of Man (Timothy Darvill) ; Lithic Artefacts from Neolithic Causewayed Enclosures: Character and Meaning (Alan Saville) ; A Causewayed Enclosure at Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (Adrian Butler, Patrick Clay and John Thomas) ; The Howe Robin Story: An Unusual Enclosure on Crosby Ravensworth Fell (Moraig Brown) ; The Seventieth Causewayed Enclosure in the British Isles? (Peter D Horne, David MacLeod and Alastair Oswald) ; Rethinking the Carrock Fell Enclosure (Trevor Pearson and Peter Topping) .

Marking Place

Much archaeological work is concerned with identifying gaps in our knowledge and developing strategies for addressing them; we perhaps spend less time thinking about how research should proceed when we already know, relatively speaking, quite a lot. The program of dating causewayed enclosures in southern Britain that was published in 2011 as *Gathering Time* (Oxbow Books) gave us a new, more precise chronology for many individual sites as well as for enclosures as a whole, and as a consequence a far better sense of their significance and place in the story of the British Early Neolithic. Arguably, causewayed enclosures are now the best understood type of Neolithic monument. Yet work continues, and in the last few years new discoveries have been made, older excavations published and further work undertaken on well-known sites. Viewing this research within the new framework for these monuments allows us to assess where our understanding of enclosures has got to and where the focus of future research should lie. This volume originates from a Neolithic Studies Group meeting held in November 2019, which aimed firstly to showcase and explore the wide range of current work on causewayed enclosures and related sites, and secondly to assess what we still want to know about these sites in light of the monumental achievement of *Gathering Time*. The papers collected here comprise reports on recent development-led fieldwork, academic research and community projects, and the volume concludes with a reflection by the authors of *Gathering Time*.

Problems in Neolithic Archaeology

Problems in Neolithic Archaeology is a notable contribution to the debate about how we can write prehistory. Drawing on both processual and post-processual approaches, it reaffirms the central role of theory and interpretation while accepting as permanent the uncertainty which makes the testing of archaeological hypotheses difficult or even impossible. Dr Whittle asserts in particular the need for greater self-confidence and for the formulation of new theory and questions more appropriate to the archaeological record. The book's specific strength lies, however, in a close contextual study of the Neolithic period in western and central Europe. In this respect it provides an admirable complement to his textbook *Neolithic Europe*.

Neolithic Britain

Neolithic Britain is an up to date, concise introduction to the period of British prehistory from c. 4000-2200 BCE, covering key material and social developments, and reflecting on the nature of cultural practices, tradition, genealogy, and society across nearly two millennia.

Megasites in Prehistoric Europe

This is an Element about some of the largest sites known in prehistoric Europe – sites so vast that they often remain undiscussed for lack of the theoretical or methodological tools required for their understanding. Here, the authors use a relational, comparative approach to identify not only what made megasites but also what made megasites so special and so large. They have selected a sample of megasites in each major period of prehistory – Neolithic, Copper, Bronze and Iron Ages – with a detailed examination of a single representative megasite for each period. The relational approach makes explicit comparisons between smaller, more 'normal' sites and the megasites using six criteria – scale, temporality, deposition / monumentality, formal open spaces, performance and congregational catchment. The authors argue that many of the largest European prehistoric megasites were congregational places.

Early Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman settlement at Monksmoor Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) has undertaken archaeological work at Monksmoor Farm on the north-eastern edge of Daventry in six different areas. Finds presented here include two early Neolithic pits, a middle Iron Age settlement and two late Iron Age settlements.

The Archaeology of People

Alasdair Whittle's new work argues powerfully for the complexity and fluidity of life in the Neolithic, through a combination of archaeological and anthropological case studies and current theoretical debate. The book ranges from the sixth to the fourth millennium BC, and from the Great Hungarian Plain, central and western Europe and the Alpine foreland to parts of southern Britain. Familiar terms such as individuals, agency, identity and structure are dealt with, but Professor Whittle emphasises that they are too abstract to be truly useful. Instead, he highlights the multiple dimensions which constituted Neolithic existence: the web of daily routines, group and individual identities, relations with animals, and active but varied attitudes to the past. The result is a vivid, original and perceptive understanding of the early Neolithic which will offer insights to readers at every level.

The Neolithic of Britain and Ireland

The Neolithic of Britain and Ireland provides a synthesis of this dynamic period of prehistory from the end of the Mesolithic through to the early Beaker period. Drawing on new excavations and the application of new scientific approaches to data from this period, this book considers both life and death in the Neolithic. It offers a clear and concise introduction to this period but with an emphasis on the wider and on-going research questions. It is an important text for students new to the study of this period of prehistory as well as acting as a reference for students and scholars already researching this area. The book begins by considering the Mesolithic prelude, specifically the millennium prior to the start of the Neolithic in Britain and Ireland. It then goes on to consider what life was like for people at the time, alongside the monumental record and how people treated the dead. This is presented chronologically, with separate chapters on the early Neolithic, middle Neolithic, late Neolithic and early Beaker periods. Finally it considers future research priorities for the study of the Neolithic.

People of the Long Barrows

A unique look at the dead of Neolithic Britain and the contribution they can make to our understanding of the period.

Settlement in the Irish Neolithic

The Irish Neolithic has been dominated by the study of megalithic tombs, but the defining element of Irish settlement evidence is the rectangular timber Early Neolithic house, the numbers of which have more than quadrupled in the last ten years. The substantial Early Neolithic timber house was a short-lived architectural phenomenon of as little as 90 years, perhaps like short-lived Early Neolithic long barrows and causewayed enclosures. This book explores the wealth of evidence for settlement and houses throughout the Irish Neolithic, in relation to Britain and continental Europe. More importantly it incorporates the wealth of new, and often unpublished, evidence from developer-led archaeological excavations and large grey-literature resources. The settlement evidence scattered across the landscape, and found as a result of developer-funded work, provides the social context for the more famous

stone monuments that have traditionally shaped our views of the Neolithic in Ireland. It provides the first comprehensive review of the Neolithic settlement of Ireland, which enables a more holistic and meaningful understanding of the Irish Neolithic.

Europe's Early Fieldscapes

This volume focuses on the development of field systems through time and space and in their wider landscape context, including classical issues pertaining to past land use and management regimes, including manuring, water, land and crop management, and technologies such as slash and burn cultivation, and use of the ard and plough. This book provides the first comprehensive attempt to bring together and provide a comprehensive insight into the latest prehistoric fieldscape research across Europe. The book raises a broader awareness of some of the main questions and scientific requests that are addressed by scholars working in various fieldscapes across Europe. Themes addressed in this book include (a) mapping and understanding field system morphologies at various scales, (b) the extraction of information on social processes from field system morphologies, (c) the relations between field systems and cultural and natural features of their environment, (d) time-depths and temporalities of usage, and (e) specifics of the underlying agricultural systems, with special attention to matters of continuity and resilience and relation to changing practices. The case-studies explore how to best approach such landscapes with traditional and novel methodologies and targeted research in order to enhance our knowledge further. The volume offers inspiration and guidance for the heritage management of fieldscape heritage – not solely for future scholarly research but foremost to stimulate strategic guidance to frame and support improved protection of evidently vulnerable resources for Europe's future. This volume is of interest to landscape archaeologists.

Neolithic Britain and Ireland

This is a comprehensive and up-to-date study of the first farming communities in Britain and Ireland. Modern theories and fundamental concepts such as sedentism and food production are investigated and presented through case studies.

Neolithic Britain

The climax of the Stone Age in Britain, the Neolithic period (4700-2000BC), was a period of startling achievement. The British Isles are rich in Neolithic sites, which give us evidence of a complex and surprisingly developed archaic society. The author surveys 1100 secular and ceremonial sites in Britain, selecting some for detailed explanation; from these a sense of the diversity and dynamism of the living Neolithic communities emerges. He presents a comprehensive, profusely illustrated and up-to-date view of the Neolithic, organised by county. Archaeologists and prehistorians will find this book of interest and it should prove indispensable to students of archaeology as a source of information about the British Neolithic.

Stone Tools & Society

Stone tools are the most durable and, in some cases, the only category of material evidence that students of prehistory have at their disposal. Exploring the changing character and context of stone tools in Neolithic and Bronze Age Britain, Mark Edmonds examines the varied ways in which these artefacts were caught up in the fabric of past social life. Key themes include: stone tool procurement and production * the nature of technological traditions * stone tools and social identity * the nature of exchange and the significance of depositional practices. As well as contributing to current debate about the interpretation of material culture, Dr. Edmonds uses the evidence of stone tools to reconsider some of the major horizons of change in later British prehistory. From the production of tools at spectacularly located quarries to their ceremonial burial or destruction at ritual monuments, this well-illustrated study demonstrates that our understanding of these varied and sometimes enigmatic artefacts requires a concern with their social, as well as their practical dimensions.

The Oxford Handbook of Neolithic Europe

'The Oxford Handbook of Neolithic Europe' provides a comprehensive, geographically extensive, thematic overview of the European Neolithic - from Iberia to Russia and from Norway to Malta - offering both a general introduction and a clear exploration of key issues and current debates surrounding evidence and interpretation.

Neolithic Dew-Ponds and Cattle-Ways

Many of the earliest books, particularly those dating back to the 1900s and before, are now extremely scarce and increasingly expensive. We are republishing these classic works in affordable, high quality, modern editions, using the original text and artwork.

Mapping Ancient Landscapes in Northamptonshire

A record of the National Mapping Programme project in Northamptonshire. It recovered and mapped archaeological evidence from field systems, through settlement remains, to funerary monuments, and ranges from the Neolithic to the 20th century.

Britain 3000 BC

Were prehistoric people like us? How did they live, what did they think and how did they see their world? 3000 BC was a moment of great significance in the British Isles. Avebury, Stonehenge and many other major monuments were at vital stages in their construction and use at this time, while writing - often regarded as the ultimate hallmark of civilisation - made its first appearance in Europe. Rodney Castleden uses the evidence of archaeological investigations to recreate the society, customs, economy, religion and ritual of Britain 3,000 years ago and to reveal the lost world of prehistoric people. From the well-built stone houses of Skara Brae to the more primitive wooden huts of Honington in Suffolk, Britain 3000 BC enters the dwellings and lifestyles of neolithic communities and delves into the nature of their society. Trading networks which entailed remarkable journeys and the surge of monument building are, as Rodney Castleden reveals, further indications of the preoccupations and values of prehistoric people. Intricately decorated chamber tombs, long barrows and wooden mortuary buildings show a positive obsession with death. Willingness to engage in projects that individuals would never see completed - such as Stonehenge - and willingness to expend unlimited amounts of effort on their monuments reveal that our distant ancestors had an acute sense of place and a dawning sense of historic time. Britain 3000 BC will be fascinating reading for everyone who is interested in prehistory, in archaeology and in the magnificent monuments this ancient society left behind.

Europe in the Neolithic

Dr. Whittle reviews the latest archaeological evidence on Neolithic Europe from 7000 to 2500 BC. Describing important areas, sites and problems, he addresses the major themes that have engaged the attention of scholars: the transition from a forager lifestyle; the rate and dynamics of change; and the nature of Neolithic society. He challenges conventional views, arguing that Neolithic society was rooted in the values and practices of its forager, predecessors right across the continent. The processes of settling down and adopting farming were piecemeal and slow. Only gradually did new attitudes emerge, to time and the past, to the sacred realms of ancestors and the dead, to nature and to the concept of community. Unique in its broad and up-to-date coverage of long-term processes of change on a continental scale, this completely rewritten and revised version of Whittle's Neolithic Europe: a survey reflects radical changes in the evidence and in interpretative approaches over the past decade.

Art and Architecture in Neolithic Orkney

This book offers a groundbreaking analysis of Neolithic art and architecture in Orkney, focussing upon the incredible collection of hundreds of decorated stones being revealed by the current excavations at the Ness of Brodgar.

Monuments in the Making

Dolmens are iconic international monumental constructions which represent the first megalithic architecture (after menhirs) in north-west Europe. These monuments are characterised by an enormous capstone balanced on top of smaller uprights. However, previous investigations of these extraordinary monuments have focussed on three main areas of debate. First, typology has been a dominant feature of discussion, particularly the position of dolmens in the ordering of chambered tombs. Second, attention has been placed not on how they were built but how they were used. Finally much debate has centred on their visual appearance (whether they were covered by mounds or cairns). This book provides a reappraisal of the 'dolmen' as an architectural entity and provides an alternative perspective on function. This is achieved through a re-theorising of the nature of megalithic architecture grounded in the results of a new research/fieldwork project covering Britain, Ireland and Scandinavia. It is argued that instead of understanding dolmen simply as chambered tombs these were multi-faceted

monuments whose construction was as much to do with enchantment and captivation as it was with containing the dead. Consequently, the presence of human remains within dolmens is also critically evaluated and a new interpretation offered.

Monumentalising Life in the Neolithic

One of the principal characteristics of the European Neolithic is the development of monumentality in association with innovations in material culture and changes in subsistence from hunting and gathering to farming and pastoralism. The papers in this volume discuss the latest insights into why monumental architecture became an integral part of early farming societies in Europe and beyond. One of the topics is how we define monuments and how our arguments and recent research on temporality impacts on our interpretation of the Neolithic period. Different interpretations of Göbekli Tepe are examples of this discussion as well as our understanding of special landmarks such as flint mines. The latest evidence on the economic and paleoenvironmental context, carbon 14 dates as well as analytical methods are employed in illuminating the emergence of monumentalism in Neolithic Europe. Studies are taking place on a macro and micro scale in areas as diverse as Great Britain, Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Germany, the Dutch wetlands, Portugal and Malta involving a range of monuments from long barrows and megalithic tombs to roundels and enclosures. Transformation from a natural to a built environment by monumentalizing part of the landscape is discussed as well as changes in megalithic architecture in relation to shifts in the social structure. An ethnographic study of megaliths in Nagaland discuss monument building as an act of social construction. Other studies look into the role of monuments as expressions of cosmology and active loci of ceremonial performances. Also, a couple of papers analyse the social processes in the transformation of society in the aftermath of the initial boom in monument construction and the related changes in subsistence and social structure in northern Europe. The aim of the publication is to explore different theories about the relationship between monumentality and the Neolithic way of life through these studies encompassing a wide range of types of monuments over vast areas of Europe and beyond.

Neolithic Britain

Around six thousand years ago major changes occurred in the human occupation of the British Isles, marking the beginning of one of the most fascinating periods in prehistory. Previous lifestyles dependent upon hunting, fishing and gathering were replaced by ones reliant to some degree on horticulture and the keeping of domestic livestock. The sudden appearance of agriculture is only one part of the neolithic story. It was also a time when novel ways of living in and understanding the world developed. The period also marks the advent of new technologies (such as the production of pottery) and new ideologies, seen in the construction of major ceremonial monuments to the living and the ancestral dead. Drawing upon recent discoveries and research, this book provides an introductory outline of the British neolithic (covering the period c.4000-2500 BC). Aspects of social life and belief are described, along with discussion of the material culture of neolithic communities, and the spectacular evidence of the ceremonial monuments they constructed. Joshua Pollard is a lecturer in Archaeology and Prehistory at the University of Wales College, Newport. He is currently co-director of a major fieldwork project investigating the late neolithic monument complex at Avebury, Wiltshire.

Woodland in the Neolithic of Northern Europe

A detailed consideration of the ways in which human-environment relations altered with the beginnings of agriculture in the Neolithic of northern Europe.

Vessels for the Ancestors

"In this volume a group of distinguished prehistorians present the latest work on the Neolithic of the north and west of Britain and Ireland, areas with some of the most impressive monuments and material culture in north-west Europe. The contents are presented in four sections: funerary studies; megalithic art; artefact studies; and regional studies. Traditional scholarly presentations are combined with contemporary theoretical approaches and methodological discussion. A substantial quantity of hitherto unpublished material is incorporated. The papers serve to transform our understanding of the Neolithic of these areas, and are guaranteed to stimulate lively discussion." "Contributors include not only well-known archaeologists such as Richard Bradley, Roger Mercer and George Eogan, but also younger scholars active in contemporary Neolithic studies, such as Ann MacSween, Rosamund Cleal,

Dwelling on the edge of the Neolithic

This volume presents a detailed spatial analysis of the sites of Keinsmerbrug, Mienakker, and Zeewijk. These Late Neolithic settlement sites define the westernmost edge of the Corded Ware Culture (c. 2900-2300 cal BC). The people took part in a broad spectrum of activities: hunting, gathering, fishing, agriculture, animal husbandry, and artisan crafts. They maintained their regional traditions while dwelling on the edge of this Neolithic cultural group. The study depicts Neolithic households as highly mobile with sedentary and seasonal settlements. The patterns that emerge from the in-depth spatial analysis of material distributions indicate the presence of spatially bound locations for specific activities. This structuring of space further supports the identification of various dwelling structures. Neolithic monumentality is, for the first time, identified within the Dutch coastal wetlands. The biographical perspective underlines the ephemeral nature of the divide between the place of the living and the place of the ancestors.

Gathering Time

Gathering Time presents the results of a major dating programme that re-writes the early Neolithic of Britain by more accurately dating enclosures, a phenomenon that first appeared in the early Neolithic: places of construction, labour, assembly, ritual and deposition. The project has combined hundreds of new radiocarbon dates with hundreds of existing dates, using a Bayesian statistical framework. Such formal chronological modelling is essential if significantly more precise and robust date estimates are to be achieved than those currently available from informal inspection of calibrated radiocarbon dates. The resulting dating project included over 35 enclosures - the largest study so far attempted in a Bayesian framework. This establishes a new chronology for causewayed and related enclosures in southern Britain, which appeared in the final decades of the 38th century cal BC, increased in number dramatically in the 37th century cal BC, and began no longer to be built by the end of the 36th century cal BC. Several enclosures were of short duration - in some cases probably in use for less than a generation - though some examples do conform to the conventional assumption of a long primary use-life. In Ireland, enclosures of this kind are much scarcer. The project helped to date two of these: Donegore, Co. Antrim and Magheraboy, Co. Sligo. As well as establishing a new chronology for enclosures, Gathering Time also places these results into their wider context, by considering the chronology of the early Neolithic as a whole. Well over a thousand other radiocarbon dates have been critically assessed and modelled in a Bayesian framework - for settlement, monument building and other activity, region by region across southern Britain and across Ireland as a whole (a brief comparative study of Scotland as far north as the Great Glen is also included). Generally in southern Britain other Neolithic activity can be dated before the beginnings of monument building and, among the monuments, long barrows, long cairns, and related forms clearly preceded the earliest causewayed enclosures. The first Neolithic things and practices probably appeared in south-east England in the 41st century cal BC, arguably by some kind of small-scale colonisation from the adjacent continent, and spread at a variable pace across the rest of Britain and Ireland over the next two and a half centuries or more, a process involving acculturation of local people as well as immigrants. Enclosures may have been adapted as a social strategy of harnessing the power of the distant and the exotic, and perhaps old ancestral ties to the European continent, in a dynamic and rapidly changing social milieu. Close attention is given to themes of deposition, material culture and different kinds of social interaction, from networks of exchange to episodes of violence. A high tempo of change continued, as very different constructions came to be built from the 36th century cal BC onwards: the linear and more arcane cursus monuments. The study of Irish Neolithic chronology reveals significant patterning, including a short currency for rectangular timber houses in the 37th century cal BC, but also highlights the challenge of establishing more reliable chronologies, for monuments in particular. Alternative scenarios for the date and nature of the beginning of the Neolithic in Ireland are modelled. Gathering Time ends with reflections on the nature and pace of change in prehistory. If generational timescales are now within our grasp routinely, more subtle and individualised kinds of (pre)history can and must be written, and the conventional frame of the long-term must shift from being familiar and comfortable to problematic.

The Neolithic Revolution

The dawn of the Neolithic Era ushered in major changes in the way people lived. In fact, these changes were so sweeping that the transition from the Mesolithic Era to the Neolithic Era is referred to as the Neolithic Revolution. The beginnings of agriculture and the domestication of animals both date from this period. These changes to the food supply led people to settle in permanent communities, which, in turn, led to organized societies and social hierarchy. This book examines the factors that could have led to this revolution and the archaeological evidence of which changes happened where and when.

Recent Prehistoric Enclosures and Funerary Practices in Europe

Proceedings of the International Meeting held at the Gulbenkian Foundation (Lisbon, Portugal, November 2012) This volume gathers the individual presentations from The International Meeting: Recent Prehistory Enclosures and Funerary Practices. From England to Germany, from Portugal to Italy, the individual papers present this cohesive European trend in Prehistory, that of enclosing, and the particular relationship between enclosures and prehistoric funerary practices and manipulations of the human body. Through a plurality of approaches, the volume covers several European regions, providing an overview of how prehistoric Europeans dealt with their dead, and how they experienced and organized their world. From cremating to dismembering bodies, from skulls used as cups to naturalistic anthropomorphic ivory figurines, from fragmented pottery to animal limbs, from deviance to collectiveness, this volume ranges all the different practices currently discussed in European Prehistory. The first paper, by Alasdair Whittle, poses as an introduction to the theme of enclosures throughout Europe, focusing his approach on time and timing of enclosure. Alex Gibson then takes us through the middle and late Neolithic British enclosures and Jean-Noël Guyodo and Audrey Blanchard through those of Western France. The Portuguese enclosures follow, with papers both on walled and ditched enclosures, by the hand of António Valera, Ana Maria Silva, Cláudia Cunha, Filipa Rodrigues, Michael Kunst, Anna Waterman, João Luís Cardoso and Susana Oliveira Jorge. Moving East, Andrea Zeeb-Lanz discusses the cannibalistic premise regarding the funerary remains from the Neolithic site of Herxheim (Germany). André Spatzier, Marcus Stecher, Kurt W. Alt. and François Bertemes, on the other hand, focusing on the remains from a henge like enclosure near Magdeburg (Germany), explore the premise of violence and war-like scenarios. To the south, Alberto Cazzella and Giulia Recchia write about a copper age enclosure near Conelle di Acervia (Italy) and Patrícia Rios, Corina Liesau and Concepción Blasco take us through the funerary practices of Camino de las Yeseras (Spain).

An Ethnography of the Neolithic

Archaeological research in Sweden and Denmark has uncovered a startling array of evidence over the last 150 years, but until now there has been no comprehensive synthesis and interpretation of the material. An Ethnography of the Neolithic bridges this gap, giving an accessible and up-to-date analysis of a wide range of evidence, from landscapes to monumental tombs to portable artifacts. Christopher Tilley also uses this material as a basis for a provocative and novel reconstruction of late Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic societies in southern Scandinavia, over a period of 3,000 years. His skilful integration of archaeological evidence with new anthropological approaches makes this book an original contribution to an important topic, whose significance stretches outside Scandinavia, and beyond the Neolithic.

Statements in Stone

The megalithic monuments of Western Europe cover a period of over 2,000 years, from the earliest neolithic to the beginning of the Bronze Age, and have excited the popular imagination for centuries. Based on the evidence of recent excavations, and the most up-to-date and controversial theoretical perspectives of archaeology, Statements in Stone is the first account to put the megalithic traditions of Brittany in a social context and to develop a social model to account for their emergence and development.

A Study of Prehistoric Settlement Patterns in China

This book is the first-ever monograph on clustering patterns in prehistoric settlements. It not only theoretically explains the difference between natural settlement communities and organizational forms for the first time, but also demonstrates the importance of understanding this difference in practical research. Based on extensive archaeological data from China and focusing on the evolution of prehistoric settlements and changing social relations, the book completely breaks with the globally popular research mode which is based on the assumption that settlement archaeology has nothing to do with prehistoric social organization. In terms of research methods, the book also abandons the

globally popular method of measuring the grade and importance of settlements according to their size and the value of the unearthed objects. Instead, it focuses on understanding settlements' attributes from the combined perspective of the group and individuals. On the one hand, the book proves that the clustering patterns in prehistoric settlement sites reflect the organizational forms of the time; on the other, it demonstrates that historical research focusing on the organizational forms of prehistoric societies is closer to the historical reality and of more scientific value. The intended readership includes graduates and researchers in the field of archaeology, or those who are interested in cultural relics and prehistoric settlements.

Religion in Britain from the Megaliths to Arthur

The Druids and the Arthurian legends are all most of us know about early Britain, from the Neolithic to the Iron Age (4500 BC–AD 43). Drawing on archaeological discoveries and medieval Welsh texts like the Mabinogion, this book explores the religious beliefs of the ancient Britons before the coming of Christianity, beginning with the megaliths—structures like Stonehenge—and the role they played in prehistoric astronomy. Topics include the mysterious Beaker people of the Early Bronze Age, Iron Age evidence of the Druids, the Roman period and the Dark Ages. The author discusses the myths of King Arthur and what they tell us about paganism, as well as what early churches and monasteries reveal about the enigmatic Druids.

The Marlborough Mound

The Marlborough Mound has recently been recognised as one of the most important monuments in the group around Stonehenge. It was also a medieval castle and a feature in a major 17th century garden. This is the first comprehensive history of this extraordinary site.

Landscapes of Neolithic Ireland

Finally, the issue of local, regional and wider identities is used to place Neolithic Ireland in a wider west European context."--BOOK JACKET.

Life on the Edge: The Neolithic and Bronze Age of Iain Crawford's Udal, North Uist

Excavations in North Uist dating from 1974-1984 identified two cists with human remains in kerbed cairns, many bowl pits dug into the blown sand, two late Neolithic structures and a ritual complex.