Durrington

Durrington Walls

NEOLITHIC FINDS AT DURRINGTON

From Our Archaeological Correspondent

AMESBURY, WILTSHIRE, AUG. 13

A complex of Neolithic ritual structures, perhaps temples, has been found in the rescue excavation at Durrington, near Amesbury.

A large area has been stripped before road construction which begins later this week, extending across the bank, ditch, and southern part of the interior of the huge henge monument of Durrington Walls.

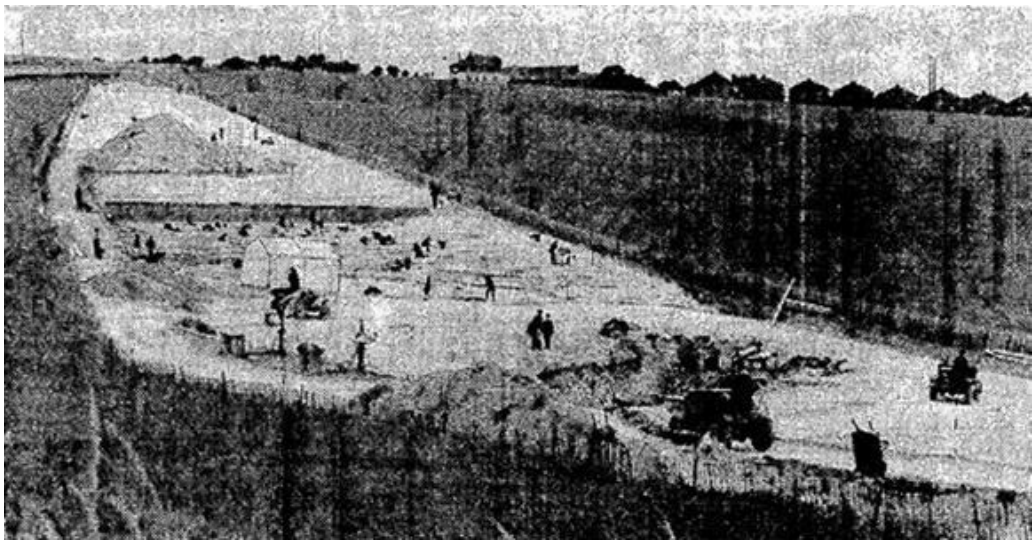
The excavation is being carried out by the Ministry of Public Building and Works under the direction of Dr G. Wainwright.

The bank has been largely eroded by ploughing, but the quarry ditch 80ft. inside is preserved to a depth of more than 20ft. In the ditch and on other parts of the site large numbers of deer-antler picks have been found, with beaker pottery and grooved ware which date the monument to the latter part of the third millennium B.C.

At one point a causeway has been left across the ditch, providing access to the interior of the henge, where in a low-lying and inconspicuous corner stood the complex of ritual buildings.

At the southern end of the complex was a set of six concentric rings of wooden posts 130ft. wide across the short axis of the elliptical plan, and in layout almost identical with the famous site of Woodhenge, a hundred yards up the hill.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2014



A view of the excavation site at Durrington, Wiltshire, where the dig has uncovered Neolithic ritual structures which may be temples.

(*The Times (London)* – Monday 14 August, 1967)

© Cathy Sedgwick 2014