# Durrington

## Woodhenge

**Woodhenge** *(Photo by Tony Braime 2013)*

**Woodhenge** is a Neolithic Class II henge and timber circle monument located in the Stonehenge World Heritage Site in Wiltshire, England, probably built about 2300 BC. It is 2 miles (3.2 km) north-east of Stonehenge in the parish of Durrington, just north of Amesbury.

It was originally believed to be the remains of a large burial mound, surrounded by a bank and ditch almost completely destroyed by ploughing, but aerial photography detected rings of dark spots in a crop of wheat.

Woodhenge was identified in 1925 after an aerial archaeology survey by Alexander Keiller and OGS Crawford. Crawford credits the discovery to an aerial photograph taken by Squadron Leader Gilbert Insall, VC, in 1925

There are six concentric rings of post holes which are marked today by concrete blocks. The rings are oval-shaped, with the longer axis pointing towards the winter and summer solstice. There are 168 post holes which once held wooden posts.

The circular bank and ditch surrounding the rings covered an area measuring 360 feet (110 metres) in diameter overall with a single entrance to the north-east.

Although these are hardly visible on the ground now, excavations in 1926–8 revealed that the bank was about 33 feet (10 metres) wide and that the ditch is flat bottomed, up to 40 feet (12 metres) wide and 8 feet (2.4 metres) deep.

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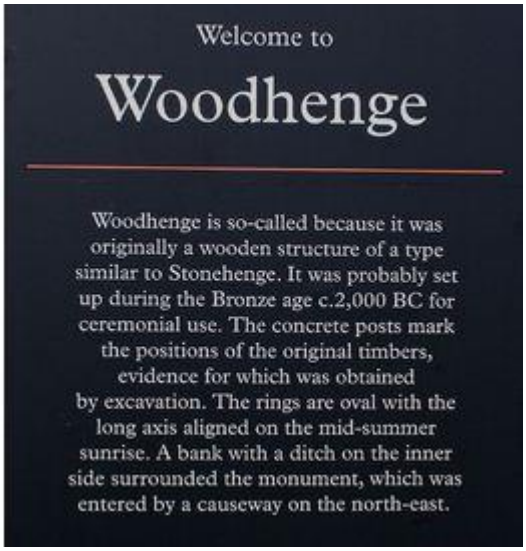


**The Woodhenge information sign**

**Aerial view of Woodhenge looking north-east** *(Photo from English Heritage)*

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