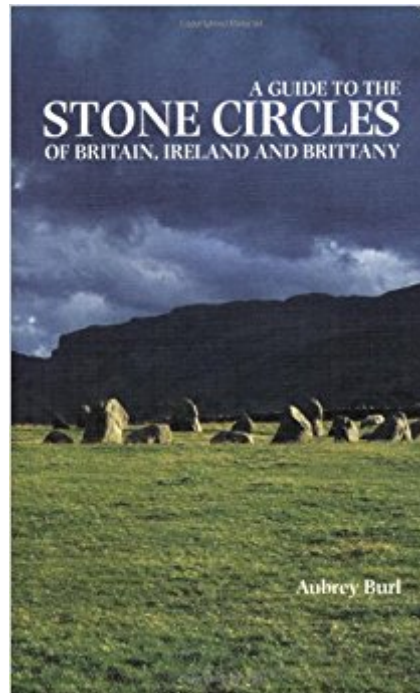




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# **A Guide To The Stone Circles Of Britain, Ireland And Brittany**



## Synopsis

From Stonehenge to Callanish, from Newgrange to Er-Lannic, great prehistoric stone circles have drawn thousands of admiring visitors to their sites every year. This practical guidebook deals comprehensively with the stone circles of Britain and Ireland and with the cromlechs and megalithic "horseshoes" of Brittany. The book describes over 400 sites and discusses the archaeology and architectural features of each ring. Burl tells the reader how to find a specific site and what to look for, considers problems of dating the remains, points out interrelationships between widely separated sites, explains place-names, and provides stories about legends, witchcraft, and funerals associated with the rings. He also gives suggestions for practical work on site, telling how to deduce the source of the stones, estimate their weight, calculate the number of people involved in the construction of a ring, and investigate the possibility of alignments to the sun and moon. Featuring information, useful maps, and 70 photographs, this is a resource for those interested in the mysteries of the ancient sanctuaries known as stone circles.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An informed, informative, and well-balanced survey of the facts, fictions, and problems of our stone circles." Glyn Daniel, *The Guardian* "Burl's authoritative book is indispensable for anyone pursuing this tantalising enigma." *Publishers' Weekly* "A magnificent book thorough, lucid, scholarly, and at times poetic...A landmark book." Alan J. Friedman, *San Francisco Review of Books* "An admirable balance of scholarship and literary skill." *New Yorker* --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Aubrey Burl was formerly principal lecturer in archaeology, Hull College of Higher Education, East Riding of Yorkshire. He is also the author of *Great Stone Circles: Fables, Fictions, Facts* and *From Carnac to Callanish: The Prehistoric Stone Rows and Avenues of Britain, Ireland, and Brittany*.  
--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Aubrey Burl's previous works were showing a wee bit of dating. As carbon dating become more accurate, you are seeing these ancient rings grow older in age instead of younger as they anticipated. While Burl's previous works were amazing, this long awaited "update" of this information, as well as addition information on more recent excavations make this is must. Yes, it expensive. But it's worth every penny. There are new insight in the the purpose of the rings of stone, a new interpretation of Calanais (sorry, as a Scot I refuse to call it Callanish!) and StonehengeThe beautiful book is loaded with hundreds of photos, explores the ancestry, methods of construction and why they were abandoned after thousands of years of use.Marvelous work made even better by bringing the information up to date.

Finally I got the first and longest lasting item on my wish list..this book! Having been to GB and having seen a number of these wonderful sites, I wanted a guide to them so that I could plan a trip just to see more stone circles. I also ordered *Standing with Stones: a photographic journey*. Together these books give a now armchair archaeologist the perfect combination of resources.

Great book, one of the more detailed I have found. Wish It had more on the stones in france though.

I would give this book five stars for the photos, which are great. The text describing the sites is very good, along with the historical context. The maps showing the locations of the sites is well done and very helpful.

This is not a picture book so much as a guide. If you are going to the UK and want to look for stone circles & monuments, this book is a very helpful guide for locating and learning something about them.

I am not accustomed to purchasing so expensive and specialized a book, but in the early autumn of 1979, I had the privilege of working on a Scottish dig run by Dr. Burl, and I have long admired his

scholarship and dedication---and this revision is, simply put, GREAT! The depth of information is astounding, and I found the the presentation engrossing, the subject fascinating, and the style quite readable---certainly NOT only for students or devotees of archaeology. I can't recommend this one highly enough---it may seem like something of an indulgence for your personal library, but it's worth every penny. Alas, the book is far too heavy to carry about in one's luggage, but I've already marked at least two dozen sites that I want to visit the next time I cross the Atlantic. In the meantime, settle back in a comfortable chair and get ready to cast your mind back a couple of millenia...

Burl, an expert on the subject of stone circles, has created an essential and portable guide to all of the major sites in Great Britain and Brittany. The sites listed in the book are numbered and keyed to useful maps which offers visitors to a given area the opportunity to avoid missing anything of interest. Each site has a thorough description which often includes interpretations, a "condition code", and practical instructions as to how to find it. Also included is a good index and bibliography, and, for most sites, reference to published literature. This is not a book of photographs or site maps, although there are quite a few of each, especially for the better sites. Rather, this is an exceptional and really practical little guidebook, one anyone headed for the field will certainly want to carry along.

My husband and I are very interested in ancient cultures and especially stone circles; this book told us where they were, what to expect to see, and how to get there (which wasn't always very easy!) We were able to pick an area of England with a heavy concentration of good quality circles based on his descriptions and pictures, and with book in hand, see many of the ones we chose. Mr. Burl is kind enough to mention when the going is tough, and he was always right. The only thing that could make this book any more invaluable as a field guide would be inclusion of Surveyor's Maps of the areas...but those can be purchased easily in the countries in question. (Color photos would've been nice, too!) Highly recommended for real trip-planning, or just for inspiration!

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