

Moonlight on Stonehenge and other stone circles**Start date** 2 December 2022 **End date** 4 December 2022**Venue** Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge**Tutor** **Professor David Jacques** **Course code** 2223NRX012**Director of ISP and LL** Sarah Ormrod**For further information** intenq@ice.cam.ac.uk**Tutor biography**

David Jacques' field of research explores the use of the Stonehenge landscape in the Mesolithic period (8500BC-4000BC). Since 2005 he has been the Project Director of an internationally significant Mesolithic archaeological site one mile from Stonehenge. His team has discovered the oldest occupation site in the Stonehenge area, the likely place where the communities who built the first monuments at Stonehenge lived. These discoveries have contributed significantly to a new understanding of the initial settlement patterns and practices in the Stonehenge landscape. In 2013 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of the Antiquaries (FSA) in recognition of the importance of these discoveries.

In 2010 David Jacques won an Open University Teaching Prize for his work at Vespasian's Camp and the ways he involved that with his students' learning. His project at Stonehenge was nominated 'Research Project of the Year 2013' by *Current Archaeology* magazine, and was runner-up to Leicester University's discovery of Richard III. Under David Jacques' direction, the team's work has also featured on BBC 4's 'Flying Archaeologist' series, in regional BBC and ITV output, and has been extensively reported in the press.

As a Fulbright alumnus, David Jacques has worked extensively to improve the education system of the Republic of Georgia, setting up and running a charity which stimulated an investment of \$12 million into the Georgian education system between 2005-08. In 2011, he was chosen as one of two 'Outstanding' British Fulbright Teacher Program alumni of the past 60 years.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

20:30 – 22:00 **Ways of understanding stone circles and their landscape: why are they here? What are they for?**

22:00 Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 **New discoveries: the Ness of Brodgar**

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 **New discoveries: Stonehenge I**

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Free

16:00 Tea

16:30 -18:00 **New discoveries: Stonehenge II**

18:00 Free

18:30 Dinner

20:00 – 21:30 **New discoveries: The Callanish complex, Isle of Lewis**

21:30 Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 **New discoveries: the Mull Circle and Knowth**

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 **Overview – Neolithic and early Bronze Age stone circles**

12:45 Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

1. To offer a broadly chronological survey of Stonehenge and other major Neolithic and early Bronze age stone circles;
2. To enable students to place their own research interests within the broader context of developments in human society/culture in the Neolithic and early Bronze Age;
3. To gain understanding of the new discoveries relating to these sites, and how these discoveries affect our understanding of the Neolithic and Bronze Age monumentalising of their landscapes.

Content:

New discoveries about the establishment of Neolithic and early Bronze Age stone circles at Stonehenge and in key places in the Orkneys, Lewis, Ireland and the Isle of Man are providing fresh opportunities to explore diverse issues relating to the setting of these enigmatic monuments on a pan-British and Irish basis. These include, but are not limited to, landscape use, patterns of mobility, settlement organisation, use of animals and ethnicity. New advances in DNA and dating techniques can take us closer to who the people were and what they did, and these will be examined. We will examine the landscapes in and around Knowth (Ireland), the Mull Circle (Isle of Man), Callanish (Western Isles), Ness of Brodgar (Orkney) and Stonehenge and discuss 'big questions' such as: why are the circles where they are? What were they for? And where did the people come from who monumentalised these landscape?

Presentation of the course:

Class discussion (very important!), practical work, problem-solving exercises, lecture and seminar formats (involving power points).

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of how the movement of people and ideas in Orkney, Isle of Man, the Western Isles, Ireland, and Wiltshire contributed to the establishment of these areas' renowned ceremonial character;
2. Demonstrate their understanding in ways that connect to up-to-date narratives about the biography of each landscape and its circles;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of how new science has added to our understanding of the dates for such sites and who was buried at them.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Jacques, D et al	<i>Stonehenge: A Landscape Through Time</i>	Peter Lang, 2019
Miles, D	<i>The Tale of the Axe</i>	Thames and Hudson, 2021 (paperback)
Parker Pearson, P	<i>Stonehenge – Stonehenge: Making Sense of a Prehistoric Monument</i>	CBA, 2015
Pryor, F	<i>Scenes From Prehistoric Life</i>	Zeus, 2021
Wickham-Jones, C	<i>Between the wind and the water – World Heritage Orkney</i>	Windgather Press, 2015

Website addresses

<https://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/11/24/2975/htm> (Callanish investigations by St Andrews University)

<http://www.carrowkeel.com/sites/boyne/knowth5.html> (Megalithic art at Knowth)

http://eprints.bournemouth.ac.uk/387/1/Stephen_Burrow_Vol_1.pdf (Doctoral thesis by Stephen Burrow- see pp 54-92 for focus on Neolithic Isle of Man)