

'Dartmoor Mindscapes: Re-visioning a Sacred Landscape' by Peter Knight



Write up by Gwynn Paulett and GD

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We are truly fortunate to live with Dartmoor, one of the most beautiful and fascinating places in the country, on our doorstep. Its rich archaeology extends back over 6,000 years, to Mesolithic times. As historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, geologists, physicists, biologists, sociologists, linguists ... the list is endless ... many of us have been trained to use the 'left side' of our brain to analyse different aspects of this wonderful place. Different disciplines reveal different perspectives, raise different questions, and find different answers.

In his talk, Peter invited us to open our minds to the wider picture, to use that part of our brain that has been long submerged by the discipline of our training and education, and to interpret the landscape intuitively. There are a number of paths to open the mind sufficiently to do this, but to me, dowsing is the best: it

is low tech, simple, intuitive, and avoids the dangers of taking hallucinogenic drugs or any other mind-altering substances in the search for 'truth'.

Peter encouraged us to experience Dartmoor with as many senses as we can: to touch and feel it hot or cold, dry or wet ... to look and see it both in sunshine and in fog ... to smell ... to listen ... to taste ... to dowse. Peter made the point that because we interact with the landscape on the intuitive level, it is inevitable that different dowers get different answers. This is a strength of dowsing, not a weakness.

He showed us beautiful images of sites in Dartmoor that many of us had not yet discovered and his book contains pictures of many other sites we can explore and enjoy, which will awaken our sense of awe and wonder, enabling us to interact with Dartmoor in its entirety.

Devon Dowers are grateful to Peter for providing us with new perspectives to enjoy the sights that enchanted our ancestors and find our own intuitive explanations for the mysterious stone circles, stone rows and other archaeological remains that pepper the landscape.