

DOWSING EXPERIENCES AT THE RING OF BRODGAR, ORKNEY

At the end of April this year (2001) I took a gamble and packed in my job to travel the country and do some dowsing. I'd been feeling frustrated at not being able to join my local group, The Society of Moorland Dowzers, as they went out mid-week while I was working, and I'd only started dowsing 4 years ago, a year before finding this job.

I decided on a week in Orkney, as there were so many wonderful sites up there. The processional route at **the Ring of Brodgar** was dowsed early one evening, and part of one morning. (It took a while to summon up the courage with all those visitors there, so it was already halfway through the week by then.) I was taken by surprise with the symmetry of it all, and also felt very honoured after the first evening: it's like being let into a very special secret. - This one, I feel, needs to be shared. With all its regular swirls at different compass points on the Knowe, it could have just addressed whatever was in the heavens, or on the horizon at those positions. Somehow, I think it was to honour the dead. (The 3 clockwise turns on its summit ended facing North.)

A childhood memory comes to mind here: My father often told me that his mother – a country woman from Wiltshire – used to turn around 3 times at the new (or was it full-?) moon. My dad was able to dowse, too, apparently.

Another fairly symmetrical site was the nearby **Comet Stone**. This was a labyrinth-like route, and, as in many cases since, the procession presented itself before the stone with a double spiral. (This was encased in an outer “figure-of-eight”, a layout I'd only found in Orkney and the Isle of Lewis.) Maybe there was once a large megalith at the centre of the Ring of Brodgar?? (see spirals in plan).

Barnhouse Settlement's Ceremonial House was an intriguing place. Here, too, was a very symmetrical procession. There were 3 cross-overs of the rods at entry, which usually means it is a very sacred or important building. The route goes first to the left on the raised bank in the sanctuary, then off it at the end opposite the door, and back on towards the right, mirroring the previous movements. Leaving by the same entrance, it goes directly to a point NE of exit, executes double swirls, then in a straight line to WNW of exit, and repeats this. Immediately, it led back in towards the sanctuary, but on reaching the kerb of that door, both rods turned back, refusing entry a second time.

Callanish, or Calanais, as it is now known, was another angular procession....maybe to do with celestial alignments?? I'm afraid I'm not able to ask those questions. At the moment it's enough for me to record the routes I find, and these culminated in “presentations” to the central megalith and also the cairn, so are presumably partly ancestor worship. Like Sally, previously, I also detected dance patterns around stones in **double** rows on East and West sides of the central circle. (I

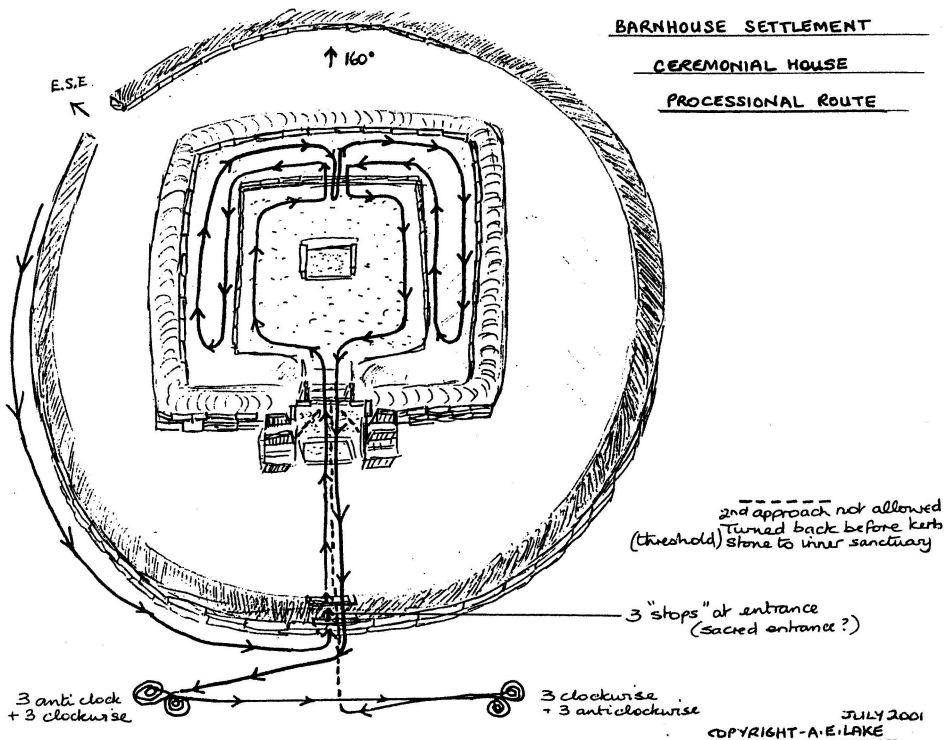
didn't know this till we discussed it later). Records have only ever shown single rows on each side. I recorded the fact that there are strong clockwise and anti-clockwise spirals on either side of the huge central megalith. Whilst watching yet another route I'd been filmed dowsing (and not yet drawn up) I noticed that I was also finding anti-clockwise swirls on both sides of it as part of that procession.

One of the most memorable moments of the whole holiday was standing (alone) in the centre of Calanais circle at midnight, the sunset still a golden glow illuminating the sky, whilst behind me the darkness was growing, just enough to show the first twinkling stars. Magic!!

Clava Cairns – I also dowsed this beautiful site near Inverness, with fascinating results.

The next trip is to Ireland, later this month. I'd love to dowsing Newgrange, but as I know from a previous visit, that's impossible, as it's too controlled. So – hopefully I'll find lots of other circles, etc, weather permitting. Will *"the rain fall soft upon my rods?"* !!

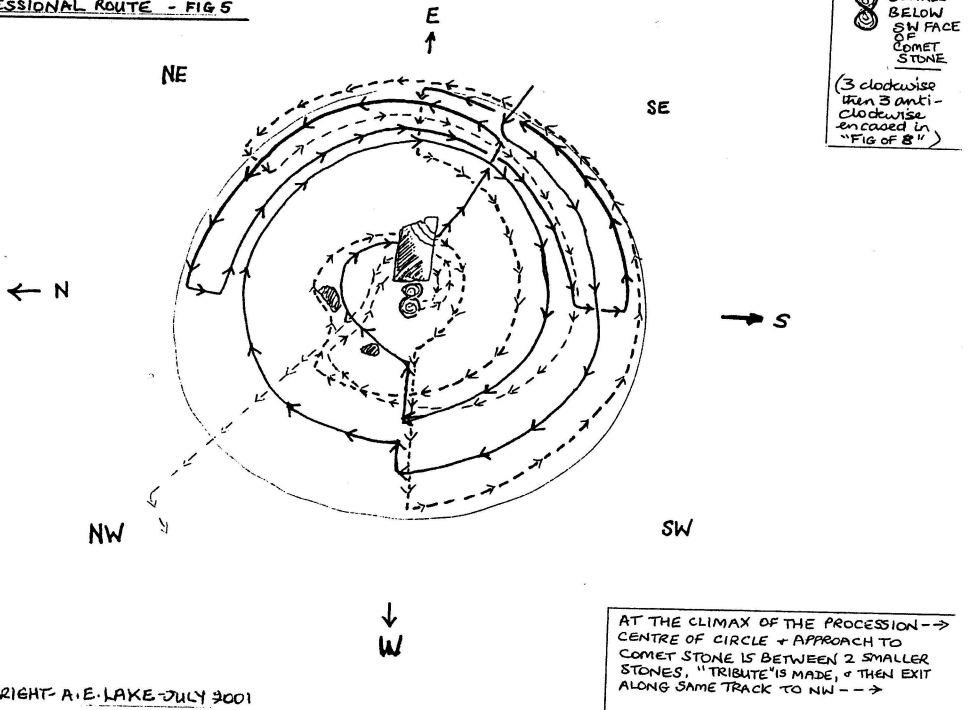
Angie Walker by Angie Lake



RING OF BRODGAR - COMET STONE

PROCESSIONAL ROUTE

RING OF BRODGAR - COMET STONE
PROCESSIONAL ROUTE - FIG 5



Editor's note: Angie has done extensive research and accompanying drawings to go with this article; because of restrictions on space, we are unable to print them all, and therefore feel we are not doing justice to her work. We are hoping that this article will go into DD Archives for all to see - please contact Angie for further information.