

Devon Dowzers dowsing the Avebury Ritual Landscape on 11 May 2019

by Alan Murray



As an add-on to Don Bryan's guided walk of Avebury Henge and Stonehenge on Sunday, a small but perfectly formed group of Devon Dowzers set off from Avebury on the chilly but bright morning of the 11th May in the direction of the mysterious Silbury Hill.



The hill itself is a protected Ancient Monument and part of the Avebury World Heritage Site, so to preserve it for future generations, access onto the hill itself is not allowed. However, access is allowed to the bottom slope of the hill so we set to trying to unravel the hill's mysterious construction some 4,500 years ago. It is estimated that it took 18 million man-hours to construct and is the largest man-made structure in Europe. Excavations over a couple of hundred years have found nothing 'buried' inside – so why go to all this trouble? This structure is contemporary with the pyramids of Egypt that did have obvious purposes.



As we approached the hill several of us felt weird energies as if radiating from it. Dowsing revealed concentric energy lines centred on the hill, lots of energy and water lines (including the Mary current) that appeared to focus on the centre of the hill. Questions asked included “is it some form of energy storage battery” or an “energy ‘inverter’ changing bad into good”? As is the way with dowsing, no certain answers were found – but the ‘function’ of Silbury has been confounding historians for years – and still does!

We then moved on briefly to the West Kennett Long Barrow where, not wishing to disturb the swallows nesting inside the first left hand chamber, we went into

the innermost of the five chambers where we felt the ice-cold stones at the rear – some say a portal into the underworld? The Barrow pre-dates Silbury and the Avebury Henge by a thousand years!



After lunch in the Red Lion in Avebury (the only pub actually inside a stone henge!) we set off north for Windmill Hill, a Neolithic causewayed enclosure, like West Kennett, 5,500 years old but with relatively young Bronze Age barrows inside. The views are astounding from this beautiful and atmospheric place! We dowsed for the Mary/Michael node point here which is located on top of a Bronze age tumulus, the width of both lines totally encompassing the full diameter of the barrow.



Feeling somewhat tired from a day's walking – and dowsing – we returned to Avebury with a short diversion to the church of St Mary Magdelene in Winterbourne Monkton. Formerly linked to Glastonbury Abbey (hence 'Monkton'), this highly unusual church had the Mary current running right along its axis. The chancel had been a small chapel with a separate bell tower a few yards away until these two buildings were connected by a nave that fully encloses the bell tower. The once 'exterior' windows in the west wall of the chancel can still be clearly seen. More amazingly two of the four massive timber columns that once supported the free-standing bell tower can still be seen inside the nave. Another magical place!



Tired but appreciative of what we had seen, experienced and dowsed, we set off back to Avebury only to find a sequence of evermore difficult stiles to clamber over feeling we were on some sort of Commando training course!



But what a great day!