

sacred springs?

The siting of the Neolithic enclosures in the Walton basin appears to relate to streams and springs which possibly had religious significance. The principal stream across the basin is the Summergil Brook which as its name implies dries up most summers. The floor of the basin is mainly composed of gravel. In all but the driest years, water draining from the Radnor Forest to the west, disappears into the gravel before re-emerging in a series of springs near Hindwell Pool, some distance to the east. The pool is the source of the Hindwell Brook which eventually feeds into the river Wye. This natural phenomenon is no doubt the origin of the folk tale about the stone of the Four Stones stone circle, which are said to go down to the Hindwell Pool at night to drink.



Four Stones



Hindwell Pool



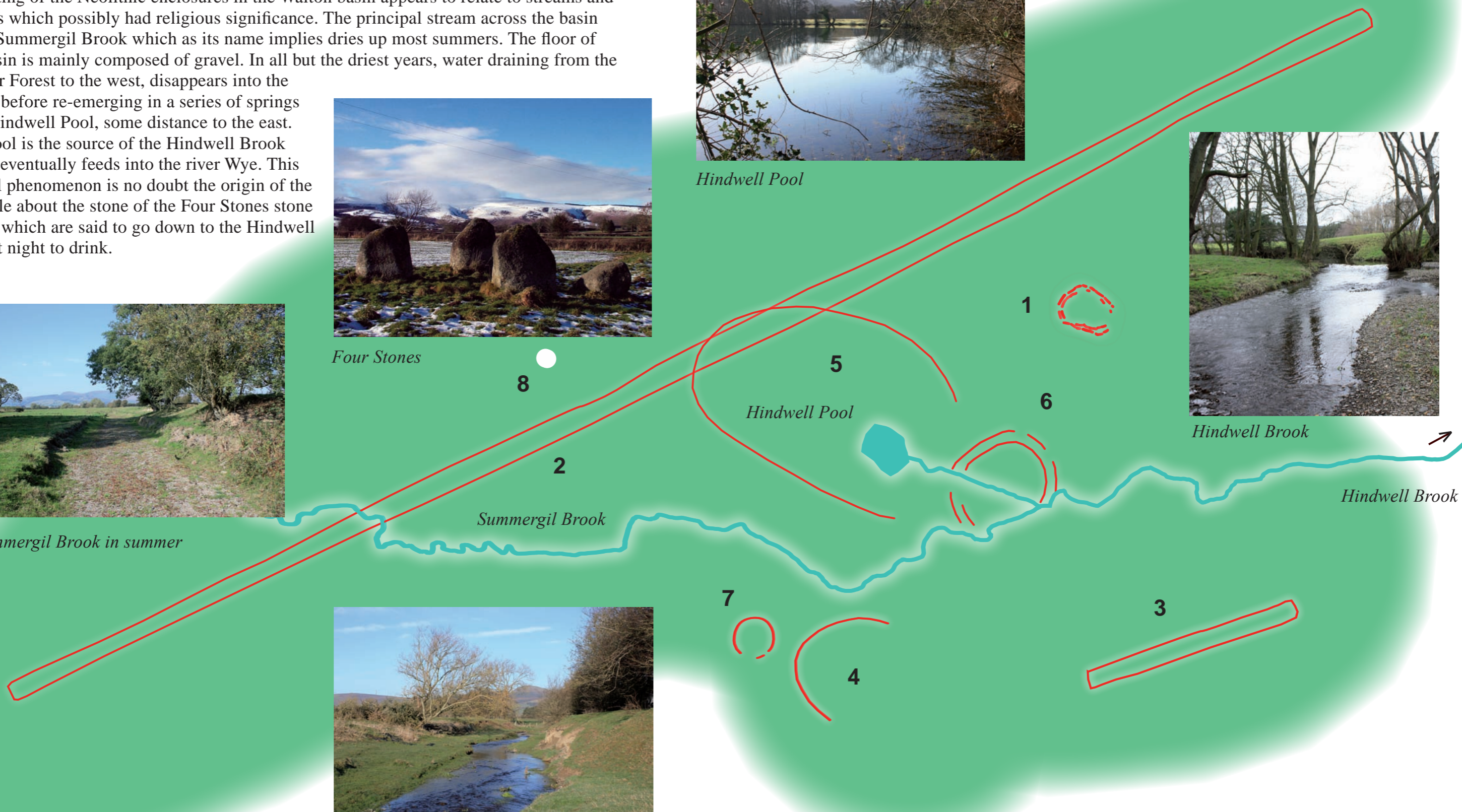
Hindwell Brook



Summergil Brook in summer



Summergil Brook in winter



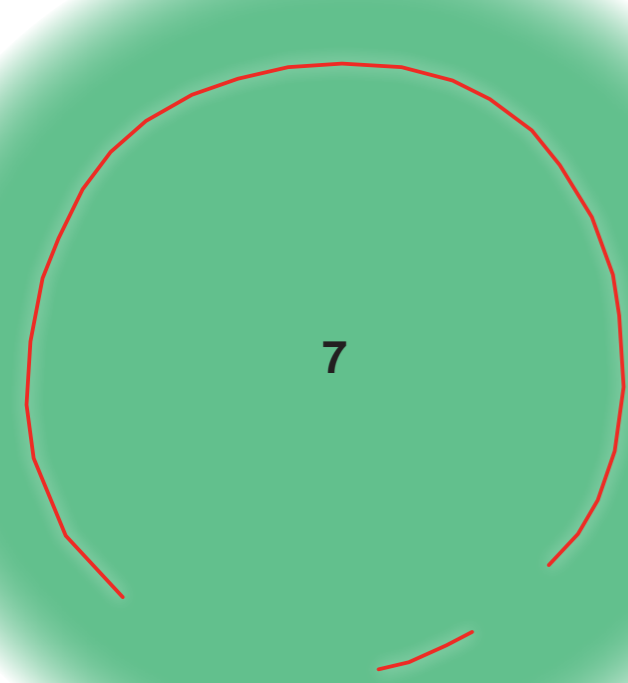
Neolithic enclosures in the Walton basin

1 Womaston causewayed enclosure. 2 Hindwell cursus. 3 Walton cursus. 4 Walton palisaded enclosure. 5 Hindwell palisaded enclosure. 6 Hindwell double-palisaded enclosure. 7 Walton Court ring-ditch. 8 Four Stones stone circle, possibly of Bronze Age date.

making rings

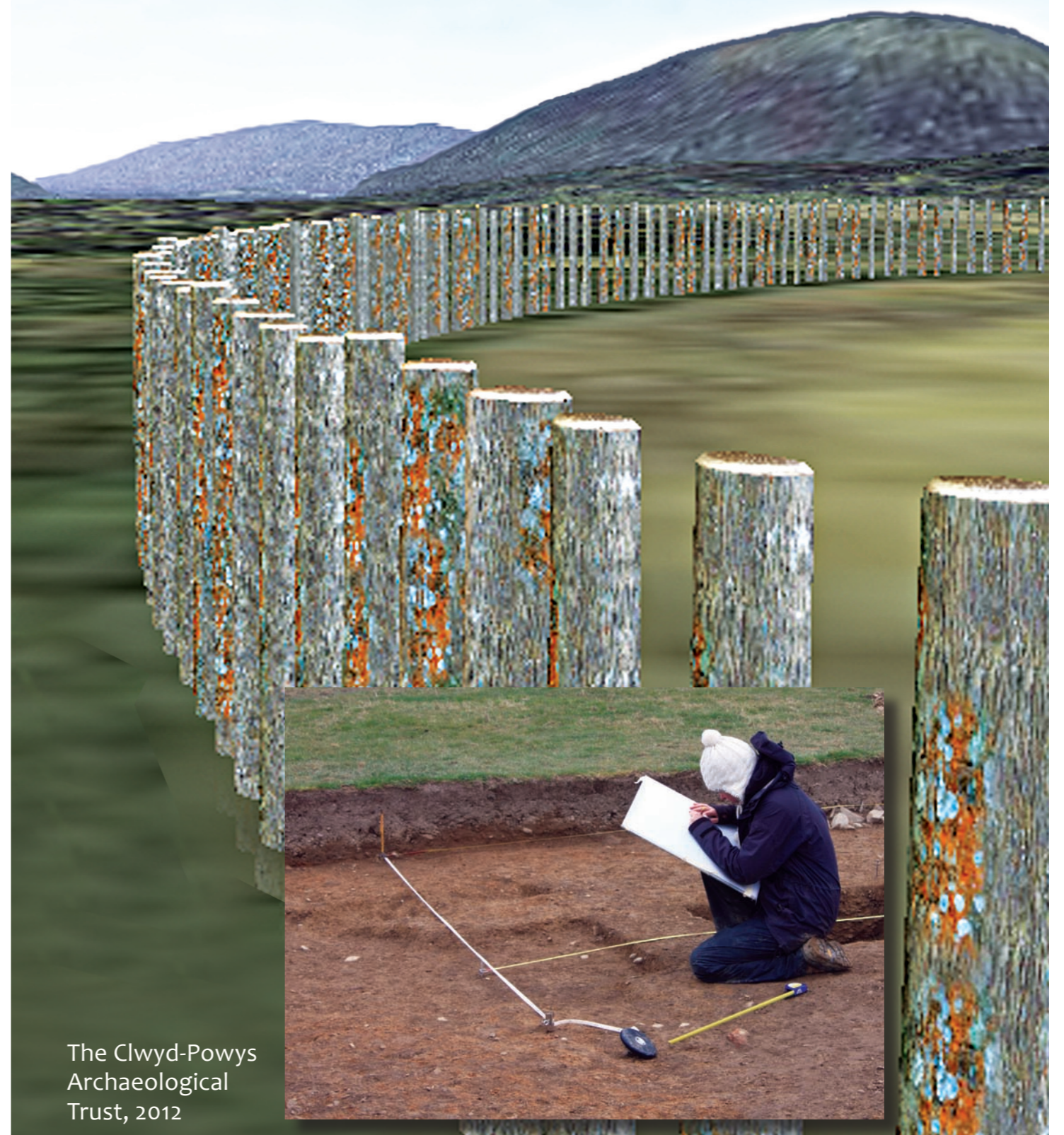
Walton Court ring-ditch

This giant ring-ditch is just under 100 metres in diameter and has produced radiocarbon dates in the period 2569–2308 BC, suggesting that it is amongst the latest of the large monuments in the Walton basin. The ditch is about 2 metres wide and 1.5 metres deep and may have been used to construct a low inner or outer bank. It encloses an area of about 0.77 hectares and has a possible entrance on one side. The total length of the ditch was about 290 metres and would have involved the excavation of many hundreds of tonnes of gravel.



Aerial photograph of the Walton Green ring-ditch. Most of the sites in the Walton basin were first discovered from the air as none are now visible at ground level.

“Thousands of trees are cut down in order to build it. And it tells us that these are people with complex needs. People who want to make their mark on the world.”



The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2012

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Neolithic flint piercer (left) and composite tool used for both cutting and scraping (right).

