

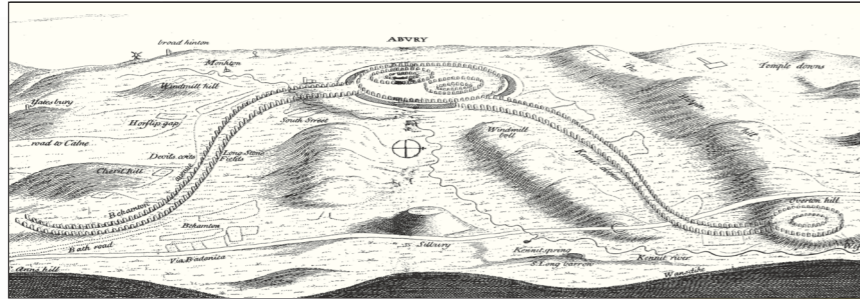
LONGSTONES COVE AND BECKHAMPTON AVENUE

These two large standing stones, known as Adam and Eve, are the only visible remains of Longstones Cove and Beckhampton Avenue, a major ceremonial avenue of standing stones which led from the henge at Avebury.

In the centuries around 2,500 BC, late Neolithic farmers transformed the Avebury landscape, leaving a monumental legacy you can still see today.

Using antler picks and stone tools they dug the enormous banks and 9m deep ditches of Avebury henge and within them erected the world's largest stone circle. They also built two ceremonial avenues of paired standing stones. The West Kennet Avenue ran south from the henge to the Sanctuary. The Beckhampton Avenue led west to the Longstones Cove where you are now standing.

The eighteenth-century antiquary William Stukeley made the first detailed drawings of the Beckhampton Avenue. Later, so many of the avenue stones were buried or broken up for building material that some researchers doubted its existence.



William Stukeley 1743

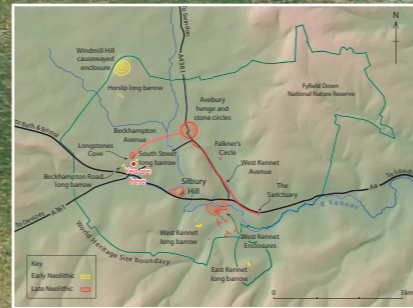
William Stukeley's field notes and drawings published in 1743 show both the West Kennet and Beckhampton Avenues. Though they suggest the Beckhampton Avenue continued westward beyond the Cove no evidence for this has yet been found.

This artist's impression shows the landscape of the late Neolithic c.2500 BC indicating the approximate course of the Beckhampton Avenue

Earlier Longstones Enclosure
EVE
ADAM
Longstones Cove

YOU ARE HERE

Location of present day Avebury Trusloe



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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites
inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986

Location of present day Avebury village

Avebury henge and stone circles

West Kennet Avenue



© English Heritage

Excavations undertaken as part of the Longstones Project (1999-2003) in the area in front of you revealed evidence of five pairs of standing stones that had once formed the westernmost part of the Beckhampton Avenue.

Three intact stones were found buried, as well as five burning pits where stones had been destroyed and one pit where the stone had been removed. Where the Avenue joined the Longstones Cove, it was constructed over the site of the earlier oval Longstones Enclosure. This was deliberately levelled when the Avenue stones were erected. A further buried stone was discovered close to Avebury Trusloe.

Protecting the World Heritage Site

You are welcome to come into Longstones Field to visit these important monuments but please treat this sensitive area with respect. The farmer at Manor Farm in Avebury Trusloe has protected this important archaeological site by removing the area from ploughing as part of an Environmental Stewardship scheme.

The grassland around the monuments is sown with a special mix of native chalk grassland wildflowers which provides a source of nectar for butterflies and a habitat for invertebrates and farmland birds.

The grant scheme administered by Natural England enables farmers and land managers to protect and enhance the historic environment, biodiversity, and the natural beauty of the countryside.

The Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site is internationally important for its outstanding Neolithic and early Bronze Age monuments. To find out more about them, visit the Alexander Keiller Museum in Avebury.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury/

www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org

