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Annette Jackson “Enchanted Light”<sup>1</sup>

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## **Soulton Long Barrow Midwinter Solstice Window design notes**

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I wanted to do justice to my Stained Glass craft and make the window as impactful as possible, so I used a rainbow of colours to make it as uplifting as possible and hopefully lift peoples spirits when they might be feeling incredibly low.

So here's how the design has been created...

I took inspiration from the Neolithic cup and ring patterns that you see carved on rocks in various places around the UK. Then I used one set of the cup/rings to represent the Sun, which is the most important symbol in the window, it's aligned with the Midwinter Solstice sunset at Soulton Long Barrow.

The Midwinter Solstice represents the rebirth of the Sun after a period of darkness in the depths of Winter, which I think is quite fitting.

Then I created a small cup and ring in the night sky to represent a Star, which is a nod to Tim's astrophysics and “handshake with the universe”, you'll notice that there is a line linking the Sun and the Star.

Then at the bottom of the window there is a medium sized cup and ring pattern to represent that other celestial body, the Moon. It is at the bottom of the panel being reflected in the pond (the one which lies near the barrow). I feel that the Moon represents the shadows and death / the unknown (the Sun represents life). This is only my take on it in this context. Again there is a line linking these circles with the Sun.

Then I looked at my design after a time and thought that actually the Moon bit could represent the chamber at the Barrow and its link with the Sun and the Star. The green could represent the grass on top of the barrow and the browns represent the fields and the earth.

One other detail is that I designed the 3 circles to also represent the alignment of the 2 chambers in the Barrow and the Midwinter Sunset. The Moon is the first smaller chamber, the Sun is the new bigger chamber and the star is the Midwinter Sun alignment.

Onto the colours...

The Sun is clearly in Sun colours, and the sky was taken from one of Tim's lovely photos of a spectacular sunset at Soulton. The dark purple under the Sun is to represent a line of trees in the distance on the horizon. The greens can represent either the fields or the roof of the Barrow, it's your interpretation. The greens also fade into turquoise's which can also be the pool near the Barrow. As I said the browns are the earth (and also look good next to the turquoise). I wanted to keep it as abstract as I could whilst taking inspiration from Neolithic art. The fact that it's abstract means that people can interpret it in their own way, there is no right or wrong, I can only say what

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<sup>1</sup> Website: <http://www.enchantedlight.co.uk/>

has inspired me and what it means to me. There is no glass paint at all on this window, so as to let in as much light as is possible with coloured glass. Also the glass I use is handblown and you'll be able to see the unique quirks of each piece of glass (the bubbles and ripples).

It should create amazing coloured light in the barrow, especially with the additional lighting that has been fitted.