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## Plans for a henge monument with standing stones at the Souldon Long Barrow

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We are expecting to complete the barrow by the end of this year!

In this final phase, when that last stone chamber is complete, we need a few hundred tonnes more soil. The area to the south of the barrow, which needs to be landscaped in any event will provide much if not all the soil needed.

As you know, we have already landscaped to the north establishing the reflecting pool by the old oak, this new aspect to the site has been received with much enthusiasm, confirming it was the right way to manage the landscape immediately next to the barrow. Naturally this will not be disturbed.

When excavating and landscaping the team are sensitive and welcoming to the opportunity to do something considered and creative. Something which complements the wider setting and the existing landscape in which the barrow has settled. We should also continue developing the values of what's been established; something which is a thoughtful, paying homage to the Pre-historic inspirations of the barrow but rooted uncompromisingly in the twenty-first century. Something that is simple and beautiful, but also an invitation to wonder. We shouldn't waste the effort and the opportunity, if something worthwhile can be done.

The artist's impression above reveals what we have in mind. We continue to express our sincere thanks to the wonderful artist Jo Halden, who has followed every step of what we are all doing together.

This is a simple henge monument with some standing stones. It is like many you will find near to some ancient barrows and standing stones, many of which we have visited in the last few months. Some of you may have noticed.

But we want our contribution to the landscape to be based on truth, integrity and belong to *now*.

The henge monument needs to work like the barrow with specific alignments that can be observed, providing a timeless invitation which can be shared. Some of the countries ancient monuments provide the best space for us to wonder.

So, for over two years we have talking to Prof Todd Huffman, a particle physicist at Oxford University who is also keenly interested in astrophysics. To give you a sense of his work, he was in the CERN team that found the Higgs boson, and is currently studying the physics of subatomic particles. We have also talked to a number of other elite scientists.

The proposed arrangements of the standing stones will call attention to things which are fundamental and true. It is then up to the observer to interpret the significance they attach to that thing, and to be open to thinking how others react to it.

The elements we have settled on and calling attention to are:

- the equinoxes<sup>i</sup>;
- a recently discovered understanding in interstellar space<sup>ii</sup> as it relates to the constellations that will be true for millions of years;
- and something intriguing that happens with subatomic particles which science is beginning to show us may be being routinely used by and for life, but we have only just noticed in the last few decades<sup>iii</sup>.

Explaining these somewhat complex elements now makes this note too long and interrupts the flow. We've provided some endnotes below which we hope will inspire the reader. Tim will be recording a conversation with Pro Huffman to explain and expand on our inspiration, this will be available online soon.

We needed to use these ideas and a relationship with top research scientists to give the henge truth and integrity, and to feel confident it was a meaningful contribution to the landscape and the setting of the barrow.

In facilitating the need for so much extra soil we hope this most considered and creative development can honour the barrow and its values, develop what is shared there, and gently share a high-five through time with the first monument builders.

With thanks for your support and confidence,

Tim, John, Ann, Toby, Martin, Bev and all the team.

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<sup>i</sup> The rising sun at the equinox is a very stable observation, and that stability is used by astronomers to benchmark a procession of movement of the constellations. A number of ancient monuments pay close attention to the equinoxes.

<sup>ii</sup> We have only been known of black holes for about 100 years, and first imaged one in 2019. While you cannot see them (certainly with the naked eye) we point to the nearest known one, which is 3,000 light years away.

<sup>iii</sup> Modern computers and important aspects of biology (e.g. photosynthesis, enzyme activity, your sense of smell, the navigations systems of birds) all use quantum effects. We were set on our pathway to our growing understanding of these things by a now famous experiment called "the double slit experiment" run by Thomas Young in 1803. Thomas Young was, coincidentally, the first person to decode Egyptian hieroglyphs.