



A SCOUTING IRELAND ADVENTURE





Welcome to The Tír na nÓg Quest

Long ago, the hidden location of Tír na nÓg was lost, but now, with the help of modern technology, we believe it may be possible to discover its present day location!

Will you help us? Will you join the Quest?

Below, you will find all the information we have been able to discover, but it is not enough to find the exact location of Tír na nÓg. That's where WE NEED YOUR HELP

We need intrepid, tech savvy explorers to use their excellent reasoning, logic and deduction skills to prove they as worthy a detective as Sherlock Holmes himself!

The quest attributes most of its information and clues to the ancient knowledge and wisdom of the Neolithic people of Ireland (4000 to 3,500 BC) who engaged in the building of large stone structures and who provided us with the legends we still tell today.

Now, we can use their ancient knowledge and combine it with our technology to find the answers we seek. Some of the tools you can use to complete this quest are:

- The internet,
- google maps,
- Geohive on OSi.ie and Archeology are your friend.
- My Maps (Google) will be helpful for placing locations and gathering your knowledge.

Everything you see in this handbook provides clues that can help in your quest. Some of the texts are real and others part of the fiction of this quest.

You will know you have discovered the true location of Tír na nÓg when it fits with all the logic and knowledge you have gained on this quest.

Successful discoverers can claim a prize!

You will need to: find the location **but also** the reason and logic for why this is the location (My Maps can be useful for this as you can share it in support of your claim.)

This adventure is open to all young person members of Scouting Ireland or other interested young people. Younger children will need adult assistance and supervision of internet discovery and quests.

A claim link will be provided on scouts.ie plus details of prizes.



Scouting Ireland are extremely excited by the recent archaeological discover by Professor John Fitzpatrick from the National Museum and the possibility that Tír na nÓg can be discovered in our landscape. What a great adventure! They have invited young people to discover Neolithic times and culture and use that knowledge to discover the present day location of Tír na nÓg.

It will involve some research to discover connections in the landscape:

Why our ancestors built such structures, how they celebrated during the year at Winter solstice, Imbolc, Samhain, Lughnasa and Bealtaine.

Neolithic people were closely connected to the earth. Every night they looked out to a clear sky where they could see millions of stars in the Milky Way. Star constellations that moved across the sky. In those times a starry night was like a blanket covering the sky. They were the first farmers of the land and they needed to know when to plant seeds and when to harvest, when winter will come and end with the arrival of spring. The rising and setting sun provided information - it's early morning location and setting point. The length of shadows and the passage of light provided calendars and time clocks. The passage of light can still be seen today at Newgrange, Loughcrew and other important archaeological sites.

You will also need to discover the meaning of ancient writing and use your interpretation of some symbol marking.

The internet presents a great opportunity to discover and connect with this ancient people. You start your quest at Loughcrew and Tara. Loughcrew has a virtual reality interaction and Google Maps have a street view experience at both Loughcrew and

Tara so you can see first hand the location and the important views from these locations to help you in your quest. Many locations also have photo spheres that you can drop the 'little street view yellow man' to see locations through 360 degree photographs. The standing stones discovery is an elaborate map showing the inter-connections of the landscape, the sky's and the culture of an ancient people. Tír na nÓg appears on the stones and it is present day location is ready to be discovered again.

The National Monument Service also have a geohive map on their website, with overlaying maps and colour dots which might be useful, they indicate all the historical locations and places in Ireland. The map provides a zoom facility to enable you to see detail on 25 inch ordinance survey maps.

My Maps on google allow you to chart your quest and draw on maps.

These links provide information and background - simple internet searches will provide many more

<https://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/https://voicesfromthedawn.com/loughcrew/>

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/cairn-t-loughcrew-1abeaf86ce2d4d4483efd6b7652c577d>

<https://mythicalireland.com>

<https://blog.mythicalireland.com/2015/12/fabulous-new-3d-images-by-kerem-gogus.html>

<http://www.philarm.com/category.aspx?pageSelect=prehistoric>

The quest begins....

Ireland's Stonehenge discovered

Recent archeology works connected to the M1 motorway extension near Dundalk have unearthed evidence of a large Neolithic henge site. The site was unknown to historians and is a vital new discovery in our understanding of Neolithic life, ceremonies and culture. The site, located at Carnbeg, is in a significant location: close to Slieve Guillion, a large cairn that is connected to sites such as Newgrange and Loughcrew.

The archeology team has also uncovered decorated stones and rock slabs, and are of the opinion that the site was perhaps a major observatory and perhaps a school for passing on sacred knowledge and skills.

Professor John Fitzpatrick, who has worked extensively in the area of ancient wisdom during the Neolithic and later Bronze Age, believes that there is much to be learned from this discovery. He has cross-referenced the henge structure and layout with other sites around the country and is really excited by the decorated stone art which displays the symbol depicting Tír na nÓg which he has only ever seen illustrated in later documents related to the 'Annals of the Four Masters'.



Artist impression of discovery at Carnbeg exploration site.

As a result of his research he will lead an exploration dig at a standing stone site in Meath that has a similar configuration to that of the discovery in Dundalk area.

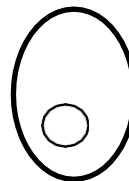
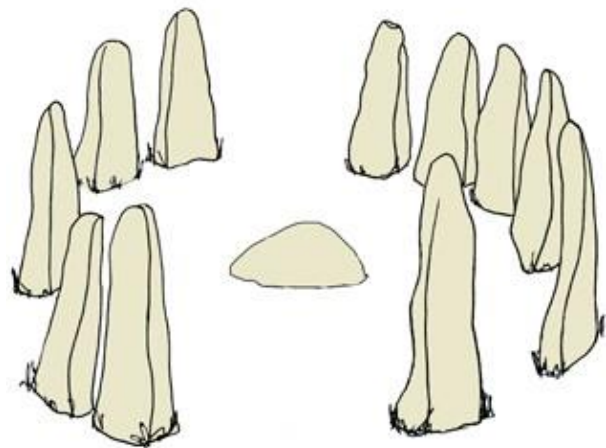
Where is Tír na nÓg?

After extensive research and a recent archeology dig which examined a standing stone circle in the midlands, led by Professor John Fitzpatrick of the National Museum, has revealed the ancient symbol for Tír na nÓg.

The stones, which formed part of a structural mound, have been excavated to discover a stone circle in which is contained a central decorated stone boulder. This site might have been covered by earth to hide its true significance in ancient times. It is similar in shape and structure the earlier discoveries at Carnbeg and is, in the opinion of the Professor, a sister site.

Of particular interest is the symbol of Tír na nÓg which appears on the stone. This is very interesting as the Professor now thinks that Tír na nÓg was indeed a real place and not just a mythical location based on legend.

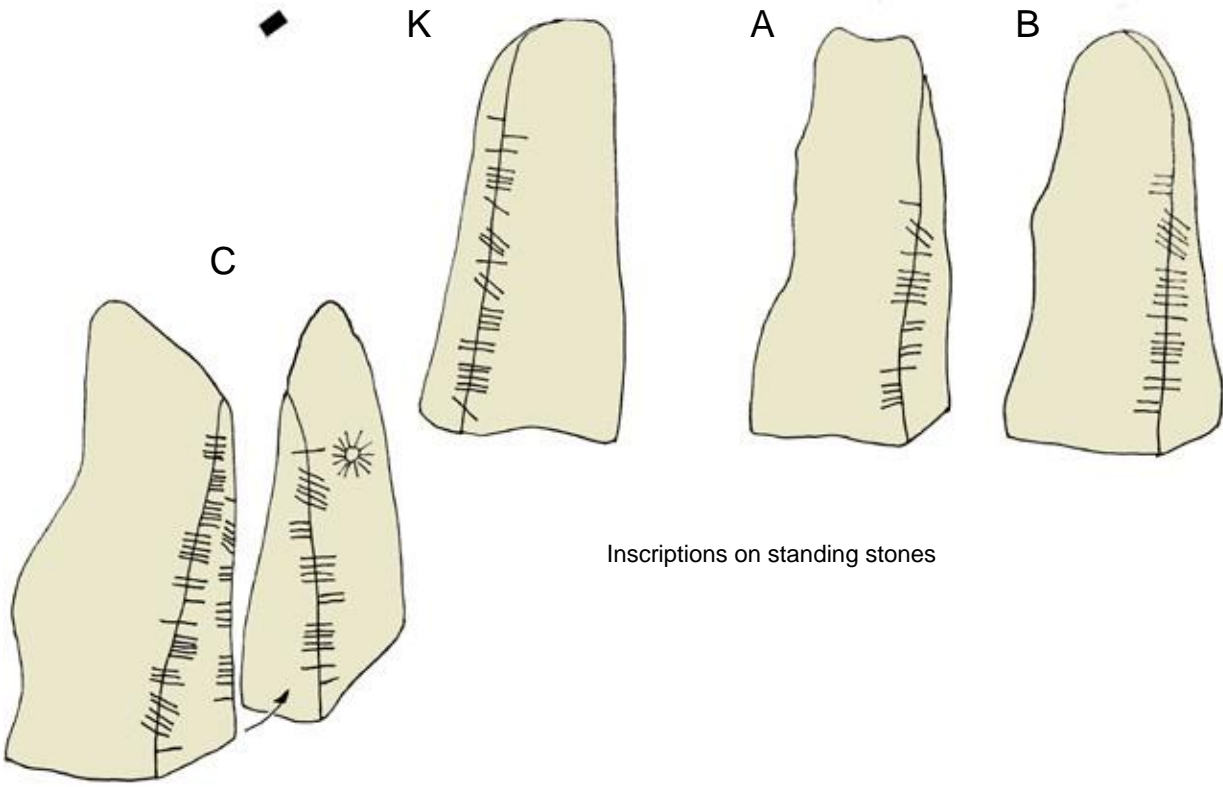
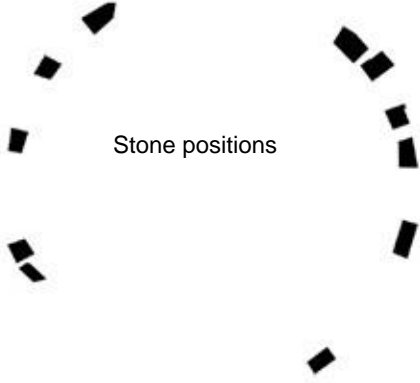
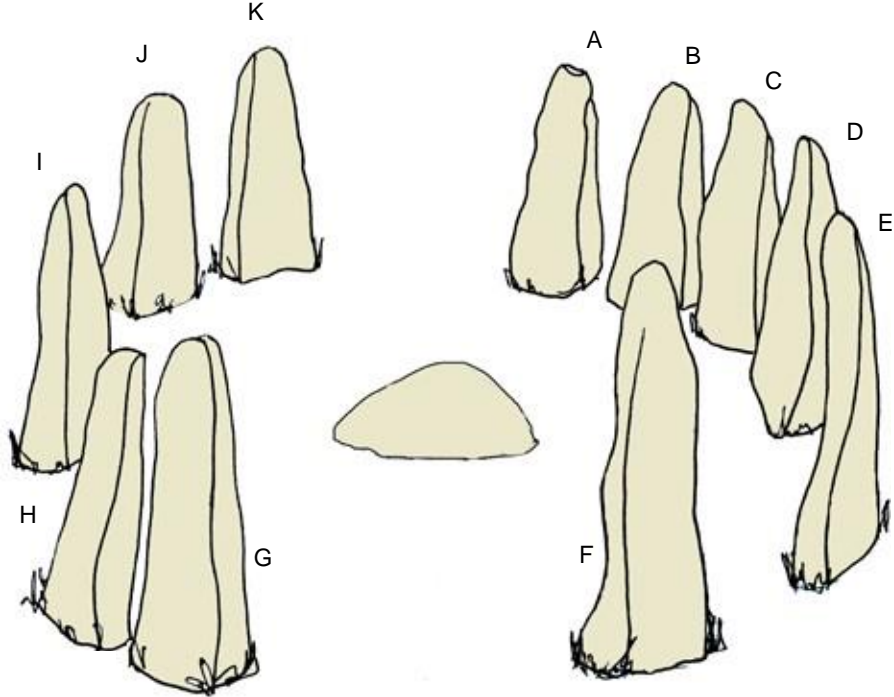
The stone circle is, in his opinion, a celestial map that references ancient wisdom related to the rise and fall of the sun and moon but also the location of star constellations in the night sky. It is already known that at Newgrange and Knowth extensive stone art around the cairns can be maps to stars constellations and crater location on the moon.



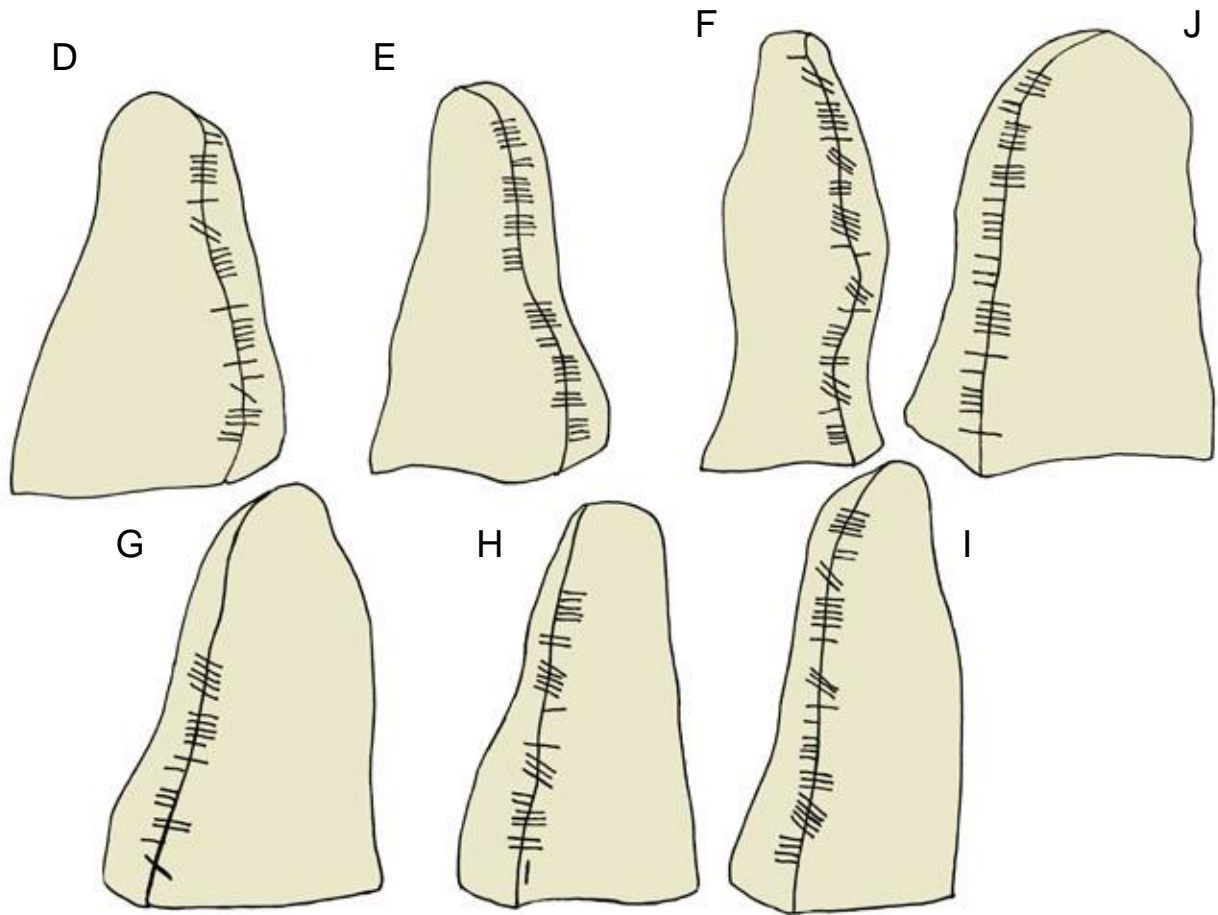
The Symbol of Tír na nÓg that has been discovered on the central stone also appears in the legend and tales contained in the Book of the Dun Cow.

The three main manuscript sources for Irish mythology are the late 11th/early 12th century Lebor na hUidre (Book of the Dun Cow) which is in the library of the Royal Irish Academy, the early 12th century Book of Leinster in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. These are oldest surviving manuscripts written entirely in the Irish language that capture the oral history of Ireland.

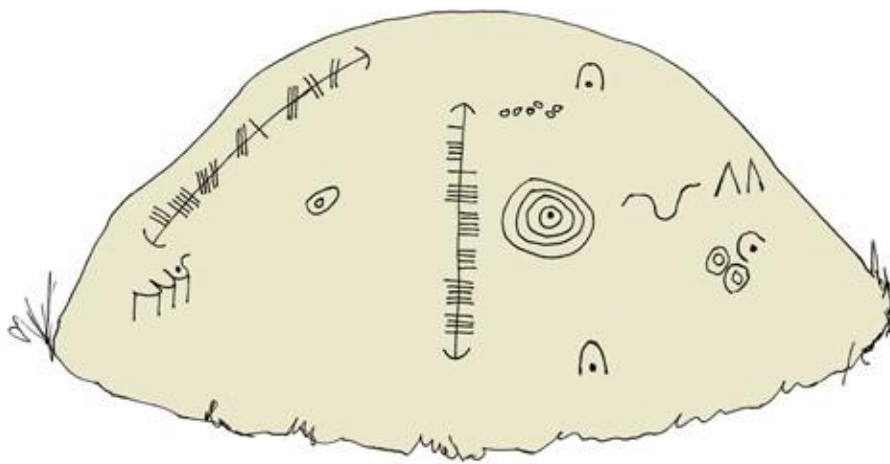
Technical details from archeology report



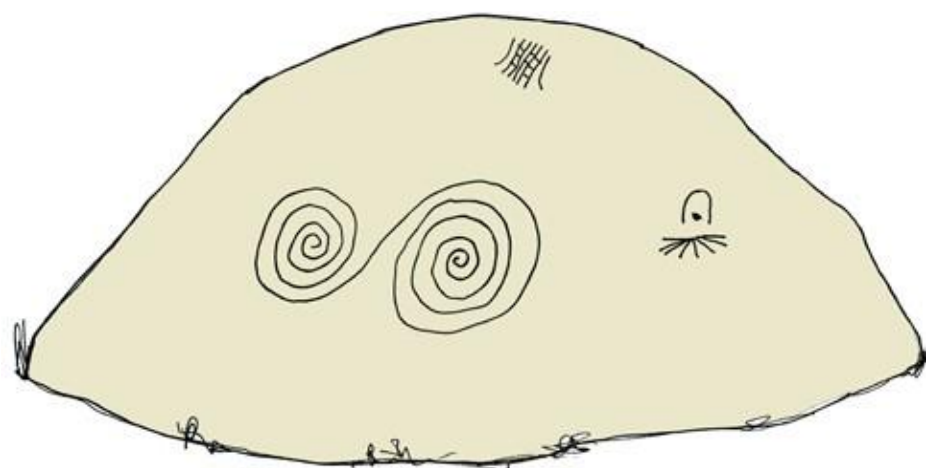
Inscriptions on standing stones



Inscriptions on standing stones



Front face of central stone



Back face of central stone

NEOLITHIC PEOPLE

The first settlers in Ireland arrived to a land covered with dense forests, mountains and marshes. They lived by hunting and gathering, not by farming and so the landscape was not hugely altered by their arrival. Their successors were known as Neolithic (New Stone Age) people and lived between 2,000B.C. - 3,500 B.C. Today, we can see some of the remaining structures built by the people of this time, such as Newgrange, dolmens and large passage tombs and cairns scattered around our landscape. The monuments they built were focal points for their activities and celebrations. The dolmen illustrates how ingenious early settlers proved to be. They managed to lift the huge capstone, estimated to weigh over 25 tonnes, into position.

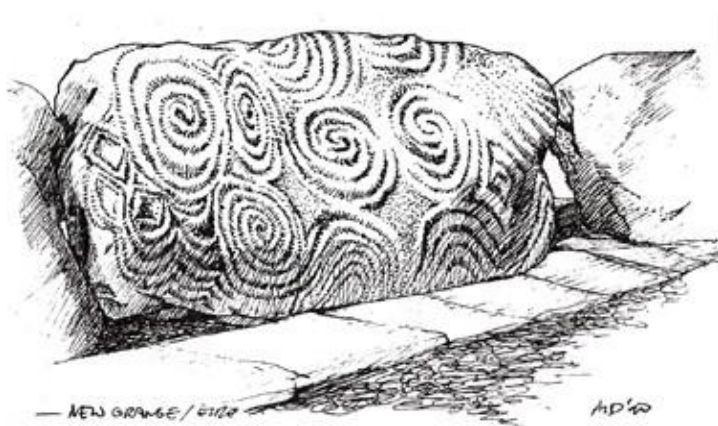
Standing stones

Standing stones are something of a curiosity, as little is known of their intended function. It is believed that rituals and other ceremonies would have been carried out around them. However, some are from the remains of graves or stone circles. People believed that as long as they were still standing, no bad luck would befall them.



Neolithic community

Discover some more brilliant interpretive drawing which bring history alive by Philip Armstong at his website <http://www.philam.com/category.aspx?pageSelect=prehistoric>



Elaborate stone art decoration outside the Newgrange passage tomb



Dolmen



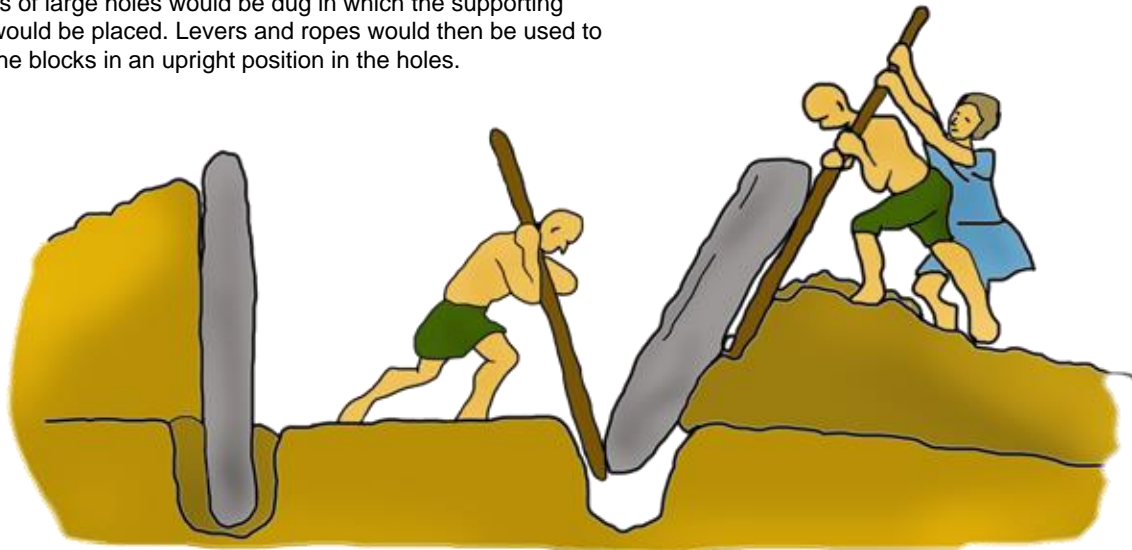
Early settlers hut - can be seen in Wexford Heritage centre

BUILDING STONE STRUCTURES

To build large stone structures you need to have knowledge of engineering, mathematics and earth sciences to place these structures in the specially selected places. They also needed lot of people to lift, carry and manipulate the large stones. The stones used in these structures were carefully selected from boulders found nearby, it was important boulders of the right size and shape could be obtained. The pillar stones at the back of dolmens are often dressed (worked) stones that were created using stone tools to make its square sides and shape.



A series of large holes would be dug in which the supporting rocks would be placed. Levers and ropes would then be used to place the blocks in an upright position in the holes.



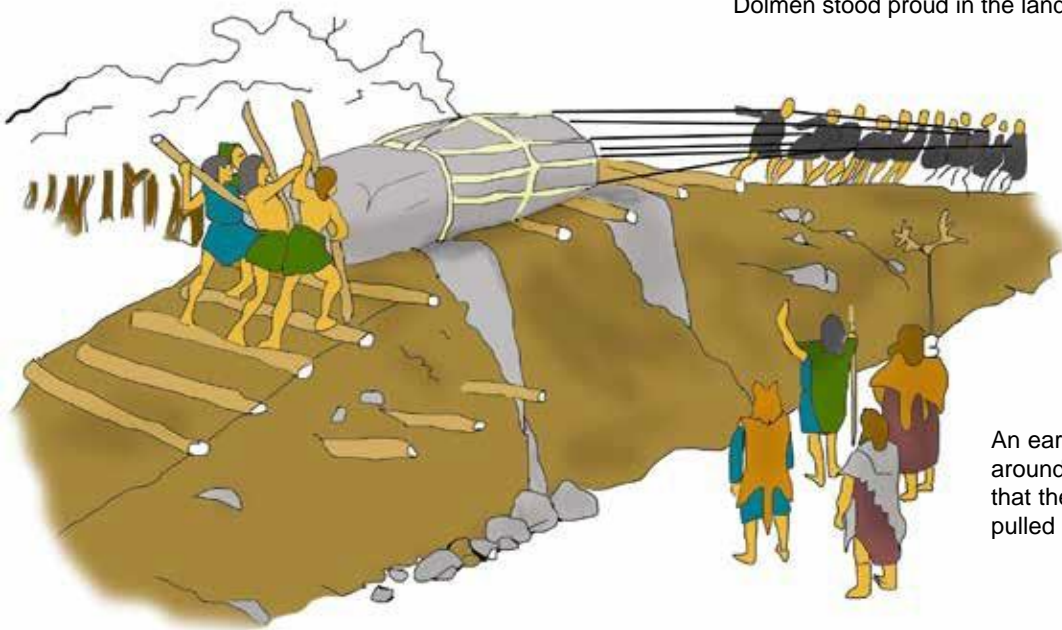
The blocks of stone would then have been transported to the site using wooden rollers and sledges. Animals and humans provided the pulling and lifting power to move the blocks.



Dolmen at our National Camp site in Larch Hill Campsite that has collapsed due to an earthquake in the 18th century when the cap stone slid off its supporting stones.



When the cap stone had settled on the supporting stones the earth was taken away from the site and the Dolmen stood proud in the landscape.



An earth ramp was then created around the supporting stones so that the cap stone could then be pulled into place.

Large ropes would have been made from local plants and tree bark fibers for the pulling and lifting tasks.



