

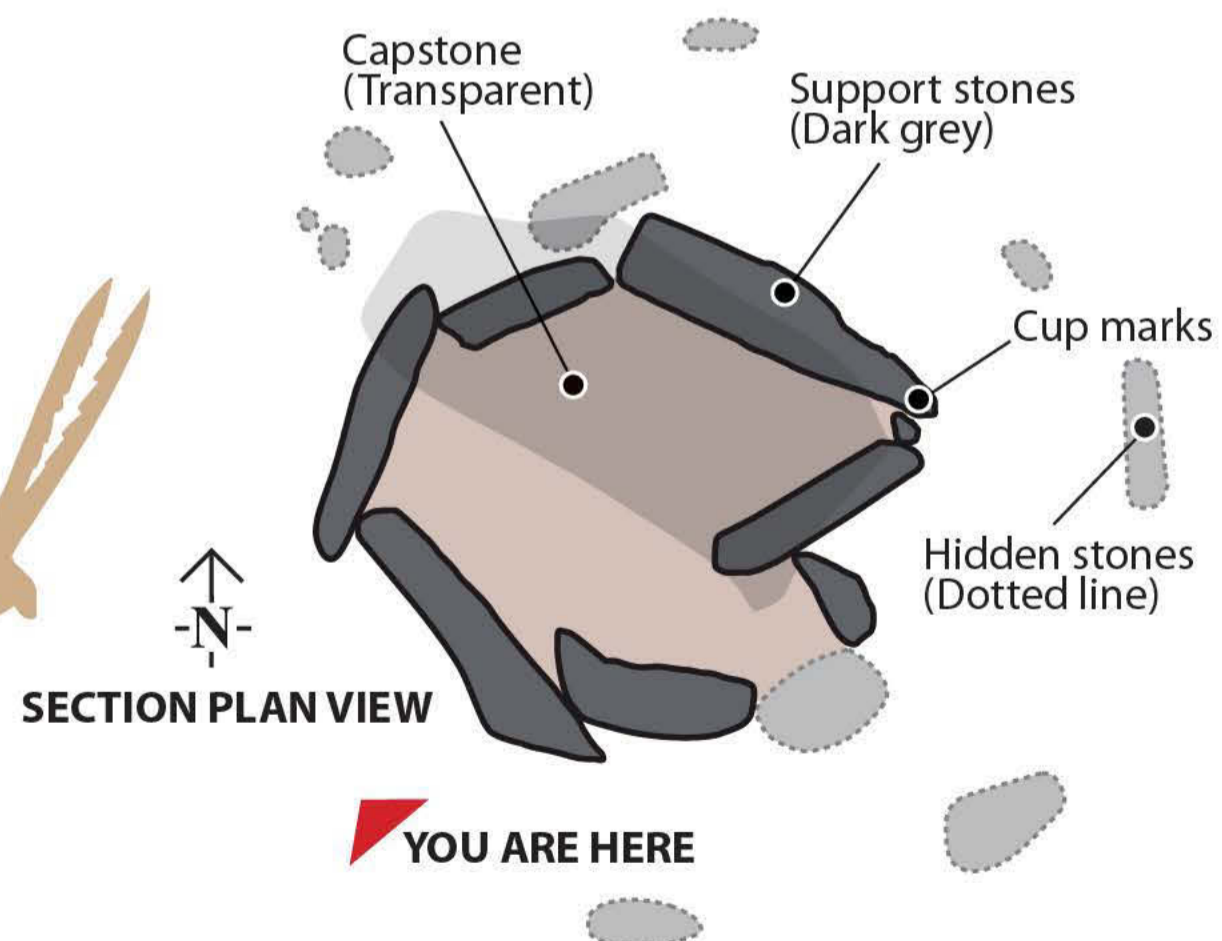
La Platte Mare

Early Guernsey Archaeology Site

6 Cist-in-circle

This small megalithic chamber consists of seven upright stones and a single displaced capstone. The present ground-plan is misleading as the original stone positions have been disturbed, but the original form seems to have been a polygonal closed cist. The chamber is enclosed within a small circular mound, 5 meters in diameter and with a kerb of large slabs and boulders. This type of monument is known as a cist-in-circle.

An exceptional feature is a row of twelve curved cup-marks on the east edge of the north-east upright. Seven of these are now visible above turf-level, and they constitute the only example of Neolithic tomb art (apart from a figure carved on the capstone at Le Déhus) in the island.



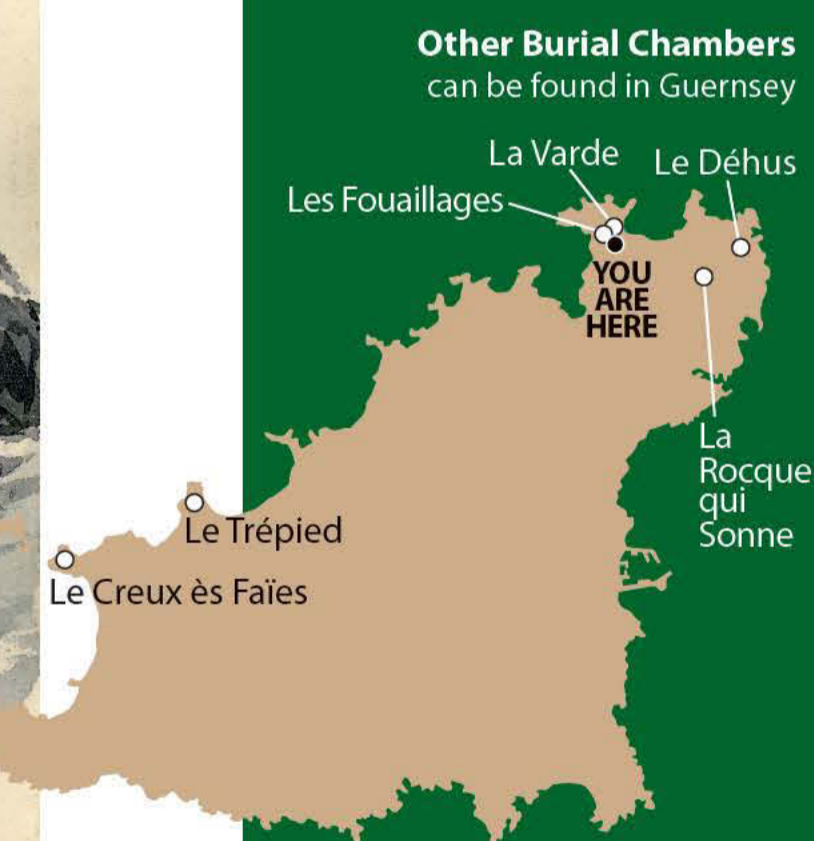
Excavations by the Lukis family were made between 1837 and 1840, and the finds included Beaker and Late Neolithic pottery, two polished stone axes, and a barbed and tanged flint arrowhead. In 1981, as part of the excavations at Les Fouaillages nearby, the opportunity was taken to re-examine the chamber and its surrounding mound. The chamber had been thoroughly emptied, but most of the mound was undisturbed and pottery of Beaker/Early Bronze Age date was recovered from the earliest levels. The cist dates to c 2500-1800 BC.



The cist illustrated shortly after excavation
watercolour by F.C. Lukis



Pottery recovered from the interior of the cist, reconstructed by Lukis



Other Burial Chambers can be found in Guernsey

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