

Earth Energies Special Interest Group

Visit to Rodmarton Long Barrow Saturday 17th October 2026

Introduction

The Rodmarton Long Barrow is also known as Windmill Tump Long Barrow, although there is no evidence of a windmill having existed on the site.

The Long Barrow which is of early Neolithic times 4000 to 3500 BC is found in a fenced enclave in a field about a mile to the southwest of the village of Rodmarton.

The site is managed by Gloucestershire County Council under the guardianship of English Heritage.

History

It seems that the site was used for burials well after the Neolithic period as Roman pottery and coins of Claudius Gothicus (AD168-70) have been found there.

The barrow was excavated in 1863 and then again in 1939, at which time the mound was restored.

The tombs excavated contained the remains of ten adults and three children. Animal remains were also uncovered, including boar tusks, horse teeth and calf jawbones

Overall, the barrow is a fine example of the Cotswold Severn type.

Description

The long barrow is set on a gentle slope immediately below the crest of a ridge. It is trapezoidal in plan and measures 187 feet (57metres) by 89 feet (27metres) and is orientated approximately east to west.

The mound is made up of small stones to a height of 9 feet (2.75metres) and was originally flanked by ditches where the material to construct the barrow had been quarried.

At the eastern end of the mound there is a forecourt flanked by two projections and a so-called false entrance consisting of two standing stones and a stone lintel, blocked by a slab. This entrance seems to have been constructed at the same time as the forecourt with which it is associated but it does not provide any access into the monument.

There are three stone lined chambers, and the northern one was where the skeletons were discovered. The southern chamber is approached by an entrance from the side of the mound via a short passage. When two trees fell in the great storms of 1987, they

revealed a third previously unknown chamber situated on the northern side near to the western end. A large capstone and the bones of a child were also discovered.

Dowsing at Rodmarton Long Barrow

The Slimbridge Dowsing group visited the Rodmarton Long Barrow in July 2022. I made some notes at the time which indicate there is much of interest to dowse, including energy lines, spiral energies, springs, location of chambers, age of barrow, elementals, and even the location of a beacon tree, and much more.

Location and Access

The post code for the long barrow is GL7 6PQ. It is best accessed via the A433 main road between Tetbury and Cirencester. If approaching from Tetbury pass the Trouble House restaurant on your left, continue and then take the second turning on your left. Follow the road around to the right and take the next right turn into Oathill Lane which should be shown on satnav. Shortly after entering Oathill lane there is a layby on the right where one can park. The footpath to the long barrow is accessed from the layby.