

Here is Robin Heath's introduction to the subject of *The Secret Land*

## The Quest for the Prehistoric Arthur

### INTRODUCTION

My role in this book began quite simply. I began using surveying techniques to quantify Paul's researches and this type of evidence became astonishingly revealing. Techniques I had previously employed to investigate Neolithic and Bronze Age sites proved immediately adaptable to suit Paul's project here and in *The Secret Land* I give an analysis of the sites, the evidence from surveys, and the implications that follow.

The kind of evidence presented here demonstrates an enduring cultural preoccupation with the *location, alignment* and *form* of both natural and built monuments together with their relationship to each other within the landscape. The identical astronomical and geometrical techniques used by the megalith builders have been found applied to sites and monuments throughout the so-called Celtic Church and even into the Medieval Period. More than this, these later cultures understood and were utilising the prehistoric landscape patterns. This evidence is abundant and observed best through the identical patterns measured between sites and monuments from different cultural epochs. I have investigated this material as rigorously as possible and presented it in such a way that it may be understood by non-specialists.

The evidence presented here points to a single fact:

*Large-scale accurate surveying of these islands was undertaken in prehistoric times and the original landscape patterns laid out during this enterprise were adapted by subsequent cultures.*

This is a large claim, and it needs to be supported by solid and consistent evidence. In this book, the authors have attempted to demonstrate the following three axioms:

*1. That the Arthurian mythos is inextricably bound up with these earlier technologies and their artefacts. Originally a polar mythology, the prehistoric landscape patterns were adapted to new purposes, such as land surveying and embedded within the Arthurian legends, as the culture changed.*

*2. That prehistoric people in Britain, whether indigenous or not, were engaged in astronomical and geometrical practices, with the associated development of metrological skills, in order to furnish an impressively accurate survey of many western parts of the British Isles, some examples of this endeavour suggesting that these skills were applied in order to provide practical maps.*

*3. That this technology survived many subsequent cultural overlays, up to and including the medieval period. The extent and nature of this time-line of cultural continuation, from the prehistoric to the medieval period is backed up by convincing evidence from many varied sources.*

The scope of this project has taken the authors over a wide compass that has embraced most of south-western Britain, including Wales. To cover a wider area of these islands is beyond the energy and resources of just two people working with little additional support. The reader will be left in no doubt that there remains much more yet to be uncovered. Taking the matter further will require either a later work or other people keen to walk the landscape and recover what is clearly and abundantly waiting there to be revealed. However, for any future researchers in this field, a path has been found and fires have been lit to mark the way forward.