

Great Archaeological Sites in Bridgend



1. BRIDGEND STANDING STONE



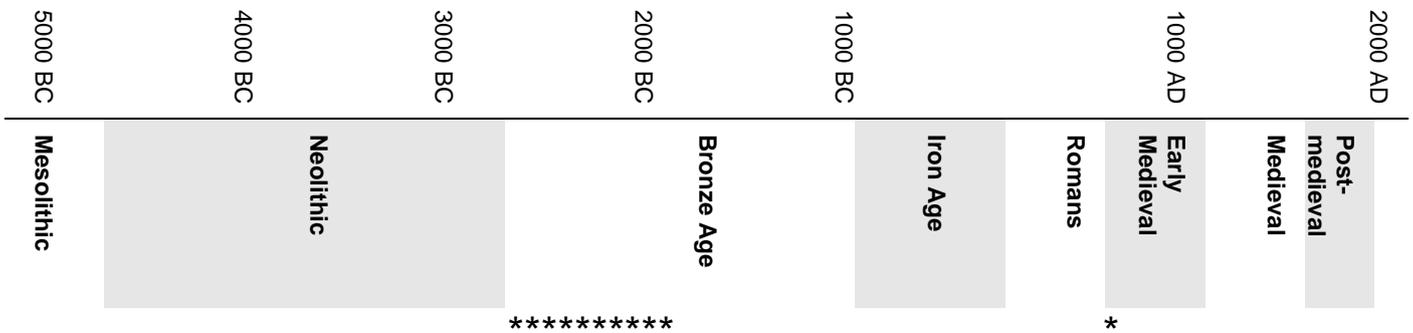
Standing at the corner near Bridgend Leisure Centre at SS 90211 79515 is an irregularly shaped stone pillar. Most people probably pass it without giving it a thought, but it is the oldest object in the whole of the town.

The stone was originally put up close to where it now is on the floodplain of the River Ogmore but when it was decided that this area, which was then used for allotments, should be the site of a new leisure centre, the stone was removed. Archaeologists from the National Museum of Wales carried out an excavation on its original position when it was moved in 1964. They found that it had been placed in an oval hole dug 0.8m into the subsoil. The filling showed signs that it had been disturbed relatively recently, but the disturbance had not gone down far enough to affect the original arrangements. At the bottom of the hole were some of the cremated remains of what appeared to be a single adult accompanied by charcoal from the funeral pyre, which consisted almost entirely of wood from ash trees except for one twig of hazel. The only artefact discovered was one flake of grey flint. The hole had been packed with large stones to support the standing stone, which was 2.2m long in its entirety.

Less of the standing stone is now visible, as a considerable amount needs to be buried for stability, and its longer sides face south and east. In plan it is a rough parallelogram in plan and the top is gently rounded. The north side has a vertical groove on either side of a central 'panel' with a vertical row of four contiguous hollows immediately to the west of the western groove, with its centre c1m above present ground level. The grooves seem to be the result of weathering, but it has been suggested that the hollows are cupmarks.

The standing stone is in an open access area and can easily be seen on a visit to Bridgend Leisure Centre (CF31 4AH). Maps: OS Landranger Series sheet 170, Explorer Series sheet 151.

Timeline (the asterisk indicate the possible time-spans)



You can learn more about this site, and other similar archaeological sites in Wales, by going to <https://www.archwilio.org.uk/arch/>. Please read and observe the Conditions of Use. The standing stone has the PRN (Primary Record Number) 00390m, and you can search for other similar sites here too. You can contact us via social media or through the methods given at the bottom of the page. See more prehistoric monuments at http://www.ggat.org.uk/cadw/fun_rit/english/fun_ritmain.html.