What's new at
The Megalithic Portal
www.megalithic.co.uk
by Andy Burnham, May 2011

I thought I'd write this brief guide to what's new if you haven't visited us yet at www.megalithic.co.uk or are a lapsed member, in the hope of tempting you to visit and perhaps contribute some information to our rapidly expanding site. I've also included some older features, see to the right for how each feature looks on our pages.

Site Pages
These are the core of our site, we have one for each ancient site location.

Internal links are for navigating to an overview map, and to listings of other sites in the region of the same type.

External links include photos, description and links to maps, aerial views and other useful locations on the web. One new one addition here is to search Scotland's Places for information on the site, this is a multiple search from the historicic environment records, including including images from the Canmore database. (Scotland only of course)

Images that our contributors have submitted, together with a caption. Click on the image to see the full size version in our gallery and leave comments

Street View
In March 2010 Google added coverage of 95% of the UK's roads to its Street View service. The images are very clear and our contributors lost no time in seeking out more images of the ancient sites could be seen from the roadside. I have been amazed by the results, we now have over 600 locations found in England, over 500 in Scotland and Wales and several hundred elsewhere in the world too. You can still join in the search.

For sites where we don't yet have photos, our software searches the web via **Geograph**, **Panoramio** and **Flickr** for images of the immediate location. The images that come up are not always of the site in question but usually give a good idea of the character of the area. Normally it will stop when it finds images from one of these sources, to avoid excess clutter, but click on the link "View all information for this site" to turn everything on at once.

On page **Ordnance Survey maps** at 1:50,000 Landranger scale thanks to the Ordnance Survey's open data initiative

Map of nearby sites

These have icons to show the types of site nearby, with red, green and grey colour coding:

Red = We have a photo of the site
Green = No photo (please take one for us!)
Grey = Destroyed site (photos also welcome)

The orange bubble indicates You are Here

Click on one of these icons to show the name of the site. Click on the text link that pops up to go to that site page.

Some **controls** to adjust the amount shown on the page

Text listing of **nearby sites**, with locations. This is a useful feature when you print out the page to use with a GPS, sat nav and map while in the field.

Site Visit logs – create a personal log of sites you have visited, or would like to visit and these display on the page and on your log sheet. You can also export your logs to a spreadsheet. This feature will be expanded to allow you to view tours of related sites and create your own.

(The links to the site visit logs appear in the right-hand side bar so you can't see them in the image)

Comments from visitors, we hope you will leave some yourself

Another new feature is a selection of feeds via **RSS** for latest news stories, comments and gallery images.

You can also follow updates on Twitter at http://twitter.com/megportal
We also have a **Facebook** page to keep in touch.

Look for the **Social Media** box in the right-hand site bar (again not shown above). From here you can use the Facebook 'like' button, also 'tweet' pages, e-mail links them to a friend or follow one of our RSS syndication channels.

Other new developments will be an improved site-wide 'Megalith Map' to cover the whole of Europe and elsewhere in the world.

Improved Search box
powered by Google

Geographic search
You can put UK grid refs, UK postcodes, US zip codes and German zip codes into the main search box to get a list of sites close to where you are.

Site Filtering
We now have so many listings that it can get quite confusing in some areas, so you can now filter our search and browse listings by Access, Condition and Ambience ratings from 1 to 5. A primary use of this is to show sites that have disabled access (Access = 5) but there are many combinations you can put in such as to look for the very best locations for a flying visit to an area.
World wide coverage
As well as our very detailed coverage of ancient sites in the UK, megalithomania has also gripped Germany, where we now have 'blanket' coverage of some areas of the country.

Enthusiasts in many other countries have also contributed site locations and images and our coverage is growing fast in France, The Netherlands, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Japan, South Korea, the Middle East and the USA.

Site icons
Scroll down the page, and click on Next Matches to browse through all the sites in this region. 50 sites per page are shown. As you go the map will update to show the locations of the next page of sites.

The Megalithic Portal **www.megalithic.co.uk** costs a significant amount to keep running. The site requires its own dedicated server and database server to run on amongst other ongoing connection and upgrade expenses. You can show your support by joining up as a member of our independent, non-profit making Megalithic Portal Society. **Membership is just £10 per year**.
Some benefits of membership are:
    * Unlock full length GPS / Sat Nav data downloads
    * A 10% discount off all items in our online shop
    * Removal most of the on page ads when you are logged in
    * Access to our members' only discussion forum
    * Full voting rights as member of the Megalithic Portal Society

You can join online at www.megalithic.co.uk, and pay by credit, debit card or Paypal or fill out a paper membership form.