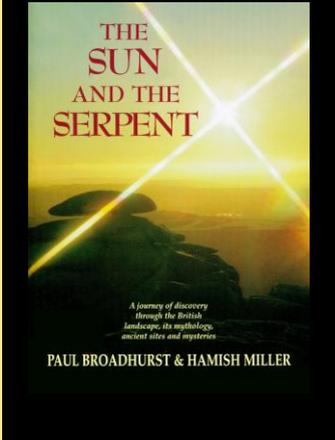


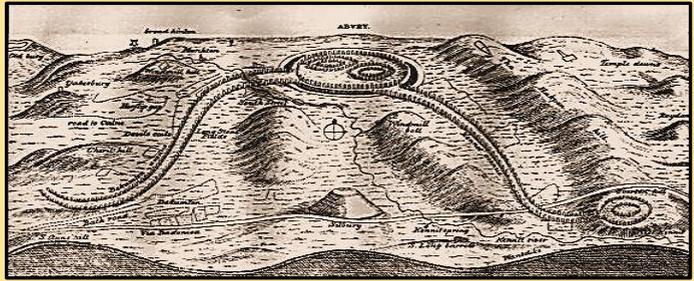
THE SUN AND THE SERPENT

by Paul Broadhurst
and Hamish Miller



Running right across southern Britain, from the far west of Cornwall to a point on the east coast of Norfolk, the St Michael Line is a remarkable alignment of ancient sacred sites.

This alignment, or ley line, connects legendary places such as St Michael's Mount, Glastonbury, Avebury, Bury St Edmunds and many others whose significance is half-forgotten. Marking special places along the line are a great number of churches, some important, others almost secret, which are often dedicated to St Michael and other dragon-slaying saints, or to St Mary, the Christianised earth goddess.



William Stukeley's drawing of the Serpent Temple of Avebury

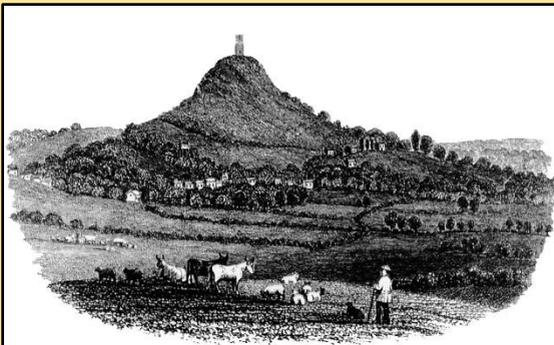
Even more intriguing are the megalithic monuments and prehistoric sites situated along it, the remnants of a science and philosophy that is obscure to us in the modern world.

A further extraordinary property of the alignment is that it coincides with the direction of the rising sun on or near Mayday, one of the most significant days in the ancient calendar and annual solar cycle.

Behind the construction and continuity of this network was some mysterious principle which is elusive to current thinking. Certain authorities refer to an ancient science of subtle energies, harnessed for the good of the planet and its inhabitants, a knowledge of the benign use of natural forces from the earth and cosmos. Tradition alludes to currents of terrestrial force, the *Spiritus Mundi* or *Earth Spirit*, which was held to be sacred by both Christian and pre-Christian religions.

The Sun and the Serpent recounts an adventure as remarkable as the enigma of the St Michael Line itself. It has been known for some time that expert dowsers can detect and measure the invisible energies which interact with the countryside through which they pass. In recent times there has been a deeper understanding that in some way these energies are connected with the health and fertility of the land and those that inhabit it. They can be thought of as vital currents of the creative life force that lies behind the physical world.

Over a period of more than two years dowser Hamish Miller and author Paul Broadhurst track the course of this enigmatic flow of natural energy for some 300 miles through some of the most notable monuments in Britain. The breathtaking magnificence of Avebury, once a powerful centre of prehistoric culture, and Glastonbury, the legendary 'Isle of Avalon' reveal secrets which are hidden in the landscape itself.



Glastonbury Tor marked by the Tower of St Michael



Royston Caves carvings linked to rites of symbolic Death and Rebirth

Our view of ancient cultures and successive religions may well be influenced by these discoveries and their implications. Ancient hillforts, stone circles, holy wells, tumuli and earthworks are found at significant centres once used by those of earlier times for the benefits and revelations bestowed by Nature. Neglected shrines such as Royston Cave, a subterranean cavern covered in strange carvings, show that religious and esoteric rites were once performed to invoke the earth's vital energy. This force has the potential to

transform human perceptions and during the quest the authors rediscover an awareness of natural energies which trigger subtle changes in themselves as the work progressed. At the very simplest level, it is hoped that, through this book, others can share in the deep peace which manifests when they visit the sites and attune to the whispering energies of the Earth.

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'A living text book on the earth energies our ancestors understood'
New Dimensions

'The Sun and the Serpent is one of the strangest, most stirring books I have ever read, and it may prove through its implications to be one of the most important. For if the authors are correct in what they affirm, they have uncovered in the English landscape the most remarkable of ancient secrets'

John Michell