

## = Stoney Littleton Long Barrow =

The Stoney Littleton Long Barrow ( also known as the Bath Tumulus and the Wellow Tumulus ) is a Neolithic chambered tomb with multiple burial chambers , located near the village of Wellow in the English county of Somerset . It is an example of the Severn @-@ Cotswold tomb and was scheduled as an ancient monument in 1882 . It was one of the initial monuments included when the Ancient Monuments Protection Act 1882 became law .

The chambered long barrow was built around 3500 BC . Excavations in the early 19th century uncovered bones from several individuals . The stone structure is about 30 metres ( 98 ft ) in length and contains a 12 @.@ 8 metres ( 42 ft ) long gallery with three pairs of side chambers and an end chamber .

## = = Location and access = =

The barrow is approximately 1 @.@ 5 kilometres ( 0 @.@ 93 mi ) south west of the village of Wellow . It is on a limestone ridge overlooking Wellow Brook approximately 200 metres ( 660 ft ) to the north and west of the barrow . It is surrounded by a rectangular grass area accessed via a stile and footpath from a car park at Stoney Littleton Farm .

## = = History = =

Chambered long barrows were constructed during the Neolithic between 4000 and 2500 BC for the ritual inhumation of the dead . Stoney Littleton Long Barrow was probably constructed around 3500 BC .

The tomb was first opened around 1760 by a local farmer to obtain stone for road building . The site was excavated by John Skinner and Richard Hoare in 1816 @-@ 17 , who gained the entry through the hole which was made previously . The excavation revealed the bones ( some burned ) of several individuals . The mound was restored in 1858 by Thomas Joliffe . Some of the artefacts from the excavations are in the Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery .

It was scheduled as an ancient monument in 1882 . Since 1884 the Stoney Littleton Long Barrow has been in state care , and is now managed by English Heritage who have provided an information board at the site . Further conservation work and a geophysical survey were carried out in 1999 and 2000 by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust .

## = = Description = =

Severn @-@ Cotswold tombs consist of precisely @-@ built , long trapezoid earth mounds covering a burial chamber . The Stoney Littleton Long Barrow stands on a limestone ridge overlooking Wellow Brook and the village of Wellow . It is constructed from stone , including Blue Lias and Forest Marble quarried within an 8 kilometres ( 5 @.@ 0 mi ) radius .

It is about 30 metres ( 98 ft ) in length and 15 metres ( 49 ft ) wide at the south @-@ east end , it stands nearly 3 metres ( 10 ft ) high . Internally it consists of a 12 @.@ 8 metres ( 42 ft ) long gallery with three pairs of side chambers and an end chamber . The passage and entrance are roughly aligned towards the midwinter sunrise . The roof is made of overlapping stones . There is a fossil ammonite decorating the left @-@ hand doorjamb .

Unusually , the barrow is not situated on flat ground and " looks as though it is sliding down the side of a hill . "