

Memory Stones

Interpreting Portland's unique landscape in stone

A new landmark arrival point to Tout Quarry Sculpture Park & Nature Reserve and the Wider Portland Quarries Nature Park; marks the entrance to a network of abandoned and disused quarries that are packed full of wildlife, heritage, and industrial archaeology.

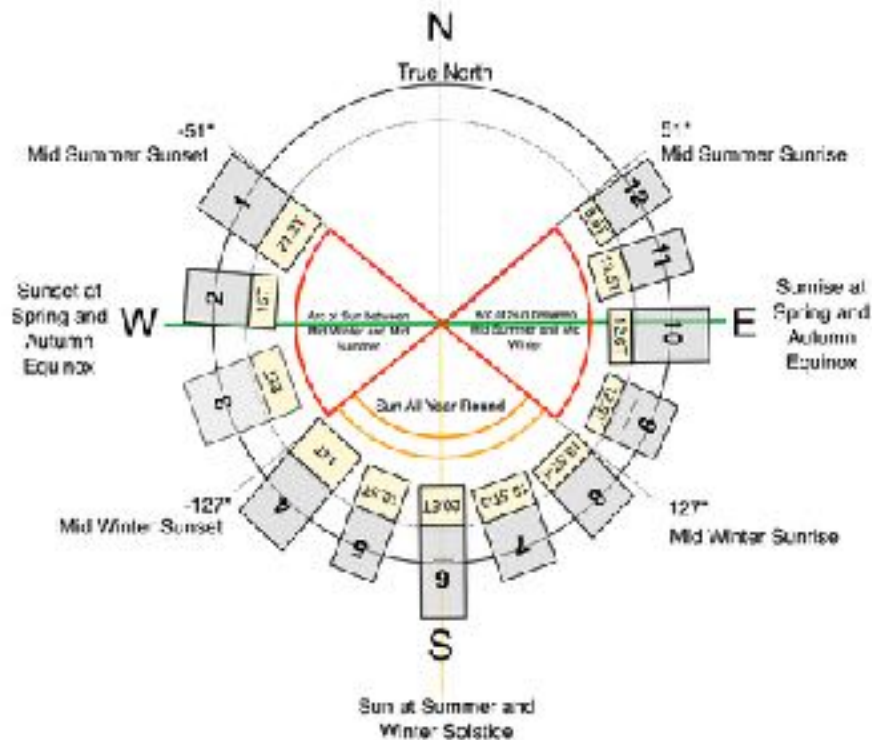
'Memory Stones' is the concept and work of artist Hannah Sofaer, who has selected large stones from Portland Stone Firms Ltd and Albion Stone plc open cast quarries, to form an arc that connects to audio visual recordings that she has made of Portland's Quarry environment, people and skills of working with stone; to form an additional layer of memory overlaid on the landscape and its geology. The stones frame views across Portland's landscape and will be letter cut, referencing the islands ecology, geology, art, architecture, archeology and quarrying history.

The stones are aligned to the passage of the sun, the summer and winter solstice, spring and autumn equinox, spring and autumn sunrises and sunsets - creating shadows up to 30 metres long in midwinter. Paisley Plant Hire Ltd carefully installed the stones to a ground plan with quarryman Ralph Stone, who has a lifetime of experience of skills handed down through generations from the time of Sir Christopher Wren.

The Project is a collaboration between the Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust and Dorset Wildlife Trust and builds on community partnerships established over 30 years with an open day on the 21st June that features new choreographed dance performed by students from Portlands Academy School using the passage of light across the stones at Midsummers Day, For information please call 01305 826736 or visit www.memorystones.org.uk

The project has been realised with funding from the Arts Council England, Department for Communities & Local Government, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Worshipful Company of Masons, Portland Court Leet, Dorset County Council Divisional Fund, Trewint Ltd., Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust, and Portland Masonic Lodge.

Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust is grateful for the generous support of Portland Stone Firms Ltd., Albion Stone plc, Paisley Plant Hire Ltd., Weymouth & Portland Borough Council, Portland Stone Ltd for access groundworks, Vivienne Berry Landscape Architect, Astudio Architects and Eagle Vista Aerial imaging <https://youtu.be/qrMcBxS4mxs>



1. North West Stone-Looks back to World Heritage Coast. Aligns with Mid Summer Sunset over Golden Cap on 21st June .
2. West Stone-Looks back to Lyme Bay to the Triassic – Aligns with the sunset of the Spring and Autumn Equinox.
3. West South West – Looks across the Ocean to South America. Records the life in the ocean.
4. South West – Looks to the Geomorphology of the original land surface and jointing structure of the Gullies that run across the Island. Aligns with Mid Winter Sunset on 21st December.
5. South South West - Looks to Architecture – the tower of St Georges Church inspired by the West towers of St Paul’s Cathedral.
6. South – Looks across to the tunnel that connects Tout to Inmosthay Quarry and the wider Portland Quarries Nature Park. Tout means ‘Lookout’ and the quarry overlooks Chesil Beach and was once one of over 100 working quarries on the island all worked by hand. The shadow from the stone at noon on Mid Summers Day is 2 meters long and Mid Winters Day 13.4 meters.
7. South South East- Archaeology looks across to the early settlements of St Andrews at Church Ope, and references the Mesolithic site at Culverwell.
8. South East-Lichens early pioneer species. Aligned on Spring Equinox 2017 to Outdoor Performance Environment at Church Ope. North edge aligns with Mid Winter Sunrise.
9. East South East- Orchids, Butterflies and Insects – early life forms in the succession for regeneration of quarries.
10. East – Plant Species 500 with 125 used for culinary and herbal remedies. Aligns directly East with the sunrise at the Spring and Autumn Equinox.
11. East North East- Vertebrates small mammals and reptiles.
12. North East – Migratory birds. The North face of the stone is aligned with the Mid Summer Sunrise and captures the light of the northern most travel of the sun at daybreak throughout the year.