

Area Representative Monument of the Month
February 2019
Chûn Quoit



Quoit is the Cornish name for a type of megalithic structure comprising a number of large stones set upright to support a massive horizontal capstone forming a small chamber. Also known as cromlechs, the stone chambers thus formed were used for communal burials in the Neolithic period. Chûn Quoit is one of a small group of similar monuments restricted in distribution largely to Penwith, though there are two or three further east in Cornwall and they are also common in Wales, Ireland and Brittany. Archaeologists call such sites chambered tombs or portal dolmens, and date them to the 3rd or 4th millennia BC. The quoit is surrounded by traces of a large low stony mound, but this may never have been very high and the capstone at least was probably always visible. The mound is ringed with a low kerb of relatively small boulders and other stones visible in the top of the mound have been interpreted as the remains of burial boxes or cists. There may have been a 'forecourt' in front of the entrance to the chamber which would have provided the setting for funerary rites and rituals.

HER Number: 30518

St Just, Penwith, Cornwall - SW 4022 3395

www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/a2m/neolithic/chambered_tomb/chun_quoit/chun_quoit.htm

www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MC027464&resourceID=1020