William Stukeley Encyclopedia Article

William Stukeley

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William Stukeley

1687-1765

English antiquarian and physician noted for his archeological work on Neolithic and Bronze Age sites. His studies of stone circles and earthworks, especially at Avebury and Stonehenge, led him to postulate elaborate theories connecting them to the ancient Celtic cult of the Druids, maintaining that the entire prehistoric landscape had been laid out in a sacred pattern. Stukeley's views were widely accepted in the late eighteenth century. His excellent field studies and surveys remain of interest.