

Hidden gems and Forgotten People

CARRICKFERGUE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



MEGALITHIC MONUMENT KNOWN AS THE HOLESTONE, NEAR DOAGH, COUNTY ANTRIM

To find the Holestone take the B59 (Ballymena Road) for about 2 miles from the centre of Doagh, until the Holestone Road comes up on the right and take this narrow road to the top of the hill. There is a direction sign to the Holestone that is on private farmland and is on top of a rocky outcrop. The site overlooks the Six Mile Water valley and offers a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside.

It is perhaps, the best Bronze Age pillar in these islands it is 1.2m tall with its distinctive chamfered hole that is 10 cm in diameter. Local tribal kings or tribal leaders may have come here to seal peace treaties or commemorate some great event or for religious reasons.

Perhaps more prosaically, in the last few hundred years, young couples visit the stone and clasping hands through the hole promise marriage. On occasions newly weds visit the stone with their guests after their ceremony believing the stone has aphrodisiac powers.

John Hulme