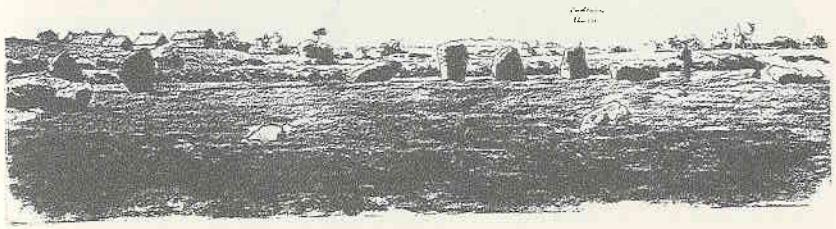
The Crucuno Rectangle

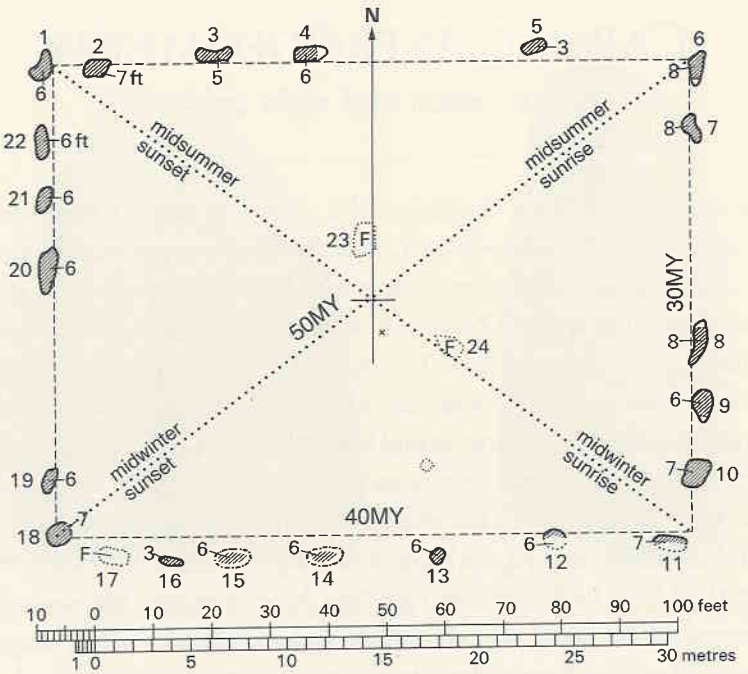
looking at things from the right angle

Some 400m to the east of the hamlet of Crucuno in Plouharnel lies a rectangle, constructed on a man-made plateau, composed of 22 large menhirs, one of which is recumbent. It was restored in 1884 by Félix Gaillard who re-erected 14 of them, those for which he had found the wedging stones still in the ground. A plan made by Lukis and Dryden in 1874 shows the state of the site before any work was done. The line on the west side was virtually intact and it is orientated exactly to true north. This means that the rectangle as a whole is perfectly aligned to the cardinal directions.

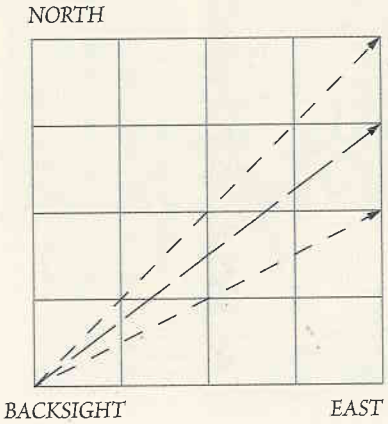
The NE corner-SW corner diagonal has an angle of 36.87° to the south of east, which is the exact angle of a 3-4-5 triangle. This also happened to be the angle of sunrise at winter solstice 7000 years ago at this latitude. Today, it has moved north by about 0.8°, a little more than its own size on the horizon.

The vast megalithic ensemble in and around Carnac could not have been built solely by the local population. This could indicate that this latitude was chosen for its unique astro-geometrical qualities. It also shows the importance of the right angle.





Above: Thom's survey of the Crucuno rectangle , showing it is a clear 3:4 rectangle, aligned NSEW, with diagonals (length 5), that give the solstice sunrises and sunsets.



Left: At the latitude of Carnac, the rising positions of the Sun and the Moon have an astonishing geometrical relationship. Over 18.6 years, the Moon's northerly rising moves north and south of the Sun's summer solstice position. When the Moon is furthest north (e.g. in 2006), it is at 45°, along the diagonal of a square from the observer's position. 9½ years later (e.g. in 2015) it is on the diagonal of a double square at its extreme northern position.