



Mudumal: A Megalithic Menhirs Site With Archaeoastronomical Significance from South India

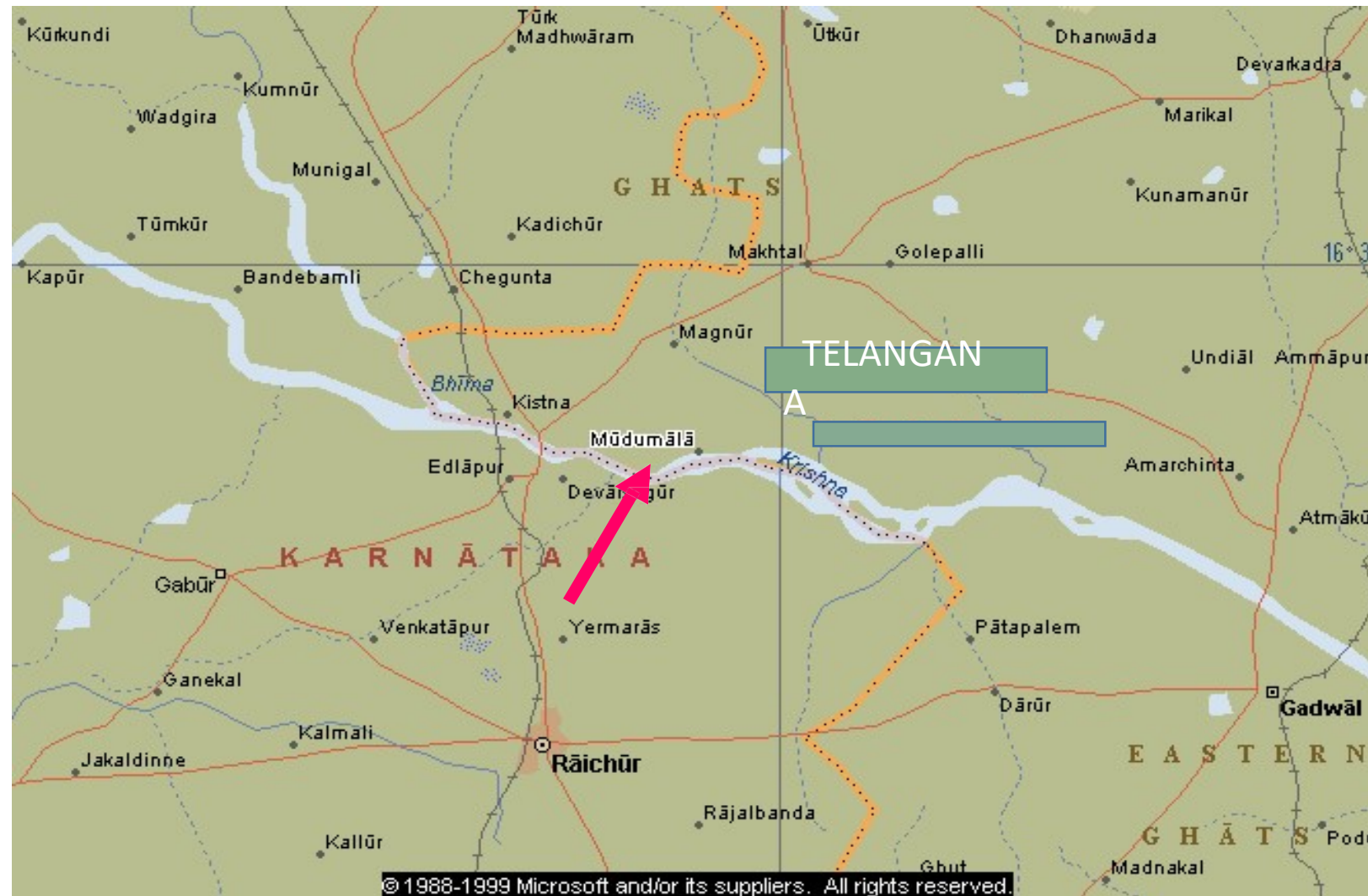
The Department of Heritage Telangana in Collaboration with the Deccan Heritage Academy Trust is actively involved in Research, Conservation and Documentation of this Remarkable Megalithic site with Archaeoastronomical features.

We have formed a Team of Experts to realise the below Objectives:

- Prof. Er. Vedakumar Manikonda, Chairman, Deccan Heritage Academy Trust (DHAT), Hyderabad.
- Prof. K. P. Rao, Head of the Scientific Team, DHAT & Professor (Retd.), University of Hyderabad.
- Deputy Director, Department of Heritage Telangana, Govt. of Telangana, India.
- Dr. N. Taher, Director (Rtd.), Archaeological Survey of India.
- Ar. GVSS Suryanarayana Murthy, Chief Architect (Conservation), Member, ICOMOS India.
- Sri. Ch. Babji Rao, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist (Retd.), Archaeological Survey of India.
- Ar. Pragathi, Associate Professor, JBR Architecture College, Telangana, India.
- Mr. Sriramoju Haragopal, Historian, Telangana, India.
- Representative from Dept. of Astronomy, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India.
- Dr. K. Mahender Reddy, Senior Scientist, Geological Survey of India, Hyderabad, India.
- Sri. Ch. Praveen Raju, Research Scholar, DHAT



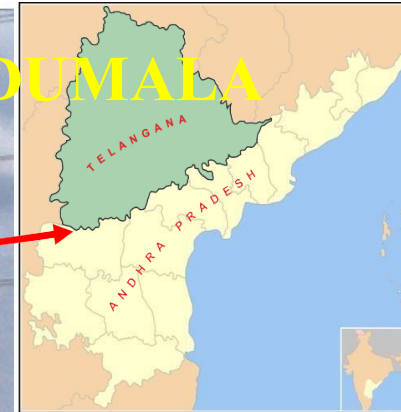
Mudumal Megalithic site is located in the Deccan region of South India



The site is located about half a kilometre from the northern bank of river Krishna.



MUDUMALA

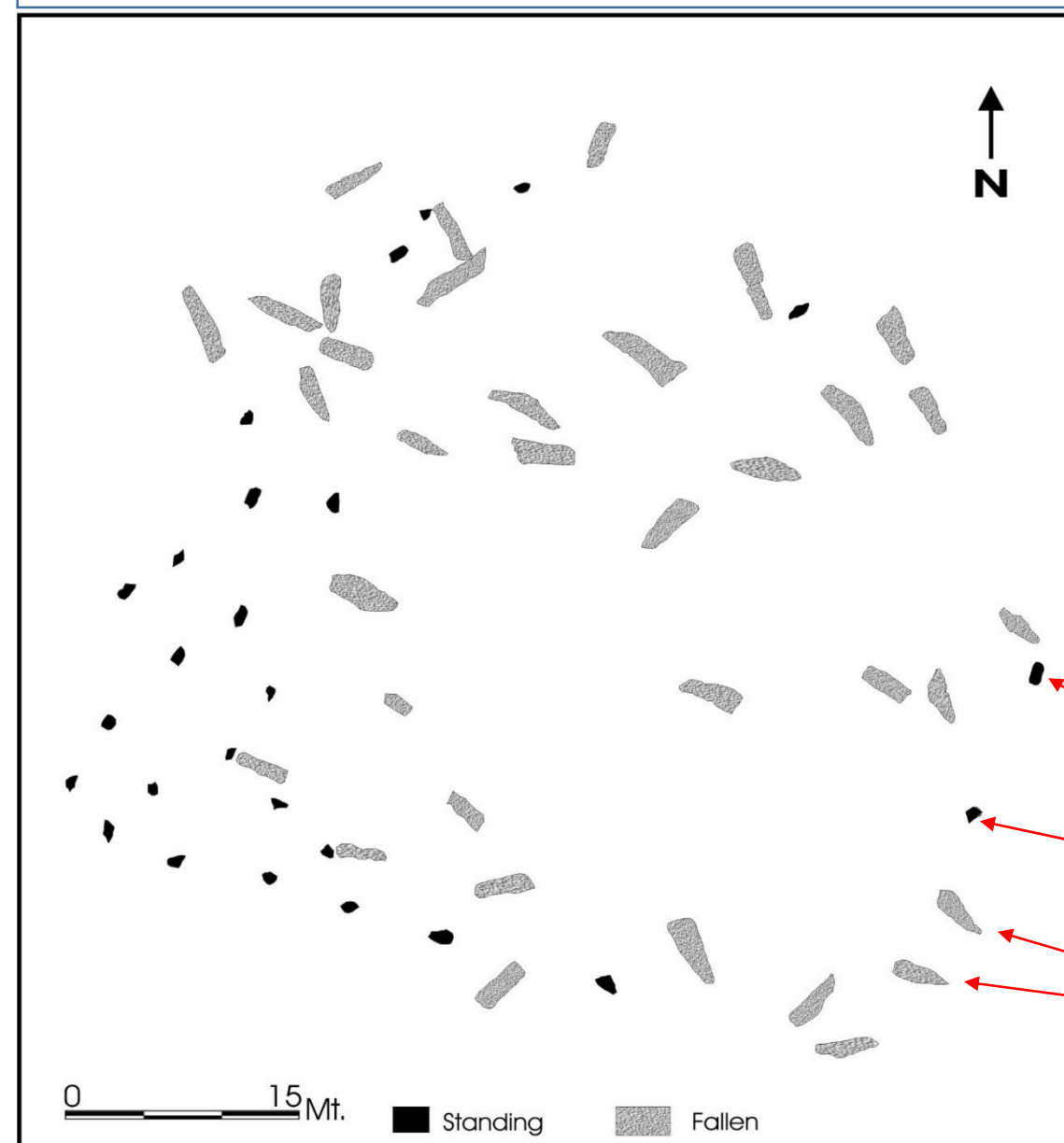


At Mudumal, we have about 80 tall Menhirs, which rise up to about 4-5 meters.



This site can be dated to about 1000 BCE. In course of time some of the Menhir have leaned or fallen on the ground mainly due to soil erosion, as the villagers never cause any harm to these 'standing stones'.

MUDUMAL MEGALITHIC MONUMENTS TELANGANA



This is one of the first scaled drawings made on the site by Prof. K.P.Rao in 2003, who is heading the Technical and Research team for the study of this site.

The black shapes represent the standing ones,

while the grey shapes represent the fallen M
enhirs.



Apart from the tall standing stones, we have about 3000 alignment boulders arranged in different formations and alignments, which face different directions.

This is probably the largest site of this nature in entire South Asia.



**Here,youcanseeoneofthe
alignmentoftheseboulders.**



The first paper on the site was presented in the Oxford VIII International Conference on Archaeoastronomy, held at Flagstaff in USA in JUNE 2004, by Prof. K.P. Rao.

The paper titled “Astronomical Relationship of South Indian Megaliths” was published in Proceedings volume.

He also presented papers in the International Conferences held in :

Republic of Korea 2007

Egypt 2009

Vietnam 2009

Portugal 2011

Bulgaria 2016

Japan 2018



Scores of foreign teams have visited the site and made observations.

Regularly, several teams from the schools and educational institutions also have been visiting the site.





Observations against an alignment of
Menhirson 20th December,
2005 evening, one day before the
Winter Solstice, showing
synchronization with the setting Sun.

These three Menhirs
are aligned in line with the Su
n

20, December, 2005 5.46 PM

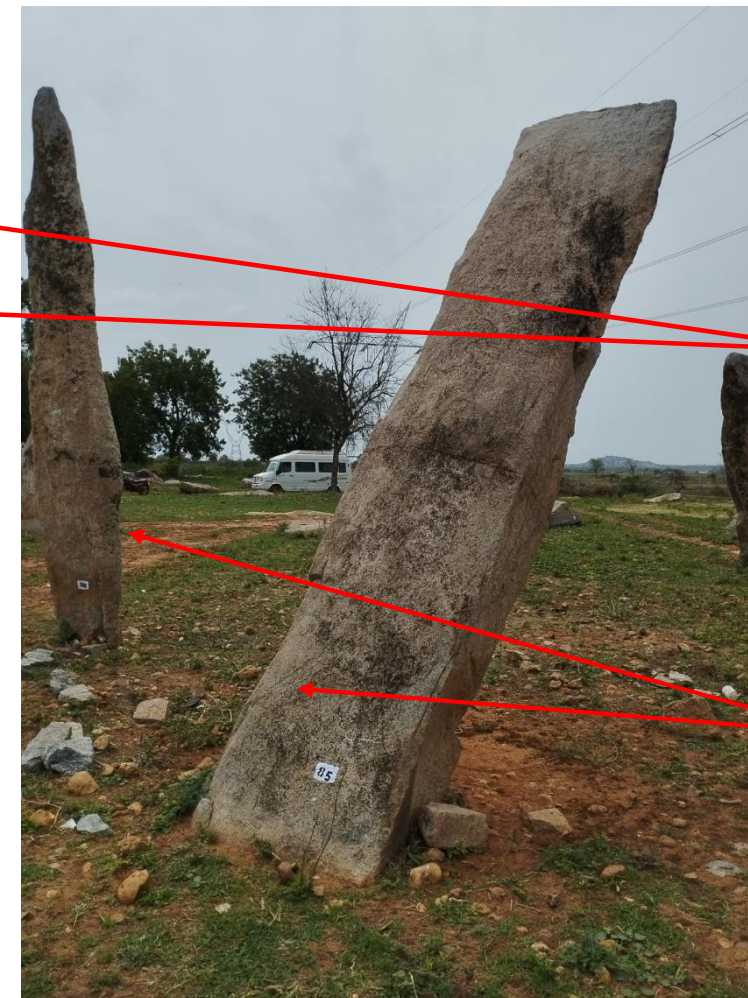
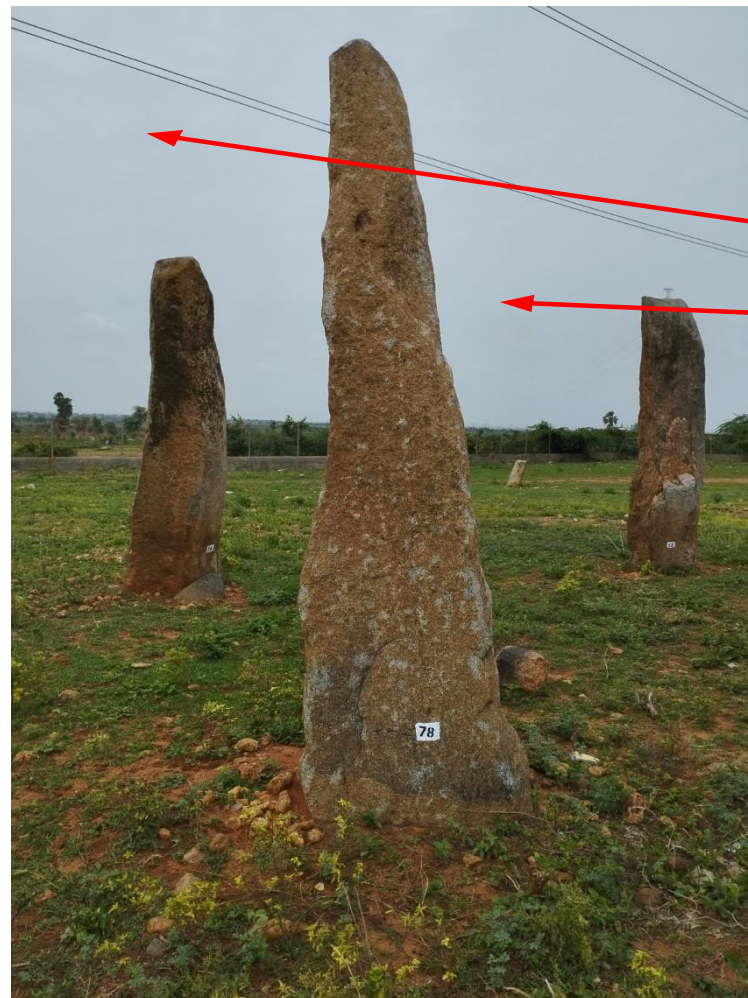
21JUNE2023,06:17am



**Observation on
21stJune,2023at06:17amont
hedayof **Summer Solstice**
showingalignment of three
MenhirsagainsttherisingSun**

**Of course, two of
theMenhirshaveleanedt
oagreat extent in course
oftime.**

21JUNE2023,06:17am



Observation on
21st June, 2023 at 06:17 am on the
day of **Summer Solstice**
showing alignment of three
Menhirs against the rising Sun
.

Of course, two of
the Menhirs have leaned to
a great extent in course
of time.

21JUNE2023,06:17am



Observation on 21st June, 2023 at
06:17 am on the day
of **Summer Solstice**
showing Menhirs against the rising Sun.

Observation at Mudumala
on 21 June 2023, S
ummer Solstice



The Technical Team
making observations on 21 June, 2023, the
day of Summer Solstice

The Technical Team making Observations at Mudumala on 21 June 2023, the day of Summer Solstice

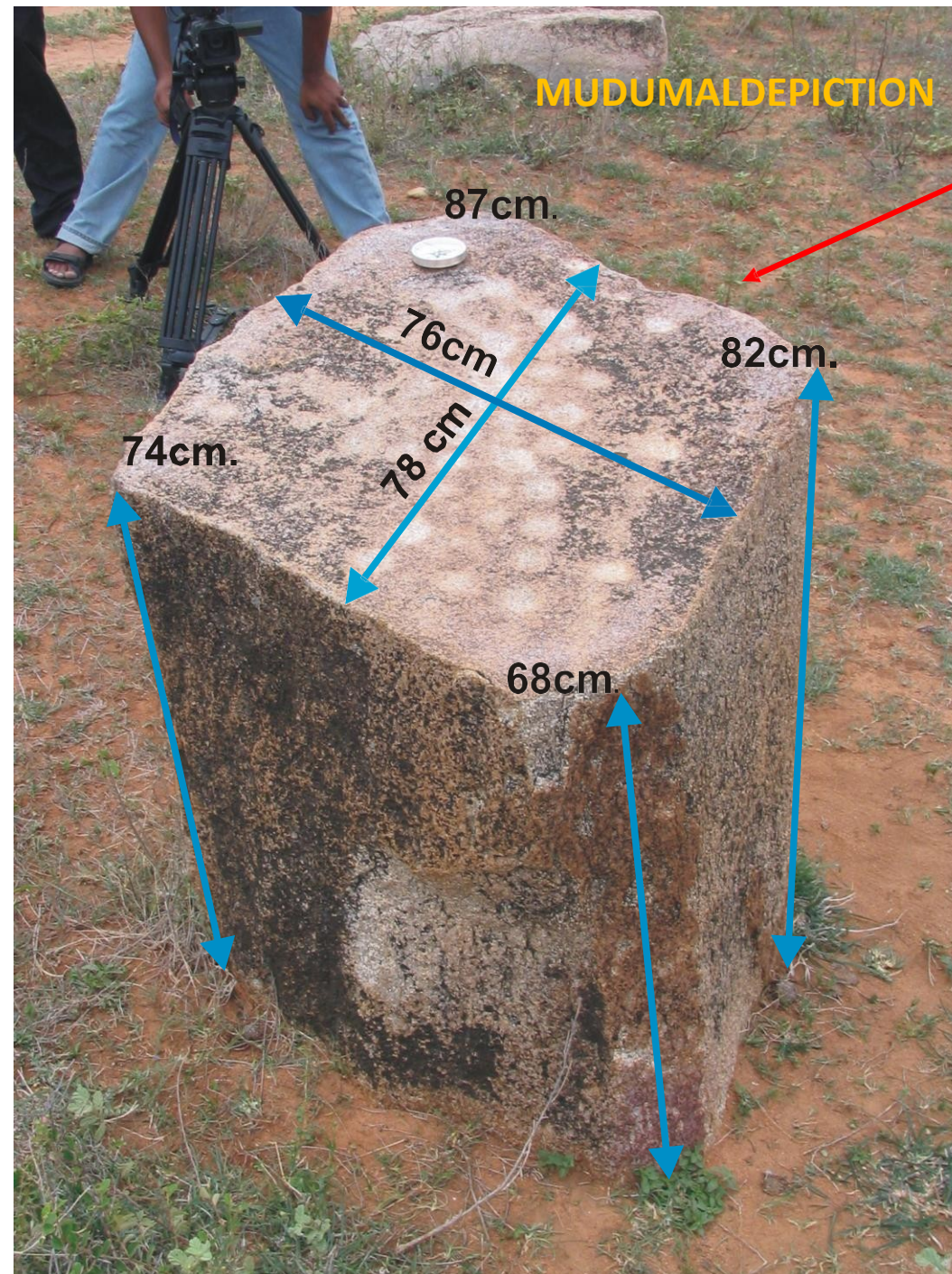


The Technical Team making Observations at Mudumala on 21 June 2023, the day of Summer Solstice





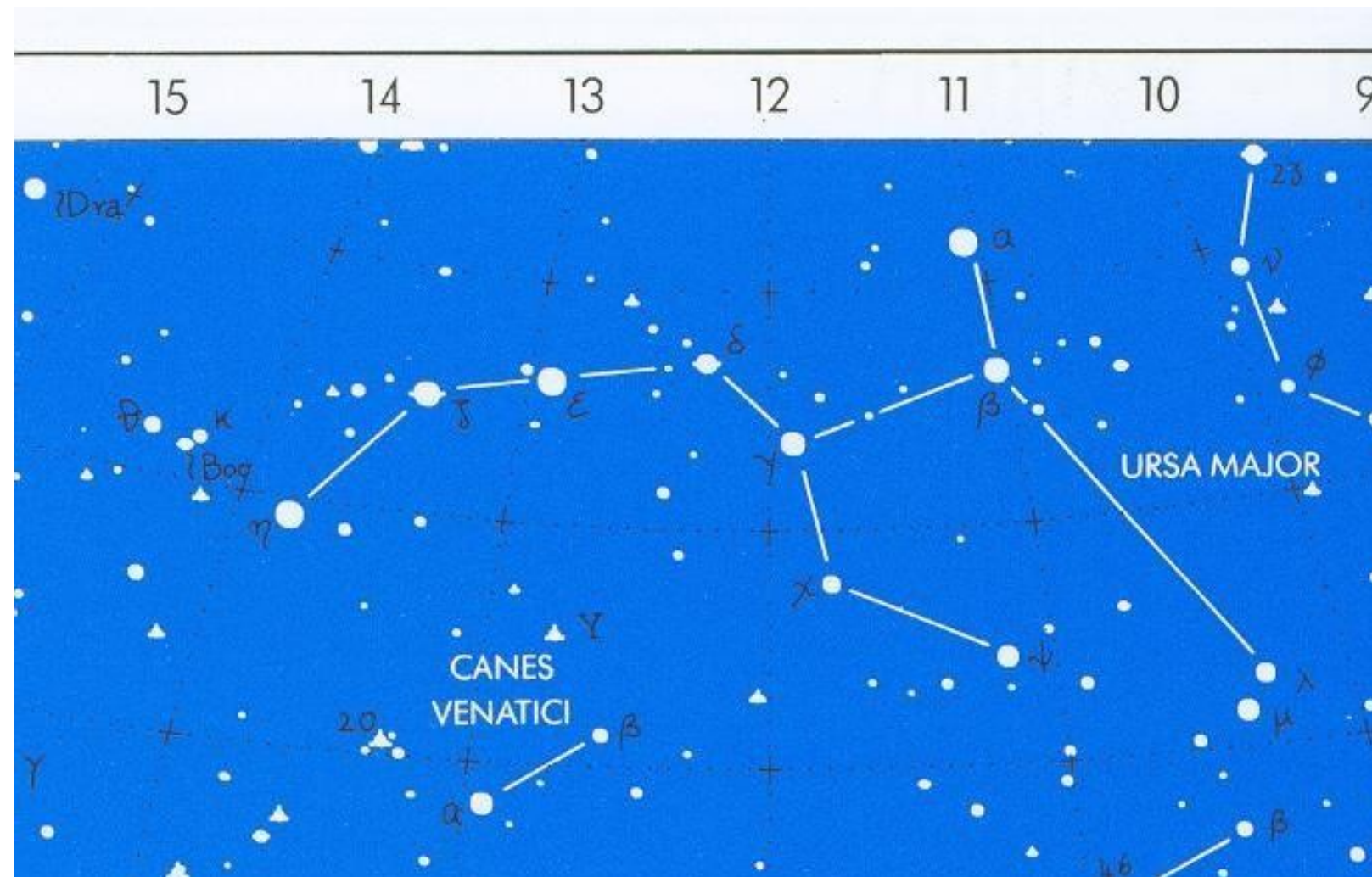
**The site also has several StoneCircles,inthemidstoftheboul
deralignmentstones.**



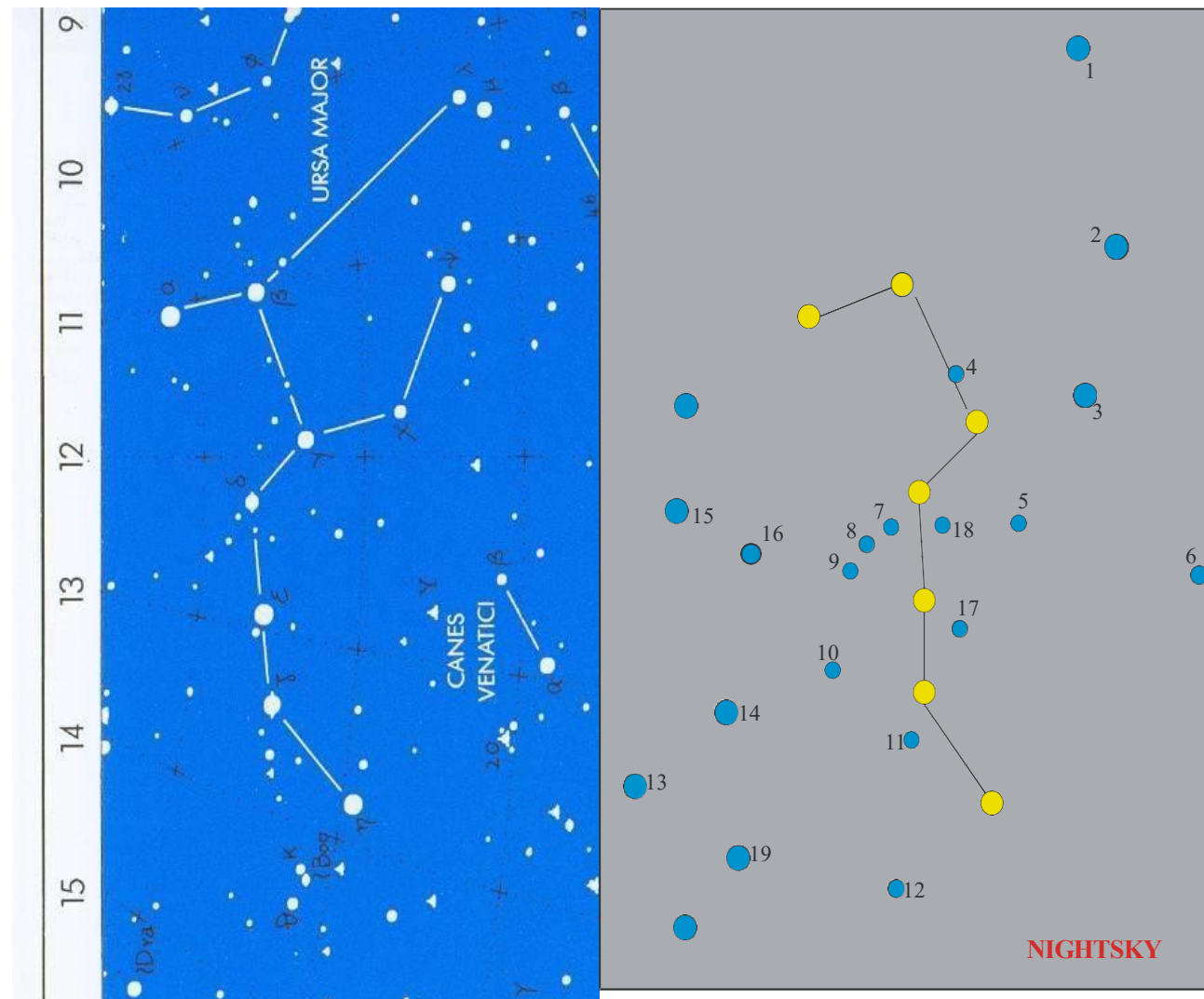
In the middle of the boulder alignments and the stone circle is a vertically planted, square stone with slanting top, that contains several cup-marks.

Incidentally, one such similar stone has been noticed among a field containing several menhirs in Portugal.

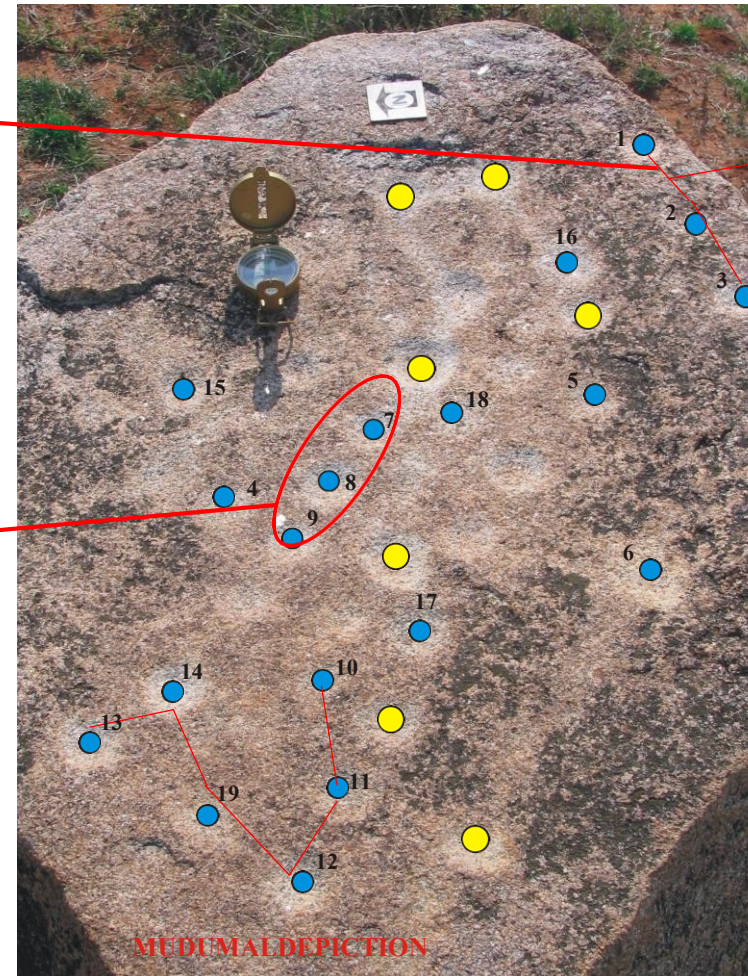
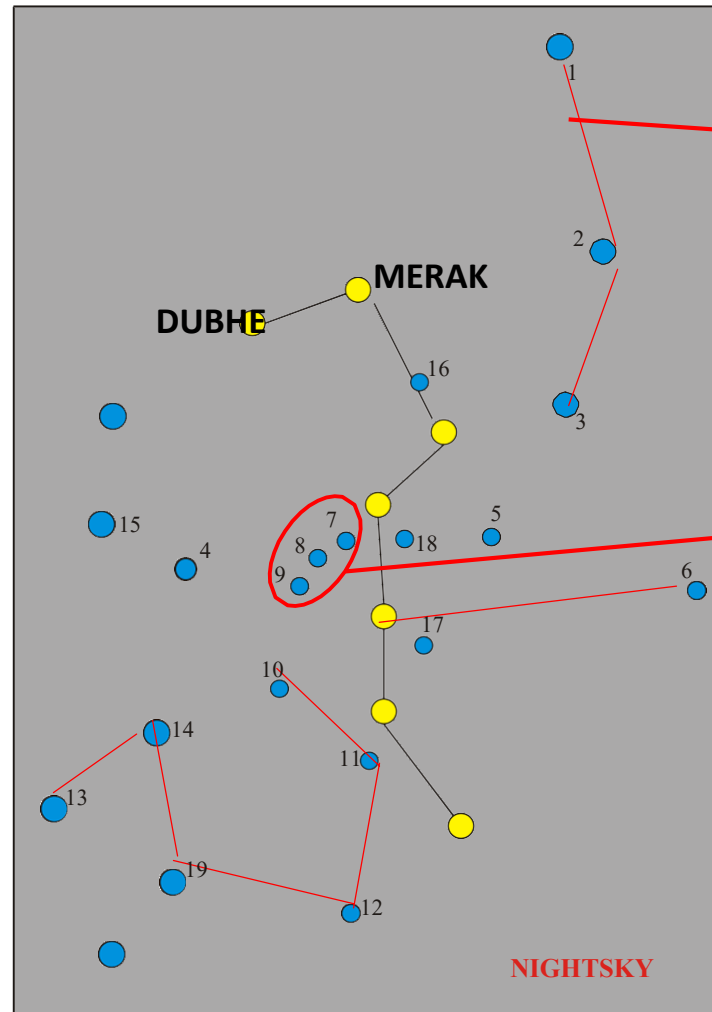




This is a sky chart made in the modern period.

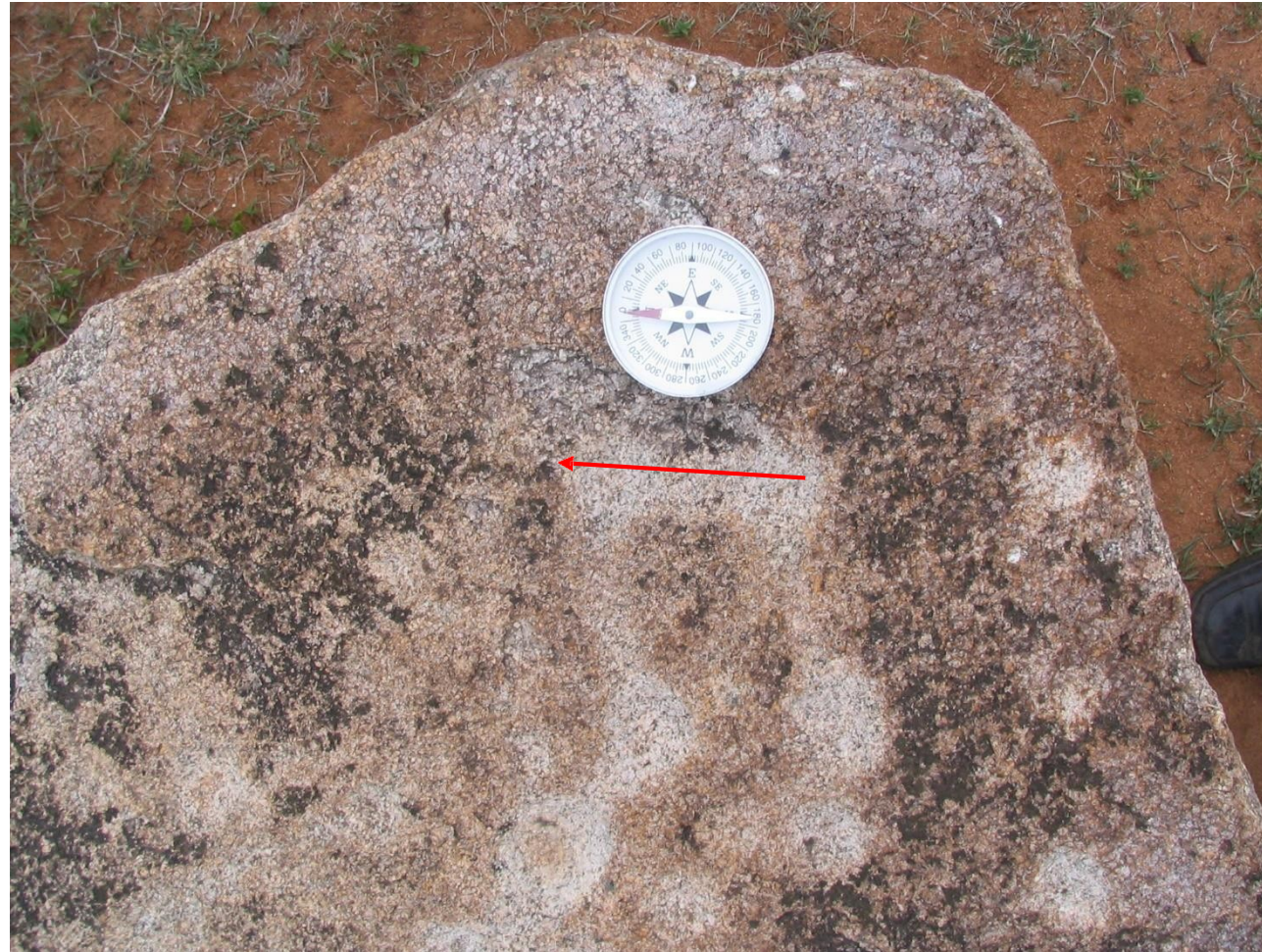


On the right is an Extract of some of the brighter stars in the [Ursa Major Constellation](#).



These are compressed due to lack of space.

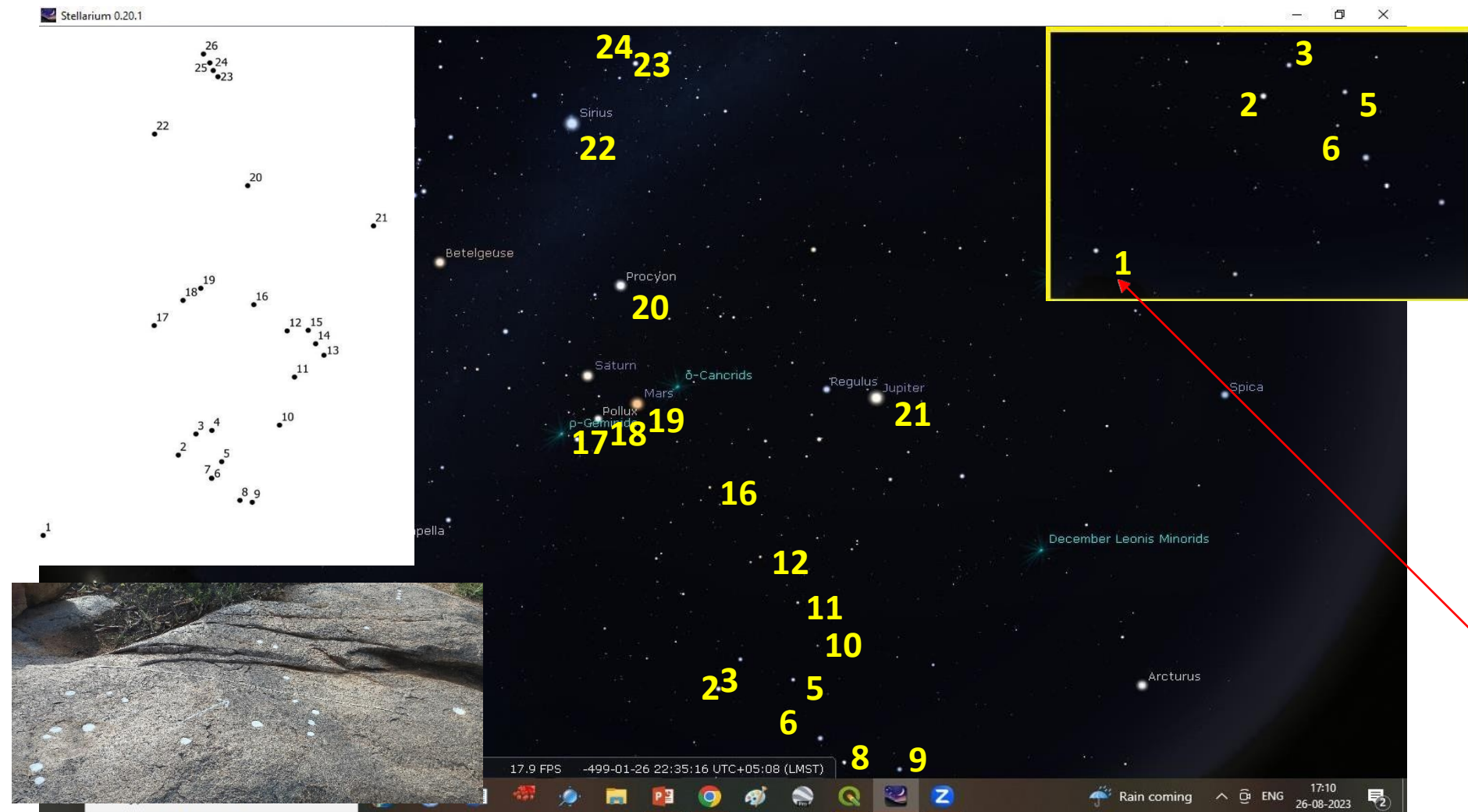
On the left is the modern skychart, and the right image shows the Mudumal depiction. The yellow dots represent the seven stars of the Ursa Major.



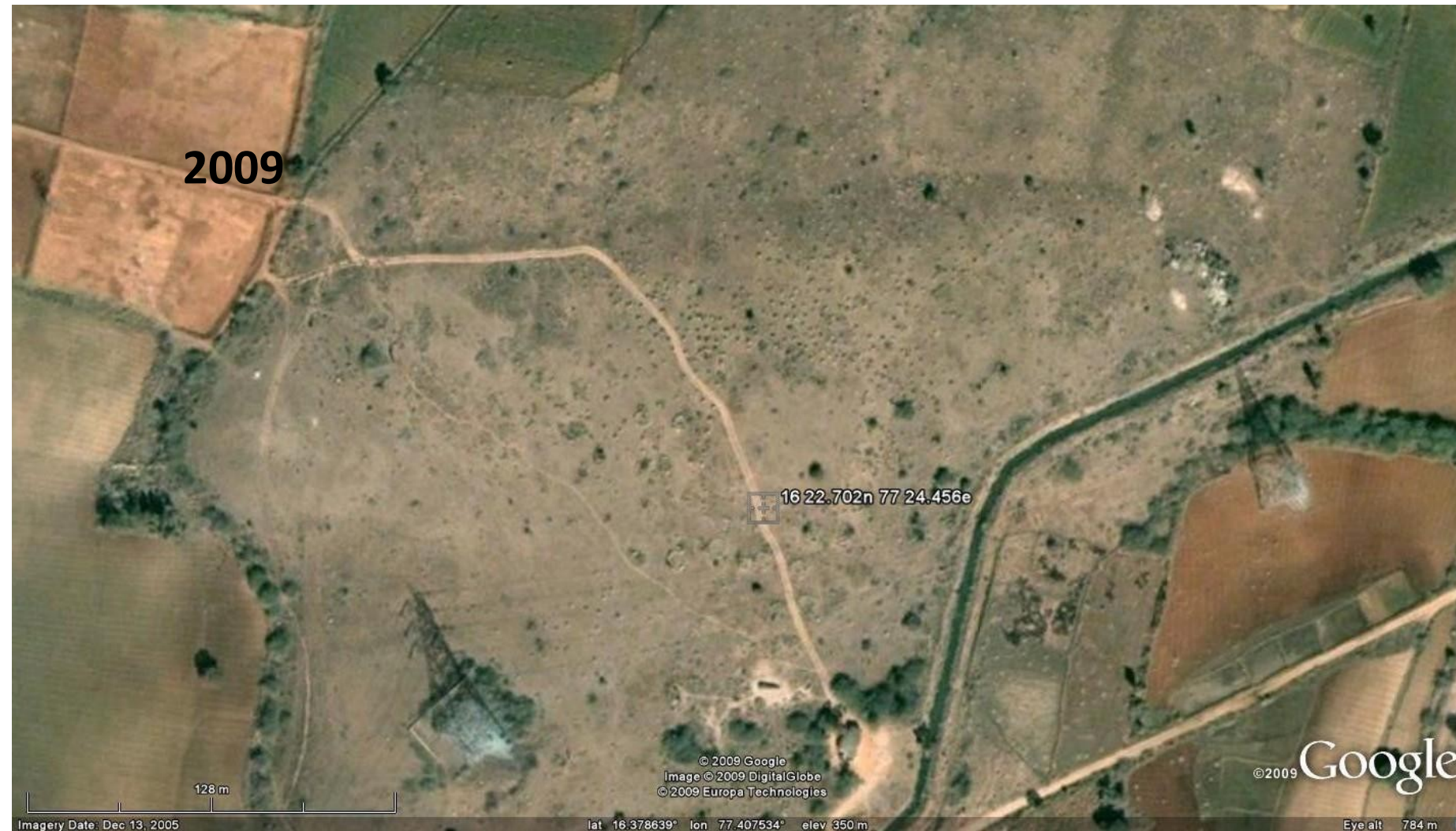
Dubhe and Merak, the two top stars in the Ursa Major constellation, always point to North, and here in the Mudumal depiction also they are shown pointing to the North, as indicated by the Magnetic compass.



Recently, we also have come across another depiction showing the Ursa Major and Leo Constellations. This depiction is made on a bedrock.



Total Station drawing on the depiction is shown on the left top corner.
 The middle area shows a screenshot of Stellarium software, showing night sky January 500 BCE at around 22.25 hrs. Ursa Major is represented by 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9.
 Leo constellation is represented by 20, 21, 22
 Interestingly, they even depicted Polaris represented by No. 1



This site containing the Ursa Major depiction and the alignment boulders, which are visible as small dots in this Google Earth image, was intact till 2009.



Unfortunately in 2011, we noticed destruction of major portion of the site as shown in the Google Earth images.



Here you can notice the destruction
of the large scaled digging very close to the
tonew with the Ursa Major depiction.

UrsaMajorstone