Using Stellarium to view www.StandingStones.org sites

Stellarium is a free open-source planetarium for your computer. It shows a realistic sky in 3D like you would see with the naked eye, binoculars or a telescope. http://stellarium.org/.

Each site in the Standing Stones Viewer has a Stellarium ZIP file link - this link allows you to download the landscape in a format suitable for input into Stellarium.

Figure 1 shows an example image from Stellarium of the Mid-Summer Sunset from Raven's Stone, Elgol on Skye.
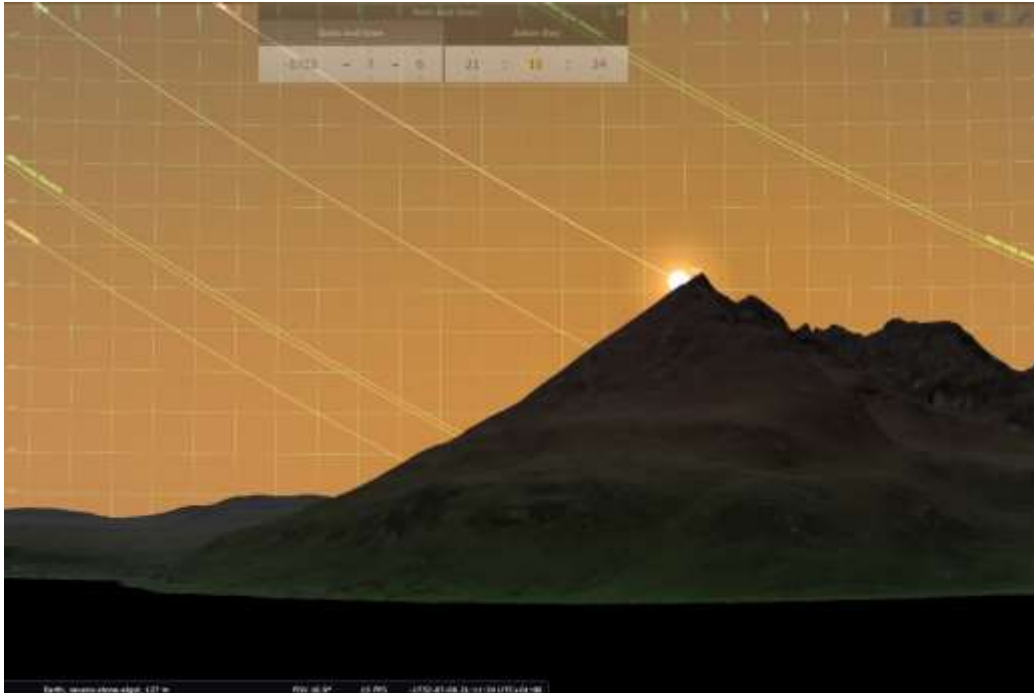

Figure 1: Stellarium view of Raven's Stone, Elgol, Skye Solstice Sunset 1750BC

First install Stellarium on your computer and add the ArchaeoLines plugin to Stellarium. This plugin shows the position of the Solstices, minor and major moon maximas. A description of this plugin can be found at http://stellarium.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/ArchaeoLines_plugin.

Download Stellarium Files from Viewer

Open the Standing Stones viewer (https://www.standingstones.org/viewer.html) and search for the site that you are interested in (in the following Castlerigg). From this web page, select the Stellarium menu item as shown in Figure 2:
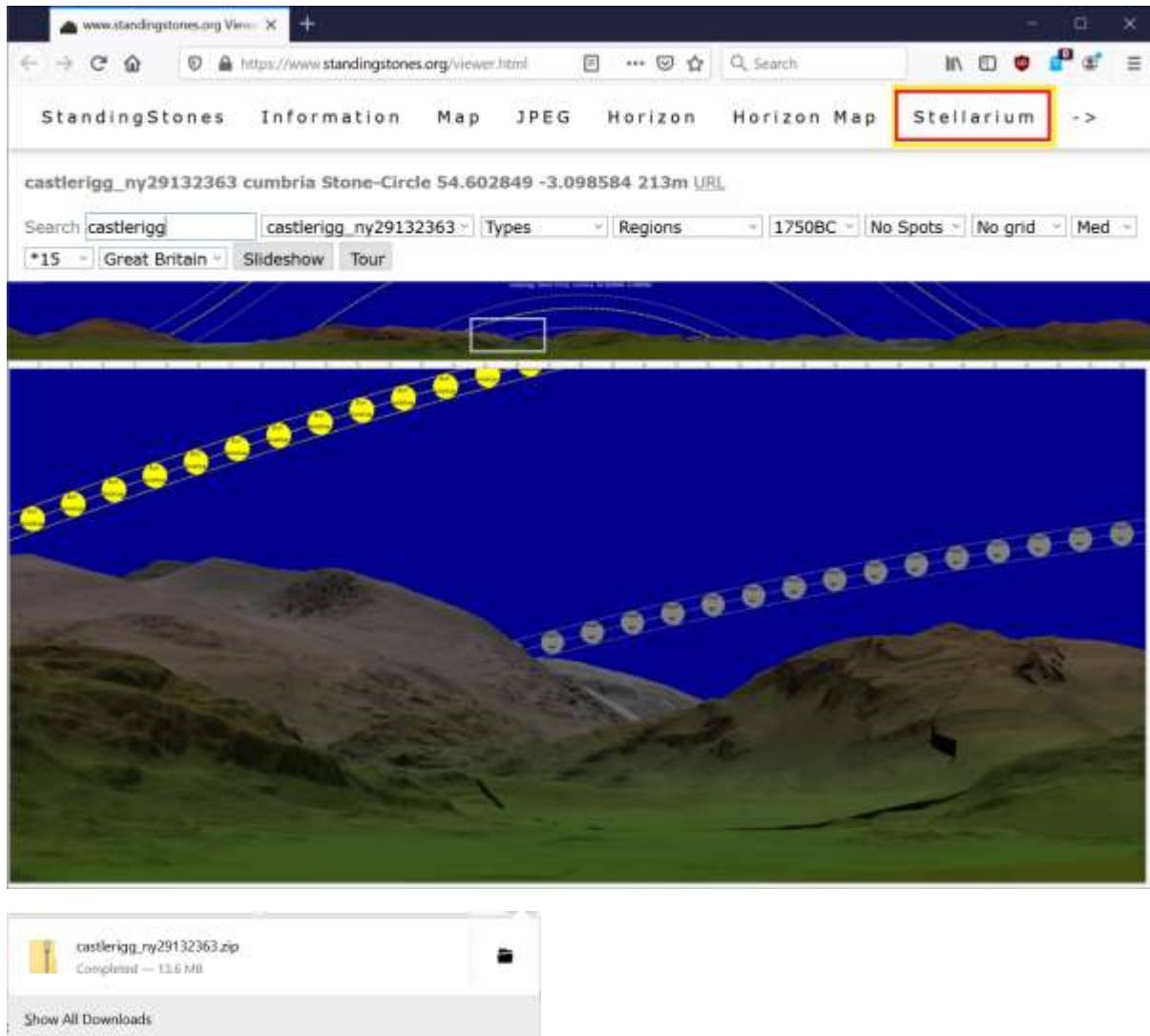

Figure 2: Download Stellarium image file

Download the files that you wish to investigate and save them to the Downloads folder.

Importing Views in Stellarium

Start Stellarium and press *F4* (Sky and viewing options window). This will open the option windows as shown below:
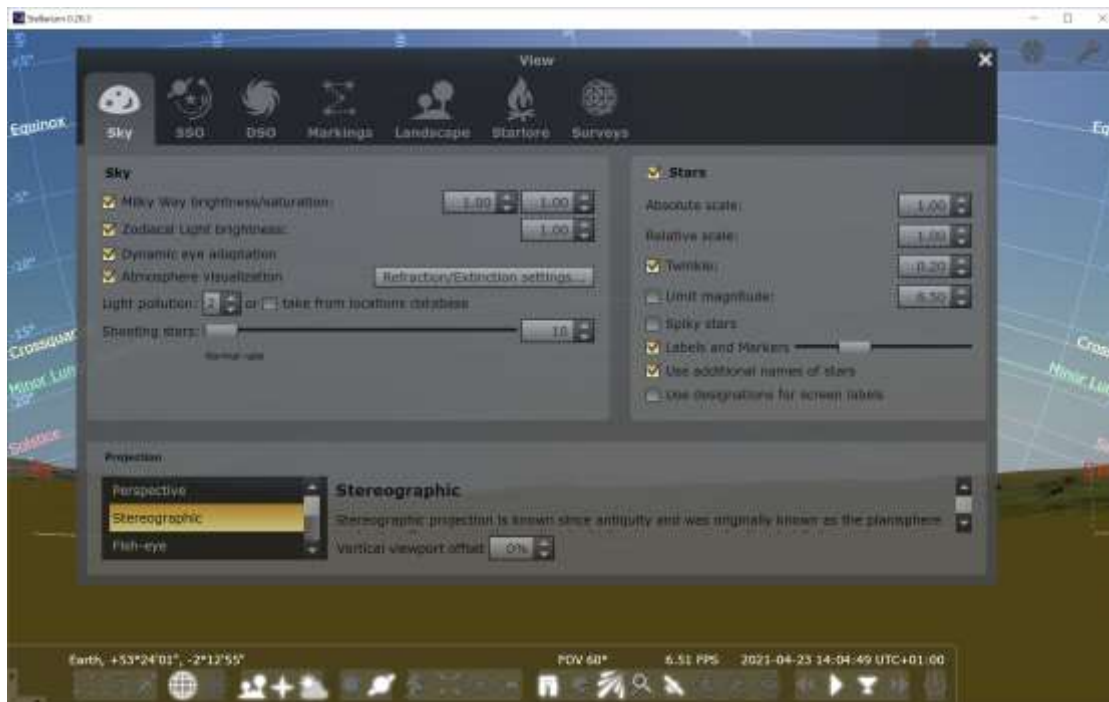

Figure 3: Stellarium Sky and viewing options window

Select the *Landscape* option within this window as shown below and then select *Add/remove lanscapes…* option:
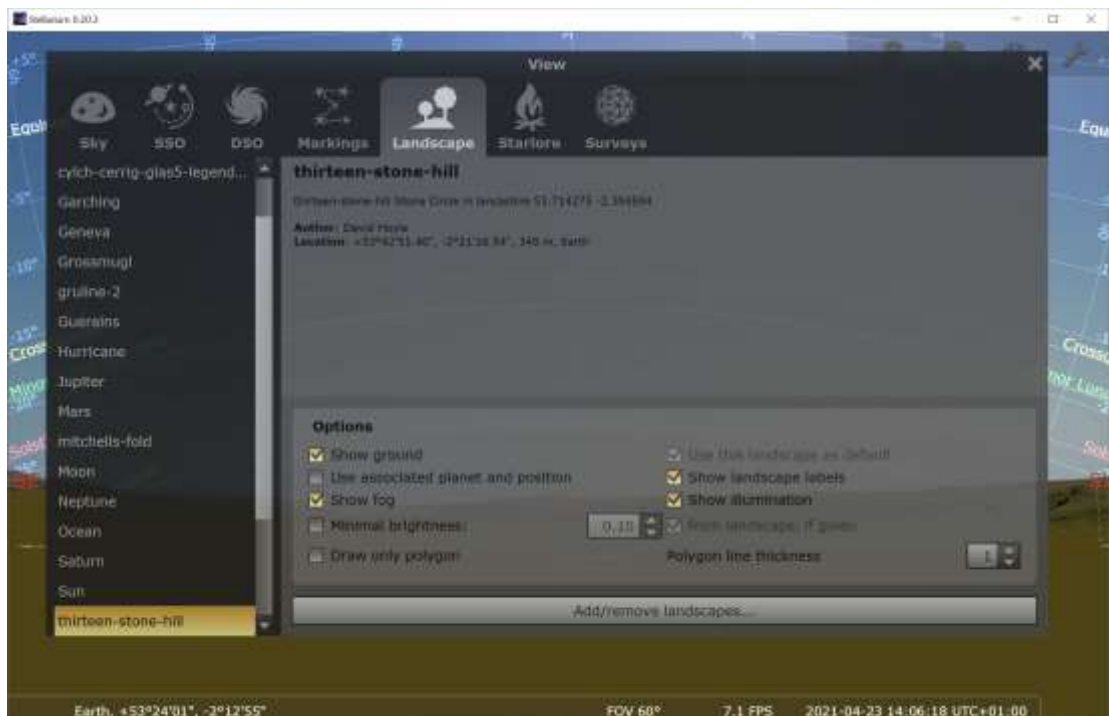

Figure 4: Stellarium Landscape, Sky and viewing options window

Within the Add/remove landscapes window, select the ***Install a new landscape from a ZIP archive*** option as shown below and then select the ZIP file within the Downloads folder as shown below and hit ***Open*** and then close ***(X)*** the Success windows. When all downloaded landscapes have been added then close the Add/remove landscapes windows ***(X)***.
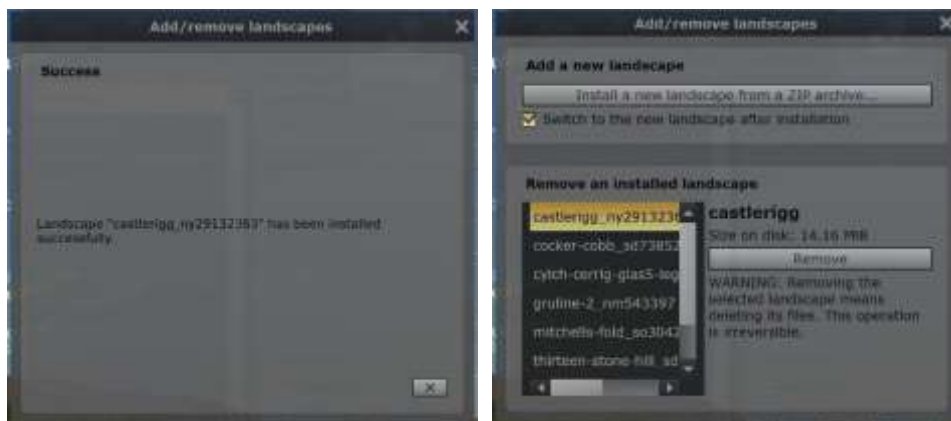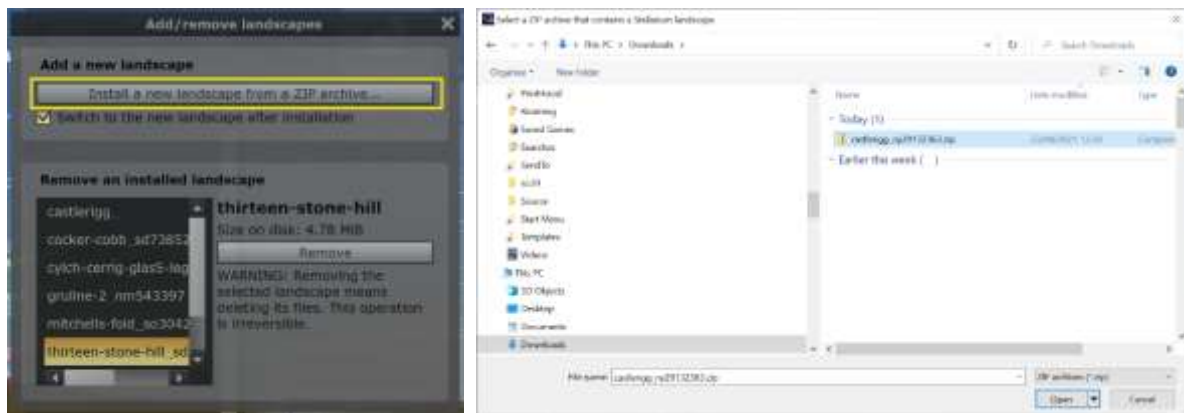

Figure 5: Adding downloaded landscapes

Next select the added Landscape (***castlerigg***) as shown below in yellow at the top left of the follow, select ***Use Associated planet and position*** (in the middle yellow box) and then check that the correct location (***Earth, castlerigg, 216 m***) has been selected (bottom left) and then close ***(X)***:
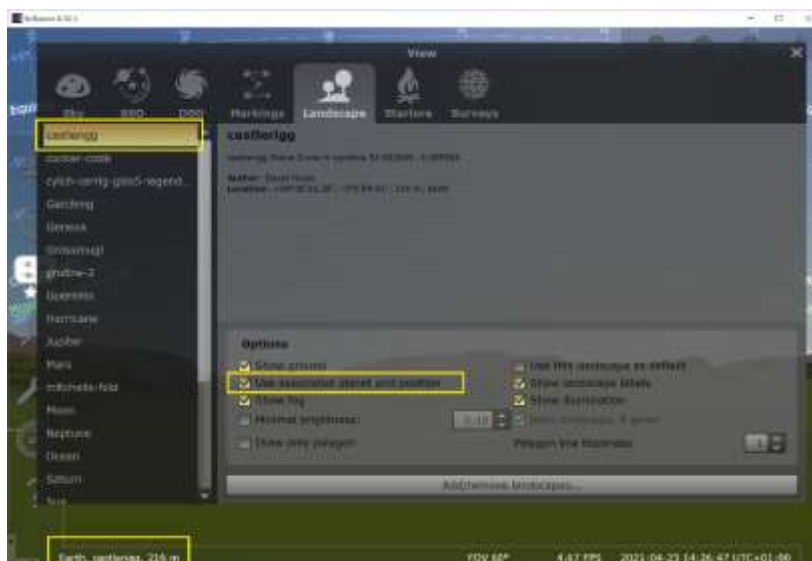

Figure 6: Select landscape

Some Interesting Dates to look at within Stellarium

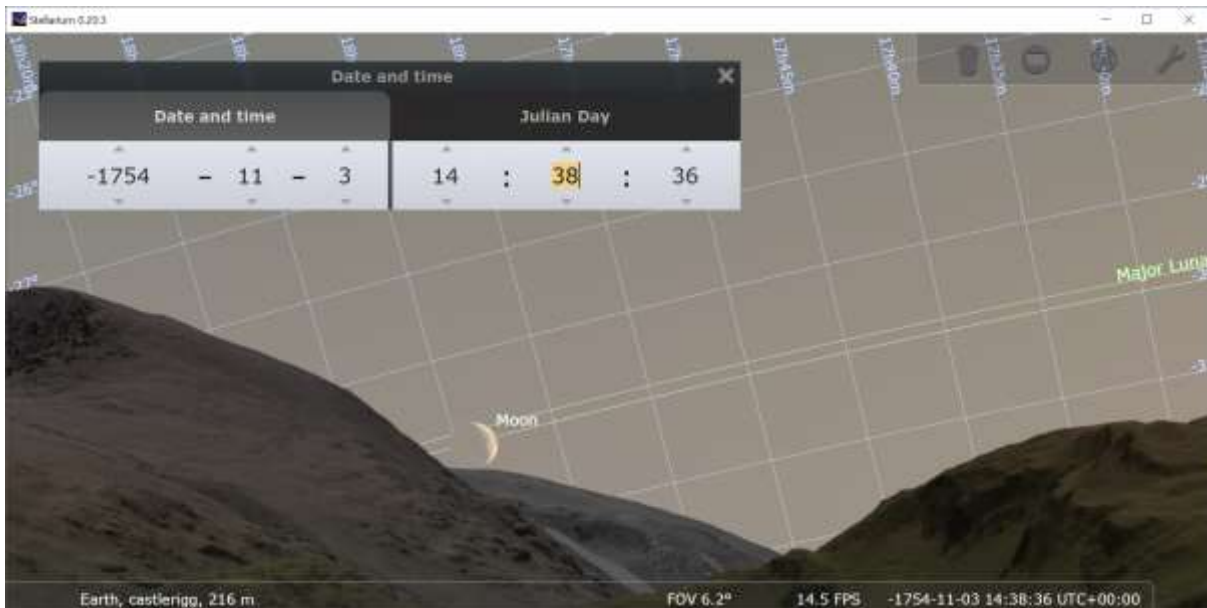Within Stellarium, you can adjust the date and time by selecting **F5** as shown below:

Figure 7: Change date and time, 1754BC from Castlerigg

Date and time	Description
-1754:09:22 08:00	Maximum Lunar Declination (~1750BC)
-1754:11:03 19:00	Minimum Lunar Declination (~1750BC)
-1996:10:25 09:00	Maximum Lunar Declination (~2000BC)
-1995:03:24 08:00	Minimum Lunar Declination (~2000BC)
-2498:09:28 08:00	Maximum Lunar Declination (~2500BC)
-2498:05:01 04:00	Minimum Lunar Declination (~2500BC)
-3001:10:08 12:00	Maximum Lunar Declination (~3000BC)
-3001:11:19 15:00	Minimum Lunar Declination (~3000BC)