

The Wiltshire Museum, Devizes


WILTSHIRE
MUSEUM
DEVIZES

**GOLD FROM
THE TIME OF
STONEHENGE**

**JOIN OUR
SATURDAY MORNING CLUB**

Join our Saturday Morning Club for a special afternoon of talks, demonstrations and activities. All welcome!

10.30 AM - 12.30 PM

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**COFFEE MORNING
& AFTERNOON TEA**

at the Museum

Saturday 30 June

10.30 AM - 12.30 PM

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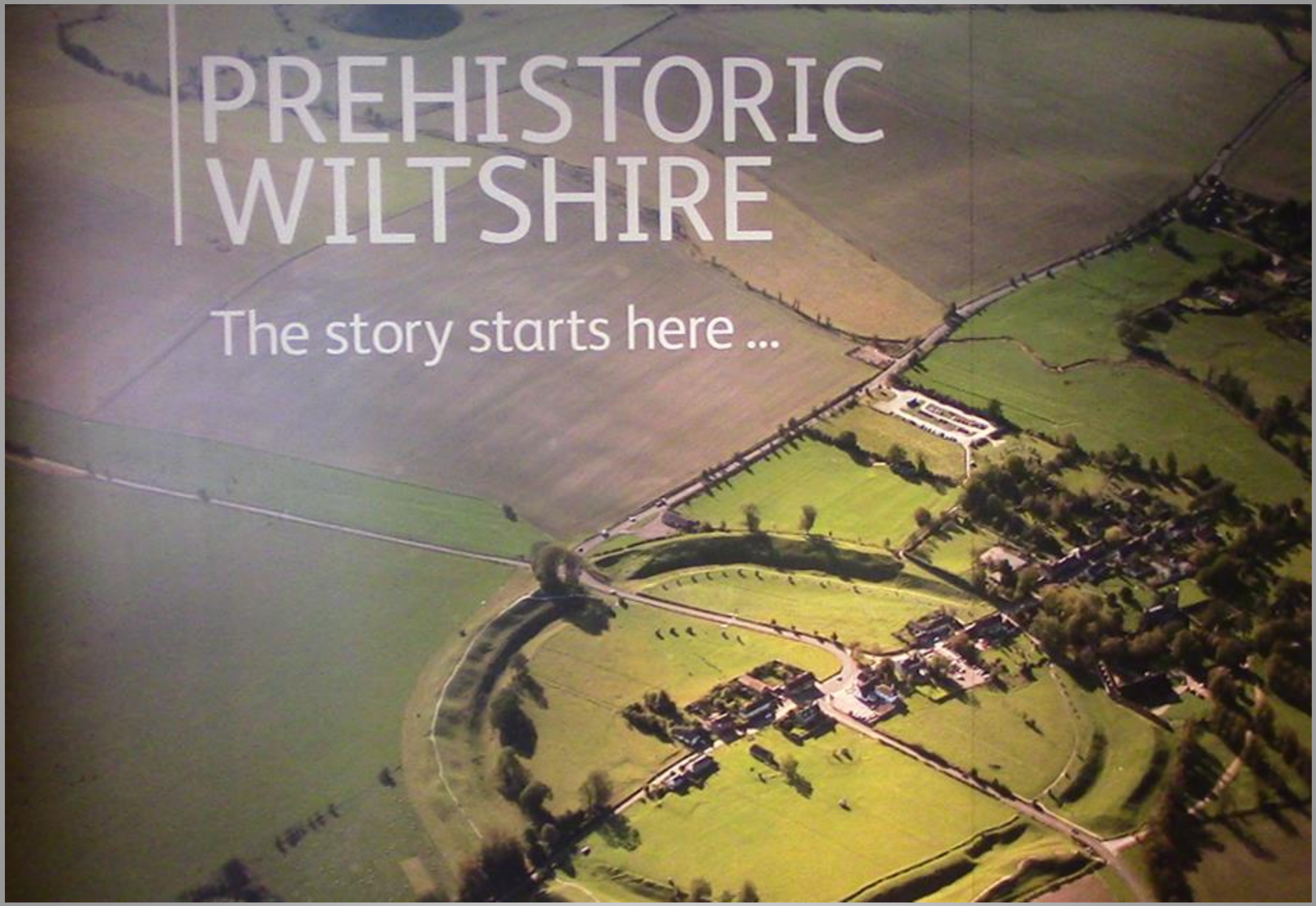
MUSEUM



WILTSHIRE MUSEUM
GOLD FROM THE TIME OF STONEHENGE

PREHISTORIC WILTSHIRE

The story starts here ...



PALAEOLITHIC
500,000 years ago – 9500BC

MESOLITHIC
9500BC – 4000BC

First people arrive in Britain



Earliest monuments appear in the landscape



TIMELINE: half a million years of Wiltshire's story



Bronze dagger

EARLIER NEOLITHIC
4000BC - 3000BC

LATER NEOLITHIC
3000BC - 2500BC

BEAKER
2500BC - 2200BC

EARLIER BRONZE AGE
2200BC - 1500BC

Farming begins in Britain
Earliest pottery

Britain's first henges

First metal
arrives

Rich burials

Gold lozenge

PREHISTORIC
500,000 years ago - 4000BC

NEOLITHIC
4000BC - 2500BC

BRONZE AGE
2500BC - 700BC

EARLY IRON AGE
700BC - 43AD



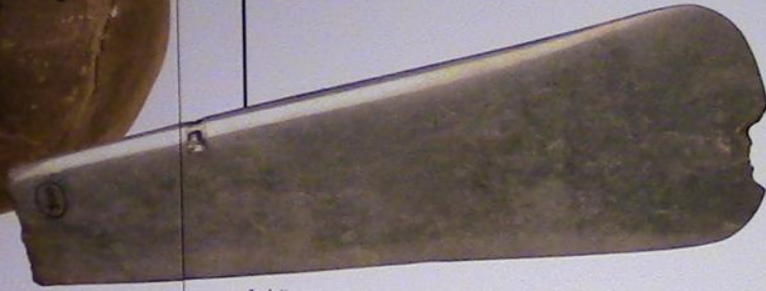
EARLIER NEOLITHIC
4000BC – 3000BC

LATER NEOLITHIC
3000BC – 2500BC

Farming begins in Britain
Earliest pottery



Pottery bowl



Jadeite axe



Britain's first henges



Stonehenge

Arrowheads



Beaker



EARLY NEOLITHIC
3500BC – 3000BC

LATER NEOLITHIC
3000BC – 2500BC

BEAKER
2500BC – 2200BC

EARLIER BRONZE AGE
2200BC – 1500BC

LATER BRONZE AGE
1500BC – 800BC

IRON AGE
800BC

Farming begins in Britain
Earliest pottery



Mill Hill

Britain's first henges



Stonehenge

Arrowheads



First metal arrives

Beaker



Rich burials



Gold lozenge

Farming settlements are the focus of daily life



Farmstead

Cremation urn



Iron repla



Marlborough bucket

Bratton Camp



LATER NEOLITHIC
3000BC – 2500BC

BEAKER
2500BC –
2200BC

EARLIER BRONZE AGE
2200BC – 1500BC

LA
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Britain's first henges



Stonehenge

First metal arrives

Rich burials



Gold lozenge

Arrowheads



Beaker



Avebury



Silbury Hill

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Farmst

Cremat

Farming settlements are
the focus of daily life



Farmstead

Iron replaces bronze



Marlborough bucket

Cremation urn

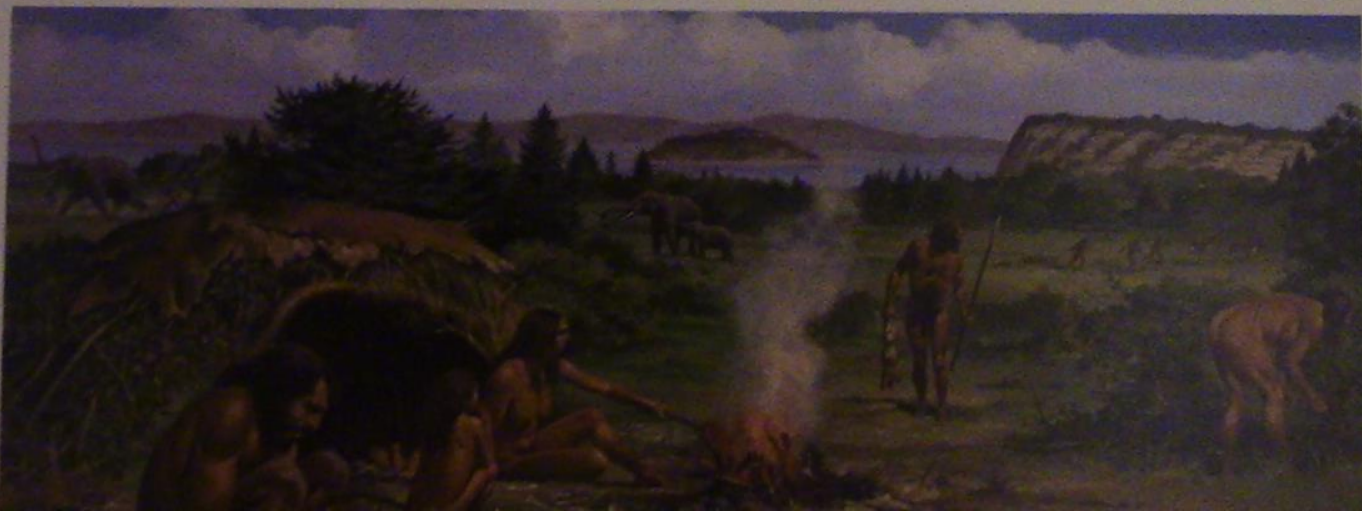


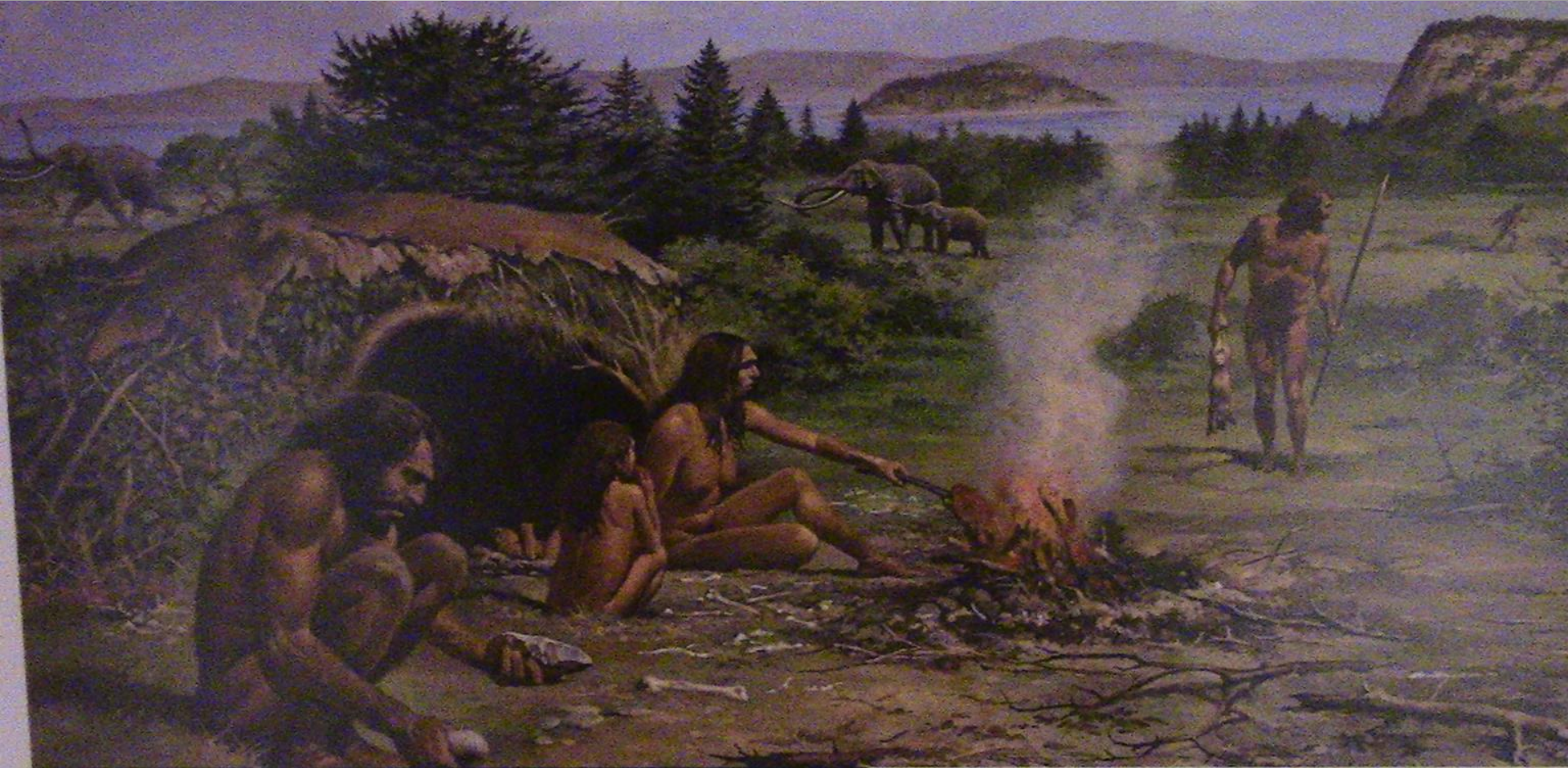
Bratton Camp



FIRST PEOPLES

People first came to Wiltshire more than half a million years ago. They lived in groups, with the skills needed to survive harsh ice age conditions.





Reconstruction of a Palaeolithic family group hunting
and cooking. Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales



Handaxes

Farm, Little Bedwyn

Handaxes were often used at temporary camps close to rivers and streams. Later the tools were washed into the river, and a large part of the river bed was covered with them. These are just three of the 2,000 handaxes found in a gravel pit at Little Bedwyn.

2 Handaxe
Woodborough

The most commonly used material for making tools in the Palaeolithic was flint. Flint is easy to work, creates sharp edges and is plentiful on the chalk downland of Wiltshire.

3 Handaxe
Beckhampton

Handaxes were all-purpose tools held in the hand for butchery, cutting and scraping.

4 Handaxe
Tilshead

Handaxes vary in size and shape. Some were hastily made and others carefully crafted.

5 Handaxe
Hillpert

Some are very glossy and naturally blown.



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AFTER THE ICE AGE

Hunter-gatherers were highly skilled, exploiting their environment for food and shelter. For the first time they began to make their mark on the landscape, building ceremonial monuments.



As the climate became milder, snow covered the ground only in winter. As the ice melted, rising sea levels flooded a vast river valley to create the English Channel.

In Wiltshire, grassland and open woodland



Reconstruction of a Mesolithic campsite on a river bank.

Wessex Archaeology

**These were modern people – Homo sapiens.
They were excellent tool-makers: knapping fine**

AFTER THE ICE AGE

Map showing the location of the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic objects featured in the displays







- 1 Flint cores and flakes**
 Mother Anthony's Well,
 Bromham; Clyffe Pypard;
 Aldbourne
 Flint was shaped into tools
 by knapping – striking the
 flint to knock off a small flake
 that could be used as a tool.
- 2 Flint microliths**
 Kington St Michael; Lanhill
 The changing climate saw
 smaller animals such as squirrels
 and red deer moving to the
 forests. Hunting these smaller
 animals needed new hunting
 strategies and equipment,
 such as barbed arrowheads
 and harpoons that were tipped
 with these small points.
- 3 Replica shredding board**
 People may have used
 shredding boards for cutting
 or grating plants and meat.
- 4 Flint tools**
 Mother Anthony's Well
 Groups of tools like this are
 evidence for temporary camps.
 Many have been found
 alongside rivers in Wiltshire.
- 5 Macehead**
 Fifield Bavant Down
 Made from a pebble, possibly
 used as a hammer or as a
 weight for a digging stick.
- 6 Chisel-shaped arrowhead**
 Wiltshire
 Made to immobilise an
 animal rather than kill it.



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Wiltshire
Made to immobilise an
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8 Two flint axes
Aldbourne

People began to control the environment by clearing areas of woodland, either by creating forest fires or by cutting down trees with flint axes. This new type of tranche axe was hafted on a wooden handle, and was quick to make and easy to repair.

EARLIER NEOLITHIC
4000BC – 3000BC



CROPS, CATTLE AND CEREMONIES

About 6,000 years ago people began a new way of life which transformed the landscape around them. They started to grow crops, keep animals and build impressive ceremonial monuments.





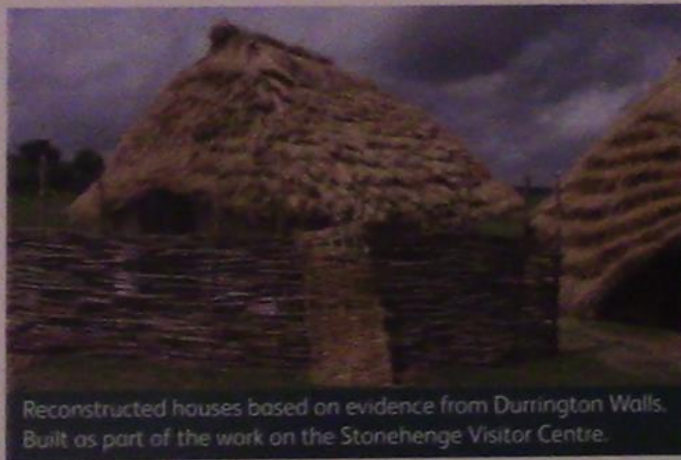
Sarsens at West Overton.



West Kennet Long Barrow.

FIRST FARMERS

Wiltshire's earliest farmers began to settle and put down roots. They cleared areas of woodland, creating grassland for grazing animals and growing cereal crops.



Reconstructed houses based on evidence from Durrington Walls. Built as part of the work on the Stonehenge Visitor Centre.

New ideas spread rapidly from the Continent across to Britain, bringing fundamental changes to society. People settled in one place, where they grew and stored enough food to last them through the winter. As life became more predictable, they could invest their time in building more permanent homes and celebrate the seasons of the year with rituals and ceremonies.

Like their Mesolithic ancestors, people still
used their hands and feet to gather nuts, berries



Reconstructed houses based on evidence from Durrington Walls.
Built as part of the work on the Stonehenge Visitor Centre.



1



2



3

Map showing the location of the objects in this case



1 Flint axe
Findspot unknown

Flint axes, hafted onto wooden handles, were an essential tool in the Neolithic. They were used for cutting down trees to clear areas for growing crops and grazing animals.

2 Flint axe rough-out
Amesbury

Axes were roughly chipped to shape before being ground smooth. On this axe, the scars of the rough flaking can still be seen.

3 Four polished flint axes
Crudwell; Marlborough Downs; Pewsey

Grinding and polishing axes took many days, but this made them much stronger and longer lasting as they cut wood more cleanly and effectively.



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Neolithic flaked axe
A magnificent example of a flaked axehead, dating to 3500-2200 BC.
Donated to the Museum by Mrs A Lennard, who found it whilst digging in her garden in Warrminster, 2016.

1 Flint axe

4 Flint chisel
Amesbury

Chisels were used for making wooden tools and for more sophisticated carpentry, such as mortice and tenon joints.

5 Antler rake
Corston Spring

These tools were used to prepare the land for planting the first cereal crops of wheat and barley.

6 Replica sickle

Sickles were used for cutting cereal crops, grasses and other tall plants.

5 Antler rake



6

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7 Bowl
Windmill Hill

Pottery was a new technology in the Neolithic. Pots were used to store and cook food. They were handmade by pinching, coiling or building slabs of clay together, then dried outside and fired in a bonfire.

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8 Bowl
Woodhenge
Pots have rounded bases for sitting in a fire. This meant it was possible to easily boil food for the first time.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The new way of life was made possible by a range of new tools and materials. Flint, stone and pottery survive, but wooden tools and equipment have left few traces.



Woodland needed to be cleared to create space for growing crops and keeping animals. Trees were felled using highly effective flint and stone axes. These were roughly chipped from a specially chosen piece of stone or flint, with a carefully prepared cutting edge. The axe-head was then fixed on to a wooden handle, and

For the first time, pots were used for preparing and serving food. They were hand-made using clay and fired on open bonfires. The skills needed to make and decorate pottery would have been passed down through the generations. Potters held respected positions in society and their work may have been regarded as magical.



TREASURES FROM FAR AWAY



Polished stone axe
Aldbourn

Stone axes found in Wiltshire provide evidence for long distance exchange in the Neolithic. This axe is made of basalt rock from the mountain of Tievebulliagh in Northern Ireland. Thousands of axes were produced from rock quarried here.

Map showing the source of the stone used to make the axes in this case



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Map showing the source of the stone used to make the axes in this case.

Stone axe

Luckington

Made of greenstone, polished axes like this one are known to have come from axe factories in North Wales and Langdale in Cumbria.



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Jadeite axe

The jadeite used to make this axe comes from the North Italian Alps, probably Mont Viso.

Map showing the source of the stone used to make the axes in this case



shed axes like this one
from axe factories in
e in Cumbria.
esbury

Map showing the source
of the stone used to make
the axes in this case



1 Stone axe
Grovely, Great Wishford
People found that tools made from igneous rock, like this polished axe from North Wales, were much harder-wearing and less likely to shatter than those made of flint.

2 Six stone axes
Mildenhall; Devizes; Biddestone; All Cannings
Axes made from high quality stone, found in places such as Cumbria and Cornwall, were highly desirable. Stone axes from the axe factories of Cornwall are found across Salisbury Plain and the Mendons of Dorset.

3 Stone axe
Windmill Hill, Avebury
Sites such as Windmill Hill were meeting places and centres for the exchange of goods. Axes from many of the known factory sites have been found here.

4 Stone axe, axe rough-out and a macehead
South Marston; Aldbourne
Axe factories are rock outcrops where roughly shaped and broken axes have been found. The finds from Great Langdale in Cumbria show that axes were produced in

5 Jadeite axe
Breamore
This axe is made of jadeite and has been found in north Italy. It is one of the stone axes found by researchers on the Project Jade.



other Alpine axeheads found in Britain, it wasn't necessarily very old when it arrived in England.

Found in Wiltshire in 2003.

On loan from Paul Sims, Trowbridge

5 Jadeite axe
Breamore, Hampshire

This axe is made of jadeite, and has been brought from high in the north Italian Alps. The 'signature' of the stone has been analysed by researchers from the international Projet Jade and they have located the actual boulder from which this axe is made. The axe was brought to Britain about 6,000 years ago by people from one of the earliest farming communities. Jadeite is

harder than steel, and the axe took over 1,000 hours to make. The axe may have been placed in a spring or in the River Avon, perhaps as an offering.

The exact details of its discovery are unclear, but it is thought to have been found just across the Hampshire border in Breamore. It came to the Museum as part of the collection of Mr Joshua W.

Brooke who said in a letter to the society on 10 August 1927: 'It was found at Marsh Farm, Breamore, by Mrs Jeans, the mother of the late Mark Jeans. She used it as a paper knife but as it tore more leaves than it cut she threw it out the window and it fell on a stone and the end was chipped.'

6 Stone axe
Calne

This axe is made of emery, a very hard stone from the Greek island of Naxos. It may be evidence of long distance links in the Neolithic. However, the exact circumstances of its discovery are not clear, and it is possible that it may have been brought back from Greece by a much later traveller.



5 Jadeite axe
Breamore, Hampshire
This axe is made of jadeite, and
has been brought from high in the

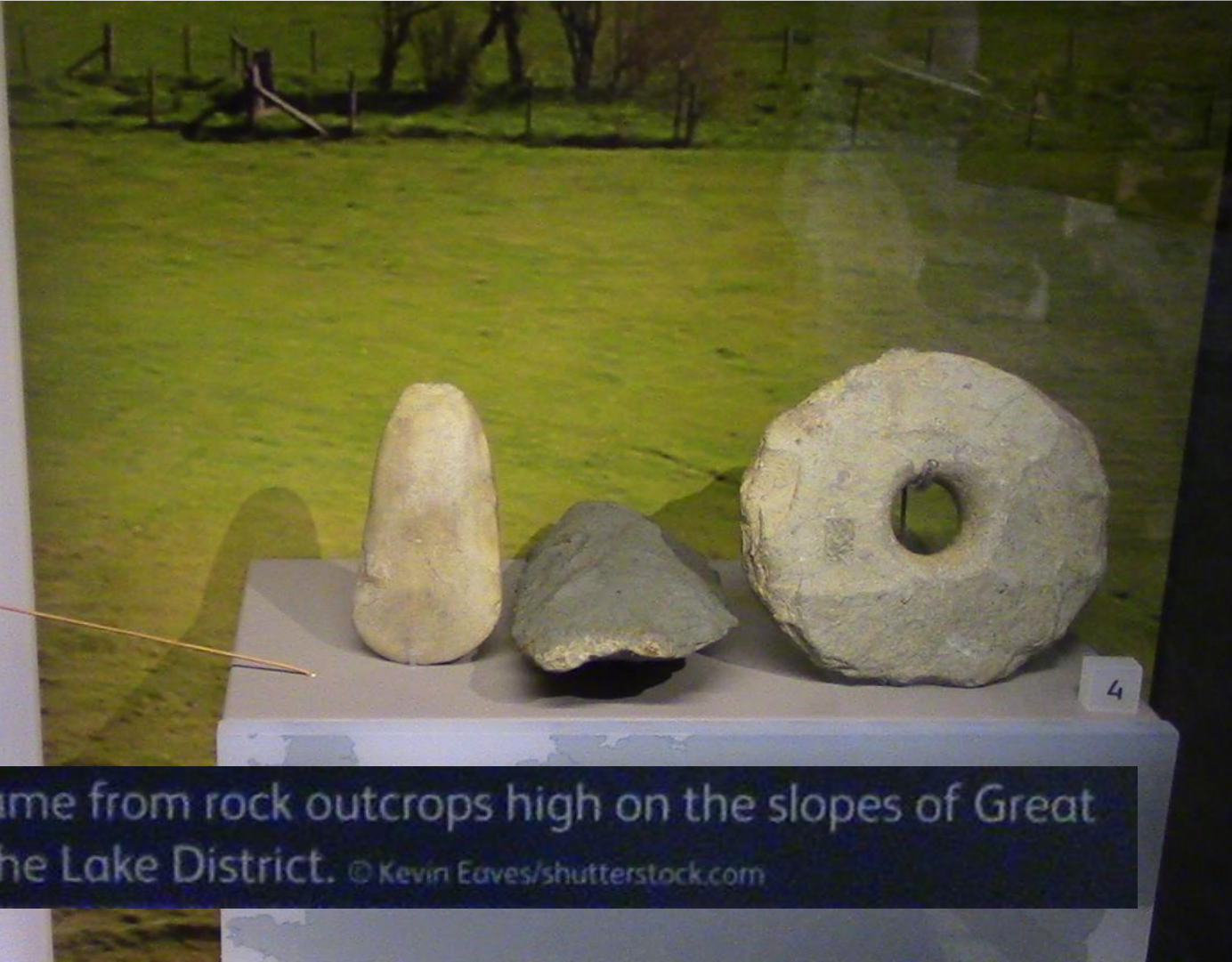
Jadeite axe
The jadeite used to make this axe
comes from the North Italian Alps,
probably Mont Viso.

These types of axes were made in the
late 5th millennium and early in the 4th
millennium BC, and unlike some of the
other Alpine axeheads found in Britain,
it wasn't necessarily very old when it
arrived in England.

Found in Wiltshire in 2003.

On loan from Paul Sims, Trowbridge

axe Brooke who said in a letter to



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Many axes came from rock outcrops high on the slopes of Great Langdale in the Lake District. © Kevin Eaves/shutterstock.com



Many axes came from rock outcrops high on the slopes of Great Langdale in the Lake District. © Kevin Eaves/shutterstock.com

TREASURES FROM FAR AWAY

Giving and receiving stone axes created and maintained friendships and alliances. Axes were made of carefully selected stone and flint, which was exchanged or traded over considerable distances.



Axes had an iconic status. They were used to cut down forests to create fields and clearings for animals to graze. This gave them an extraordinary economic and symbolic importance. They also played an important part

MEETING PLACES AND MONUMENTS

Two polished bone pins
Blacknall Field, Pewsey

These may have been dress pins
or piercing tools. They were found
inside a Neolithic pit during the
excavation of an Anglo-Saxon
cemetery near Pewsey.



Map showing the location
of the objects in this case



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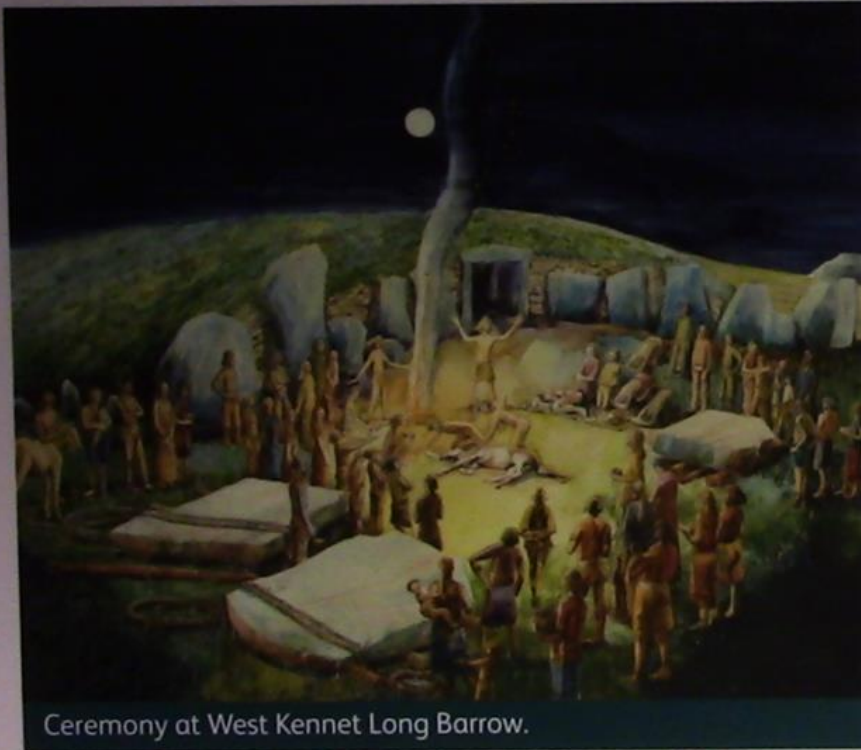
MEETING PLACES AND MONUMENTS

People started to build the large ceremonial monuments, such as long barrows and causewayed enclosures, that were to dominate the Wiltshire landscape.



As people became more settled, they began to create monuments that marked the landscape with permanent symbols of ownership.

enclosures, that were to dominate the Wiltshire landscape.



Ceremony at West Kennet Long Barrow.

As people became more settled, they began to create monuments that marked the landscape with permanent symbols of ownership.

Long barrows were one of the first monuments to be built. They were places where the dead were buried together, in chambers lined with timber or built of stone. The mounds of chalk that cover the chambers were impressive features of the landscape, visible for miles around.



Windmill Hill causewayed enclosure. There are three circuits of banks and ditches, with causeways marking the entrances.



The site was discovered in 1961 by the archaeologist... at the top of... All above the... bank and ditch were... in about... by the outer... The inner and... of day within the... and took... to complete... the wall... to be constructed... used for... of... in the... of... and... the... of... and...
13

WEST KENNET LONG BARROW

People came together to bury their dead in long barrows. When first built, the mounds were gleaming white chalk, visible for miles around.



West Kennet Long Barrow is 100 metres in length with a burial chamber at its eastern end, facing the morning sun. Inside, a stone-lined passage led to five chambers built of massive sarsen stones. At least 45 men, women and children were buried there; all had died within



Ceremony at West Kennet Long Barrow.



The chambers are at the eastern end of the 100m long barrow.

West Kennet Long Barrow is 100 metres in length with a burial chamber at its eastern end, facing the morning sun. Inside, a stone-lined passage led to five chambers built of massive sarsen stones. At least 45 men, women and children were buried there; all had died within a few years of each other. They were not placed in the chambers as complete bodies, but were left in the open air to decompose, and only parts of the bodies were placed inside the tomb. Some bones were neatly arranged inside the chambers in groups of similar types, while others lay in a jumble on the floor.

The area outside the barrow was large enough for many people to take part in ceremonies. However, there was only enough space for two or three people to go into the dark narrow passage leading to the chambers. The walls were damp and the only light was from flickering lamps. Did it feel like entering another world? Did it trigger visions of the spirits of the ancestors?

The tomb remained open, allowing people to



Jumbled bones of three people buried in the south west chamber.



WEST KENNET LONG BARROW

People came together to bury their dead in long barrows. When first built, the interiors were gleaming white chalk, visible for miles around.



Reputed to contain 100 bodies in all, the West Kennet Avenue Neolithic long barrow is the largest and most complex of the Neolithic chambered tombs in England. It was built in the 3rd millennium BC, and is one of the best-preserved of the Neolithic chambered tombs in England. It is one of the most important Neolithic sites in England, and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It is also a World Heritage Site, as part of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site.









WEST KENNET LONG BARROW

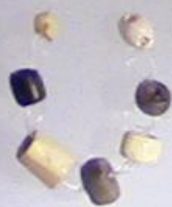


Four bone beads

Personal possessions including beads, pottery and stone tools were found alongside the burials at West Kennet Long Barrow.

Three bead necklaces

Many natural materials were used for making jewellery. These necklaces were strung



including beads, pottery and stone tools were found alongside the burials at West Kennet Long Barrow.



Three bead necklaces

Many natural materials were used for making jewellery. These necklaces were strung using beads made from shale, bone, ivory, tooth and shell. Shale comes from the Dorset coast.



Chalk bead and two bone scoops

Personal possessions were chosen to accompany the dead into the afterlife.

shale, bone, ivory, tooth and shell. Shale comes from the Dorset coast.



Chalk bead and two bone scoops

Personal possessions were chosen to accompany the dead into the afterlife.

West Kennet Long Barrow





1 Four bone pins
West Kennet Long Barrow
Bone pins were probably used for fastening clothes. These highly polished examples would have taken hours of effort to produce.

2 Peterborough Ware bowl
West Kennet Long Barrow
This pot was decorated by pinching the wet clay with finger tips. The rim decoration was made by pressing bird bones into the clay.

3 Windmill Hill bowl
West Kennet Long Barrow
Pottery was decorated using shells, twigs, bone points, flint tools and finger nail marks.



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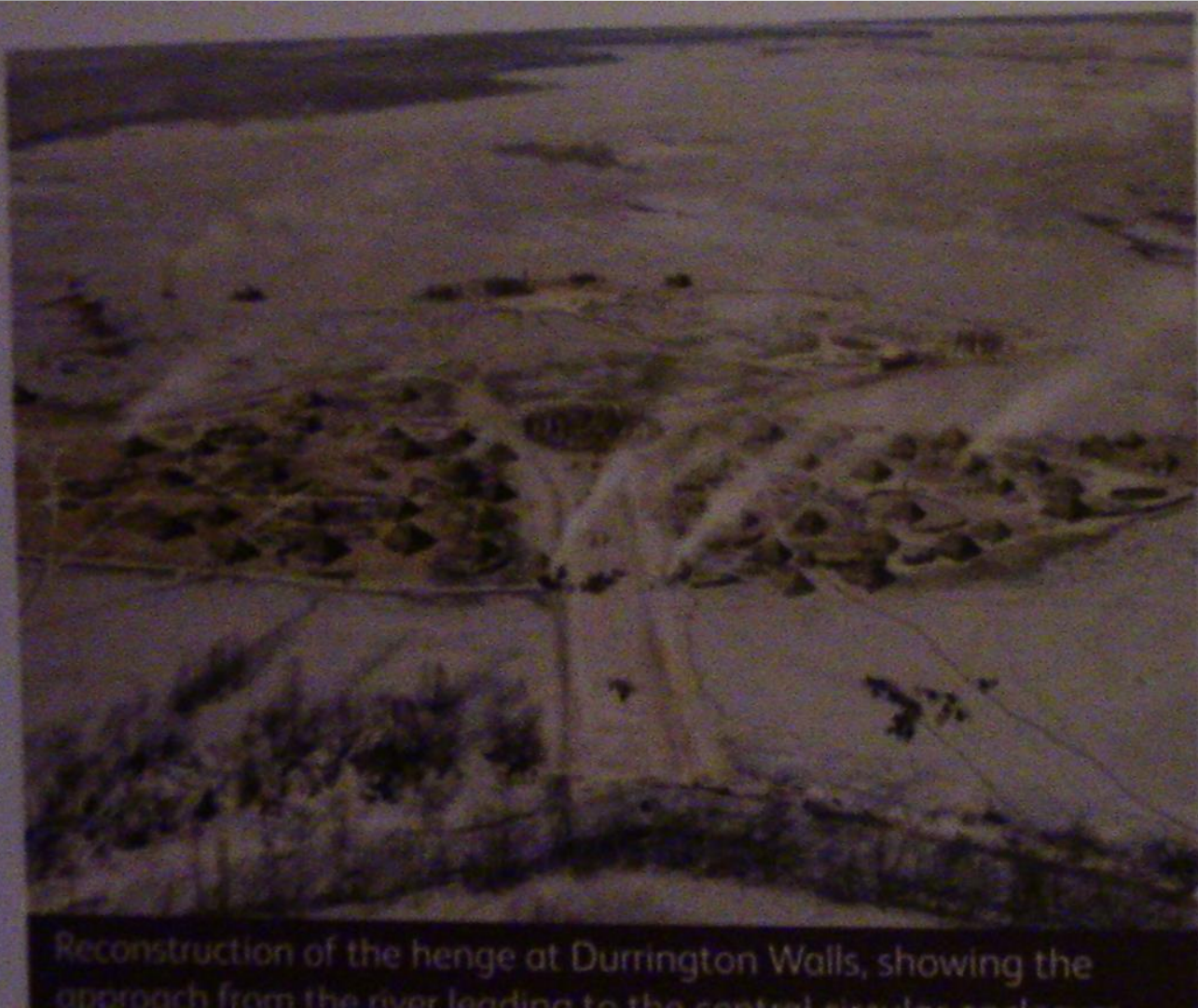
Pottery was made in a range of shapes and decorated in distinctive styles. Archaeologists name these styles after the places where they were first found, and the pottery can be used to give a date for the site.

HENGES, CEREMONIES AND FEASTS

4,500 years ago in Wiltshire, people travelled far and wide, gathering at enormous henge monuments, to take part in ceremonies and feasting.



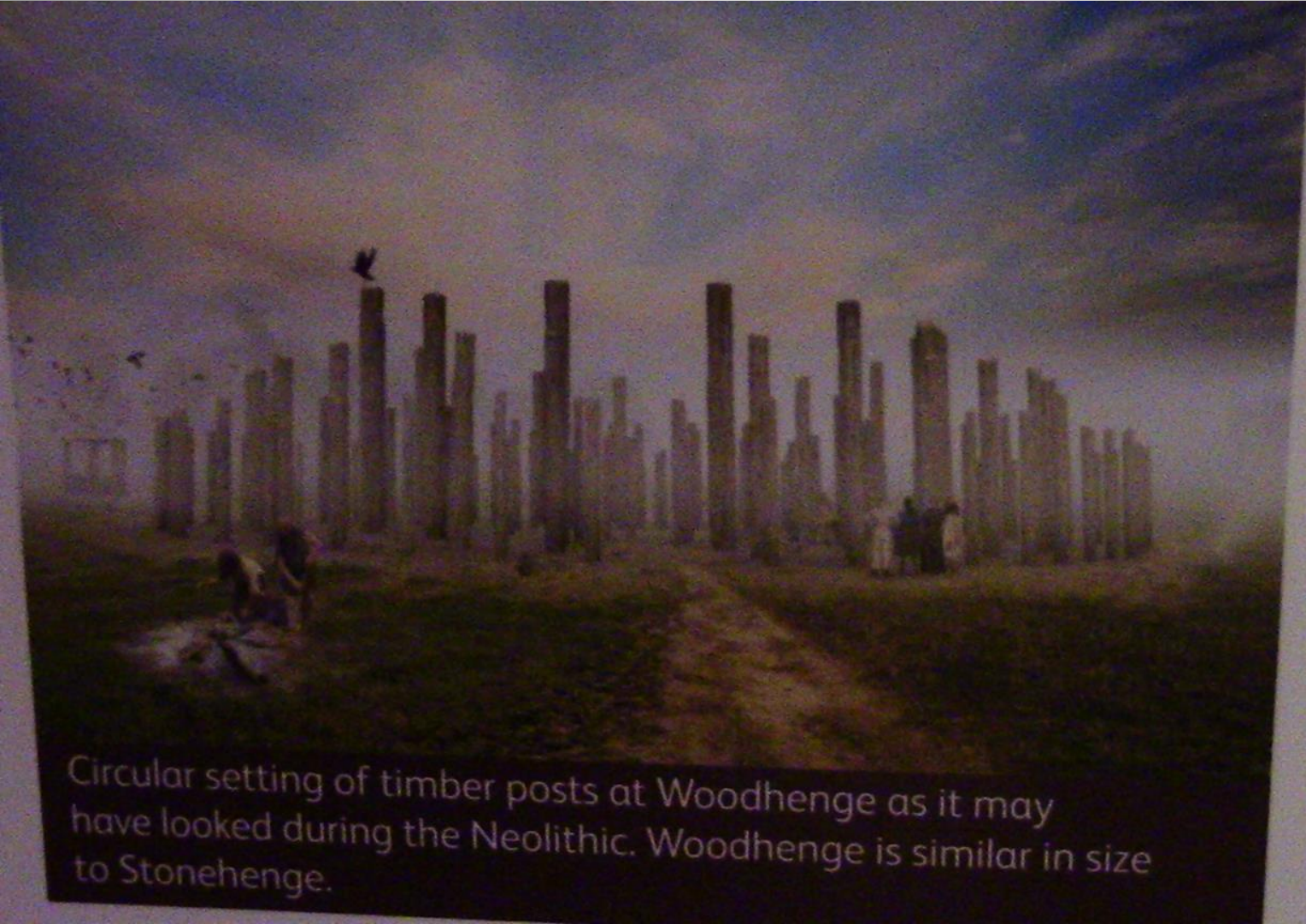
Wiltshire's henges were built to impress. They are roughly circular in shape, a deep ditch surrounded by a high earthen bank. They were designed to enclose a sacred space.



Wiltshire's henge
They are rough
ditch surrounde
They were desi
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Wiltshire's larg
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They were all in

Reconstruction of the henge at Durrington Walls, showing the approach from the river leading to the central area.



Circular setting of timber posts at Woodhenge as it may have looked during the Neolithic. Woodhenge is similar in size to Stonehenge.



who could afford to waste precious resources

Ceremony at Woodhenge. Cattle skulls were carefully positioned close to the entrance across the ditch.



WOODHENGE

Woodhenge was a ceremonial monument, with six concentric rings of timber posts, up to seven metres tall.

It once had a horseshoe of five stones at its centre and is enclosed by a bank and ditch. It is close to Durrington Walls and similar in size to Stonehenge which is just two kilometres away.

A child was buried at the centre of the monument, their grave marked by a mound of flints. In the surrounding ditch was the body of a teenager. These burials suggest that Woodhenge was of great ceremonial importance.

to the Nation.

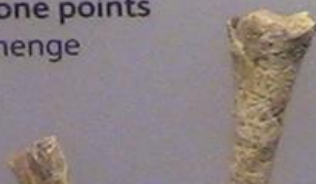


Nine flint arrowheads
Woodhenge

Boars tooth
Woodhenge



Two bone points
Woodhenge





1 Sarsen maul
Stonehenge(?), Amesbury
Mauls were used to pound stone, gradually dressing it to shape. This maul may have been used during the construction of Stonehenge.

2 Antler pick
Woodhenge
Antler picks were used in the construction of henge monuments to dig ditches and post holes. The point of the pick was hammered into a crevice in the chalk, using a hammer of wood or stone. It was then used as a lever to prise out a block of chalk.

3 Five Grooved Ware sherds
Woodhenge
Grooved Ware pottery gets its name from the grooved lines, triangles and lozenges it is decorated with. Sometimes, decorated clay strips were also added to the vessel.

...d by aerial photography. It was first
...vated by Maud and Ben Cunnington between
...26 and 1929, and the site was given by them
...the Nation.



Nine flint arrowheads
Woodhenge



Boar's tooth
Woodhenge



Two bone points
Woodhenge



4 Grooved Ware pot
Woodhenge

Grooved ware vessels usually have flat bases and sloping sides. Some were enormous, capable of holding 100 litres of liquid.

Marden Henge

Smaller henge - site
of 2010 excavations



5 Granite axe
Woodhenge

Axe made of stone brought from the tip of Cornwall.

6 Chalk axe
Woodhenge

A copy of a polished stone axe made from chalk. It was probably a ceremonial object, as chalk is too soft to be used for any practical purpose.

7 Chalk cup
Woodhenge, Durrington

Chalk cups are known from several Neolithic sites, some may have been used as lamps.

Model of Marden Henge, showing the Hatfield Barrow (top centre) and the smaller henge near the River Avon.

9



9 Two Grooved Ware sherds
Marden Henge

Grooved Ware pottery has been found in large quantities at many of the henge sites in Wiltshire, including Marden Henge, Durrington Walls and Avebury.

10



10 Two sarsen stone flakes
Marden Henge

Sarsen stone was readily available in the Wiltshire landscape, and was sometimes used to make tools. It is also possible that these flakes come from standing stones that formed part of a ceremonial monument.



8

Flint tools

Marden Henge

These tools would have been used to butcher the huge amounts of animal meat consumed at Marden Henge.

MARDEN HENGE

Marden is the largest henge monument in Britain, a ritual complex that includes England's best-preserved Neolithic building.

Located roughly midway between Avebury and Stonehenge, the henge at Marden encloses an area of more than 30 acres with an enormous bank and ditch.

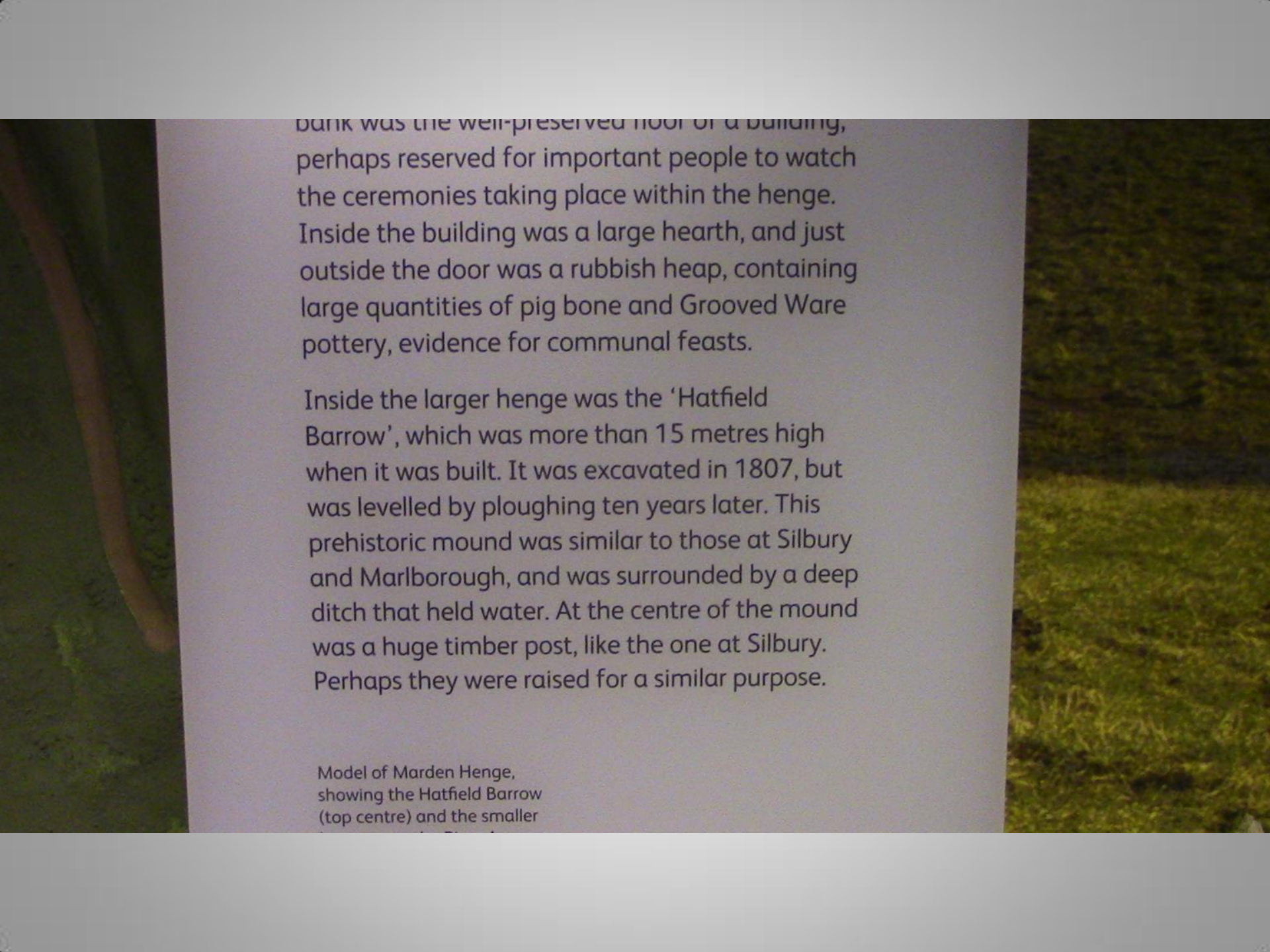
Excavations in 2010 revealed a smaller henge

building.

Located roughly midway between Avebury and Stonehenge, the henge at Marden encloses an area of more than 30 acres with an enormous bank and ditch.

Excavations in 2010 revealed a smaller henge built inside the main enclosure. On top of the bank was the well-preserved floor of a building, perhaps reserved for important people to watch the ceremonies taking place within the henge. Inside the building was a large hearth, and just outside the door was a rubbish heap, containing large quantities of pig bone and Grooved Ware pottery, evidence for communal feasts.

Inside the larger henge was the 'Hatfield Barrow', which was more than 15 metres high when it was built. It was excavated in 1807, but was levelled by ploughing ten years later. This



bank was the well-preserved floor of a building, perhaps reserved for important people to watch the ceremonies taking place within the henge. Inside the building was a large hearth, and just outside the door was a rubbish heap, containing large quantities of pig bone and Grooved Ware pottery, evidence for communal feasts.

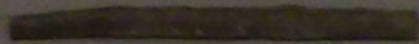
Inside the larger henge was the 'Hatfield Barrow', which was more than 15 metres high when it was built. It was excavated in 1807, but was levelled by ploughing ten years later. This prehistoric mound was similar to those at Silbury and Marlborough, and was surrounded by a deep ditch that held water. At the centre of the mound was a huge timber post, like the one at Silbury. Perhaps they were raised for a similar purpose.

Model of Marden Henge,
showing the Hatfield Barrow
(top centre) and the smaller

One of the most exciting finds made in 2015 at Marden Henge was a finely worked thin rod of flint, which turned out to be the long, slender tail of a magnificent arrowhead found in 2010. The tail had been snapped off before the arrowhead was discarded. These two pieces of flint, excavated five years apart have now been reunited for the first time in 4,500 years.

More finds from the henges at Marden and Wilsford are on display in the Temporary Exhibitions Gallery, on the ground floor of the Museum.

11



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More finds from the henges at Marden and Wilsford are on display in the Temporary Exhibitions Gallery, on the ground floor of the Museum.





12 Grooved Ware pot
Marden Henge

Large vessels, like this one from Marden, were used for cooking and serving pork at the ceremonies that took place in Wiltshire's henges.

BEAKER

FIRST METALS

FIRST METALS

The people who used the first metals also brought new religious beliefs. They buried their dead with their prized possessions.



Copper flat axes were cast in stone moulds.

Newcomers arrived on Britain's shores by boat, bringing exotic items that the local people had never seen before. They included archery equipment made of carefully selected stone, special drinking vessels known as beakers, axes made of copper and ornaments made of gold.

To the local people, the new technology of metal-working must have seemed almost magical. Metal-workers had the power to extract ore from the earth and use fire to create glittering metal tools and ornaments. These skills would have given them power and status in society.

At the same time, the newcomers would



Copper flat axes were cast in stone moulds.

At the same time, the newcomers would have been in awe of the enormous henge monuments which dominated the landscape, and the elaborate ceremonies performed inside them. The two groups were very different. We do not know if the local people felt that their social position was being challenged by the newcomers, or welcomed them. But soon their skills and new ways were embraced and the old traditions disappeared.

The gold sun disc from a Beaker burial in Mere is one of the earliest examples of metal-working in Britain.



and status in society.



Beakers are distinctive drinking vessels shaped like an upside down bell.

Most of what we know of this time comes from burials. One of the earliest Beaker burials in Wiltshire was found above the village of Mere on the south-western tip of Salisbury Plain. Buried with this important person was a thinly beaten gold disc decorated with a cross, perhaps representing the sun. These 'sun discs' suggest that people worshipped the sun, echoing the alignment of monuments with the solstices.



Gold sun disc
Monkton Farleigh, Jug's Grave

This disc may have been sewn to an item of clothing or formed part of a head-dress. It was found with a burial overlooking the valley of the River Avon.

Given in remembrance of Denis S. Whitehead of Inwoods, Farleigh Wick



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Objects from the Mere G6a 'sun disc' Beaker burial will be on display at the MAMUZ Museum Austria, in an exhibition about Stonehenge and the surrounding landscape from March 2017.



WILTSHIRE MUSEUM
DEVIZES

2 Gold sun disc

Mere, barrow G6a

This 'sun disc' was originally one of a pair. It was probably stitched to clothing, like a badge or a button. The gold colour and circular shape suggests that people may have worshipped the sun.

3 Bone spatula

Mere, barrow G

This bone spatula was probably used for working flint, but it may have been used for modelling or working leather or as part of an archer's

BEAKER

BURIALS, BEAKERS AND BRONZE

The people who used beakers buried their dead in single graves and built earthen mounds or barrows above them. The dead were often buried with exotic grave goods.

The dead were buried lying on their side in

with exotic grave goods.



The dead were buried lying on their side in a crouched position. They were accompanied by a beaker, a highly decorated drinking cup, in the shape of an upturned bell. Some were also buried with metal objects.

Men were often buried with copper or bronze daggers and whetstones to sharpen the blade. Some had an archer's toolkit, including a stone wristguard, and barbed and tanged flint arrowheads. Wooden objects including bows and the shafts of arrows, as well as clothing and fur have all rotted away leaving few traces. Large buttons and pendants made from jet and shale, and necklaces made from shells and small fossils have been found in both male and female graves.

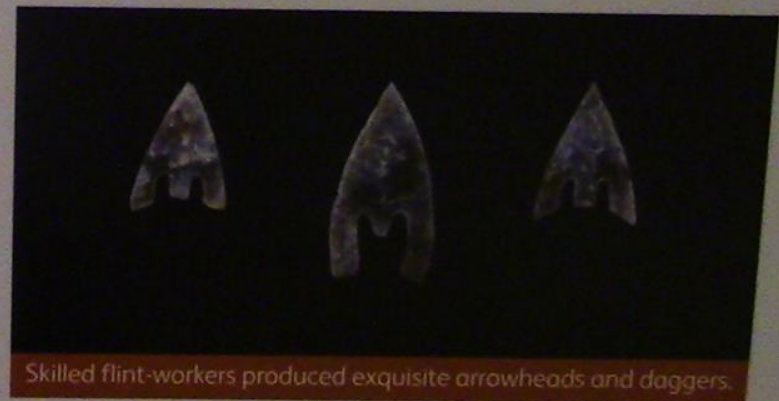
Beakers and bronze daggers were new and exotic grave goods.

Beakers and bronze daggers were new and exotic grave goods.

The objects buried with the dead were personal possessions, or offerings to aid their journey into the next life. Or they may have been gifts from mourners. The finely-made arrowheads and flint daggers are so delicate that they may have been purely for display. Perhaps these objects were symbols of the values, beliefs and social status that the person held in life.

In contrast, some of the objects are well used and show signs of repair. These objects were special in some other way. Perhaps they were heirlooms, handed down through the generations of a family. Or they may have been treasured possessions, brought to a new family to cement a marriage alliance.

The Stonehenge dagger.



Skilled flint-workers produced exquisite arrowheads and daggers.





Bronze dagger
 Milton, barrow G5
 This dagger had a handle decorated with bronze studs, and a blade made of ivory from a mammoth, such as a walrus. The point is made of bronze and perhaps once been an earlier dagger, or a spearhead.

Three arrowheads
 Coltingbourne Kingston, barrow G19
 New types of flint arrowheads were made in the Beaker period, with either a tang or a tang and two barbs. The barbs were designed to make sure the arrow remained in the prey and worked its way deeper into the flesh.

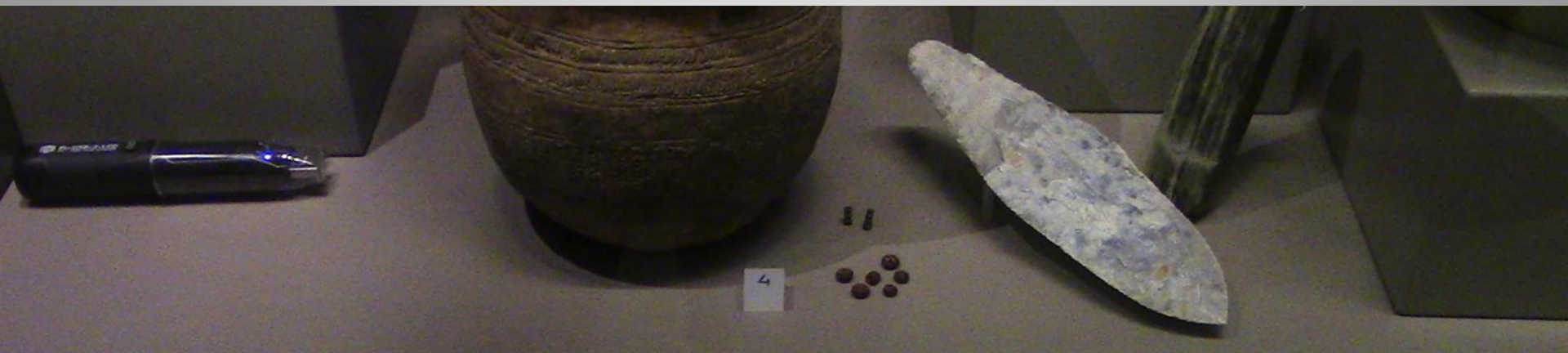
Five arrowheads
 Seend, West Overton, barrow G5
 Woodhenge, West Ditch
 Barbed and tanged arrowheads found with Beaker burials are part of an archer's toolkit along with stone wristguards. The wooden bow would rot away soon after the hunt.

1 Beaker
 Cove, Avebury

2 Long-necked beaker
 Wilsford, barrow G51

3 Long-necked beaker
 Wilsford, barrow G62

4 Beaker burial
 Avebury, barrow G61



1 Bell beaker

The Cove, Avebury

Beaker excavated from the Cove at Avebury – the setting of stones inside the northern circle of stones. At this time, burials were sometimes made alongside the stones of earlier monuments, including the West Kennet Avenue.

2 Long-necked beaker

Wilsford, barrow G51

Beaker buried with the body of a child. This burial was dug into a barrow that had already been built over an earlier burial. Later, the body of an adult man was cremated, and the barrow made even larger, using soil and rubbish from a nearby settlement.

3 Long-necked beaker

Wilsford, barrow G62

Beaker people, so called after their distinctive shaped pottery, travelled to Britain from Europe by boat. They brought with them metal-working technology and the first objects made of copper and gold.

4 Beaker burial

Amesbury, barrow G54

A man lying on his side in the crouched position was buried under a large round barrow. At his feet were a beaker, a hammer of polished hornstone for working metal and a fine flint dagger, known as the Stonehenge dagger. A woman found with beads made of faience and amber was also buried in the barrow.

5 Bell beaker and all over cord beaker

West Kennet Long Barrow

These beakers were placed in the chambers of West Kennet Long Barrow, marking the closing of the tomb that had been a focus for ceremonies for over 1,000 years.

6 Long-necked beaker

Wilsford, barrow G62
Four individuals buried near Stonehenge





6 Long-necked beaker
Winterbourne Stoke

Found in the hands of an individual buried in a barrow near the road from Winterbourne Stoke to Stonehenge.

7 Long-necked beaker
Winterbourne Stoke,
barrow G10

Found with the burial of two people in a grave dug into the chalk. After the barrow was built, six other burials were made, and finally a cremation. The barrow was used for burials for at least 500 years.

8 Long-necked beaker and two boar tusks
Durrington, barrow G36;
Sutton Veny, barrow G3b

Beakers are usually found in male graves, beneath small earthen mounds. Their quality and importance may indicate the special status of the buried individual. Boar's tusks were sometimes used to decorate costume.

9 Bell beaker and bone point
Upton Lovell, barrow G2c;
Woodhenge

Decoration was added to beakers by using cord, bone combs and points, animal bone and flint flakes. This bone point was found within a beaker buried at Woodhenge.



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10 Two slate wristguards

Longbridge Deverill, barrow
Sutton Veny

*Archers' wrists were protected
from the recoil of the bowst
by a wristguard or bracer,
which was attached to a
leather backing. Wristguards
were usually made from slate
or polished stone.*

ROUNDWAY ARCHER

The Roundway Archer was buried on the crest of Roundway Down, overlooking Devizes. He lived soon after Stonehenge had been completed and while Silbury Hill was being raised.



THE ROUNDWAY ARCHER

A Beaker period burial on Roundway Down, Devizes. The objects buried in the grave show how prized materials were exchanged across Europe.

In front of the Archer was a large dagger, made



16 Bell beaker

13

17 Flint arrowhead

18 Copper pin

19 Stone wristguard

Copper dagger

way barrow G8, Devizes

16

17

18

19

the grave show how prized materials were exchanged across Europe.

In front of the Archer was a large dagger, made of almost pure copper which probably came from central Europe. Close to his head was a single, carefully worked, flint arrowhead, with a tang to fit onto the shaft of the arrow and barbs for piercing flesh. He would have been buried with a bow and quiver, but these rotted away soon after the burial.

On his arm was a stone wristguard, which would once have been mounted on a leather strap.

It protected the inside of the

quiver, but these rotted away soon after the burial.

On his arm was a stone wristguard, which would once have been mounted on a leather strap.

The wristguard protected the inside of the Archer's arm from the recoil of the bow string.

The stone was a type of jade, possibly from Spain, and was probably thought to have magical healing properties. At his feet was a single beaker, which may once have held a fermented milky drink. Although made from local clays, the decoration is similar to beakers found in graves on the Continent.



16 Bell beaker

13

17 Flint arrowhead

18 Copper pin

19 Stone wristguard

Copper dagger

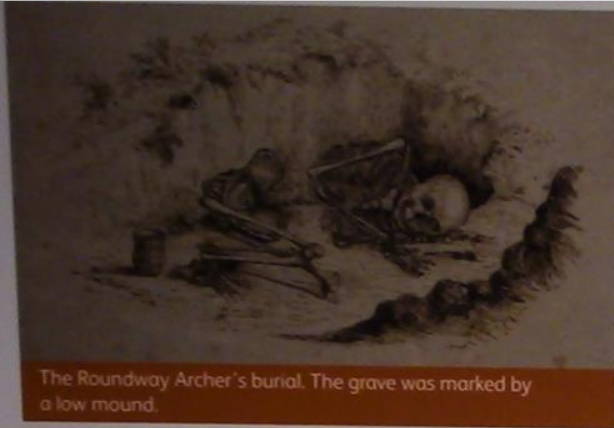
way barrow G8, Devizes

16

17

18

19



The Roundway Archer's burial. The grave was marked by a low mound.

The Archer was buried on his side in a crouched position, perhaps as though asleep or ready for rebirth. He was buried with objects that displayed the power and authority he held in life. These included his archery set, a beaker and a copper dagger. These objects show links across Europe, from Spain to Central Europe. However, we know from scientific analysis that he had grown up living in an area with chalky soil, and had probably always lived locally.

From his burial place there are long distance views to the henge at Marden and Stonehenge. Today, little can be seen of the burial mound, but it is close to the Devizes Millennium White Horse.



Objects buried with the Roundway Archer included his archery equipment, a beaker and a dagger.





11

13 Four arrowheads

Stonehenge (?) & Stock Close

Barbed and tanged flint arrowheads were hafted onto wooden shafts using cord. The arrows were shot using wooden bows.

14 Beaker

Netheravon

Beakers may have held an alcoholic drink. Examples have been found that contain traces of a type of mead or fermented milk.



15

15 Beaker

Figcheldean

Found containing shells, bone and a tooth.



11 Bronze bracelet
Amesbury, barrow G41

This bracelet was placed on the arm of a child, buried with two adults and another child in a barrow overlooking Stonehenge.

12 Two
Neth

Beak
acco
of gra
stone
barbe

A FAMILY BURIAL

Barrows were the burial place for a community or even a single family. A barrow close to Avebury marked the burial of 12 people.

The Sanctuary was a stone circle that marked the start of the stone-lined avenue leading to the ceremonial centre at Avebury. Close by was a barrow that was the burial place of 12 people, possibly from the same family.

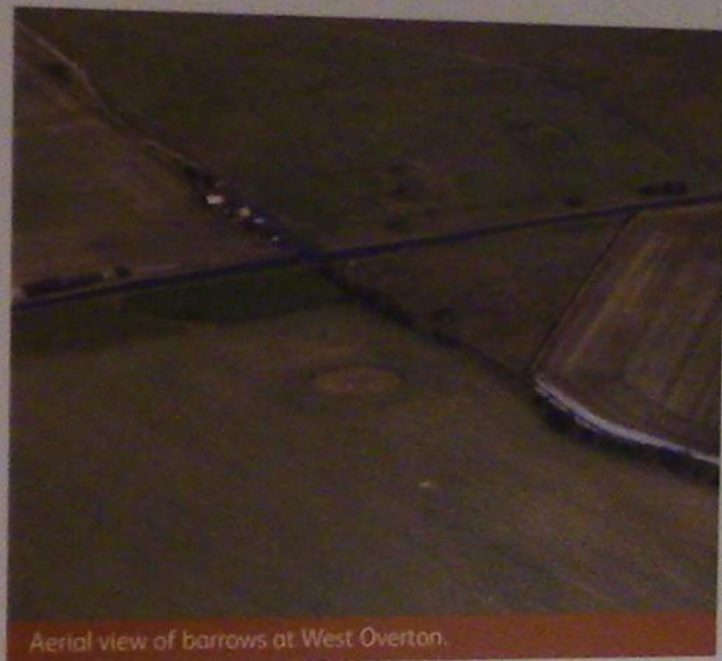
At the heart of the barrow was the burial of a 40-year old man, his grave lined with sarsen stones. He was laid on his left side, and buried



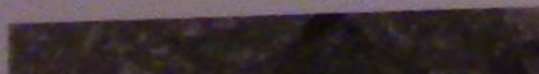
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At the heart of the barrow was the burial of a 40-year old man, his grave lined with sarsen stones. He was laid on his left side, and buried with him was a beaker, a bronze awl and special tools for working flint and leather. He was wearing a fur or leather cloak. The bones of a frog found in the bottom of the grave suggests that the body was left out in the open and only later covered over. Perhaps this was to give the mourners time to pay their respects before he made his journey into the next life.



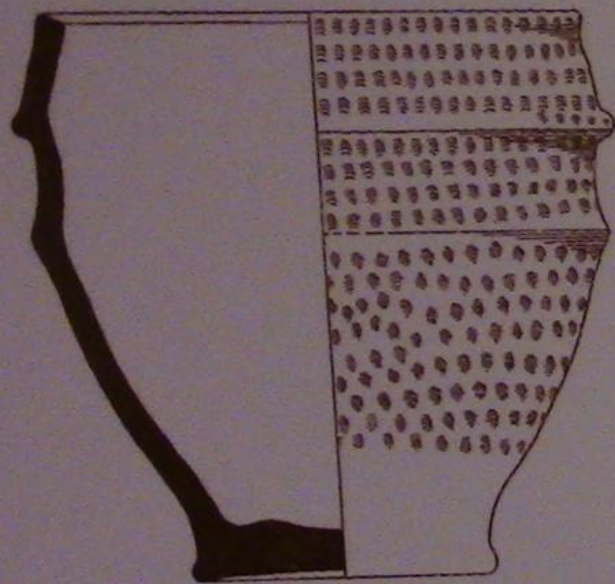
Aerial view of barrows at West Overton.



Urn containing the cremated ashes of one of the later child burials.

Child burial in a grave made from flat sarsen stones.

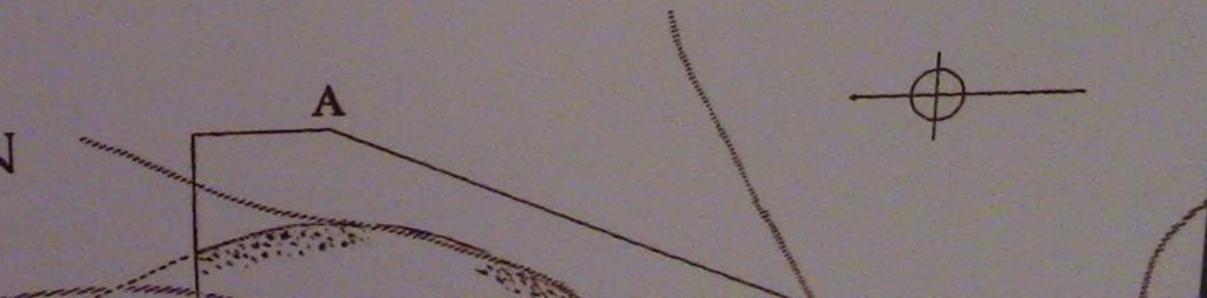
Adult male burial at the centre of the barrow.



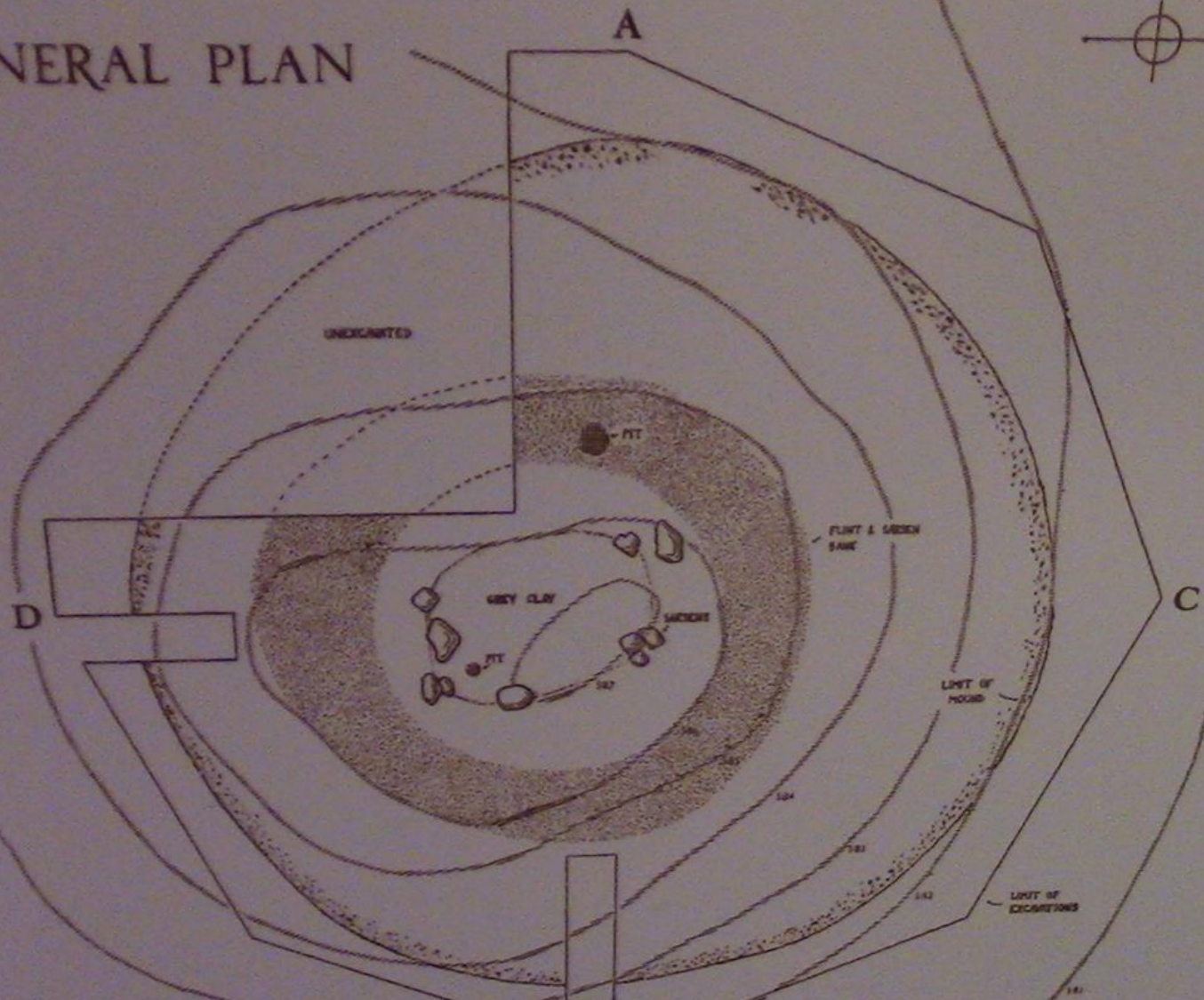
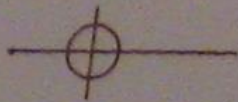
Drawing of the urn from the photo above, showing the cord-impressed decoration.

Before the grave was filled in, the cremated remains of another man and a child were placed in the same grave, contained in a leather bag. The grave was covered by blocks of sarsen stone. Two other children were buried close by and then a circular bank made of fire-reddened sarsen stone and flint was built. Within a short period of time, seven other burials or cremations were placed nearby – both adults and children. Finally, the barrow was built on top, made of layers of clay, sarsen stones and turf.

GENERAL PLAN



GENERAL PLAN



SILBURY HILL

Silbury Hill was the last of the giant monuments built at Avebury. We do not know why it was built or how it was used.

It began as a series of low mounds made of gravel, brought from further down the valley of the River Kennet. These mounds were made larger by heaping turf and vegetation on top. Later, chalk rubble was added in a series of stages to create one large mound. There are traces of a massive wooden post in the centre.

Raising the mound was an intensive work programme that lasted about a hundred years. Silbury stood as a gleaming white chalk mound, about 40 metres high, when the builders stopped adding to it. It was mostly surrounded by water, its ditches filled by warm natural springs in the chalk.



Chalk and earth section

Silbury Hill, Avebury

A small annotated block of chalk, grass and moss from the base of Silbury Hill, excavated by Alfred C. Pass in 1886.



3 Beaker and stone battle-axe
Durrington, barrow G67

This burial found near Woodhenge contained a beaker and an unusual ceremonial battle-axe made of tourmaline granite from Lands End, Cornwall. Excavated by Maud and Benjamin Cunnington, 1926–1928.

4 Beaker burial
Winterbourne S

Objects found v
of a man below
Winterbourne S
whetstones and
used for leathe
survives of his c
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which may hav
In the same ba

SARSEN BURIALS

Two important Beaker period burials were made in graves lined with sarsen stones. Each was buried with a range of objects which suggest that these people were skilled craft workers.

**Sarsen burial at
Durrington Walls
Near Stonehenge**

The burial was discovered in 1809 by a shepherd putting up a sheep fold. His iron folding bar hit a large sarsen stone, which covered the grave. The body was buried with an exquisite flint dagger, a polishing stone or whetstone, a belt ring and button made of shale, and two small flint discs. Unusually, no beaker was found in this grave. The individual may have been a leather or metal worker.





**Sarsen burial at
Winterbourne Monkton
Near Avebury**

Finds from a Beaker burial,
found beneath a large sarsen
stone at Winterbourne Monkton
in 1856. They included two
beakers (right), two buttons and
a belt ring made of Whitby jet
from Yorkshire, a curved flint
knife and a hammer, now lost.



AVEBURY

The Avebury landscape was a hub of activity, hundreds of people came together to build large timber, stone and earthen monuments, to take part in ceremonies, exchange ideas and to trade.



The first bank and ditch of the henge at Avebury had already been built, its location meant that the monument's white chalk bank and ditch was clearly visible to the

timber, stone and earthen monuments, to take part in ceremonies, exchange ideas and to trade.



There are two smaller stone circles inside the larger Avebury Henge. At the centre of the southern circle was a stone some 6 metres high.

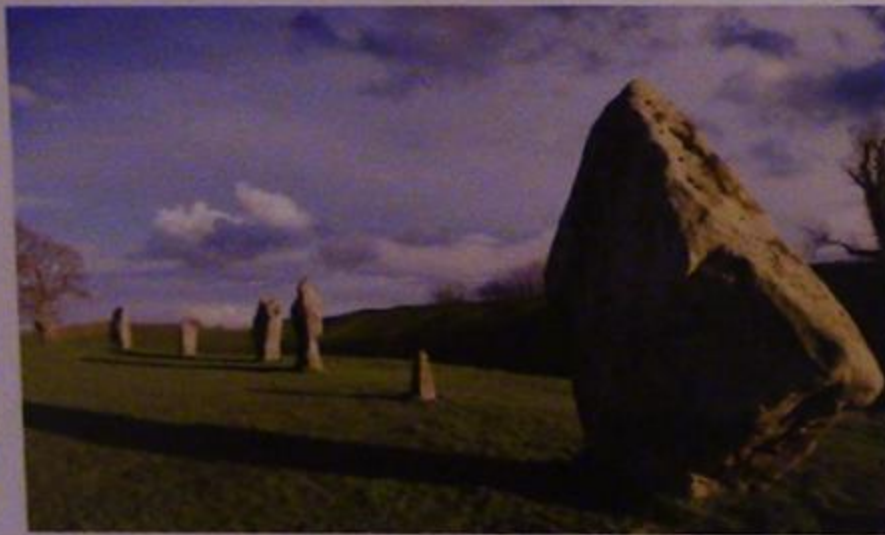


The first bank and ditch of the henge at Avebury had already been built, its location meant that the monument's white chalk bank and ditch was clearly visible to the surrounding communities.

Hundreds of tonnes of sarsen stone and timber were brought from the nearby Marlborough Downs to construct the large stone circle at Avebury. The most striking transformation was the building of two avenues, pathways lined with standing stones that guided people to its heart, the super henge. Avebury was now a ceremonial landscape, with burial mounds of the ancestors, henges and stone circles and

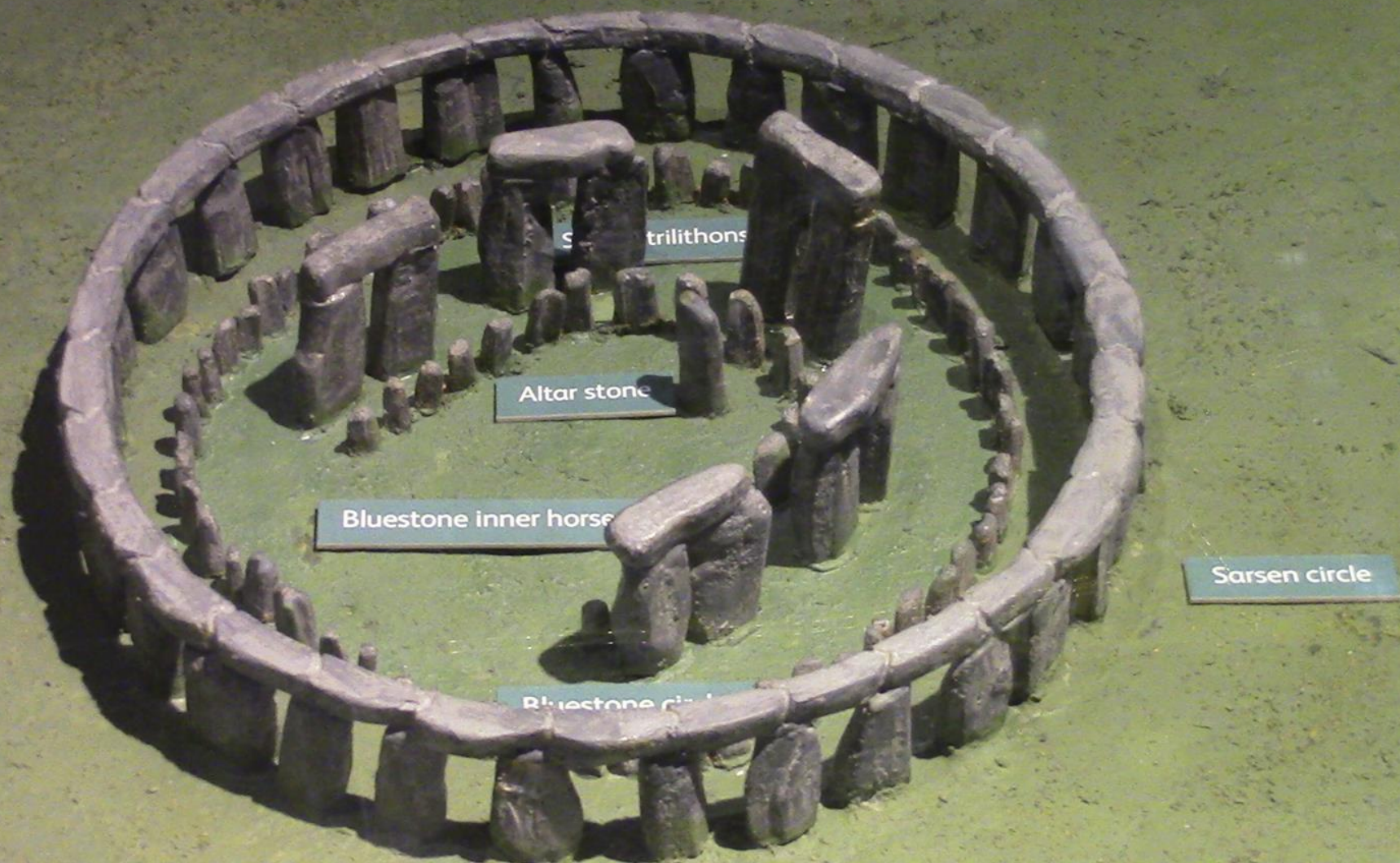


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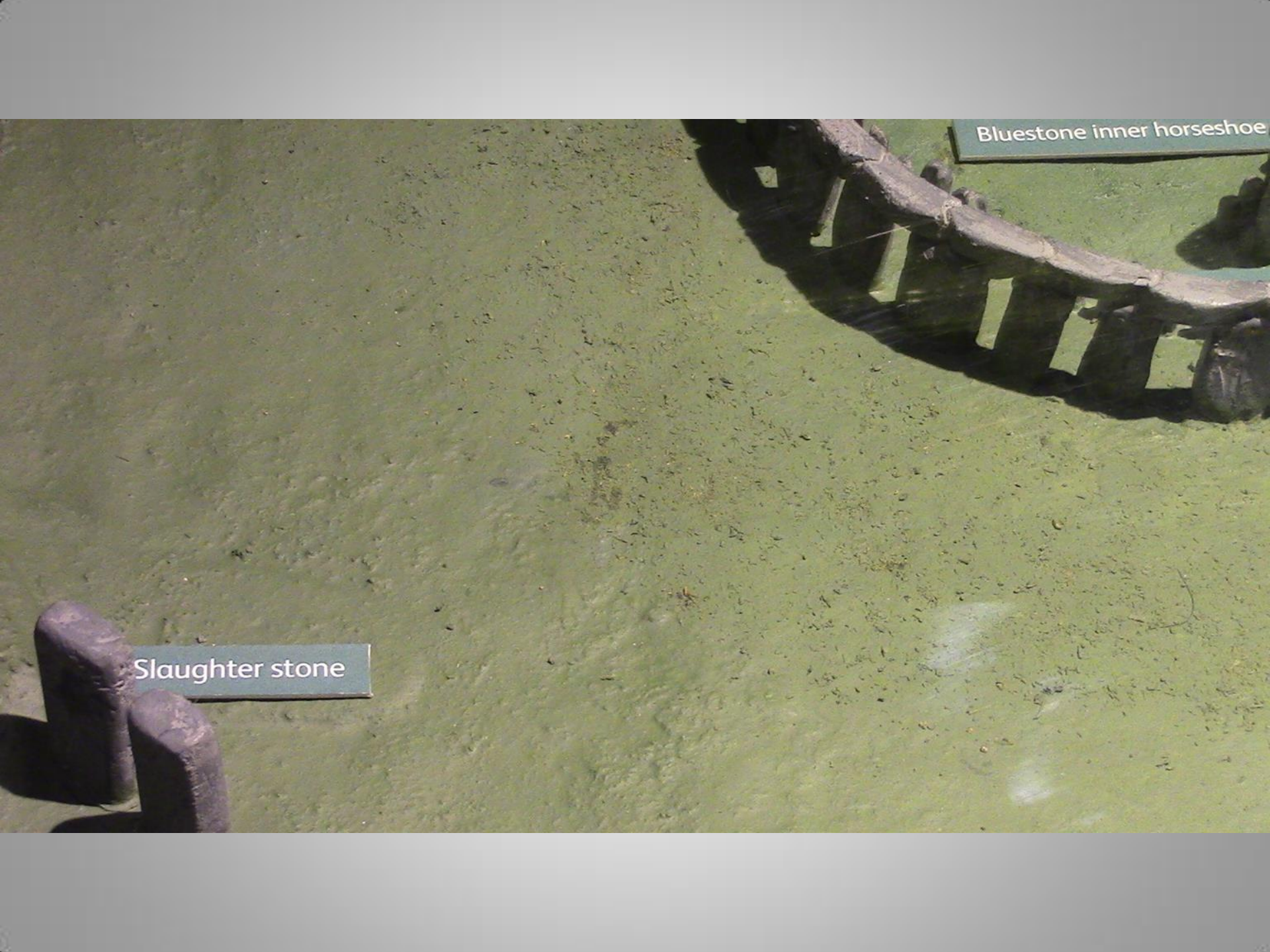


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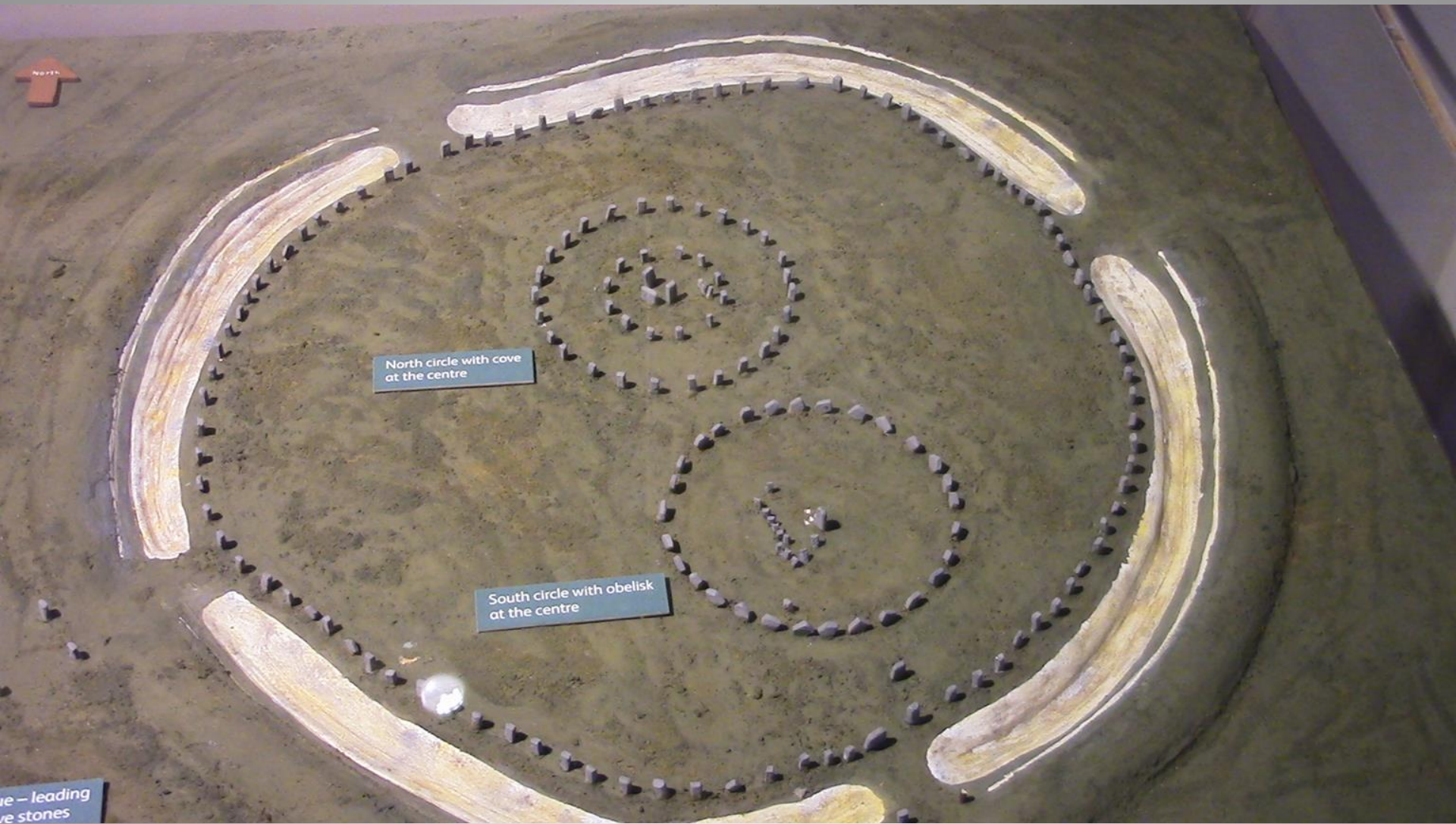


Stonehenge in the Bronze Age

The image shows a museum exhibit on a greenish-brown, textured surface. In the upper right, there is a large, curved stone structure made of several rectangular blocks, resembling a horseshoe. A dark label with white text is positioned above it. In the lower left, there is a smaller, rectangular stone object. A dark label with white text is positioned above it.

Bluestone inner horseshoe

Slaughter stone

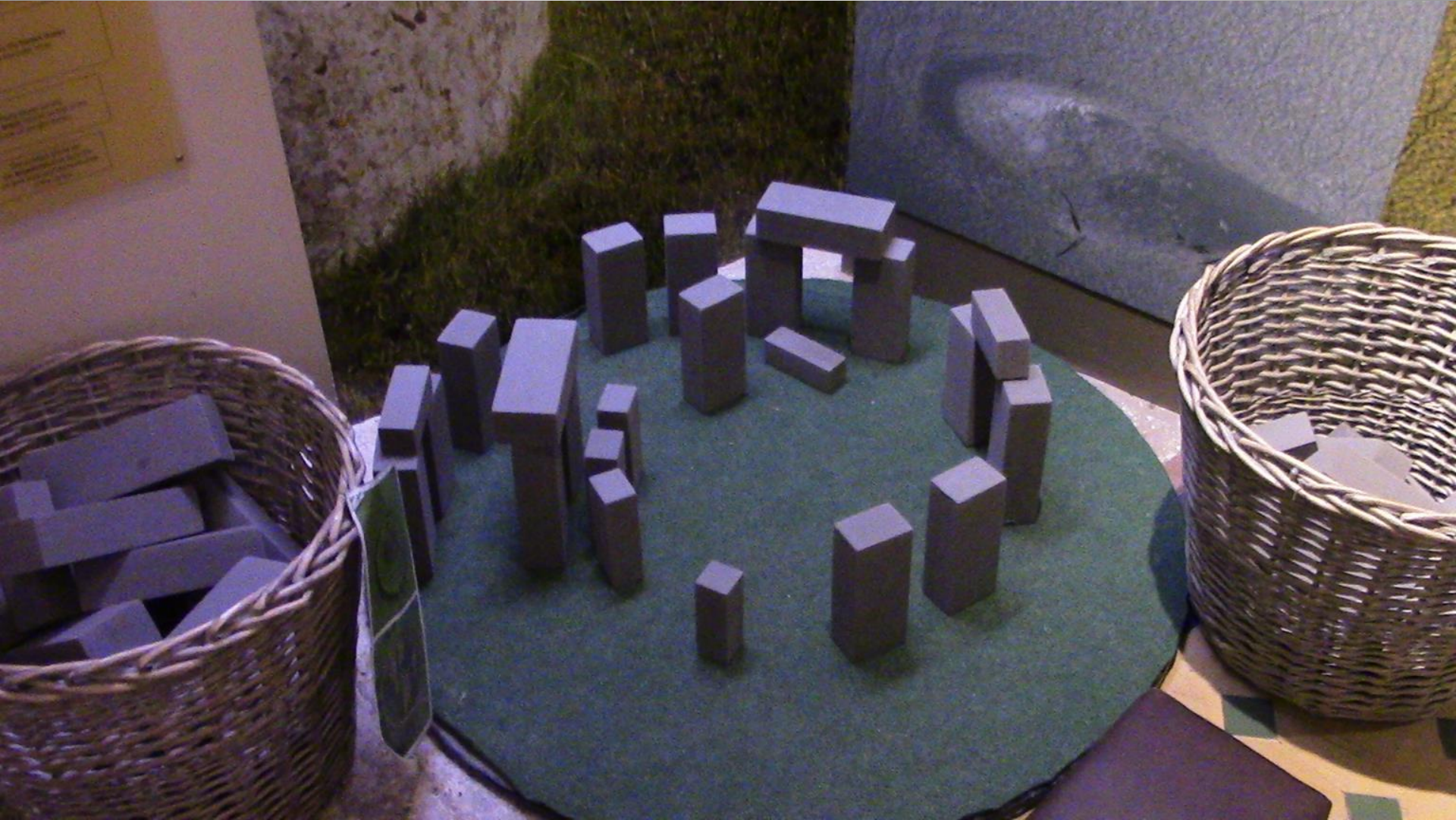


Avebury in the Bronze Age

Circle with obelisk
centre



West Kennet Avenue – leading
to the Sanctuary






GOLD FROM THE TIME OF STONEHENGE

Surrounding Stonehenge are the burial mounds of the priests and leaders who for a thousand years held ceremonies inside the monument. Buried with

EARLIER BRONZE
2200BC-1500




THE TIME OF STONEHENGE

Surrounding Stonehenge are the burial mounds of the priests and leaders who for a thousand years held ceremonies inside the monument. Buried with them were the objects that were symbols of their power and authority.



BEAKER
2500BC -
2200BC

EARLIER BRO
2200BC - 1



EARLIER BRONZE AGE
2200BC–1500BC

MAGICAL MATERIALS

Amber from the Baltic and gold from Ireland found in Wiltshire show how Bronze Age people were in contact across the whole of Europe.

New skills were developed to exploit an ever-increasing range of raw materials. Copper and tin were mined and smelted before being alloyed to make bronze. Gold from Ireland was separated from crushed ore, or panned from rivers. It was then gently hammered and burnished to make sheet gold for jewellery. Pieces of amber and jet were cut and polished

These new materials and technologies were used to make prestigious weapons and jewellery that showed off the importance of their owners. Making these special objects required skilled craftspeople who spent years training to perfect their art. These specialists relied upon the skills of other people working in the fields to grow the food they ate.

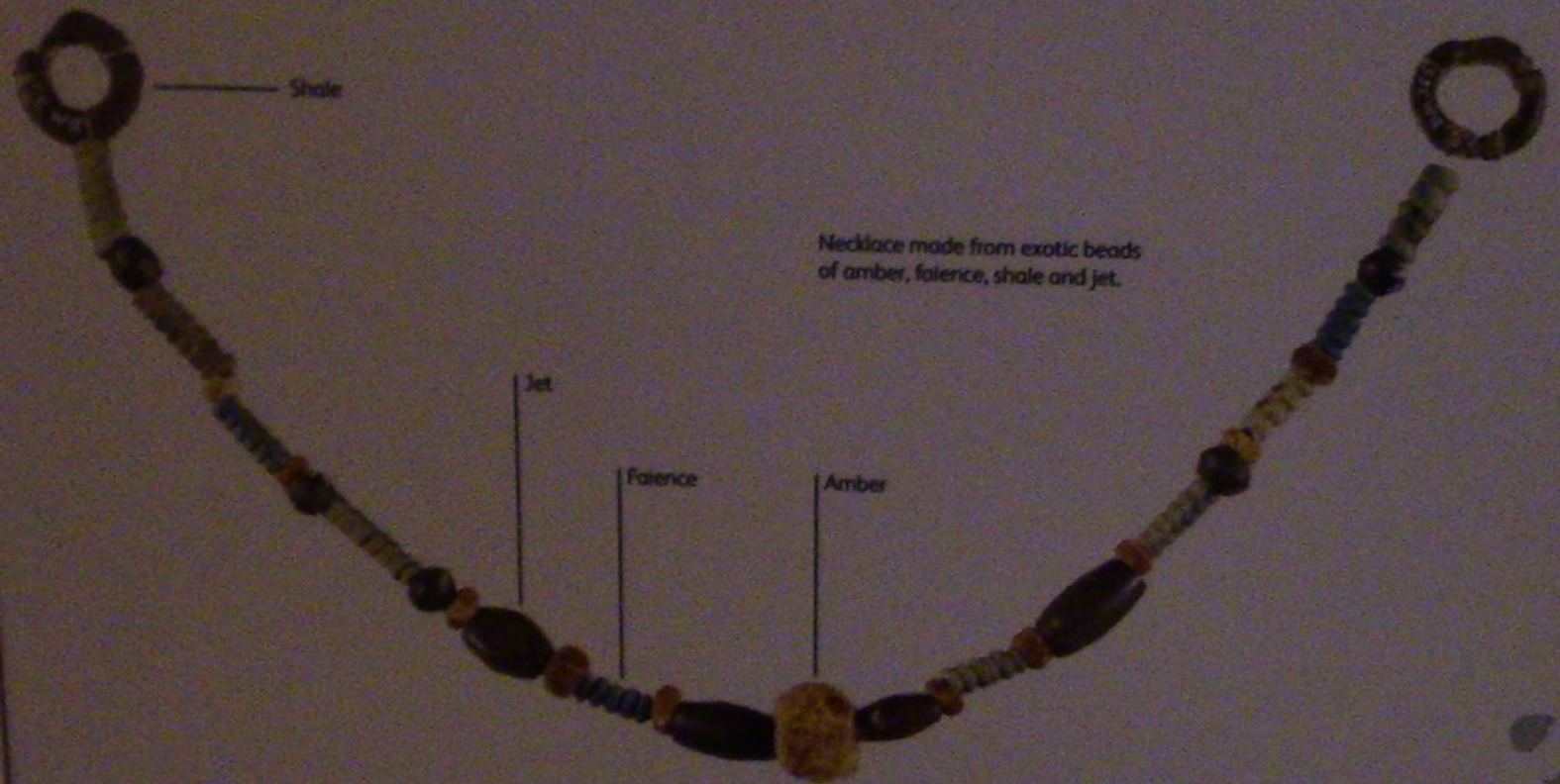
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These new materials and technologies were used to make prestigious weapons and jewellery that showed off the importance of their owners. Making these special objects required skilled craftspeople who spent years training to perfect their art. These specialists relied upon the skills of other people working in the fields to grow the food they ate, weaving cloth to make their clothes, and cutting the timber for the buildings where they lived and worked.

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cutting the timber for the buildings where they lived and worked.



Necklace made from exotic beads of amber, faience, shale and jet.

Amber was considered a magical material

MAGICAL MATERIALS

Amber beads
Amesbury, barrow G39;
Snail Down, barrow Z2

The finest amber for making jewellery came from the countries bordering the Baltic Sea, including Denmark and Estonia. It was cut, polished and drilled to make beads for threading onto string.



Jet buttons and jet beads
Amesbury, barrow G39;
Wimbome St. Giles, barrow G9

Jet was used for making jewellery, as well as buttons and belt rings. Jet comes from Whitby in Yorkshire, in the north of England.



1



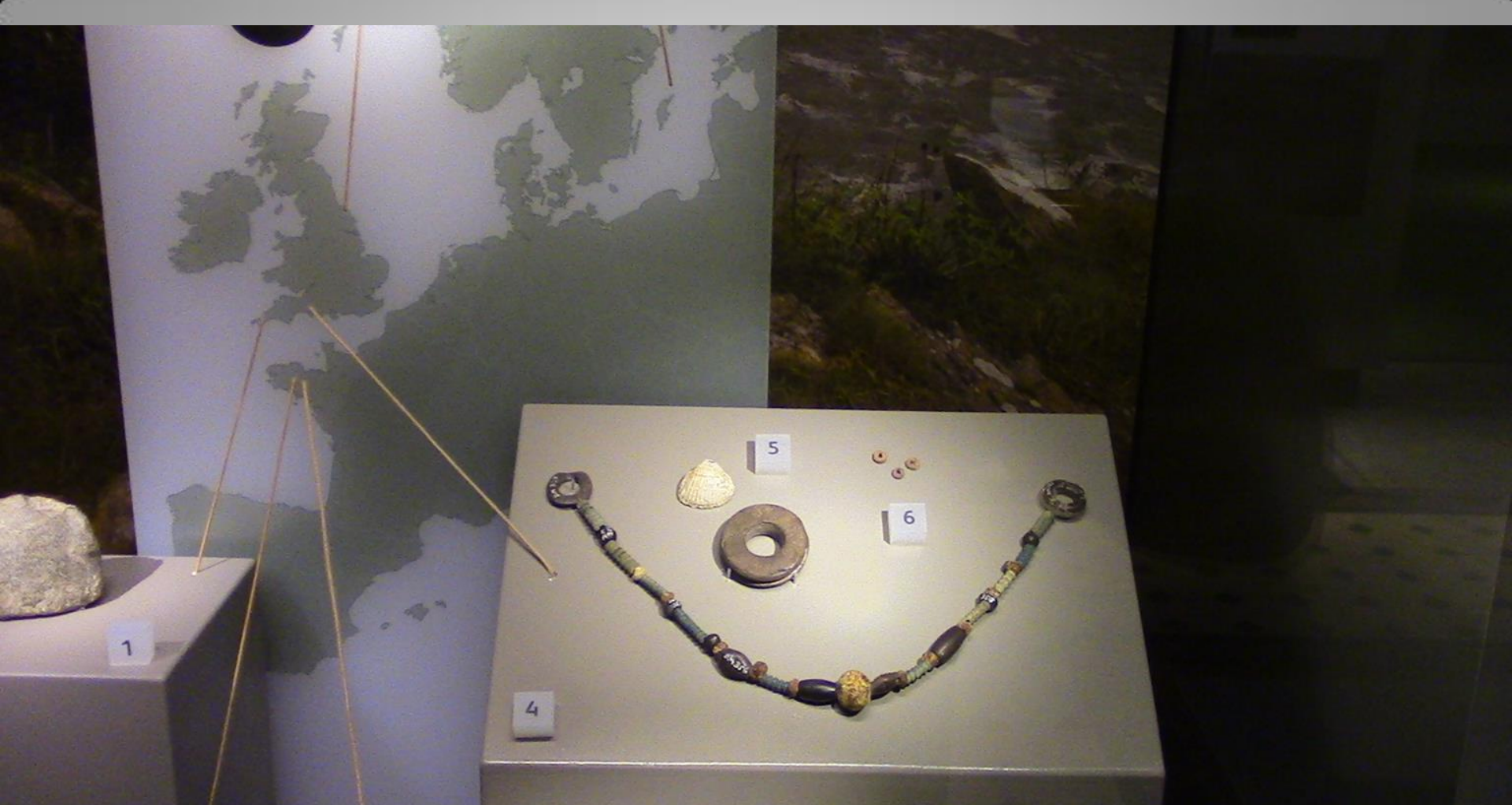
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1 **Axe fragment**
Wimborne St Giles, barrow G9
The greenstone used to make this axe came from Cornwall.

2 **Two bronze daggers and preserved wood**
Winterbourne Stoke, barrow G5
The daggers were probably imports made in Brittany and the wood is the remains of an elm coffin.

3 **Three barbed and tanged arrowheads**
Wimborne St Giles, barrow G9
These extremely fine flint arrowheads are similar to those made in Brittany, but were made here in Britain.

4 **Bead necklace**
Upton Lovell, barrow G1
A necklace made of amber, jet and faience beads looped between shale rings.

5 **Shale belt ring and pendant**
Wimborne St Giles, barrow G9;
Snail Down, barrow 22
Belt ring made of shale from Kimmeridge in Dorset and a cockle shell pendant.

6 **Three fossil beads**
Winterbourne Stoke, G64a
Unusual or rare materials were used for making jewellery. These beads were made from sea lily fossils.

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6 Three fossil beads
Winterbourne Stoke, G64a
Unusual or rare materials were
used for making jewellery.
These beads were made from
sea lily fossils.

7 Six segmented bone beads
Warminster, barrow G10
These rare bone beads copy
the shape of faience beads.
Faience is a type of glass, made
using a technique found across
Europe in the Bronze Age. The
strings from necklaces do not
survive as they were made from
materials like flax or animal
sinew that have rotted away.

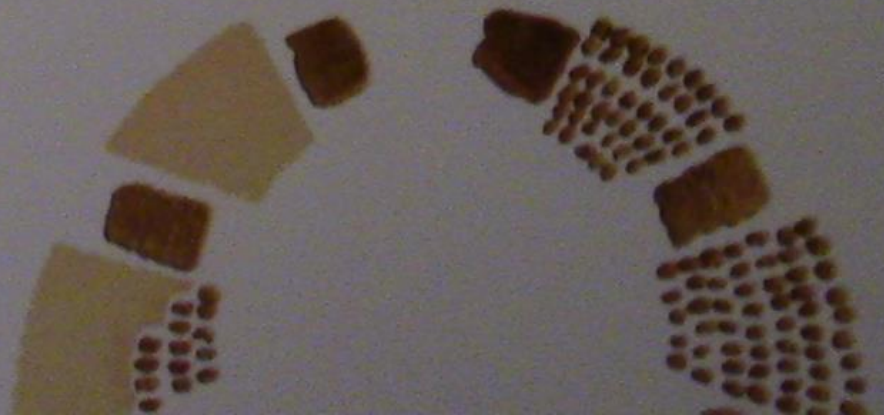
8 Fossil bead necklace
Winterbourne Stoke, G64a
Made from fossilised dentalium
beads, seashells named after
their tooth-like appearance.

9 Dark red bead
Wilsford, barrow G42
This is the earliest known glass
object in Britain.

POWER, PRESTIGE AND THE SPIRIT WORLD

The objects buried with the dead were carefully chosen by their families and mourners and show how important they were when they were alive.

Elaborate costumes and musical instruments hint at ceremonial dances and a belief in a spirit world. Necklaces, pendants and needles for tattooing show how important personal adornment was for both women and men. Ribbons, fur, feathers and flowers added colour and texture, but rarely survive.

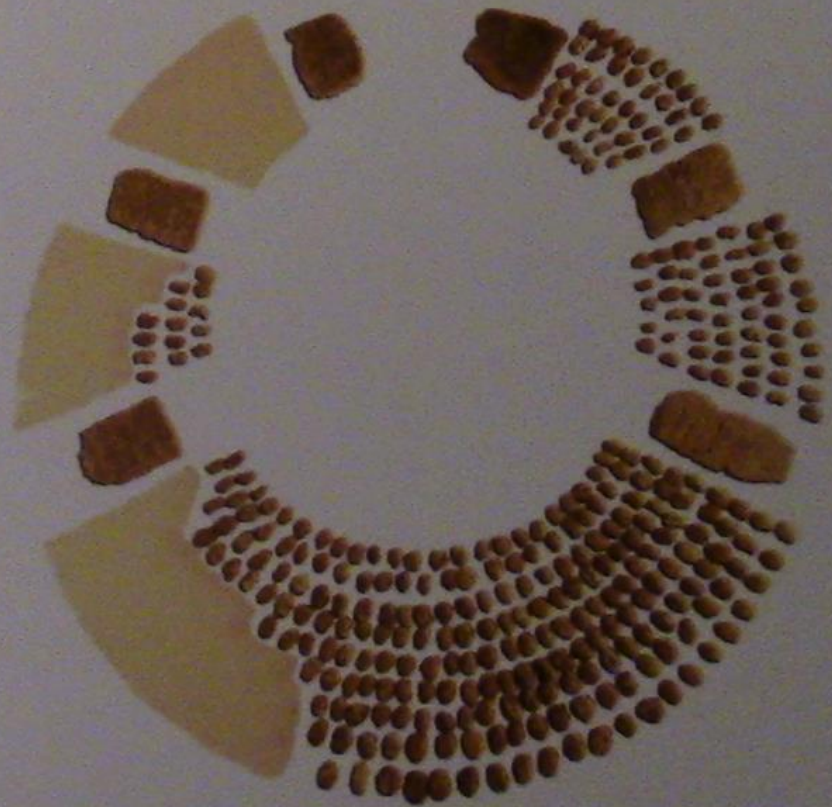


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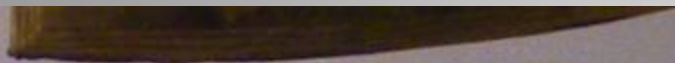


Gold belt or dagger sheath fitting



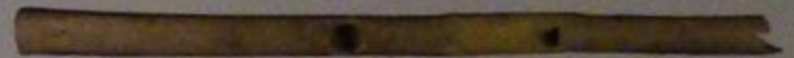
Necklace made of amber brought from Denmark or Estonia.

Flute, made from the leg bone of a swan or crane.



Gold belt or dagger sheath fitting.

Flute, made from the leg bone of a swan or crane.



Necklaces were worn as talismans or charms. Special beads of amber or jet could be rubbed against cloth to generate static electricity. They may have been thought to have powerful healing properties. Some of these beads are worn and broken, showing signs of repair. They were heirlooms, handed down through the generations. Necklaces may have been assembled specially to be buried with the dead, each bead a gift from a different family or tribal group.



Miniature knife or dagger with a hilt made of amber.

Bronze daggers were highly prized possessions. Many were made for display, rather than for use in battle. Their handles and pommels were adorned with exotic materials such as ivory or amber. Battle axes and maceheads were made from selected stone brought from far away places. They too were made for show.

Bronze dagger blade and stone battle axe.



MARLBOROUGH LADY

The body of an important woman was buried in a barrow close to the massive prehistoric mound at Marlborough, overlooking the River Kennet.

She was buried with objects chosen to show her status in society, including a gold-encased amber disc, a small dagger, and a pendant in the shape of an axe. Similar amber discs were worn by other important people buried close to Stonehenge.



disc, a small dagger, and a pendant in the shape of an axe. Similar amber discs were worn by other important people buried close to Stonehenge.



Sketch of Skeleton found in the Manton Barrow showing position of grave goods.

(Drawn by L. Raven Hill.)



1 Gold mounted amber disc

Two holes in the gold sheet surrounding the red amber suggest it may have been an earring.

2 Gold mounted shale bead

With five bands of gold wire wrapped around it, this bead was

3 Miniature gold and bronze halberd

Shaped like halberds or axes found in central Europe, it suggests that she may have come here from the Continent.



Sketch of Skeleton found in the Manton Barrow showing position of grave goods.

(Drawn by L. Bacon Hill.)



1 Gold mounted amber disc

Two holes in the gold sheet surrounding the red amber suggest it may have been an earring.

2 Gold mounted shale bead

With five bands of gold wire wrapped around it, this bead was almost new when buried.

3 Miniature gold and bronze halberd

Shaped like halberds or axes found in central Europe, it suggests that she may have come here from the Continent.



4 Miniature bronze knife-dagger

Weapons are usually only found in male burials. This miniature

5 Pottery stud

Found near the head of the woman, this may have been a lip



7

4 Miniature bronze knife-dagger

Weapons are usually only found in male burials. This miniature knife-dagger has an amber pommel and may represent the woman's power and status.



5 Pottery stud

Found near the head of the woman, this may have been a lip or ear lobe plug.

6 Bead necklace

150 disc-shaped beads of shale or lignite, a coal-like material similar to jet.

Preshute, barrow G1a, also known as Manton Barrow



8



7 Incense cup

Preshute, barrow G1a, also known as Manton Barrow

These cups are usually found with female burials and may have been used to burn scented oils or hemp seeds. The smoke may have been inhaled as an intoxicant, helping to create a link to the spirit world.

8 Incense 'grape' cup and three cloth impressions

Preshute, barrow G1a, also known as Manton Barrow

Incense cup decorated with small grape-like clay spheres. The mineral fragments show the weave of a coarse fabric that may have been used to shroud the Marlborough Lady when she was buried.

9 Chalk bead, ring and shale bead

Preshute, barrow G1a, also known as Manton Barrow

The ribbed shale bead was used to imitate the segments of an ammonite.

9



10



9 Chalk bead, ring bead and ribbed shale bead

Preshute, barrow G1a, also known as Manton Barrow

The ribbed shale bead appears to imitate the segments found on an ammonite.

10 Two bronze awls

Preshute, barrow G1a, also known as Manton Barrow

Bronze awls may have been used for tattooing the skin. Tattoos were found on the body of Oetzi, the Iceman, whose body was discovered in the Alps.

11 Collared urn

Preshute, barrow G1a, also known as Manton Barrow

A decorated collared urn was found three metres from the main burial chamber. It was excavated by Benbow in 1906. No evidence of a second burial in the urn.



11

11 Collared urn

Preshute, barrow G1a, also known as Manton Barrow

A decorated collared urn was found three metres south of the main burial when it was excavated by Ben Cunnington in 1906. No evidence was found of a second burial in the barrow.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Overlooking Stonehenge, this man was buried with a remarkable range of ceremonial objects.

At his feet lay a horn for playing music, its mouthpiece made from human bone. He carried a goad with decorated prongs used for herding cattle. This may have symbolised the herds of cattle that he owned. He also carried a battleaxe made of Cornish stone and a rare bronze axe, made across the Channel in Brittany.



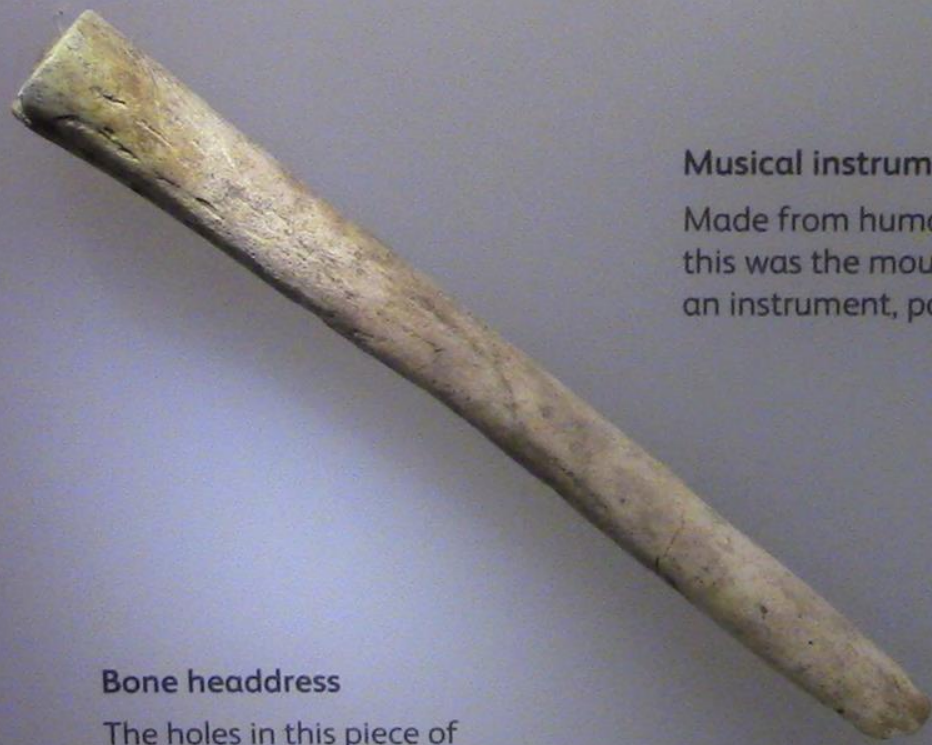
Bronze ceremonial goad

made across the Channel in Brittany.

Bronze ceremonial goad

Goads were used as a prod to control horses and cattle. The twisted metal prongs resemble the horns of cattle. Three small bronze rings once hung from the goad and would have jangled as he gestured and walked around.





Musical instrument

Made from human bone,
this was the mouthpiece of
an instrument, possibly a horn.

Bone headdress

The holes in this piece of
worked bone may have once

an instrument, possibly a horn.

Bone headdress

The holes in this piece of worked bone may have once held feathers for a headdress.

Wilsford, barrow G58



WOMEN OF POWER

Close to Stonehenge are two important burials, under barrows built just metres apart. They were probably both women, and each was laid to rest with objects that showed their power and authority.

There are clues suggesting that one may have come from northern Britain, the other from Europe. They may have been alive at the same time as the Bush Barrow Chieftain, who was buried close by. Were they also chieftains? Did they marry into the ruling dynasty?

LADY OF THE NORTH

LADY FR


This woman
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come from northern Britain, the other from Europe. They may have been alive at the same time as the Bush Barrow Chieftain, who was buried close by. Were they also chieftains? Did they marry into the ruling dynasty?

LADY OF THE NORTH

This woman was buried under a bowl-shaped barrow, facing towards the setting sun, a tradition common in northern Britain. Gold, amber and jet beads and pendants were placed with her body. The most unusual item is a jet pendant in the shape of a double-headed axe, a stone weapon usually found in the north of England and Scotland. Jet comes from Whitby in Yorkshire, and necklaces and beads made of jet are often found as far north as Scotland. Did she come from northern Britain?



Double-headed axe pendant
Double axes are usually found in northern England and Scotland. This miniature axe is made of jet.

Two gold
These pendants
are similar
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Double-headed axe pendant

Double axes are usually found in northern England and Scotland. This miniature axe is made of jet.



Shale and fossil beads

Beads made of shale, with ribbed decoration, and others made from fossil plants.

Wilsford, barrow G7

1 Collared urn

Wilsford, barrow G7

An exceptional example of a collared urn, named after the distinctive collar close to the rim. It is exquisitely decorated and unusually small, and is one of the few urns to be buried in a grave with rich grave goods.



2 Incense 'grape' cup
Wilsford, barrow G7

This is considered one of the finest examples of a 'grape' cup, named after the grape-like spheres that decorate it.



3 Shale bead with gold cover and gold pendant
Wilsford, barrow G7

Gold sheet was used to cover and perhaps protect objects made of shale. Perhaps it was the shale object that was precious.

4



4 Amber disc and pendants
Wilsford, barrow G7

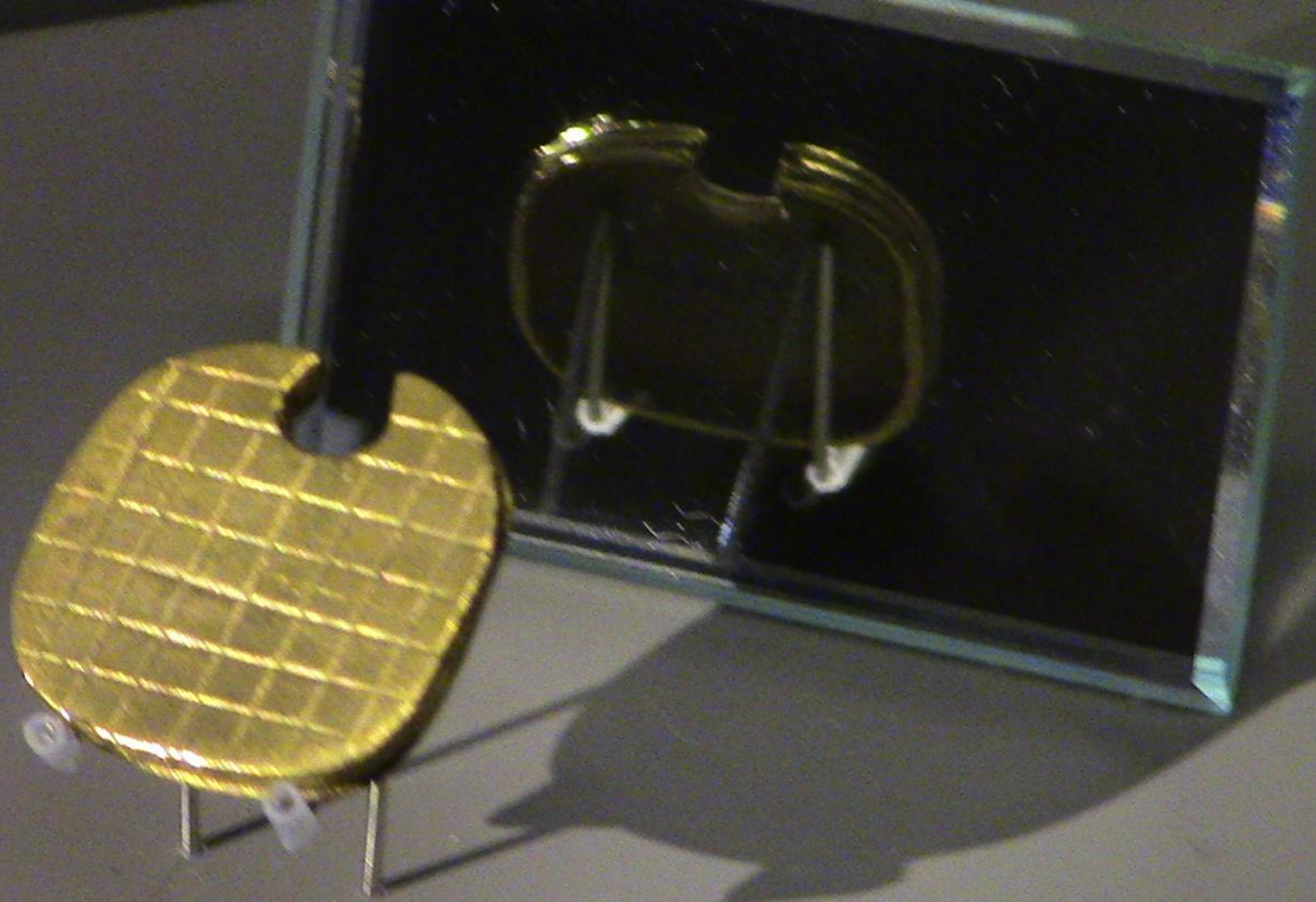
Objects made from amber may have been thought to be magical. Amber produces static electricity when rubbed with cloth.

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5 Gold covered bone pendant
Wilsford, barrow G8

Gold pendant covering a
piece of bone, possibly cut
from a human skull.



5 Gold covered bone pendant
Wilsford, barrow G8

Gold pendant covering a
piece of bone, possibly cut
from a human skull.



8 Amber pendants
Wilsford, barrow G8

These pendants may have been worn as a set of three, and minute traces suggest that they may have been strung on a bronze wire.

9 'Stonehenge' cup
Wilsford, barrow G8

Miniature incense cup, also known as the 'Stonehenge' cup because it resembles the circle of sarsen stones. Similar examples have been found on the coast of southern England.



9

9 'Stonehenge' cup
Wilsford, barrow G8

Miniature incense cup, also known as the 'Stonehenge' cup because it resembles the circle of sarsen stones. Similar examples have been found on the coast of southern England.

LANDSCAPE OF THE DEAD

Hundreds of Bronze Age barrows built on the chalk downland of Wiltshire mark the burial places of great leaders and priests.

Barrows were mounds of turf and gleaming white chalk, carefully built on the skyline and visible for miles around. Often they were grouped in cemeteries, in full view of ceremonial henges and stone circles. Sometimes they were aligned with the rising and setting of the sun and moon. Each barrow might be the burial place for several generations of the same family, a memorial to the ruling elite.



great leaders and priests.

Barrows were mounds of turf and gleaming white chalk, carefully built on the skyline and visible for miles around. Often they were grouped in cemeteries, in full view of ceremonial henges and stone circles. Sometimes they were aligned with the rising and setting of the sun and moon. Each barrow might be the burial place for several generations of the same family, a memorial to the ruling elite.

A circular ditch was dug around the grave, raising a mound from the chalk rubble and blocks of turf cut from the surrounding grassland. Barrows were constructed in many different sizes and shapes, perhaps as a way of reflecting the life of the dead in ways that we cannot understand.



Bronze Age barrow with a distinctive 'bell' shape on Windmill Hill, near Avebury.



Winterbourne Stoke barrow cemetery. Barrows were constructed in distinctive shapes – bowl, bell, disc, saucer and pond.

Bronze Age round barrows were sometimes positioned close to Neolithic long barrows or were constructed on top of the traces of earlier houses or settlements. These barrows seem to respect traditions that were already over a thousand years old.

Barrows were usually raised over the grave of one person, often dug deep into the chalk. The family and friends of the dead carefully placed the body on its side as if they were asleep or perhaps ready for rebirth in an afterlife. They were dressed in fine clothes and buried with objects that were important to them during their lifetime. Ceremonies and rituals acted out at the graveside may have prepared them for a journey to the next life.

Later generations were sometimes buried inside the same mound. These bodies were burnt and the ashes placed in a cremation urn in the side of the barrow.



Plan of the Winterbourne Stoke barrow cemetery by Philip Crocker and published in *Ancient Wiltshire* in 1812. A Neolithic

Bush Barrow Chieftain Reconstruction of the burial

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Bush Barrow Chieftain
Reconstruction of the burial
© British Museum, London

Large bone dagger
The handle of wood belonging to this instrument exceeds anything we have yet seen, both in design and execution, and could not be supposed of natural growth, but the most able workmen of modern times, armed with a lathe and compass, failed almost unaccountably

by thousands of gold rivets, smaller than the smallest pin. So very minute, indeed, were these pins, that our workmen had shown out thousands of them with their shaver, and scattered them in every direction. Before, by the necessary aid of a magnifying glass, we could

discover what they were, but fortunately enough happened attached to the wood to enable us to develop the pattern. Mr. Crick has taken part of the end of the handle which may give you a better idea of the shape.



Bush Barrow Chieftain
Reconstruction of the burial

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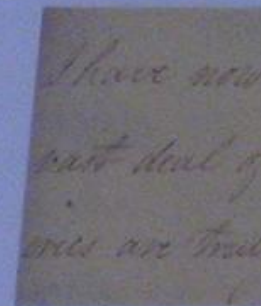


Cunnington's Account

William Cunnington carefully described the excavation of Bush Barrow, and many of his other excavations. This account was carefully written down by his daughters, and a copy was sent to Sir Richard Colt Hoare at Stourhead. Cunnington's account, together with Crocker's watercolour illustrations, are part of the important archive and

library collections preserved here at the Museum.

The account begins
I have now the pleasure to inform you that we have after a vast deal of labour succeeded at last and that our discoveries are truly important.





Bronze axehead

On reaching the floor of the barrow, we discovered the skeleton of a stout and tall man lying from south to north...

Near the shoulders lay the fine celt, the lower end of which owes its great preservation to having been originally inserted within a handle of wood...



Near the shoulders lay the fine
celt, the lower end of which owes
its great preservation to having
been originally inserted within
a handle of wood...



Mace head

We next discovered, on the right side of the skeleton, a very curious perforated stone, some wrought articles of bone, many small rings of the same material, and another article of gold... It had a wooden

handle, which was fixed into the perforation in the centre...
... This article I presume was the Insignia of dignity, an article of this form could never have been used as a domestic instrument, and from

the circumstance of its being composed of a mass of seaworms, or little serpents, I think we may not be too fanciful in considering it an article of consequence...



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*the circumstance of its being
composed of a mass of seaworms,
or little serpents, I think we may
not be too fanciful in considering
it an article of consequence...*





Large gold lozenge

... we found immediately on the breast bone a fine plate of gold... This article in form of a lozenge was fixed to a thin piece of wood, over which the gold was wrapped and it is perforated at the top and bottom corners for the purpose of

fastening to the dress as a breast plate. It is simply ornamented with lines forming lozenges and it has a grand appearance.



Large bronze dagger

Near the right arm was a large dagger of brass...



Large bronze dagger

The handle of wood belonging to this instrument exceeds anything we have yet seen, both in design and execution, and could not be surpassed (if indeed equalled) by the most able workman of modern times... formed with a labour and exactness almost unaccountable,

by thousands of gold rivets, smaller than the smallest pin. So very minute, indeed, were these pins, that our labourers had thrown out thousands of them with their shovel, and scattered them in every direction, before, by the necessary aid of a magnifying glass, we could

discover what they were; but fortunately enough remained attached to the wood to enable us to develop the pattern. Mr. Crocker has drawn part of the end of the handle which may give you a better idea of the whole

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fortunately enough remained
attached to the wood to enable
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Belt hook

These were accompanied by a curious article of gold, which I conceive had originally decorated the case of the dagger... It is a thin plate of pure gold neatly ornamented and in high preservation.



Belt hook

These were accompanied by a curious article of gold, which I conceive had originally decorated the case of the dagger... It is a thin plate of pure gold neatly ornamented and in high preservation.





LADY WITH THE AMBER NECKLACE

A stunning amber necklace, finely decorated gold plaque, gold pendant, and a string of gold drum-shaped beads are among the precious objects found with the cremated remains of a woman buried near Upton Lovell.

She was laid to rest in a barrow that may have been thousands of years old when she died. Close by was another cremated burial, perhaps a member of her family.

Eleven gold drum-shaped beads

These beads may have been part of a necklace or were possibly sewn onto clothing



Eleven gold drum-shaped beads

These beads may have been part of a necklace or were possibly sewn onto clothing as decoration. They were made from coiled strips of gold with a gold cap at each end.



Gold plaque

Made from gold sheet less than 0.1mm thick, originally it was fixed to a backing, probably of wood. The plaque would have been sewn to an item of clothing, perhaps a cloak.

Upton Lovell, barrow G2e



Gold plaque

Made from gold sheet less than 0.1mm thick, originally it was fixed to a backing, probably of wood. The plaque would have been sewn to an item of clothing, perhaps a cloak.

Upton Lovell, barrow G2e



- 1** Gold ornaments
Upton Lovell, barrow G2e
Gold caps that may have once decorated the ends of wooden sceptres.

- 2** Incense 'grape' cup
Upton Lovell, barrow G2e

- 3** Shale pendant and gold cover
Upton Lovell, barrow G2e
Cone-shaped shale pendant, decorated with incised lines. The cone was encased in gold sheet, decorated with the same incised lines.



4 Amber and shale beads
Upton Lovell, barrow G2e

These amber and shale beads were found together within the barrow, suggesting they were once part of a necklace.

5 Amber spacer-plate necklace
Upton Lovell, barrow G2e

This necklace was once made of around 1000 amber beads, but now just over 300 survive. The flat 'spacer-plates' were drilled to hold the six strings of beads for the necklace. Detailed examination suggests that the beads may have been from two necklaces. The necklace may have been made in Denmark or on the Baltic coast.

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6 **Bronze knife dagger and awl**

Upton Lovell, barrow G2e

The knife dagger is small, and is similar in size to those found with other burials that are assumed to be female. The awl may have been used as a needle for tattooing the skin.

'WE SPEAK FROM FACTS NOT THEORIES'

In the early 1800s, William Cunnington and Sir Richard Colt Hoare worked together to investigate the 'facts, not theories' that would unlock the story of Stonehenge and Avebury.



William Cunnington was a wool merchant, who lived in Heytesbury, close to Stonehenge. He was fascinated by the ancient monuments



William Cunnington (1754–1810).

William Cunnington was a wool merchant, who lived in Heytesbury, close to Stonehenge. He was fascinated by the ancient monuments that he could see around him. He began to excavate burial mounds in the area, working with a skilled father and son team: Stephen and John Parker. They carried out the excavations while Philip Crocker meticulously drew the landscapes and remarkable finds that they made. Together, they began to understand the development of prehistory and established the basic principles of archaeology that we still use today.

Cunnington worked closely with Sir Richard Colt Hoare, who came from a London banking family that owned the Stourhead Estate. Colt Hoare was inspired by his travels to ancient Rome, and was fascinated by the barrows and monuments of Wiltshire. He financed the excavations and avidly read and discussed

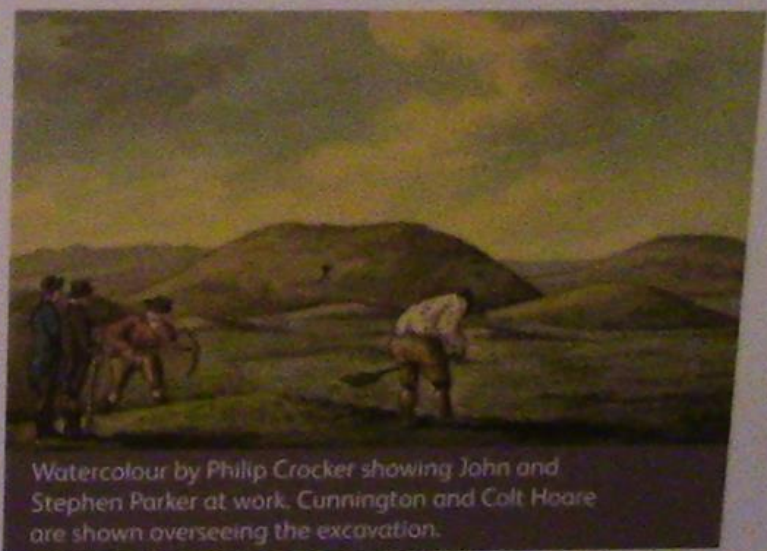


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Sir Richard Colt Hoare (1758–1838).



Watercolour by Philip Crocker showing John and Stephen Parker at work. Cunnington and Colt Hoare are shown overseeing the excavation.



Replicas by Josiah Wedgwood

In 1807 Sir Richard Colt Hoare commissioned Josiah Wedgwood to make replicas of some of the pots that William Cunnington had discovered in his excavations. At this time, the original finds were kept by William Cunnington at his home in Heytesbury.

- 1 Stonehenge cup in jasper ware**
Wilsford, barrow G8
Original excavated from the burial of the Lady from across the Sea.
- 2 Incense 'grape' cup in jasper ware**
Wilsford, barrow G7
Original excavated from the burial of the Lady of the North.

BUSH BARROW CHIEFTAIN

This man, buried close to Stonehenge, was given Britain's richest Bronze Age burial.

Described as a 'stout and tall man', he was buried with objects that symbolised his power and authority in life. On his chest was a gold lozenge that fastened his cloak and would have glinted in the sun.





Described as a 'stout and tall man', he was buried with objects that symbolised his power and authority in life. On his chest was a gold lozenge that fastened his cloak and would have glinted in the sun.



Close-up showing how the gold sheet was wrapped over the wooden backing of the lozenge.



The carefully laid out design of the lozenge shows a detailed knowledge of geometry. The sharpest angle is similar to that between the summer and winter solstice.

Close-up showing how the gold sheet was wrapped over the wooden backing of the lozenge.



Watercolour of the dagger handle when it was found in 1808.



The fragmentary remains of the wooden handle and pins with a needle for scale.

The carefully laid out display shows the knowledge of geometry between the summer and



The handle and dagger buried with the Chieftain.

He was buried with a bronze dagger adorned with an intricate design created from

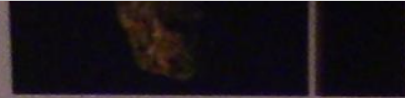
The Chieftain also had a dagger with gleaming white

The carefully laid out design of the lozenge shows a detailed knowledge of geometry. The sharpest angle is similar to that between the summer and winter solstice.



The handle and dagger blade.

The Chieftain also had a mace, its handle set with gleaming white bone and a small gold



Watercolour of the dagger handle when it was found in 1808.

The fragmentary remains of the wooden handle and pins with a needle for scale.



The handle and dagger blade.

He was buried with a bronze dagger adorned with an intricate design created from thousands of tiny gold studs. The dagger hung from his belt, looped on a spectacular gold belt hook which was finely decorated with incised curving lines delicately scored into the soft metal. The Chieftain was also buried with an axe from Brittany, a rare object to be placed in a burial. Axes and daggers were the symbols of power carved onto the great sarsen stones at Stonehenge.

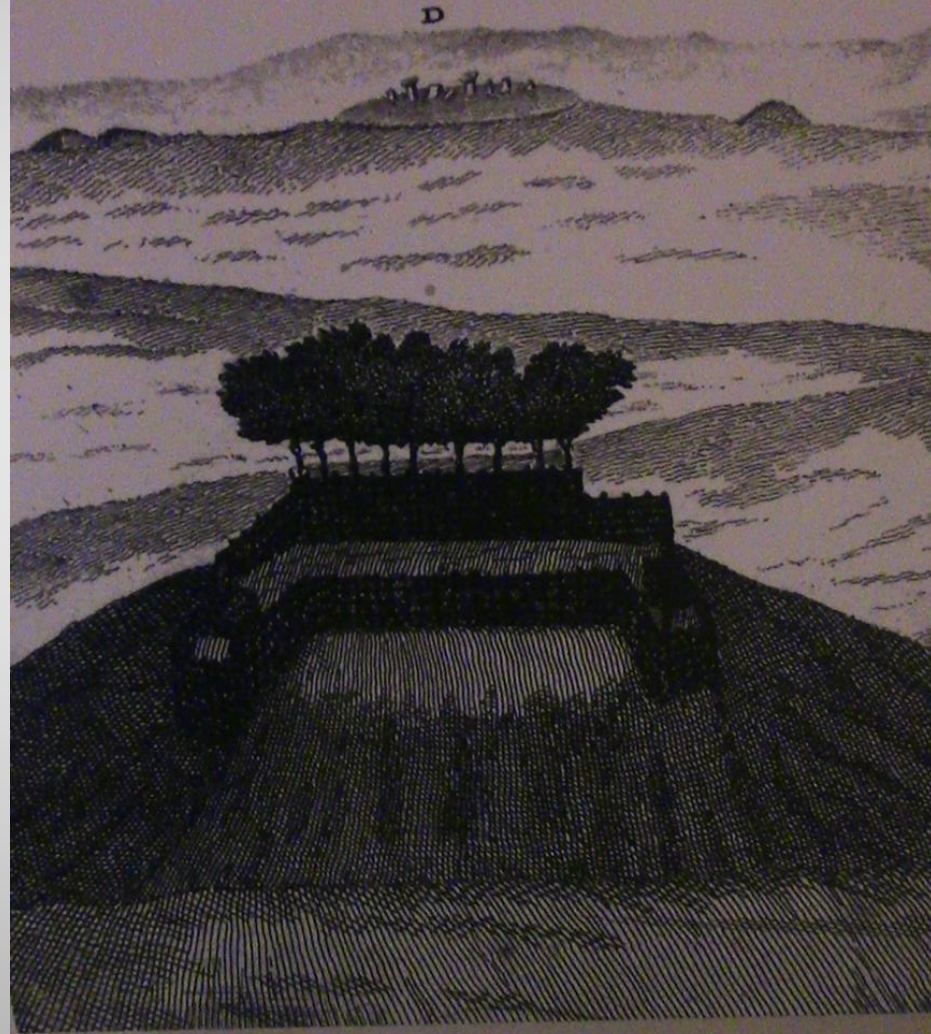
The Chieftain also had a mace, its handle set with gleaming white bone and a small gold lozenge. The head of the mace was made of a carefully chosen stone, ground and polished to a magnificent finish. The mace may have been decorated with ribbons, fur or brightly coloured feathers that have long since rotted away. Tied to it were bone rings that would have jangled and rattled as the Chieftain gestured and danced.

Bush Barrow, with Stonehenge on the skyline. Engraving in Stukeley's 'Stonehenge – A Temple restored to the Ancient Druids', 1743.

at Stonehenge.

Bush Barrow, with Stonehenge on
the skyline. Engraving in Stukeley's
'Stonehenge - A Temple restored to
the Ancient Druids', 1743.

Prospect from Bushbarrow



and the daggers and one
arrow Chieftan is very clear
were made on one of the
in the horizon close to Bush
lines with the burial mounds
Stonehenge



1

1 Collared urn sherd
Wilsford GS, Bush Barrow

A sherd of a large collared urn from a later grave, showing that the barrow was used as a burial place for several centuries. Recent research suggests that the barrow was built in at least three stages and contains at least three burials.



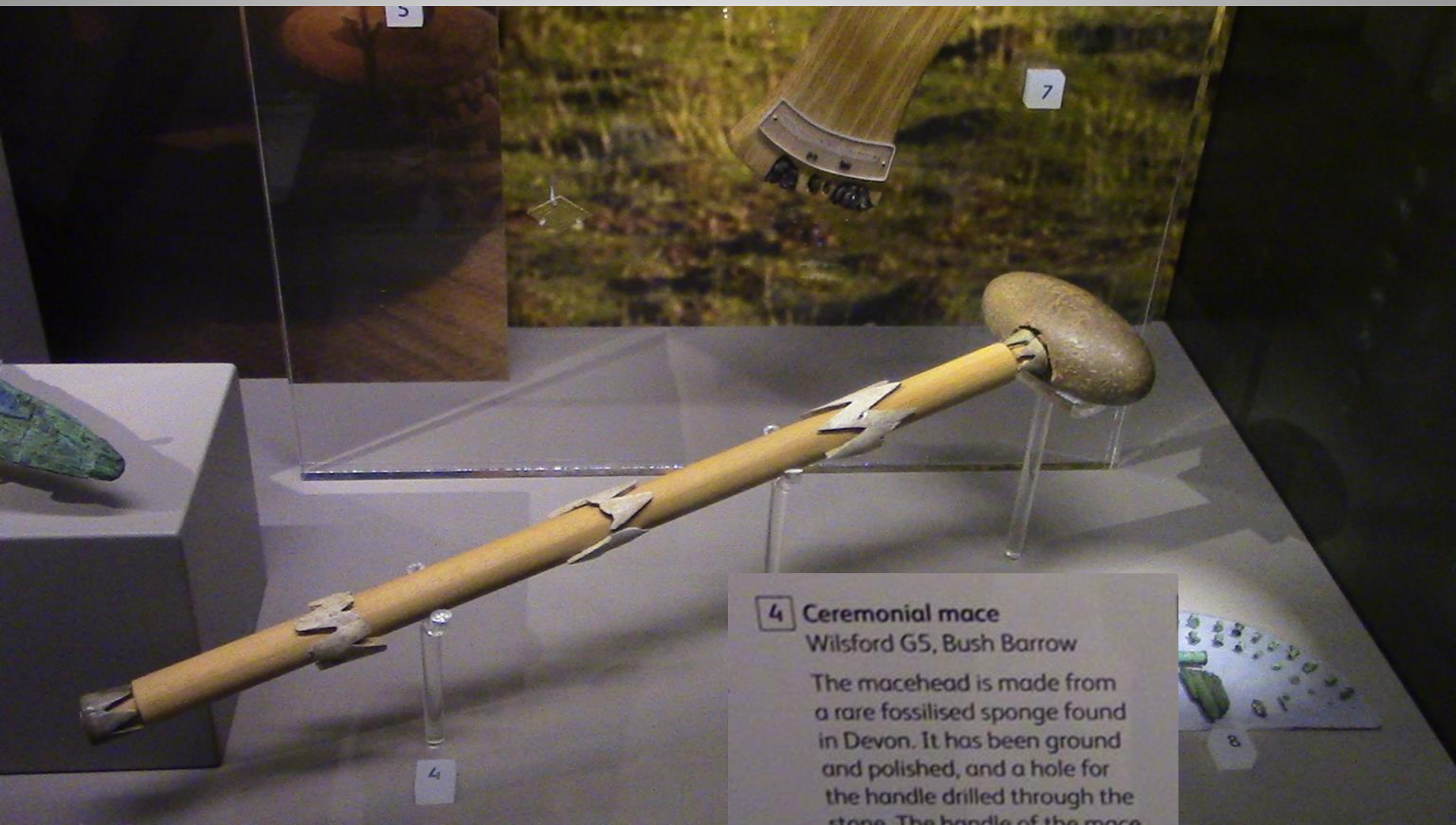


- 2** **Bronze axe**
Wilsford G5, Bush Barrow
- This axe-head has traces of closely-woven cloth still visible on the blade. These traces may be from the clothing that the chieftain wore. The shape of the axe is similar to those carved on the sarsen stones at Stonehenge.



3 **Bronze dagger**
Wilsford G5, Bush Barrow

This bronze dagger is the largest to have been found in Wiltshire and parts of its wooden sheath are still stuck to the blade. The handle of this dagger was decorated with tiny gold studs.



4 Ceremonial mace
Wilsford G5, Bush Barrow

The macehead is made from a rare fossilised sponge found in Devon. It has been ground and polished, and a hole for the handle drilled through the stone. The handle of the mace was decorated with the zig-zag shaped bone mounts and the small gold lozenge.



5 Gold belt hook
Wilsford G5, Bush Barrow

Decorated by lines which follow the curves and shape of the plate and hook. The sheet gold plate and hook were wrapped over carefully jointed pieces of wood. It was rarely used, and may have been used on a belt to hang the sheath of a dagger.



6

6 Gold lozenge
Wilsford GS, Bush Barrow

Highly decorated and beautifully made, this is the finest example of Bronze Age gold-working. The lozenge is made of sheet gold decorated with incised lines, it would have been wrapped around a thin piece of wood.



7 Copper dagger with the remains of a wooden handle and gold studs

Wilsford G5, Bush Barrow

This dagger handle was inlaid with tens of thousands of tiny gold studs, each about 1mm long, which can still be seen on the fragments of the original handle. The studs were set in a meticulous pattern of zig-zags and the dagger was probably made in Brittany.



8 Dagger handle

Wilsford G5, Bush Barrow

These bronze rivets, originally thought to have been from a shield, helmet or casket, are now thought to be the remains of a handle from a rare type of dagger like the one excavated at Milston, a short distance from Stonehenge. This dagger is 200 years older than the Bush Barrow chieftain and is from an earlier burial missed by the excavators in 1808.

ANCESTORS, HEIRLOOMS AND THE DEAD



Necklace
South Newton, barrow G1

This unique necklace is made of wolves' teeth, and also includes two dog's teeth.


**Bronze dagger with
bone handle**



Necklace

South Newton, barrow G1

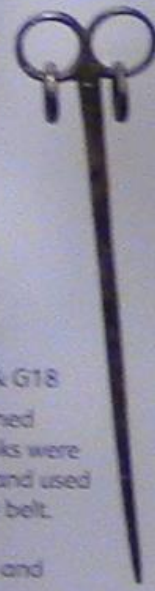
This unique necklace is made of wolves' teeth, and also includes two dog's teeth.



Bronze dagger with
bone pommel

Winterbourne Stoke, barrow G4

This very fine dagger was produced locally.



Bronze double ring-headed pin

Collingbourne Ducis, barrow G4

Found with a cremation inside a tree trunk coffin, it was originally in a wooden sheath. The pin and rings were cast as a single piece of bronze, and separated once the metal had cooled.



Two bone belt hooks

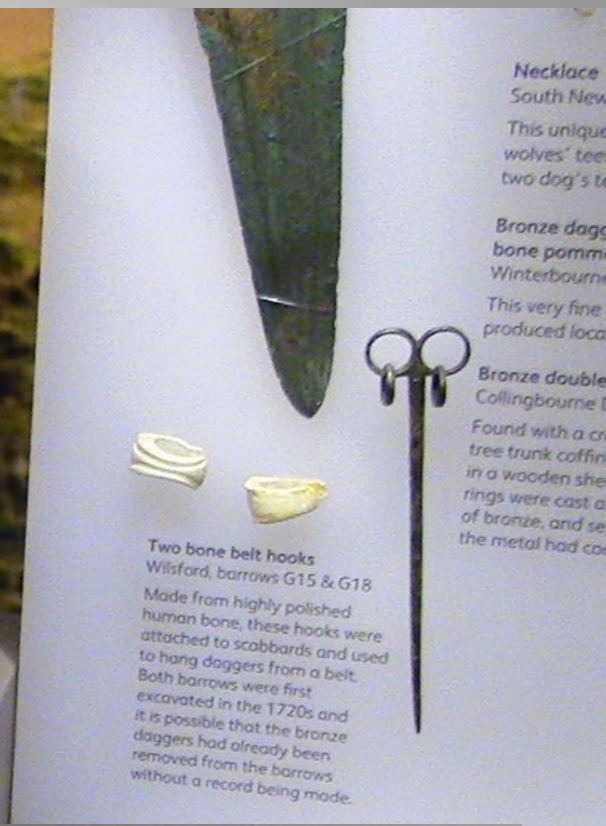
Wilsford, barrows G15 & G18

Made from highly polished human bone, these hooks were attached to scabbards and used to hang daggers from a belt. Both barrows were first excavated in the 1720s and it is possible that the bronze daggers had already been removed from the barrows without a record being made.



1 Collared urn
Collingbourne Ducis, barrow G11
Decorated collared urn, found containing the cremated ashes of a child.

2 Collared urn
Knowle, Little Bedwyn
Found during gravel digging in 1922 at Knowle, contained a cremation.



Necklace
South New
This unique
wolves' teeth
two dog's heads

Bronze dagger
bone pommel
Winterbourne
This very fine
produced locally

Bronze double rings
Collingbourne Ducis
Found with a cremation
tree trunk coffin
in a wooden shroud
rings were cast
of bronze, and seen
the metal had corroded

Two bone belt hooks
Wilsford, barrows G15 & G18
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3 Wilsford, barrow G23

Perforated slate whetstone

This whetstone has a loop for suspending from a belt or around the neck.

Bronze crutch-headed pin

Bronze pin with a decorated cross-piece. This unusual pin may have been made in Brittany.

Bone flute

Flute made from the long bone of a swan or crane, with two surviving finger-holes for playing different notes. The crane has a special significance in many cultures.

Two bronze daggers

One has a bronze belt hook corroded to the blade.

Both barrows were first excavated in the 1720s and it is possible that the bronze daggers had already been removed from the barrows without a record being made.

2



4



5

4 Bone tweezers
Amesbury, barrow G11

5 Incense 'grape' cup and stone
battle-axe
Avebury, barrow G23c

Found in a barrow with seven burials on Windmill Hill, Avebury. The battle-axe is made of stone from the Welsh borders.

Bronze dagger with
bone pommel
Winterbourne Stoke, barrow G4
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produced locally.

Bronze double ring-headed pin
Collingbourne Ducis, barrow G4
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Both barrows were first
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daggers had already been
removed from the barrows
without a record being made.

6 Two food vessels and a bronze awl
Wilsford, barrow G65; Winterbourne Stoke,
barrow G28

At the end of the Early Bronze Age, people were no longer buried under large barrows. Instead they were cremated on funerary pyres and their ashes buried in large pottery vessels, known as urns, buried side by side or in clusters under smaller earthen mounds. Sometimes small metal objects were buried with the ashes, including bronze razors, bracelets and awls.

and a bronze awl
5; Winterbourne Stoke,

7 Four miniature cups
Boynton, barrow G4a; Winterbourne
Stoke, barrow G65; Winterbourne Stoke,
Milton Lilbourne, barrow G4

7 Four miniature cups
Boynton, barrow G4a; Winterbourne
Stoke, barrow G65; Winterbourne Stoke,
barrow G16a; Milton Lilbourne, barrow G4

Miniature pottery cups, made in different
shapes and often highly decorated,
traditionally thought to have held incense.
These cups are usually found with female
burials and may have been made at the
burial site and fired on the pyre used to
cremate the body. The incense cup found
at Winterbourne Stoke, barrow G65 could
be used either way up.

GIFT TO THE GODS

Bronze tools, weapons and ornaments were produced on an industrial scale. Many were in everyday use; others were buried in 'hoards', perhaps as a gift to the gods in the hope of a good harvest.

a good harvest.



A new custom began of burying hoards of tools, weapons and ornaments in the ground, often on hill tops. They may have been hidden for safekeeping, or buried as a gift to the gods. Some hoards were of scrap metal, ready to be melted down and used again.

Bronze-smiths began casting new types of tools and weapons, and developed precise mixtures of copper, arsenic and tin to make harder and sharper blades. Molten metal was poured into moulds made of clay, metal and stone. Once the metal was cool, the mould was stripped off to reveal the object inside. This was an awe-inspiring sight, something that may have seemed almost magical, giving the metal-worker high status within the tribal group. Objects were made in distinctive regional styles, with different shapes and decoration.






Bronze socketed axes from the axe hoard found at Manton.

As metal-working grew in scale, raw materials and finished products were traded across the English Channel. Cornwall became a vital source of the tin needed to make high quality bronze. Gold from Wales, and Central and Eastern Europe was used to make bracelets, necklaces and dress-fasteners.

The axe remained an important symbol. Hoards sometimes contain many axes, buried without their wooden hafts. Many are made from alloys rich in lead, making them too brittle ever to have been used. These axes may have been made specially to be offered as a gift to the gods, or for exchange as a type of currency.



The Manton axe hoard. The axes were placed on top of each other in layers.



Two swords, rapier and dagger
Wilsford Down & Liddington;
Ogbourne St George; Teffont
Magna

Bronze swords hint that warfare
may have been increasingly
common. Swords are rarely found
in Wiltshire and the one from
Liddington was made in Britain, but
is inspired by a Continental design.

Axe hoard (behind)
Manton, near Marlborough

A hoard of late Bronze Age
socketed axes and palstaves.
The hoard was found in two parts,
the first by a farm labourer in 1914
(left), the second by metal
detectorists in 1999 (right). Some
of the axes were strung together
using twisted plant fibres.

Two of the axes are replicas of
originals that are not on display

A. Powys-Lybbe Bequest



GIFT TO THE

1 Bronze fragments and axe mould

Aldbourne Down; Burderop Down, Chiseldon

Pieces of bronze, possibly from a founders hoard. This metalwork was probably buried in times of trouble with the intention of being recovered at a later date.

Stone mould for casting a socketed axe head.

2 Gold band and ring money
Cricklade; Ramsbury; Rushall

Flat band of gold, from an unfinished bracelet.

Ring money, made from a core of copper and covered in sheet gold. Thought to be a type of currency, or possibly worn as hair ornaments.



2

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3 Three Breton-type socketed axes

Chilton Foliat; East Kennet; Shalbourne

Made mostly of lead, these bronze axes were made in Brittany. They would have been unsuitable for use as tools or weapons, instead they were traded cast into a basic shape, ready to be melted down.



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4 Bronze bowl fragment
Blackberry Field, Potterne

Bronzsmiths began to use sheet metal to make bowls and cauldrons, and fragments are sometimes found on settlement sites.



5 Brooch, tweezers, two razors and two pins

Avebury; South Wiltshire Hoard; Shrewton; Bratton; Rushall Down; Bishops Cannings

Maintaining personal appearance was important. The bronze razors would have been used to trim facial hair. The design of the razor from Bratton and the pin with the circular decorated head are influenced by fashions on the Continent.

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6 Bronze bracelets and armlet
Wilsford cum Lake

Part of a hoard including five bronze bracelets and one ribbed armlet, found whilst building roads in Durnford, between Salisbury and Amesbury. From the collection of Reverend E Duke at Lake House, the collection was sold in 1895, two of the torcs and rings were purchased by General Pitt Rivers and are now on display at Salisbury Museum.

7 Bronze socketed gouge, socketed hammer and scriber
Avebury

This wood-worker's toolkit was found near to West Kennet Long Barrow, Avebury.



6 Bronze bracelets and armlet
Wilsford cum Lake

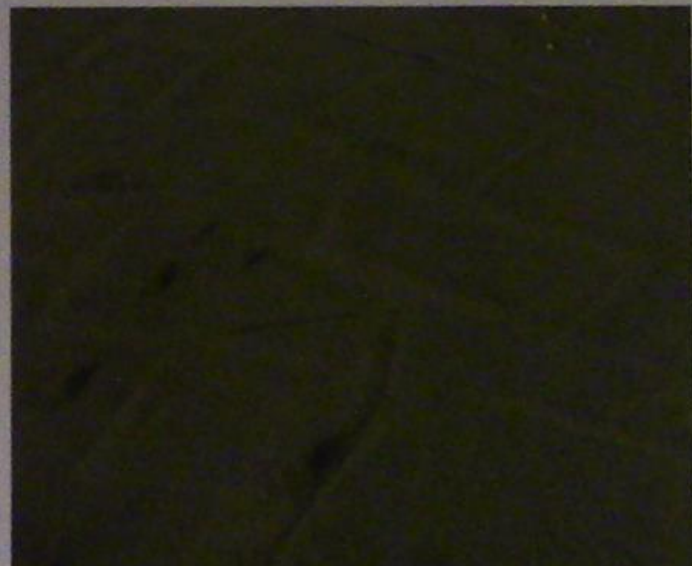
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MIDDENS, MANURE AND MARKETS

The farming year was demanding, with whole communities working together to care for the animals, plough the fields and harvest the crops.

Families lived in farmsteads of round houses and cattle pens. Farmsteads were grouped together, and their rubbish heaps covered huge areas with a mixture of broken pottery, butchered animal bone, manure and metal-working debris. Settlements like the one at Potterne, close to Devizes, were used for hundreds of years. The houses were continually renewed and replaced. The people who lived here kept large herds of animals; they came together for festivals and markets.

As the climate changed, wind and rain



continually renewed and replaced. The people who lived here kept large herds of animals; they came together for festivals and markets.

As the climate changed, wind and rain threatened to wash away the soil. Fields were enclosed by banks and hedges to provide shelter for the growing crops and were terraced into hillsides to face the warmth of the sun.



Reconstruction of harvesting crops in the Bronze Age.

Bronze Age field systems near Barbury Castle.

Cereals like wheat and barley were grown and sheep, cattle and pigs were bred for their meat. Meat was stored for winter by smoking, drying and curing. Dairy products like butter and cheese were also made. Processing food increased its shelf-life and ensured that there was enough to eat all year round. Corn was stored in large pottery vessels, to protect it from the damp and vermin, and stone querns were used to grind cereal into flour.

People in the later Bronze Age seem to have been content to live among rubbish! It may even have been a symbol of high status. The massive rubbish heaps, some of which were more than two metres deep, were perhaps a way of showing the surrounding communities that the village was thriving.

MIDDENS, MANURE AND MARKETS

Eight beads

Blackberry Field, Potterne

Amber, glass and shale were used to make beads. Glass beads were made in a range of colours.




Pottery spindle whorls


Blackberry Field, Potterne

Spindle whorls were used for twisting wool into thread by hand, and were mounted on a wooden shaft.






Spindle whorls were used for twisting wool into thread by hand, and were mounted on a wooden shaft.



Weaving comb, beater, bobbin and a needle
Blackberry Field, Potterne

Four tools made from animal bone, and used for making textiles.



Bronze socketed sickle
Winterbourne Monkton

Used for harvesting grain and cutting vegetation. The design of the sickle is inspired by Continental examples.



11

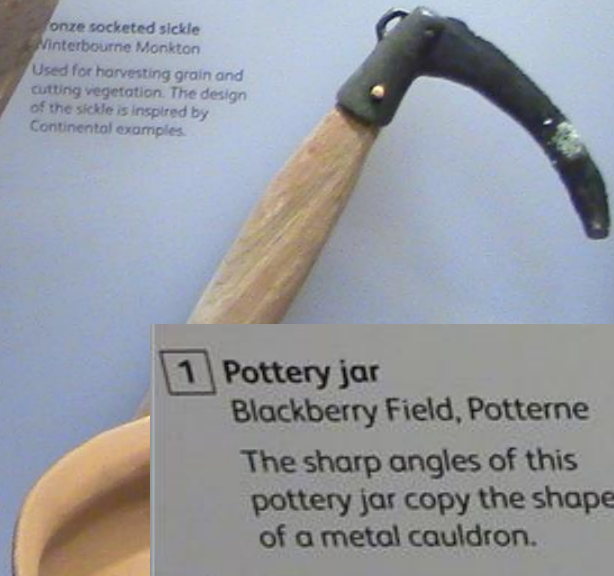


Weaving comb, beater,
bobbin and a needle
Blackberry Field, Potterne

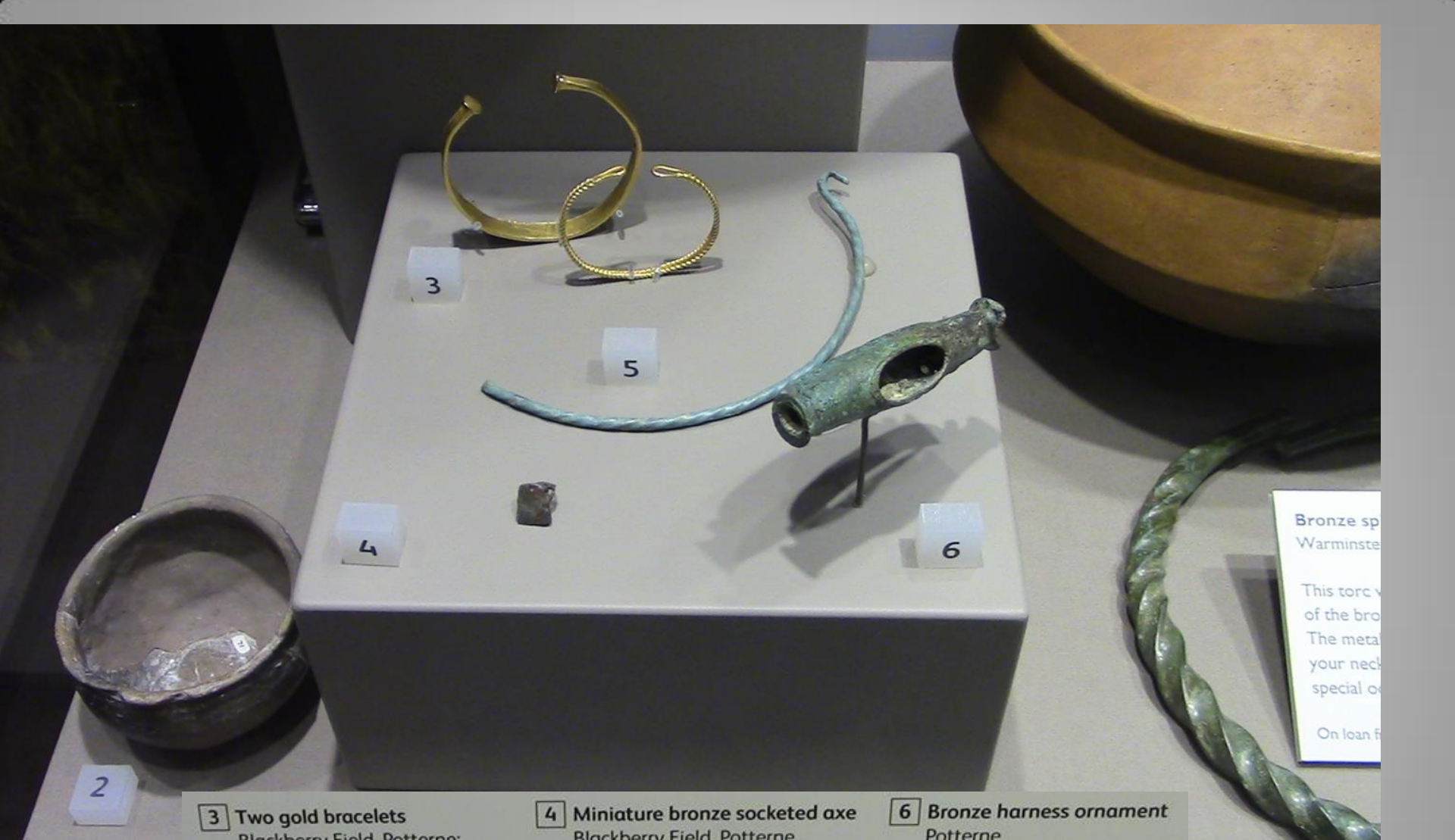
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Bronze socketed sickle
Winterbourne Monkton
Used for harvesting grain and
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Continental examples.



- 1 Pottery jar**
Blackberry Field, Potterne
The sharp angles of this
pottery jar copy the shape
of a metal cauldron.
- 2 Burnished cup**
Blackberry Field, Potterne



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3 Two gold bracelets
Blackberry Field, Potterne;
Clench Common, Marlborough
Gold jewellery was a valuable possession. The bracelet from Potterne shows that people of high status lived at the settlement.

4 Miniature bronze socketed axe
Blackberry Field, Potterne
Worn as a pendant or a charm on a bracelet. Some were buried as votive offerings in a place considered sacred.

5 Neck ring
Potterne
Part of a neck ring made of twisted bronze strips.

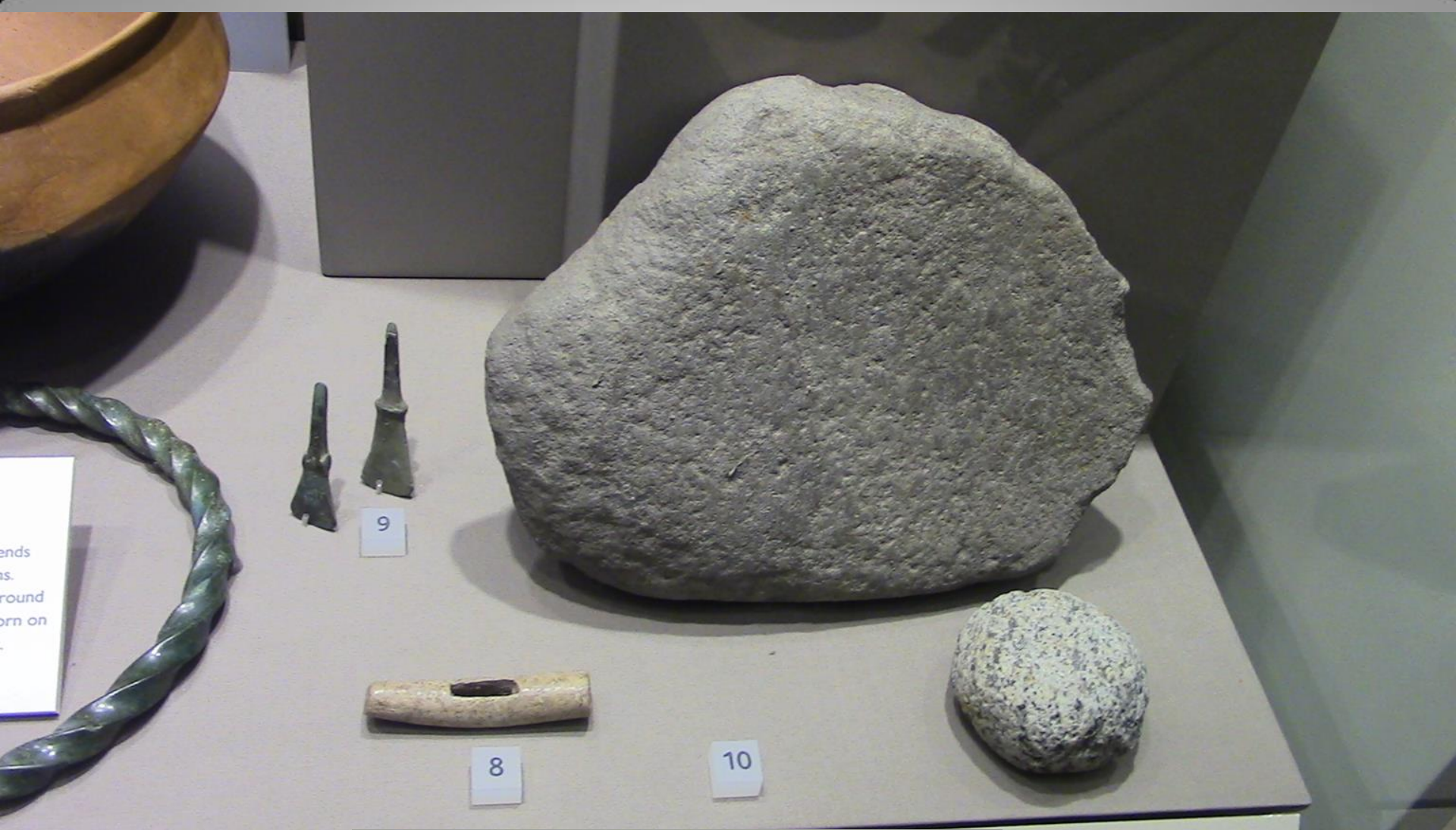
6 Bronze harness ornament
Potterne
Harness ornaments show how important horses had become for transport and as symbol of prestige.

7 Bowl
Blackberry Field, Potterne
Probably used for storage.

Bronze sp
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8 Bone toggle
Blackberry Field, Potterne
Possibly used for fastening
a cloak.

9 Two bronze knives
Upavon; West Lavington
Used for leatherworking.

10 Quern and granite pestle
Duck Lane, Potterne; Blackberry
Field, Potterne
These were used to grind
cereal grains into flour. The
quern was made from local
sarsen stone, but the granite for
the rubbing stone was probably
from Cornwall.

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ted



11

11 Deverel-Rimbury barrel-shaped
urn rim

Bishops Canning

The rim of this urn was found sunken into the ground under the eaves of the earliest hut on the farmstead at Bishops Canning. Deverel-Rimbury urns are named after the distinctive pottery style found at these two burial sites in Dorset.

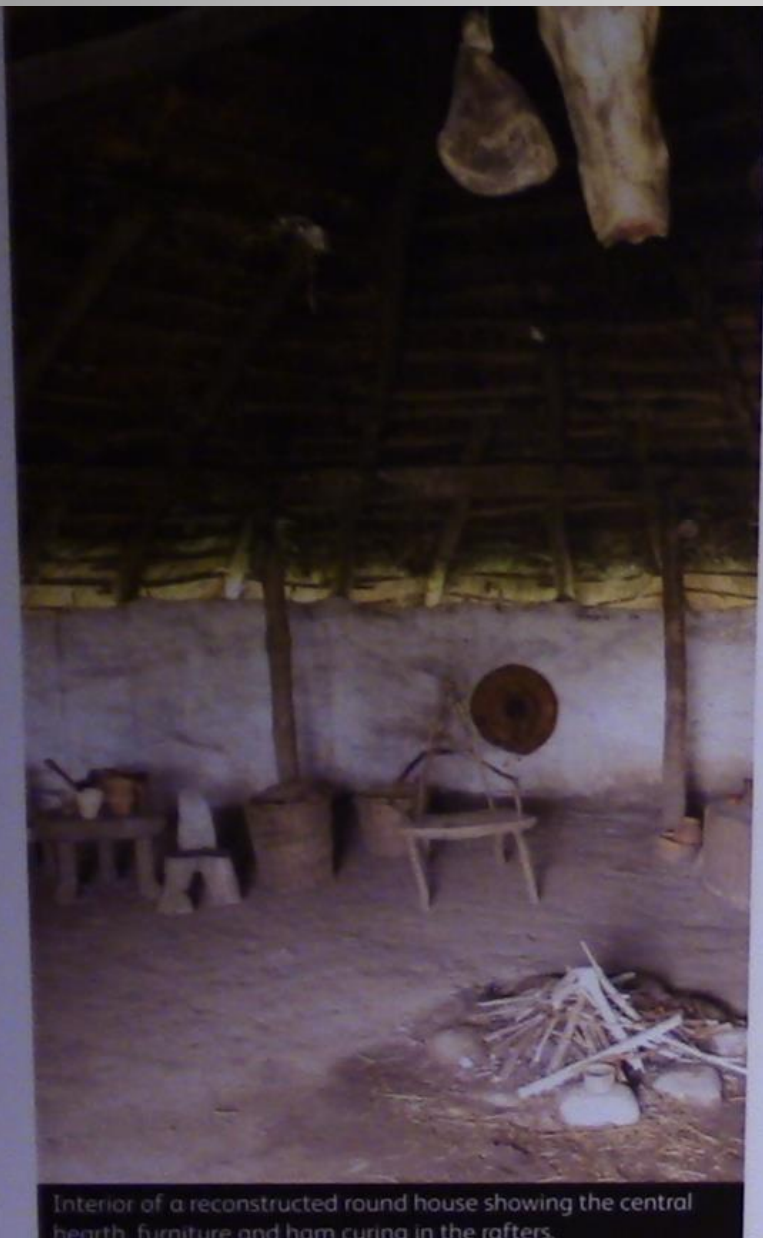
A HOME FOR LIFE

Couples probably set up new farmsteads once they married, raising children and living there for the rest of their lives. Perhaps the whole community helped to build their new home.

At the heart of the farmstead was the round house, a home built using materials which were readily available. Often found in pairs, one house was for living in, and the other used for cooking, household crafts and keeping animals. Rubbish heaps, pits and granaries for storing food have been found outside the round house. Ponds were dug to collect rainwater.

Inside the houses were hearths and ovens, small pots for cooking and large vessels for storing food. Grain was ground into flour using quern stones, upright looms with heavy weights were used to weave textiles, and bronze tools for leather-working.





Interior of a reconstructed round house showing the central hearth, furniture, and ham curing in the rafters.



Reconstruction of a Bronze Age round house based on examples found at Flag Fen.

Francis Pryor/Flag Fen Bronze Age Centre and Archaeology Park

The farmstead at Bishops Cannings was a single round house. The entrance porch faced south, to protect it from the weather and let in the light. The walls were made of wattle: small tree branches woven between upright wooden posts, and daub, a weatherproof mixture of manure, clay and mud. The roof was probably covered with turf.

Close to the farmstead were several small fields and pens for keeping animals. The family who lived there grew wheat and barley and bred cattle, sheep and goats. The stronger cattle would have pulled the plough, and horses were used for moving people.

DEATH AND BURIAL

People were no longer buried under large barrows with rich grave goods. Now their bodies were cremated and their ashes buried in large pottery urns.

The dead were cremated on wooden pyres, and their ashes placed in pottery urns, known as 'Deverel-Rimbury ware', named after two cemeteries in Dorset. The same type of pottery was used in people's houses to cook and store food.

The dead were buried in urns placed together in pairs or small clusters. Men, women and



...
Bronze Age burials, grave goods are rarely found with the cremated ashes. The burials were often covered by small mounds, laid out in cemeteries or 'urnfields'.




Reconstruction of funerary pyre being lit on top of a barrow mound. Wessex Archaeology



The Antiquary, and his Daughter, taking home the Stonehenge Urn, May, 1872.

The Stonehenge Urn, a large barrel shaped urn, was found a short distance from Stonehenge. It was buried under a small earthen mound, one of five burials placed alongside earlier Bronze Age barrows. This was probably the cemetery of the people who lived in the settlement at Winterbourne Stoke,



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Towards the end of the Bronze Age the way in which the remains of the dead were treated changed again. Formal burials were rare and large cemeteries were no longer used. Jumbled human bone is occasionally found mixed in with the debris in the rubbish heaps on settlement sites.

Age urn, found inverted over cremated ashes.

DEATH AND BURIAL



Amber, jet and bronze beads.
Bone rings and bone toggle

Personal possessions of a teenage girl, buried at the edge of a barrow that had been reconstructed several hundred years earlier. The barrow was built to mark the burial of a man, placed in a wooden coffin.



Bronze mould for a pubic bone and
All Carriage

Unpainted pottery was used for half, dating to
c. 1500-1400 BC. The bronze box is decorated with
a raised shield, central vertical rib and spirals.
Pottery was made from a mixture of clay
from other sites, some of which is rich and
important find for archaeologists.

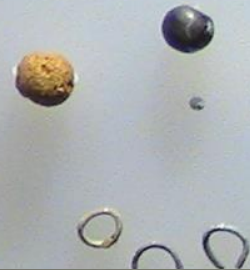


DEATH AND BURIAL



Amber, jet and bronze beads;
Bone rings and bone toggle
West Overton, barrow G19

Personal possessions of a teenage girl,
buried at the edge of a barrow that
had been constructed several hundred
years earlier. The barrow was built
to mark the burial of a man, placed
in a wooden coffin.



1 Globular funerary urn Salisbury

The dead were cremated on
funeral pyres and their ashes
were placed in large pottery
vessels called urns.



Bronze mould for a palstave axe
All Cannings

Looped palstave axe mould (one half), dating to c.1500-1300 BC. The front face is decorated with a raised shield, central vertical rib and chevrons. Palstave axes were cast in bivalve moulds made from either clay, stone or bronze. A rare and important find for Wiltshire.

On loan from Gary Cook, Westbury



2 Bucket funerary urn

Collingbourne Ducis, barrow G9

The decoration was made using finger impressions. The urn was placed upside-down, covering burnt human remains.

Bronze mould for a palstave axe

All Cannings

Looped palstave axe mould (one half), dating to c.1500-1300 BC. The front face is decorated with a raised shield, central vertical rib and chevrons. Palstave axes were cast in bivalve moulds made from either clay, stone or bronze. A rare and important find for Wiltshire.

On loan from Gary Cook, Westbury





Amber, jet and bronze beads.
Some rings and bone toggle
from Dorset barrow G13.
Personal possessions of a teenage girl
buried at the edge of a barrow that
had been constructed several hundred
years earlier. The barrow was built
to mark the burial of a man placed
in a wooden coffin.



Urn mould for a gable-end
barrow.
A mould for a gable-end
barrow. It was made of
stone and used to
make the sides of the
urns. It was
discovered by William
Cunnington.

**3 'Stonehenge' barrel urn
Amesbury, barrow G3**

The largest Bronze Age burial urn found in Britain. It was named the 'Stonehenge' urn by William Cunnington when he discovered it in a barrow close to the western end of the Stonehenge Cursus. It contained cremated human remains, perhaps of more than one person. The top was closed with a large triangular stone.

WEAPONS AND WATER CULTS


A new wave of contact and trade with Continental Europe inspired bronze-smiths to produce new styles of metalwork. Some of the weapons were placed in rivers and streams as ceremonial offerings to the gods.



Later Bronze Age hoards and offerings were often

Bronze metalwork was brought from the Continent to the coasts of Britain by boat. Breton axes made in France have been found in Wiltshire. Their high lead content makes them unsuitable for use as tools or weapons. They may have been made as a standard weight of metal, cast into a basic shape for transportation and storage. Later, they could be melted down and used to cast new objects.





Later Bronze Age hoards and offerings were often deposited in rivers.

Axes made in Brittany were traded across the Channel to Britain.



These new ideas from the Continent inspired the manufacture of new types of tools and weapons. A group of small shield-like objects and spearheads were found in the River Avon, at Melksham. The small bronze shields, known as 'phalera', may have adorned a horse harness. They are similar to others found in Belgium and Germany, but were probably made here in Britain. The phalerae had been ceremonially stabbed with a spearhead before being placed in the water.

Water cults became increasingly important in the later Bronze Age. Many weapons have been found deliberately deposited in rivers, streams, springs and bogs. Some of the swords are large and exquisitely made, suggesting that their purpose was purely ceremonial. Some rapiers and dirks were fragile and show little signs of use and appear to have been status symbols. They were ceremonial offerings, ritually 'killed' before being deposited in a sacred place.



The Melksham Hoard

A hoard of objects found in the River Avon in Melksham, including three bronze spearheads, three bronze phalerae, part of a bronze sword blade, and two iron spearheads, probably imported from the Continent.

Phalerae are small disc-like objects that may have been horse harness decorations and were inspired by Continental designs. They were ceremonially stabbed, perhaps to 'kill' them before they were placed in the water. Other items in the hoard were bent and broken.



5 Three socketed bronze spearheads

6 Two socketed iron spearheads

INTO THE IRON AGE

At the end of the Bronze Age rivalry and conflict between tribal groups was growing. The ownership of land and cattle was fiercely protected and fought over. Defended settlements were built to safeguard land and wealth as the balance of power began to change.





the
Iron Age

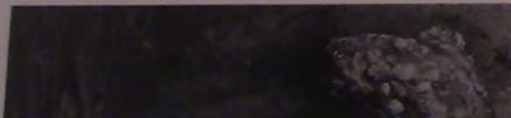
700 BC

50 AD

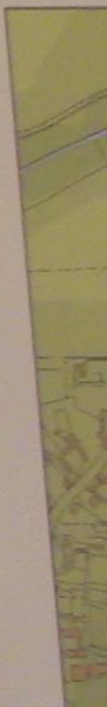
Excavating Marden Henge

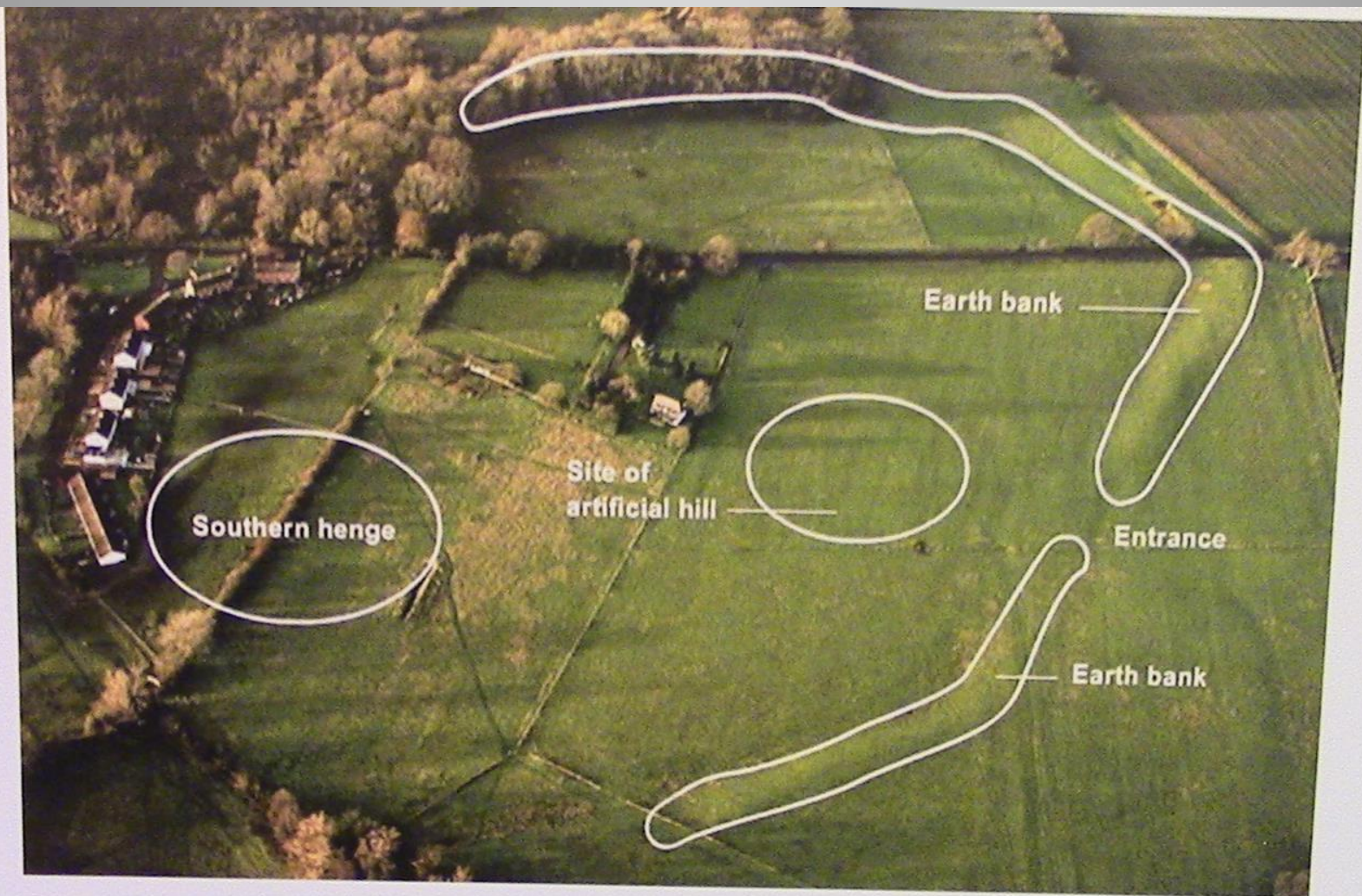
Marden is the largest henge monument in Britain, a ritual complex that includes England's best preserved Neolithic building. Located roughly midway between Stonehenge and Avebury, Marden encloses an area of more than 30 acres with its enormous bank and ditch.

Apart from the excavation of the monument by Geoffrey Wainwright in 1969, Marden has been largely overlooked by archaeologists, until recently....



Excavations in 2010 revealed a smaller henge built inside the main enclosure. On top of the bank was the chalk floor of a rectangular-shaped building, with a large circular hearth at the centre. Perhaps a sweat lodge, stones were heated in a fire, then brought into the building and placed in the hearth. Water





den Henge by Geoffrey Wo

Marden Henge

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Geoffrey Wainwright in 1969, Marden has been largely overlooked by archaeologists, until recently....



Above: Skeleton of a young woman buried in the west ditch terminal, found during Geoffrey Wainwright's excavation in 1969. Antiquaries Journal, volume 51 (1971).

Below: Ripple-flaked flint arrowheads found during the 2010 excavation of Marden

Excavations in 2010 revealed a smaller henge built inside the main enclosure. On top of the bank was the chalk floor of a rectangular-shaped building, with a large circular hearth at the centre. Perhaps a sweat lodge, stones were heated in a fire, then brought into the building and placed in the hearth. Water obtained from the henge ditch or the nearby River Avon could then be poured on the hot stones, to produce a steam bath, as part of a purification ritual.

Outside the door of the building was a midden or rubbish heap, containing large quantities of burnt pig bone and Grooved Ware pottery, suggesting that feasting had taken place there. Two exceptionally well-made ripple-flaked flint arrowheads and bone pins were also recovered from this area.

The 2010 excavations at Marden confirmed the location of the Hatfield Barrow inside the larger henge. When built the mound would have stood more than 15 metres tall, but it was levelled by ploughing in the early nineteenth century. A post hole was found at the centre, similar to the one found by Edward Drax at Silbury Hill in 1776. Both the Hatfield Barrow and Silbury Hill were surrounded by a deep ditch that held water and were perhaps used for a similar purpose.

The Vale of Pewsey Project



Above: Skeleton of a young woman buried in the west ditch terminal, found during Geoffrey Wainwright's excavation in 1969. Antiquaries Journal, volume 51 (1971).

Below: Ripple-flaked flint arrowheads found during the 2010 excavation of Marden Henge, on display in the Prehistoric Wiltshire Galleries at Wiltshire Museum, © Joanna Hutchings.





Flint tools including a polished axehead fragment and arrowheads found within the Neolithic features of Marden Henge, excavated in 2015 by the University of Reading Archaeology Field School.

The most exciting find was a finely worked thin rod of flint, which turned out to be the long, slender tail of a magnificent arrowhead found in 2010. The tail had been snapped off before the arrowhead was discarded. These two pieces, excavated five years apart have now been reunited for the first time in 4,500 years.

Both the arrowhead and the tail are currently on display in the Prehistoric Wiltshire Galleries, on the ground floor of the Museum.



Antler pick, now extinct. The bones are
antler pick shows the types of tools that
from the ditch 4,500 years ago.

have been built at the same time as
with a diameter of about 42 metres. Last
the circular ditch was over 3 metres deep

teenage boy were also found. He was
and was laid to rest on his right side,
on with his arms crossed and his head
poofs were found with the burial, the
or heads. A single sherd of pottery
in early Bronze Age Beaker burial,
shury and Boscombe Down.



Antler pick and auroch bones with butchery marks from the bottom of the Wilsford Henge ditch, found in 2015 by the University of Reading Archaeology Field School.

The auroch is a species of large wild cattle, now extinct. The bones are very well preserved and the antler pick shows the types of tools that were used to dig out the soil from the ditch 4,500 years ago.

Wilsford Henge is thought to have been built at the same time as Marden, but it is much smaller, with a diameter of about 42 metres. Last year's excavation showed that the circular ditch was over 3 metres deep and more than 13 metres wide.

Inside the ditch the remains of a teenage boy were also found. He was about 15 years old when he died, and was laid to rest on his right side, facing west, in the crouched position with his arms crossed and his head pointing north. Although no grave goods were found with the burial, the boy was wearing a necklace of amber beads. A single sherd of pottery found in the grave suggests that it is an early Bronze Age Beaker burial, like the ones excavated around Amesbury and Boscombe Down.

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CASE 1: Introduction

By the end of the Bronze Age, most of downland Britain was settled in small farmsteads. Many of the Bronze Age settlements continued into the Iron Age without a break, such as Potterne and All Cannings Cross.

New methods of agriculture had improved crop and animal farming. Farms and outbuildings were often surrounded by defences made of earth and timber. Ox, sheep, pigs, ponies, and maybe goats were bred on the farms, and, along with hunting, meant that the Iron Age people had a variety of meats to eat.

Wheat, barley, oats and rye were grown. Surplus grain was either stored in underground pits to be eaten later, or in simple barns to be planted the next year. Hollows were dug into the ground for working areas, where animals were skinned and grain sorted; large cob ovens were built for baking bread or roasting grain.

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Nos. 1 & 2 – Globular and Bucket Urns

These urns, used to hold the ashes of the dead, are typical of the later Bronze Age. They probably derived from earlier bi-conical urns and food vessels as displayed in the Bronze Age Gallery.

From Woodminton, Bowerchalke, barrow G. 1.

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No. 3 - Sackled Pot

If you compare this with the one in the next case you can see how the shape of the pot has changed since the Iron Age. In the next case you will see a 'sackled' pot like this one.



No. 15 – Iron Spearhead

The earliest Iron Age spearheads made of iron were identical in size and form to the spearheads made out of bronze at the end of the Bronze Age – but much stronger!

Found at Wroughton. Gift of Joy Hanley

No. 14 – Tabular

This implement, was used for grinding in the Iron Age by sarsen flakes (see cases replaced by rotary querns From the Swallowcliff D

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Bronze Age

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No. 14 - Chalk Thatch Weights

Perforated chalk or clay weights are common on Iron Age sites. They are normally thought to be loom weights, but some of the basic types could equally have been used to hold down the roof of the farmhouse.


From All Cannings Cross, Pit 4.



No. 2 - Chalk Lamps

Similar simple lamps made from chalk have been recovered from Neolithic flint mines. These are from All Cannings Cross.





No. 5 - Carbonised Grain Samples

Sometimes the grain was accidentally overheated while being dried in the oven and became carbonised. These show us the types of crops grown by Iron Age farmers. Wheat and barley are most common, oats and rye are also found.

From storage pits at Fyfield Bavant.

No. 4 - Four-Post Structures

Four-post structures found on many Iron Age sites have been identified as small granaries for storing seed corn. This had to be kept dry to prevent it sprouting. It also had to be kept out of the reach of rats and mice.



plough, as well being eaten.
The Pig bone is from Barbury Castle
are from All Cannings Cross.



No. 6 - Burnt Flint
Fragments of burnt flint found at Iron Age sites may have served several purposes including lining hearths, making the floors of corn drying ovens and heating water in cooking pots to broil food.
From All Cannings Cross.

6



No. 13 - Saddle Quern and Rubber
A local industry of making saddle querns from sarsen grew up on the North Wiltshire Downs in the Iron Age. They were widely used in farmsteads and settlements in Wiltshire and were the main way of grinding corn.
From All Cannings Cross.

13

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No. 7 - Animal Bones

Antlers of red deer, ox, sheep and pig bones. The antler was probably shed and collected rather than hunted. After cattle, sheep were the most common farm animals. Oxen were probably used to plough, as well being eaten.

The Pig bone is from Barbury Castle, the others are from All Cannings Cross.

CASE 3: The Smith

The smith was a key person in Iron Age society. He manufactured a wide range of iron products- weapons (see Case 4), chariot and other wagon fittings (see Case 12), tools for farmers, carpenters and other craftsmen as well as domestic items and even jewellery.

Iron-smiths were active in Britain as early as the 7th century BC. Some early iron items copied the shape of late Bronze Age objects (see Case 1). Because of the scarcity of iron at the beginning of the Iron Age, bronze continued to be used for the manufacture of some implements.

Some smiths may have been permanently employed in larger settlements. Other smiths were probably itinerant, travelling around smaller settlements or visiting rural fairs and markets. In time, individual farmers may well have carried out simple tasks and repairs for themselves.





The Barrows
This deposit of
the Middle Iron Age
is found in Wroughton
at one of the sites
is situated. Another
deposit of iron
consists of

Tools
1-4. Knives, three
saws and a punch.

Weapons
5. Three swords

Charred Iron
6. Nails from an
iron
7. Brackets and
8. Unmarked

Sword-Shaped Currency Bars

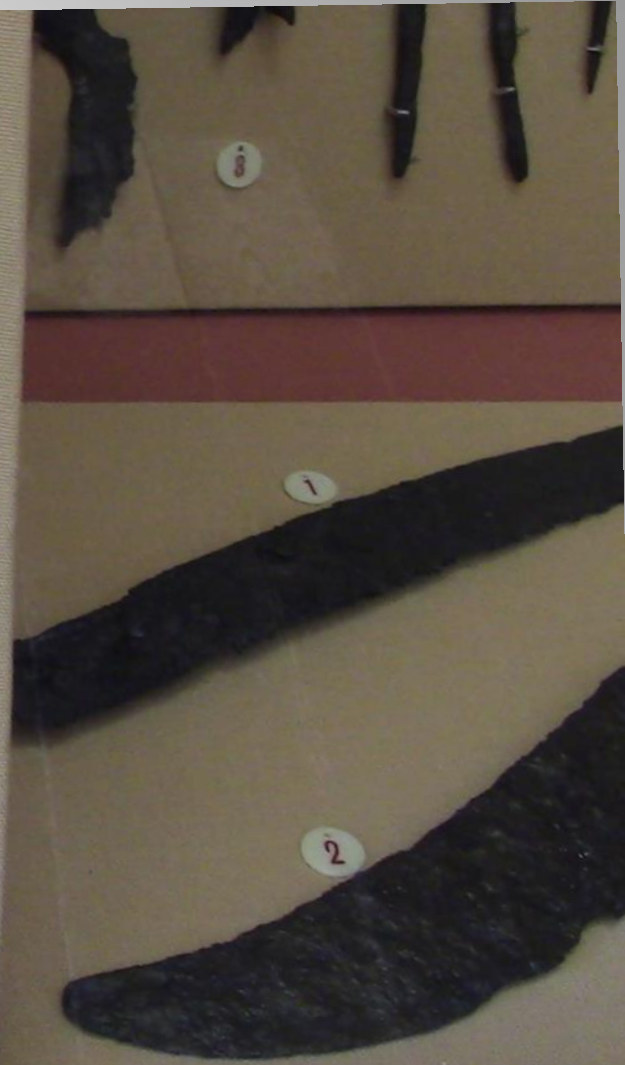
Deposits of currency bars are widely found in the west of England and date to the 2nd century BC. They served as ingots of iron of a standard weights and were probably used as a primitive currency for exchange or barter. The deposits may be ritual offerings to the gods.

This currency bar is from Wroughton.

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Iron Tools

A range of iron tools was made for farmers and for craftsmen, such as carpenters and wheelwrights. Examples include-

1. Saw from Battlesbury Camp.
2. Knife from Fifield Bavant.
3. Hammer head from Oare.
4. Chisel from Fifield Bavant.
5. Gouge from All Cannings Cross.

CASE 4: Early Pottery Styles

The two main types of pottery used during the Early Phase were bucket-shaped jars and small bowls.

The jars are hard and coarse with simple decoration - finger-printing, or nail incisions on rim and shoulder. The shape and decoration of these jars shows a development of jar types current in Britain during the later Bronze Age. Some shapes were clearly inspired by buckets and cauldrons, fashioned from sheet bronze in the same period.

The small bowls are finer wares, often coated with haematite to produce a red gloss. They reflect a continental influence, for similar types have been found in the URNFIELD cultures of the Marne district and elsewhere in France. The prototypes, however, were probably bronze bowls made in Central Europe and imported into Britain.

Iron Age pottery of the Early Phase is found in much of lowland Britain. The different local types of jars and fine-ware bowls suggest that distinct regional groups existed.

No. 1 - Large Situlata Jar
The geometric style of this pot links it with the exotic URNFIELD influenced jars shown in Case 3 (No. 1). The vertical rows of perforations may imitate bronze rivets, used in the manufacture of sheet bronze buckets and cauldrons of the late Bronze Age - perhaps the prototypes of these Iron Age vessels.
From Cow Down, Longbridge Deverill, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire.



CASE 4: Early Iron Age
The two main types of vessels were bucket-shaped. The jars are hand-shaped and decorated with finger-printing, or stamping. The shapes current in the Iron Age were derived from sheet metal, fashioned from sheet haematite to produce influence, for the Iron Age cultures of the Central Europe. The Iron Age vessels from lowland Britain and the bowls suggest...



**Nos. 3-5 - Pottery from Cow Down,
Longbridge Deverill**

These open bowls were found in house-vats excavated at Cow Down. Typical Wessex types, they are similar to the burnished-coated bowls from All Cannings Cross (see nos. 14 & 15 and Case 3, nos. 5 & 6).

The low-necked examples with shallow wide-groove decoration (Nos. 5 & 6) are from House 1. These have similarities with Central European bowls, perhaps the ultimate prototypes of our ceramic series.

The taller-necked examples (Nos. 3 & 4) are from House 2 - which excavation showed to be later than House 1.

House 2 is probably the latest of the three, and

No. 12 - Situlate Jar

Towards the end of the Early Phase these jars became rounded at the shoulder and with a mouth nearly as wide as the shoulder. Decoration also tends to disappear.

From All Cannings Cross.

No. 18 - Plate

An uncommon type of vessel in the All Cannings Cross series. Similar shapes are seen in the late Bronze Age URNFIELD field cultures of France and this vessel may be derived from a continental example.

From All Cannings Cross, Pit 7.



17



No. 17 - Large Carinated Bowl
Similar to the globular sheet bronze cauldrons of the late Bronze Age. The circular indentations might be an imitation of the Bronze rivets used in building vessels from bronze sheeting. (Compare No. 1)
From Al Cunnings Cross.

CASE 7: Dress and Jewellery

Ancient writers describe the Iron Age peoples' love of colourful costume and ornate jewellery, as well as cosmetics for reddening their cheeks or dyeing their hair.

Their dress was simple: linen or woollen trousers with a short tunic (often with long sleeves) worn over them for men, and a long tunic for women. Both men and women wore leather shoes and heavy woollen cloaks over their other garments. These clothes were often striped or checked in different colours.

Their love of display is perhaps best seen in their jewellery. Skilled craftsmen used many different materials to produce a wide range of decorative items, from simple pins of bronze or iron to heavy and elaborate torcs (neck-rings) or silver or gold.

Some jewellery - for example, pins and brooches - was used both for decoration and to fasten clothing. In the later Iron Age, bracelets, rings and beads were produced in a variety of materials, purely for display.

Pins

These were made from iron or bronze and were mostly used to fasten cloaks and other garments. The earliest types were the Swan-necked (1) and the E-head (2) pins. Later, other forms developed: the S-head (3), Involute (4) and Humped-stem pins.

1

2



Pins

These were made from iron or bronze and were mostly used to fasten cloaks and other garments. The earliest types were the Swan-necked (1) and the Vase-headed (2) pins. Later, other forms developed; Ring-headed (3), Involute (4) and Humped-stem pins (see Case 9 for a bronze pin of this type with a coral stud).

1 and 2 from All Cannings Cross.

3 from Longbridge Deverill, All Cannings Cross and Cold Kitchen Hill.

4 from Cold Kitchen Hill.



Buttons

Towards the end of the Iron Age a new means of fastening clothes appeared: the "Button and Loop fastener," usually made of bronze and sometimes, as here, inlaid with coloured enamel patterns. The loop was stitched to one edge of the opening in a garment, the "button" passing through a hole on the other edge, just as a modern button does.

From Fyfield.



Brooches

Although originally a simple means of fastening clothing, Iron Age brooches were often elaborately decorated, and were worn for display as well as utility. Bronze was perhaps the material most commonly used, but many iron brooches have been found; as iron does not survive well in the ground they may well have been more numerous, especially in the later Iron Age.

The simple fibula, or "safety-pin," type was the most common; the brooches show the development from Early to Late Iron Age: the early humped bow (5) gave way to a more gently curved shape (6), although the involute brooch (7) and the rare T-shaped brooch (8) are unusual variations. The later forms (9) were less curved, but still made from one piece of bronze, as were the earlier examples. Some iron brooches of this period have a separately made pin (10).

The plan of a burial excavated by General Pitt-Rivers shows two brooches; a bronze one, perhaps fastening a cloak on the right shoulder, and an iron one at the hip, possibly fastening trousers or a tunic.

Penannular brooches (11) were a development of the later Iron Age and continued to be made throughout the Roman period, when new types of bow brooch replaced the Iron Age ones.



11. From all Cannings Cross and Cold Kitchen Hill.

Rings, Beads and Bracelets

Rings, beads, bracelets and armbands were all worn for display, as were torcs (see Case 11).

Finger-rings (12) and toe-rings (13) appear in later Iron Age; burials have been found with large rings in place on the toes! Finger rings were often simple coils of bronze sheet.

Glass beads (14) were popular, the range of colours and patterns appealing to Iron Age people's love of bright ornaments. They were most numerous in the later phases, especially "eye" and "wave" beads, which remained in use through the Roman period.

Bracelets (15) had been made in the Bronze Age, but many new shapes appeared in the Iron Age. Among the earliest were the "knobbed" bracelets; strip bracelets came later. Heavy bronze armlets were probably worn by men, on their upper arms. Bracelets were also made of shale, turned on a lathe, and glass.



12. From Bury Wood Camp and East Kennet.

13. From Bury Wood Camp.

Warminster

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15



14

12. From Bury Wood Camp and East Kennet.

13. From Bury Wood Camp.

14. Blue and yellow beads from Swallowcliffe, Warminster and Lidbury Camp.

"Eye" beads from Wroughton and Swallowcliffe.

"Wave" bead from Kennet.

15. "Knobbed" bracelet from Potterne.

Strip Bracelet from All Cannings Cross.

Part of Armlet from Ramsbury.

Part of shale bracelet from Battlesbury Camp.

CASE 8: The Middle Iron Age

The Middle Iron Age is marked by the adoption, during the 3rd century BC, of a range of new pottery forms. These include "saucepan" bowls, ovoid bowls, pedestal jars and jars with lug handles.

New metalwork introduced includes La Tène I bronze brooches, some of which were made by craftsmen working in Wessex, and bronze ring-headed pins. Elsewhere in Britain more elaborately decorated metal objects of this period have been found.

The way of life changed little. Farming continued to be the main occupation while farms themselves and farming methods stayed much the same. Iron tools became more common, the rotary quern began to replace the simple saddle quern for grinding corn and triangular clay loomweights replaced cut chalk weights.



Triangular Loom Weight

Iron loom weights normally have three holes, one across each corner. This example only has one hole. Similar loom weights were found in early iron sites at Maiden Castle in Dorset, but are earlier in Wiltshire. Westbury Iron Works.



Nos. 9-10 - "Saucepan" Bowls

These small, straight-sided vessels with a smoother outside surface are one of the characteristic pottery forms of the middle Iron Age.

From Oldbury Camp.

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Tène I bronze
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Nos. 11-14 - Pedestal Jars

The pedestal jars developed before 500 BC in the Rhine area of Germany. The onion-like shape of No. 12 is common on continental pottery and is from the early phase. Vessels 11 & 13 are similar to pedestal jars from Eastbourne (Sussex) which may date from before 300 BC.

No. 11 - From Swallowfield Down.

No. 12 - From Fifield Bavant Down

No. 13 - From Cow Down, Longbridge Deverill.

No. 14 - From Swallowcliffe Down.

CASE 10: Hill Forts

Defence against attack was necessary from the Late Bronze Age onwards. The earliest defences consisted of a timber fence with a surrounding ditch. These were replaced by earth banks, faced with timber or stone revetments and these sites finally developed into hill forts, built on a defensive spots, often where no settlement or farmstead had previously stood.

Some hill forts protected large and permanent settlements, but many were built as temporary refuges for people and livestock when an attack was anticipated.

The first hill forts had a single ditch and rampart only. During the Middle Iron Age these defences were strengthened by adding further banks and ditches. These were common throughout Wessex. These multiple defences may have developed as a defence against sling warfare.

Ramparts were constructed from soil and debris excavated from the ditches. To hold an earth rampart together and prevent it slipping into the ditch, a timber framework was sometimes added, made of posts fixed together. Later, stone retaining walls were built, and the middle was filled with earth and stones. A stone platform was built on the top of the walls. Some hill forts had even more complicated structures, all to make them stronger. In areas where stone was readily available, the defences were made of dry stone.

The entrance was the weakest part of the defence, and great effort went into making them secure. In-turned ramparts created a funnel entrance, trapping attackers. This is seen in the model of the Bury Wood hill fort entrance. At Oldbury the entrance is offset and further protected by an additional outer



Oldbury Castle, Calne

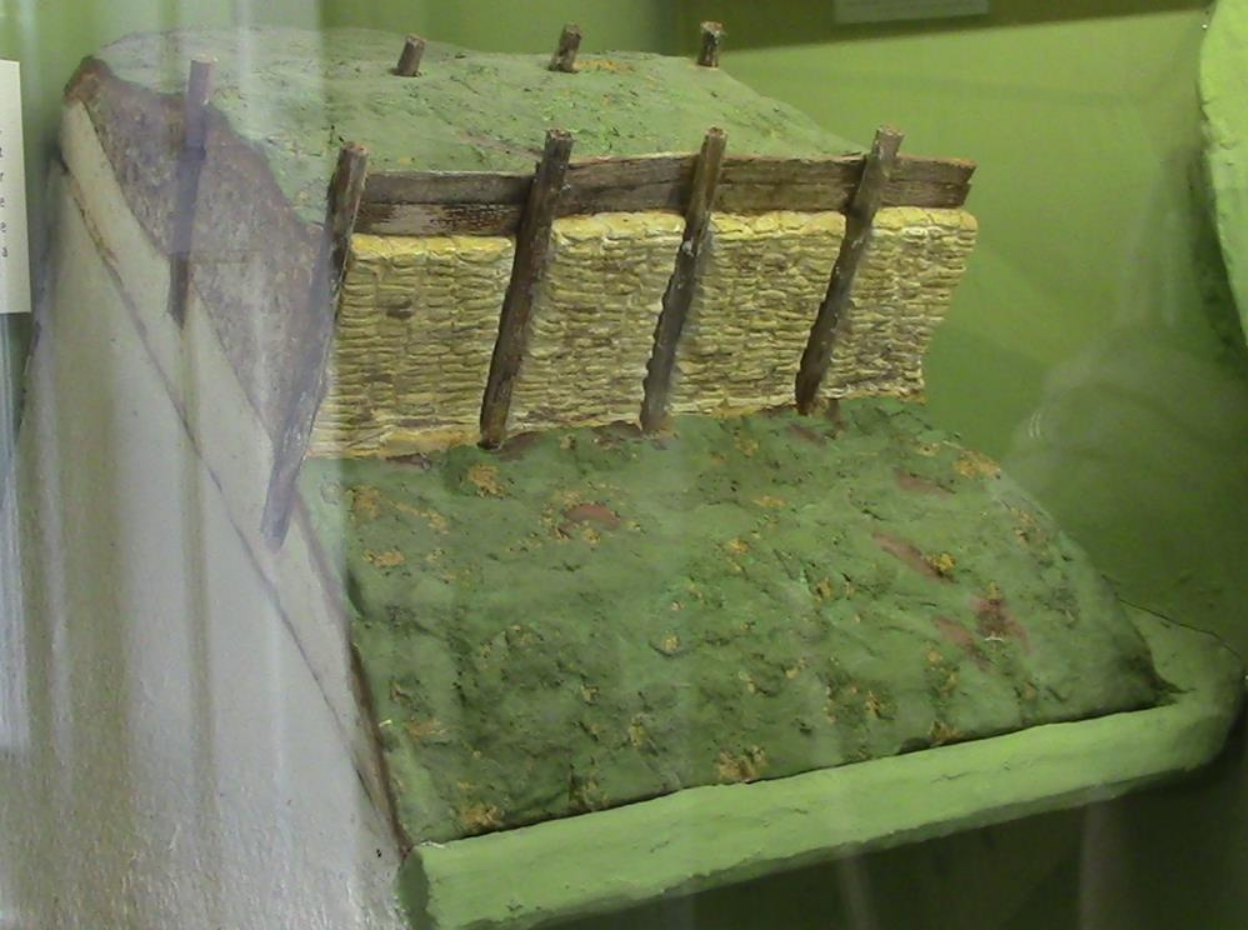
An 8ha hill fort, defended by two sets of ramparts and ditches. On the north west where it is protected by a steep hill slope there is only a single ditch. On the north east a third rampart and ditch gave extra protection. The inside was divided, perhaps to create a separate enclosure for stock. The entrance is particularly complex.

The site has only been partially excavated. It appears to have been in use in the Early and Middle Iron Age.

Maiden Castle, Dorset

This hill fort, 16ha in area, has several ramparts, two complex entrances and is one of the most impressive in the British Isles. It was excavated by Sir Mortimer Wheeler between 1934 to 1937. The reconstructed section shows how the ramparts were originally built with a timber framework and a drystone walling facing.

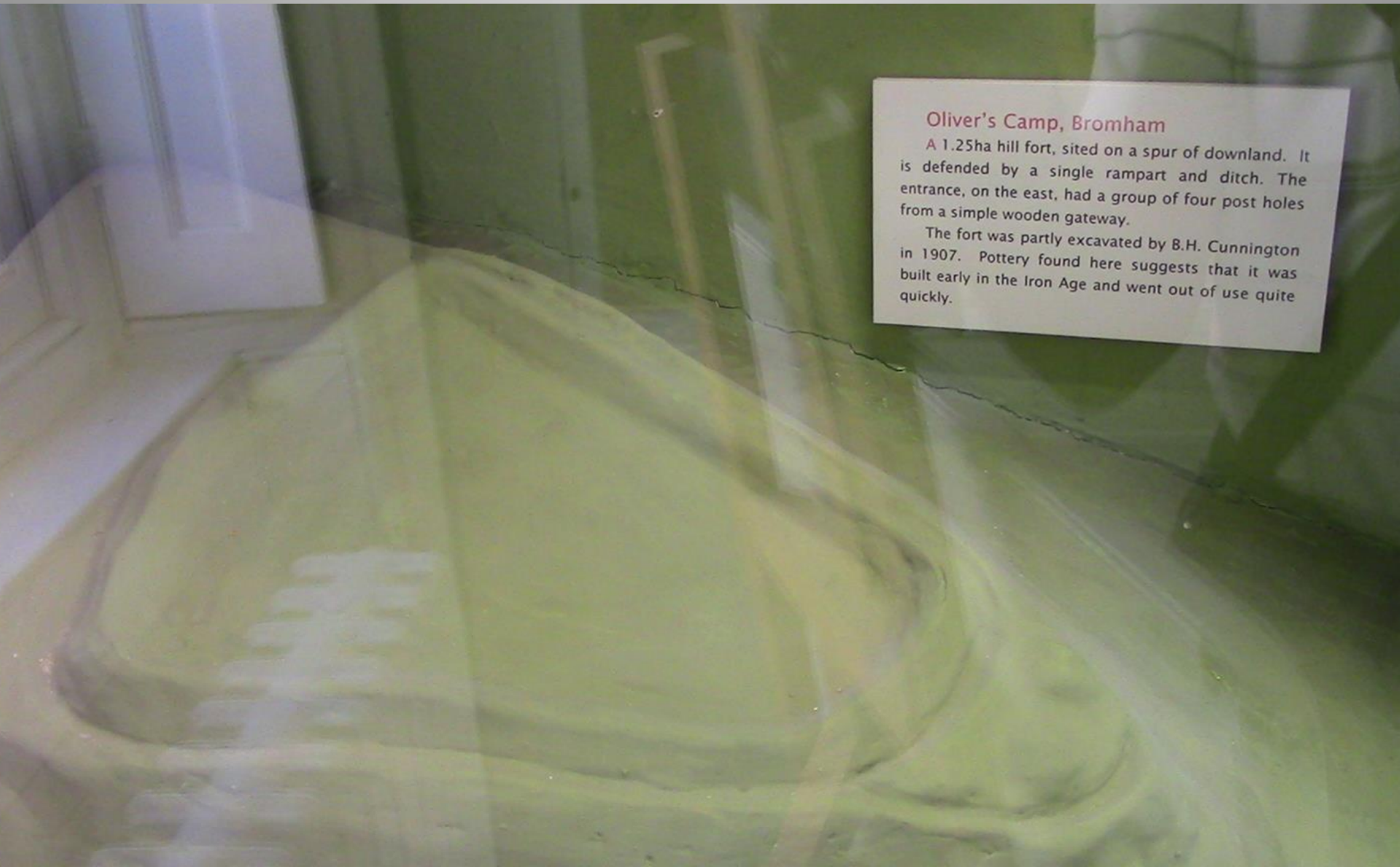
created a funnel entrance...
the model of the Bury Wood hill fort entrance...
entrance is offset and further protected by an additional outer
rampart to prevent a direct assault on the gates.



Oliver's Camp, Bromham

A 1.25ha hill fort, sited on a spur of downland. It is defended by a single rampart and ditch. The entrance, on the east, had a group of four post holes from a simple wooden gateway.

The fort was partly excavated by B.H. Cunliffe in 1907. Pottery found here suggests that it was built early in the Iron Age and went out of use quite quickly.



Sling Stones

Made from chalk and clay or natural pebbles, sling stones are often found in hill forts (See Case 9). Sling stone warfare probably led to the development of the multi-rampart hill fort.

From Lidbury Camp, Enford.



CASE 11: Warriors and Religion

Late Iron Age society was divided into three classes- the common people, including farmers and skilled craftsmen; a priestly class, the druids; and a warrior aristocracy, the most powerful of whom were the chieftains and kings.

Warriors

Organised armies did not exist in the Iron Age- instead, skilled and well equipped warriors, sometimes singly, sometimes in groups, were supported by the men of their tribe, unarmoured and using only spears and slings.

The Warriors were noted for their bravery, their colourful clothing and rich ornaments, as well as their boasting and their recklessness. The wealthier wore iron or bronze helmets and mail shirts. All carried long swords, elaborate spears and decorated shields.

A warrior would take the heads of his defeated enemies- this increased his own power and status. The enemy's weapons and armour were piled up as a trophy or thrown into lakes or pools as an offering to the gods.



Iron Swords

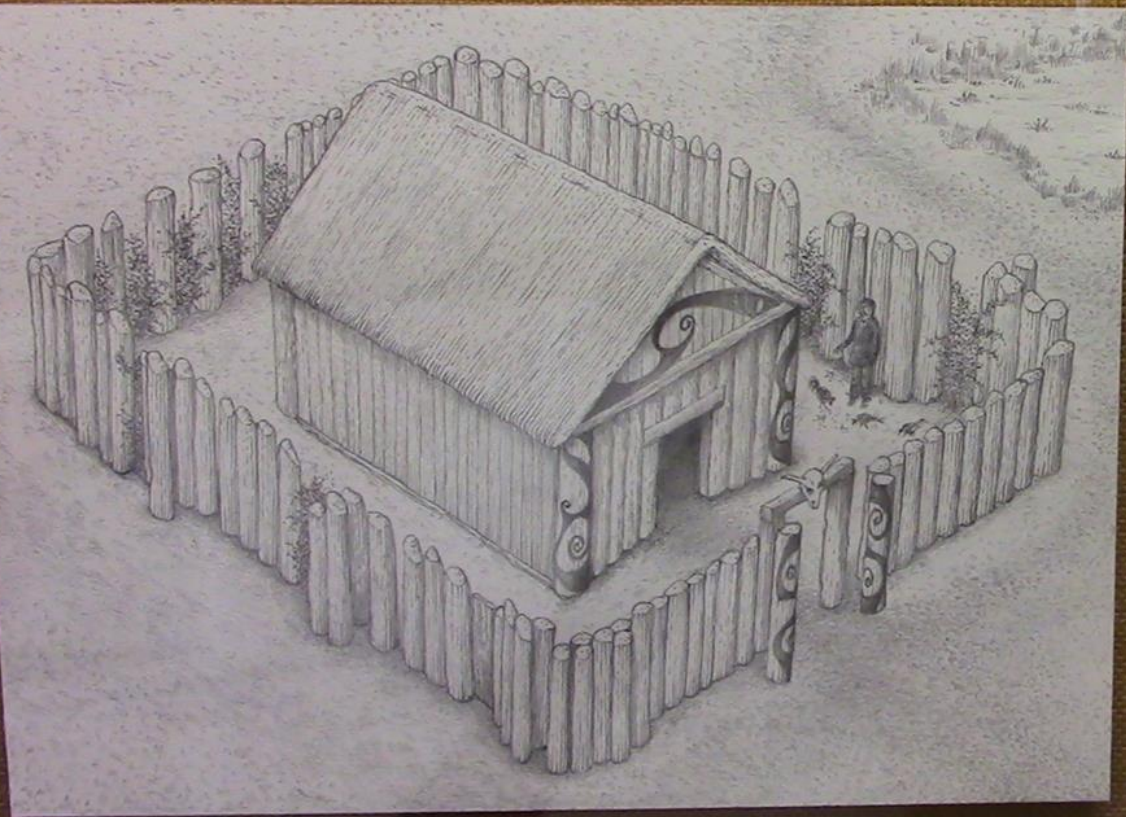
These often had elaborate hilts and were carried in wooden or bronze scabbards with decorative ends; the chape fitted at the tip to protect the sword's point.

Blade fragments from Battlesbury Camp.
Bronze chape (half) from Beckhampton.
Iron chape from Cold Kitchen Hill.

Swords

Anthropomorphic ("human-shaped") sword hilts were common in Britain and across Northern Europe in the 1st century BC.

Bronze and iron head from Broughton Gifford.
Iron blade and lower hilt from Chisbury Camp.



Temple

Reconstruction of a wooden temple, based on one found at Heathrow airport- a simple rectangular structure withing a fence. Few such temples are known, but wooden buildings leave little trace.



Stone carvings of heads are quite common and may be linked to the collection and display of severed human heads, and the idea that, by taking an enemy's head, a warrior would acquire the strength and spirit of the victim.

1. Female head, carved on an ammonite; the hair is the natural form of the fossil. From Great Bedwyn.
2. Two faces carved back-to-back on one stone. From Great Bedwyn.



Stone Heads

Stone carvings of heads are quite common in the collection. They may be linked to the collection of severed human heads, and the idea that an enemy's head, a warrior would acquire and spirit of the victim.

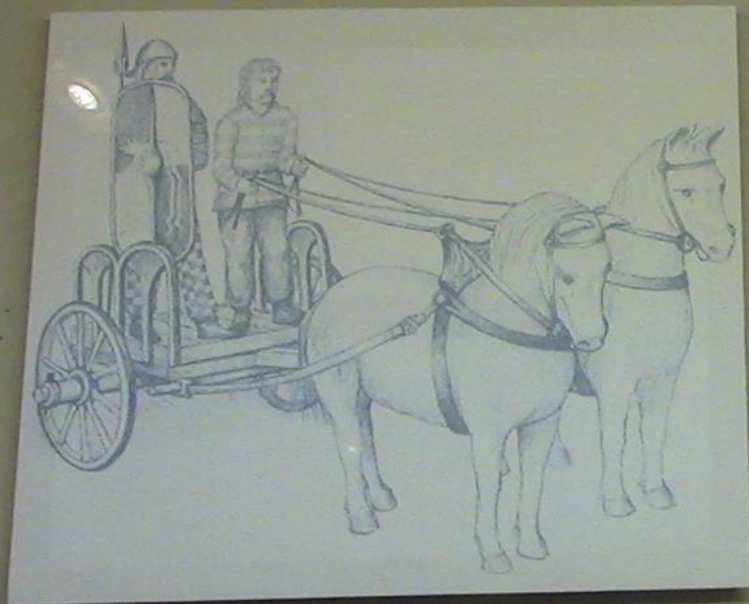
1. Female head, carved on an arched stone. The hair is the natural form of the Great Bedwyn.
2. Two faces, carved back-to-back on a stone. From Great Bedwyn.

Coins

Celtic gods and other mythological creatures appear on some Iron Age coins. The reverse of this gold stater, struck in Brittany in about 50 BC, depicts a human-headed horse pulling a chariot. We do not know, however, whom it represents.

From Swindon.





Chariot Fittings

Although the lightweight wooden chariots do not survive, their metal fittings often do. They were frequently ornate and often decorated with coloured inlays.

1. Iron nave hoops, fitted to the axle to prevent splitting.
From Battlesbury Camp.
2. Iron lynch-pin. This was slotted through the axle to keep the wheel in place.
From Fyfield Bavant.
3. Bronze terret-ring with enamel decoration. These were fitted to the wooden yokes to prevent the reins from catching on anything and to gather them into the driver's hands.
From Cold Kitchen Hill.
4. Bronze strap-union, used to join lengths of leather harness-straps.
From Bury Wood Camp.
5. Iron bridle-bit. The reins were attached to the rings (originally there were two).
From Wither Copse.



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Roman Wiltshire

POTTERY

Pottery vessels were used in large quantities in Britain for cooking, as tableware, for the storage of food and drink or for transporting it. After the Roman Conquest fine pottery was imported into Britain from Gaul and later Germany. Most pottery, however, was manufactured in Britain, generally wherever suitable clay was available. In Wiltshire there were a number of potteries such as at Savernake Forest and Minety in North Wiltshire. There are certainly other pottery kilns waiting to be discovered in the county.

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Some of the potteries manufactured everyday tableware which was sold only in the district around the kiln. Other potteries such as in Dorset, the New Forest and Oxfordshire, were major industries which marketed their products over a very wide area of Britain; some even exported items to the continent. Many potteries specialised in making one or a few particular types of vessel. For example, the Dorset potteries specialised in making cooking jars and small dishes.

Fine quality wares were imported from Gaul and Germany throughout most of the Roman period. The Gaulish manufacturers of 'Samian' ware frequently stamped their products with their names. In Britain, however, fewer potters stamped their name on their wares. 'Samian' ware was often elaborately decorated with human figures or animal and plant motifs. An as yet unidentified pottery in Wiltshire imitated this style (but not the fabric) and marketed its wares to Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire.

'Samian' Ware

Plain bowl stamped with the potter's name

Plain cup, the potter's stamp illegible

2nd century AD

Both from Heywood





Oxfordshire Ware
Murrarium
2nd - early 3rd centuries AD
Heywood
Late imitation Samian flanged bowl
4th century AD
Cable Without
630
1987.271.3



rear: **Dorset Black Burnished Ware**
‘Cooking jar’ used as a cremation urn.
Note the scratched letter M on the rim,
perhaps the initial of the dead man.
Early 4th century AD
Heywood 654

front: **Alice Holt / Farnham Ware**
‘Pie dish’
4th century AD
Calne Without 1987.271.5

right: **Imitation Severn Valley Ware**
Handled beaker
2nd century AD
Heywood 665



Indented beaker
Easterton

Cup with incised decoration
New Forest K

Globular beaker
From a grave at Ra

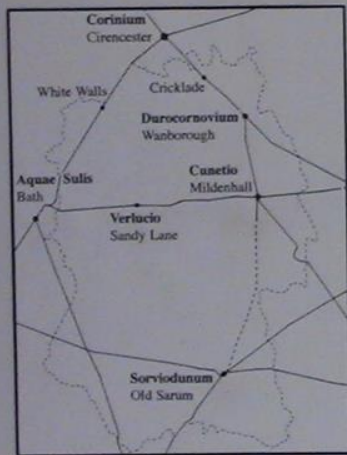
Undecorated beaker
Upper Upham, Aldbo

Painted flagon
Probably from a grave a

All 3rd - 4th centuries AD

TOWNS

New towns grew up in Wiltshire during the Roman period, linked by a new system of roads. The main towns were *Cunetio Mildenhall*, *Durocornovium Wanborough*, *Verlucio Sandy Lane* and *Sorviodunum Old Sarum*. They were small and probably housed fewer than 1500 people.



Present day Wiltshire showing the Roman towns



Aerial view of the Roman town of Cunetio in the 4th century

LITTLECOTE ROMAN VILLA

Littlecote Roman Villa is one of the largest and best preserved Roman villas surviving in Britain. It was built near the river Kennet, 9 km east of the Roman town of Cunetio *Mildenhall* and excavated between 1977 and 1991.

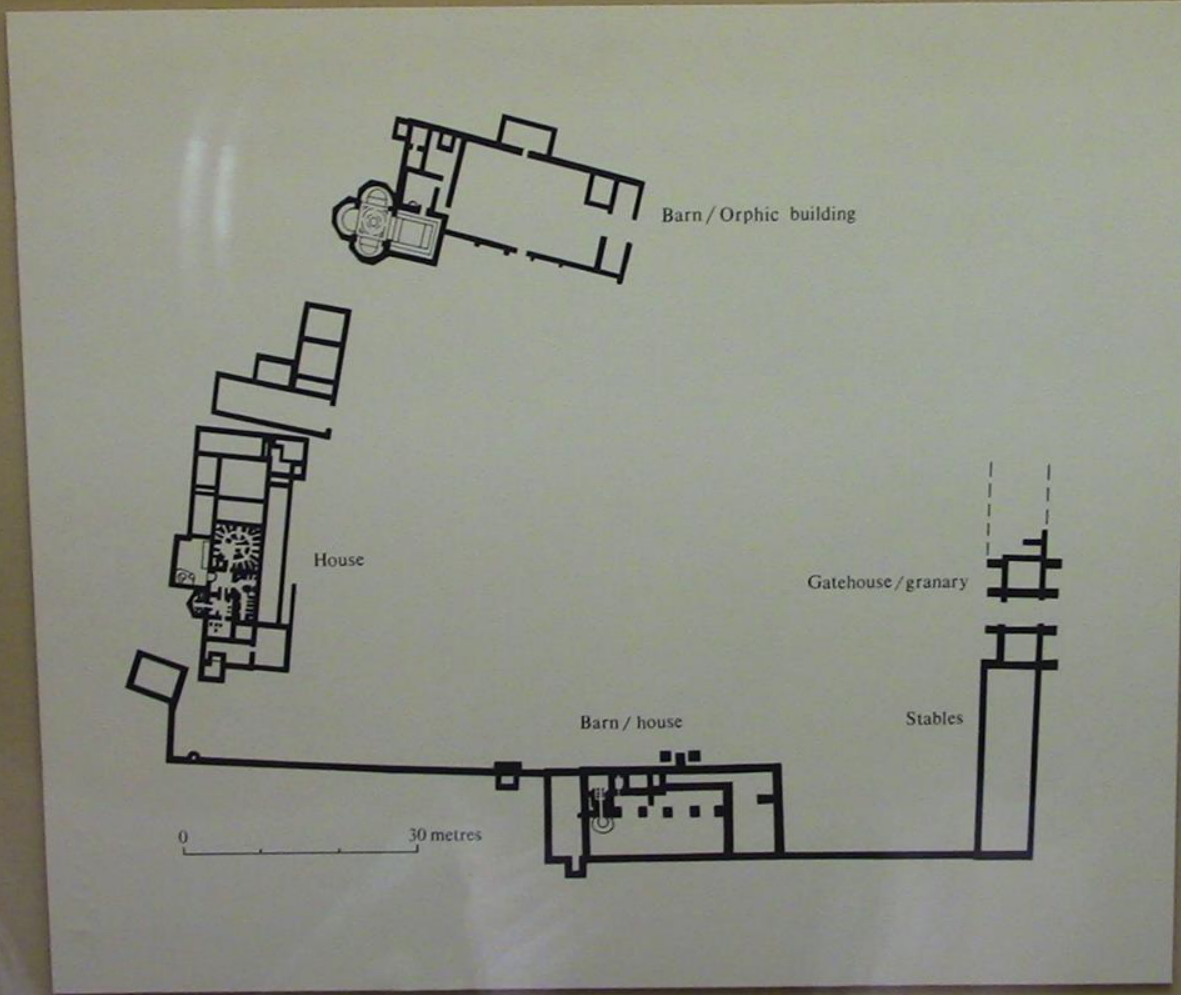
Made up of a number of separate buildings, the villa had a long and complex history. The main farmhouse itself began early in the 2nd century AD as a simple rectangular timber building. As the wealth of the owners grew it was re-built as a more substantial two-storey flint walled building in the form of a winged corridor villa with an internal bath suite. Later it was further developed and extended, incorporating other domestic luxuries such as a hypocaust (a system of under-floor heating channels), baths and mosaic floors.

Other agricultural buildings were built on the site and developed in similar ways around a large central courtyard, providing facilities such as barns or stores, workshops and accommodation for servants or farm workers. On the north side a wooden barn incorporating a corn-drier was adapted for use as a brewery and bakery before being re-built in the 3rd century AD as a stone barn. A bath suite was later installed in it at one end.

A second stone barn built on the south side of the site was similarly later altered and possibly used for residential purposes. In the late 3rd century AD an imposing gatehouse, serving also as a granary with adjacent stables was constructed on the east side of the courtyard.

Around AD 360 the function of the complex changed from a farm estate to a philosophical and cult centre. The northern barn was converted to an exotic Orphic building, unique in Britain with a tri-coach (three apsed) hall at one corner. It was decorated with a mosaic floor depicting Orpheus surrounded by figures representing the Four Seasons. Other farm buildings were also adapted for residential use.

After AD 400 however, decline set in. There was general decay of the site and some of the buildings were demolished. Occupation of the site continued, probably until the arrival of the Saxons.



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GODS AND GODDESSES



Bronze weight in the form of the head of an uncertain classical goddess.

Lacock

1991.96

Bronze head from a statuette of Venus.

Wilcot

1993.531

Bronze mount depicting Hercules, probably from a wine-warmer.

Westbury

1998.1

Bronze figurine depicting Hercules standing resting on his club.

North Wraxall Villa

423

Bronze figurine of Venus.

Wilcot

1993.530

Bronze figurine of Mercury.

Aston Keynes

DM 859

Bronze statuette depicting Vulcan.

Late 2nd - 3rd century AD

North Bradley

1989.221



Votive relief probably depicting Mercury and his Celtic consort Rosmerta.
Nettleton Shrub temple site

1957.280

Votive relief depicting a female figure, probably a local goddess. She is clad in an ankle length
cloak. At the bottom corners are unidentifiable objects.

Cunetio Mildenhall

277

Fragment of a votive relief of Hercules battling the Hydra
Euridge Farm, Colerne

1958.337

Celtic head probably from a full length figure of a female goddess (?) wearing a cap. The nose
and mouth have been damaged in antiquity.

Easton Grey

1957.303



The Aldbourne Hoard

*Discovered at Ewins Hill, Aldbourne on Boxing Day, 1980, this find consisted of over 5000 **antoniniani** either of base silver or silver-washed copper alloy struck between 251 and 274 AD. The coins were contained within a crudely made pot (shown right), almost certainly made locally, the upper part of which had been destroyed by ploughing. The find was concealed around 275 AD.*

A selection of the coins is displayed here.

Presented by Mr C.E. Eliot-Cohen and Mr Andrew Sewell

The Aldbourne Hoard
This hoard was discovered in August 1980, near Aldbourne, Wiltshire, and consisted of over 5000 coins, including 5000 **antoniniani**, struck between 251 and 274 AD. The coins were contained within a crudely made pot, almost certainly made locally, the upper part of which had been destroyed by ploughing. The find was concealed around 275 AD.

Among the coins are some of particular interest including 1 **AD 271 - 41**, and a completely new type, the first of which only previously known for the gold. There can be seen to the left of the main display.

The condition of these coins is particularly good and had not been circulated much prior to being buried.

Reported through the Portable Antiquities Scheme with the support of the following:

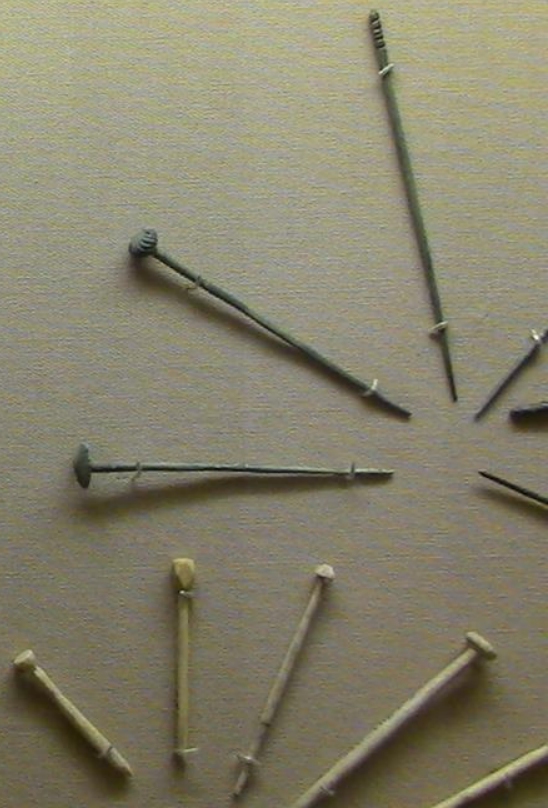
- MLA/V&A Grant Fund
- The Headley Trust
- E & AG Stratton
- New College Oxford
- Donations from coin collectors
- Other donations

JEWELLERY

Jewellery reflected the rank and status of the owner. The well-to-do wore jewellery of gold or silver, decorated with precious or semi-precious stones, such as emerald, jet, carnelian and coral. Most people would have worn jewellery of base metal (bronze or iron) embellished with coloured glass or enamel. Ivory and bone were also commonly used for pins.

Some jewellery, such as necklaces, bracelets and earrings was purely decorative. Other jewellery had a practical function. Brooches held the folds of clothing in position while hair-pins held in place an elaborate hairstyle. Rings with seal stones were used to sign letters or documents. Jewellery with Greek inscriptions or allusions to classical writing also served to display the wearer's classical learning. Rings with religious motifs expressed his piety; they were also felt to bring good fortune or to ward off evil. As today rings were exchanged at a marriage.

While some very fine jewellery was imported, most jewellery





Group of 1 silver and 14 bronze bracelets found together,
probably associated with a burial.
Upper Upham, Aldbourne

Brooke 99 - 113



Bronze hairpins or dress pins
Stockton Earthworks; Cold Kitchen Hill, Brixton Deverill;
Bromham Villa ; Aldbourne 1181; DM 2910 - 2913; 1001

Bone hairpins
Cold Kitchen Hill, Brixton Deverill 1084
Bromham Villa 274



Glass Bead Necklaces

The quality of beads and the range of simple forms and colours suggest that these may have been made on the site for sale to visitors at the Cold Kitchen Hill temple complex.
Cold Kitchen Hill, Brixton Deverill

Crescent-shaped pendant made of shale.
Highworth

Large fluted 'melon' beads made of glazed frit ('faience')
Cold Kitchen Hill, Brixton Deverill

1968.35

090-1001

Millefiori (lites) was used to describe glass rods of different colors cut and set in a fl...

Cruciform brooch, the Rhineland.
Everley

Bronze and enamel
Enford



IN THE HOME

Only the very wealthy owned silver plates and dishes, ewers and cups, which would have been reserved for special occasions. The well-to-do would normally have used vessels made of bronze, pewter, glass or fine pottery while ordinary people used plates and dishes made of pottery or wood. Eating forks were unknown. People ate with iron knives and spoons made of silver, tinned bronze or wood according to the owner's wealth. The food was cut up before it was served so that picking it up with fingers was normal.

The well-to-do would have owned cooking vessels made of iron



Bronze Kitchenware
Some dishes, plates or bowls and part of a group
of kitchen equipment shown currently listed together
and cataloged as:
1917-1918
1917-1918, 1918, 1919



Large shallow bowl of Oxford redware-coated ware.
Later 8th century AD
Provenance ?

1967.271.1

Mortarium - a heavy bowl with grit on the inside
surface, used for grinding food.
North Wiltshire Villa

422

Stone pestle - used for grinding corn in a mortarium.
Folkestone collection

1979.202

Pottery jar/lamp as evidence
Dunham Massey

1976.184.1



Large shallow plate
Late 8th century AD
From a hoard of goldwork and coins at Marton

Third pottery jar
From a hoard of goldwork found at Bishop Cleeve

For domestic lighting, the Romans used torches, candles and oil lamps. Candlesticks and oil lamps were made of either metal or pottery and sometimes were supported on tall stands or candelabra. Pottery oil lamps were often attractively decorated and sometimes had the maker's name on them.



WILTSHIRE MUSEUM



MUSEUM



WILTSHIRE MUSEUM
GOLD FROM THE TIME OF STONEHENGE