

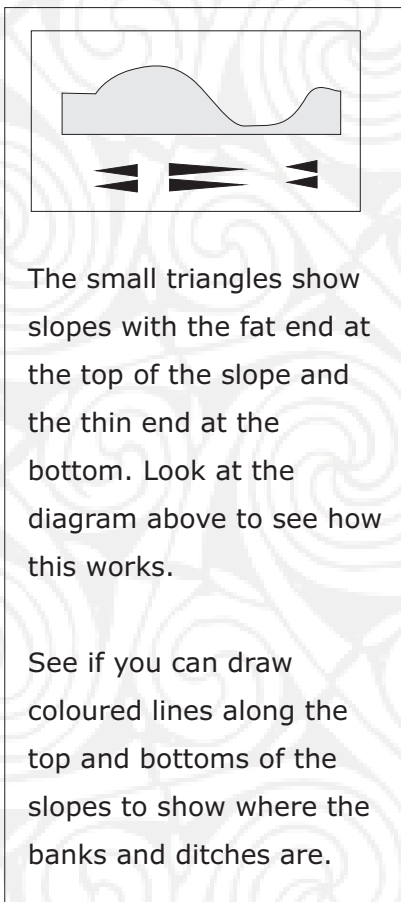


# An Archaeological Mystery

## Digging the Past 1



This picture shows the **HILLFORT** from above with all the banks and ditches.



The four **TRENCHES** and the **TEST PITS** are marked on this picture

On the next **EVIDENCE SHEETS** you can see what the archaeologists found when the **TRENCHES** were dug.



# An Archaeological Mystery

## Digging the Past 2



### TRENCH 1



Trench 1 was dug across the wall and ditch of the **HILLFORT**.

The ditch in front of the wall was cut deeply into the bedrock, but we found that part of the ditch had not been finished.

**Why do you think this bit of rock was not taken out?**



This picture shows some of the stone blocks that were at the bottom of the giant stone wall (**LAYER 4**).

Each portion of the red and white pole is 50cm long.

**Can you work out how big some of the stones are?**



This picture shows **LAYER 5**.

This layer was made up of big stones that were once part of the wall and had been pushed into the ditch.

In **LAYER 5** We also found **HUMAN BONES**, and **POTTERY**

### TRENCH 2



When we dug a **TEST PIT** we found **POTTERY** so we excavated **TRENCH 2** to find out where it came from.

This picture shows that there is not a lot of soil in **TRENCH 2** but there were over 200 pieces of **POTTERY** like the pieces to the right.

To find out more about this see the **POTTERY EVIDENCE SHEET**.







# An Archaeological Mystery

## Digging the Past 3



### TRENCH 3



In **TRENCH 3**, the wall that makes up **LAYER 4** is made up of three lines - or courses - of blocks.

Because of the amount of stones found, the archaeologists think that the wall will have been around 3m tall and 6m wide.



In **TRENCH 3**, we found a second bank and ditch outside the main ditch, but this did not carry on all the way round the hillfort.

**Why do you think only part of the hillfort had extra defences?**

**TRENCH 3** looked at part of the **HILLFORT** where there are two banks and ditches.

The pictures show the ditch cut into rock.

In **TRENCH 1** this ditch was 2m deep, but in **TRENCH 3** the ditch is only 1.2m deep and does not have a smooth base.

**Why do you think the ditch is different in this trench?**



Like in **TRENCH 1**, **LAYER 5** was made up of a lot of large stone blocks that had been pushed into the ditch.

In **LAYER 5** the archaeologists found more **SKELETONS**.

You can find out more about them by looking at the **EVIDENCE SHEETS**.



**LAYER 7** is a thin layer of dark material underneath the main wall.

Because **LAYER 7** is underneath the wall, then we know that it is older than it. In **LAYER 7**, we found a piece of deer antler and you can find out how old this is by looking at the **EVIDENCE SHEET** for dating.





# An Archaeological Mystery

## Digging the Past 4



### Trench 4



**TRENCH 4** was excavated because we wanted to know whether there were any defences on the steep slope above the river.

In **TRENCH 4** we found a stone wall with a flat floor behind it.

The stone wall was around 1m thick and would have probably been no more than 2m tall.

**How does this compare to the wall in TRENCH 1 and TRENCH 3?**

**Why do you think there was a difference between the two walls?**

### Test Pits

**TEST PITS** are small 1m square trenches dug to test a number of different things.

The most important things that we found in the test pits on the hillfort, were hundreds of stone tools.



Stone tools are very strong and can stay in the soil for thousands of years. A long time ago all the tools people used were made from natural things like stone and wood.

For more information on the stone tools, look at the **FINDS EVIDENCE SHEETS**.





# An Archaeological Mystery

## Digging the Past 5



One of the best ways to find out how old something is, is by a scientific process called **RADIOCARBON DATING**.

Anything that was once alive, like plants or even human people, has a **CARBON** in it. When that plant or person dies, the **CARBON** starts to leave and if we measure how much **CARBON** is left, we can find out how old the thing is.

The table below shows the how old some of the objects we found are.

You can see that we don't know for certain exactly how old something is and the table shows this.

For example **SKELETON 1** was alive at some time between 400 and 200 BC because the bar is between 400 and 200 along the bottom.

### Can you work out when the other finds date to?

If you look at the other **EVIDENCE SHEETS**, then you can find what layers these objects come from and find out how old the layers are.

**Can you work out how old the layers are that these finds come from and write it into the LAYERS table on your record sheet?**

