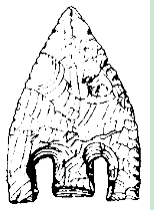




An Archaeological Mystery

Artefacts from the Ground 1



Lots of stone tools were found all across the site. Some were found in the main trenches, but most were found in the test pits (look at your site plan to find out where these were).

Most of these stone tools are from a long time ago in the time called **THE MESOLITHIC**.

Can you work out how long ago this is from your timeline?



These are **SCRAPERS**.

These tools were used for skinning and butchering animals. People would do this to get meat to eat and to make clothes from the skin and fur.



These are tiny stone tools called **MICROLITHS**.

These can be stuck into a length of wood to form a jagged arrow for hunting animals.

A lot of the stone tools found in the test pits were the little chips of stone which fall away as people made stone tools. What might these tell us about the people who were up on the hilltop?

All these stone objects are made from **CHERT**. This is hard like flint, but is local to the hillfort. In fact there is natural chert on the hilltop where we are digging.



WERE THE MESOLITHIC PEOPLE HERE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE HILLFORT?

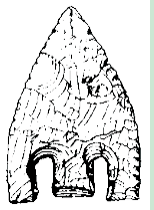
WHAT KIND OF LIVES MIGHT THE MESOLITHIC PEOPLE HAVE HAD?

WHY DO YOU THINK THE MESOLITHIC PEOPLE CAME TO THE HILLTOP?



An Archaeological Mystery

Artefacts from the Ground 2



During the excavations, there was a lot of old pot found, and this can often tell archaeologists a lot about a site and the people who lived there.

This is an almost complete piece of pot found in Trench 1. This piece of pot is made differently to the piece in the picture above, as it is a different colour and has much thinner sides, like the difference between a fine tea cup and thick bowl. Like the pot above, there was burnt material on the inside of this that meant the archaeologists have been able to find out how old it is.



This piece of pottery was found in Trench 2 along with a great deal more pottery. Some pieces, such as this one, were decorated by the potters pressing their fingertips into the surface when the clay was wet. There was burnt material found on the inside of this pot, and this meant that the archaeologists could date the pot. This piece of pot is Pot 2 on the Layers and Dating Evidence Sheet.

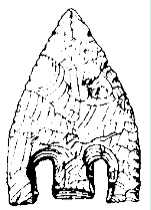
How old are POT 1 and POT 2? What layers do they come from?

What kind of things could people use these pots for?



An Archaeological Mystery

Artefacts from the Ground 3



Archaeologists sometimes find the remains of burnt wood, old plants and the bones or shells of tiny creatures in certain layers in the ground. Often these are very small and can only be found by digging up a lot of soil and sieving it through very fine sieves.

Below is a list of the ancient plant and tiny animal remains found during excavations at the hillfort and what they might mean.

Can you match up the plant remains with the right layers by looking at the table and your trench drawing? What does this tell us about the landscape and the people who lived in the hillfort?

Blackthorn

Blackthorn is a small spiky bush also called **SLOE**, which has a bitter fruit that can flavour food and drink.



Fungus

Mushrooms and toadstools that can be collected and eaten.

Frog Bones

Frogs and toads like to live in watery places but this is rare here so these bones are probably not linked to our story.

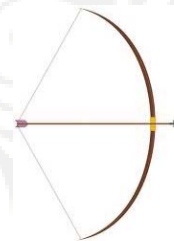


Ash

Ash is a tree with tall straight thin trunks and can be used for building the roofs of houses.

Burnt plant stems

These may be left over from burning woodland. Before people build a settlement or start farming an area, they often used fire to clear away the woodland for their houses, crops and farm animals.



Yew

Yew is a strong tree that lives for a very long time and is so strong that it was used for making longbows for firing arrows.

Hazel

Hazel is a type of tree that can be used for 'wattling' (weaving together to make fences and walls). Hazelnuts can also be an important source of food.



Snails

The snails found are very small and were probably on the stones when the wall was pushed down. This means it is likely that the wall was pushed down quickly and did not fall slowly over a long time.

Layer	Frog Bones	Snails	Fungus	Yew	Hazel	Ash	Burnt Stems	Blackthorn
5	✓	✓		✓	✓			
7			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8								✓