

GLOSSARY

3D Model: a digital model created using computers

AD: “Anno Domini”, a Latin phrase that means “In the year of our Lord”. Along with BC this is used to separate history into different times, with AD being used for dates after 1 AD

Archaeobotanist: a special type of [archaeologist](#) that studies plants

Archaeological feature: traces of the past that are left behind in the ground like [pits](#), [ditches](#) and walls

Archaeological site: a place that [archaeologists](#) investigate, usually by digging and looking for traces of the past

Archaeologist: scientists who study [archaeology](#) and look into the past

Archaeology: the study of the human past by looking at the traces and things people leave behind

Artefact: an object, usually made or created by a person, that can tell us information about the past. For example, a [pot](#), a tool or a bead

Axehead: the sharp, metal part of an axe that is used for cutting

An [axehead](#) from Must Farm



BC: “Before Christ”, a label that is used to separate history into different periods. BC starts at 1BC and is used for dates before AD



An [archaeologist](#) working on an excavation

Beams: large pieces of wood that can hold up heavy weights, often found in house roofs

Bellows: a bag, or bags, that are squeezed in and out to blow air into a fire to make it hotter. Bellows would have been used when making [bronze](#)

Bobbins: in the [Bronze Age](#) these are thin wooden objects that thread is wound around



[Bronze Age bobbins](#) with thread wrapped around them

Bronze Age: a period where people began to use metal for the first time. In Britain this was between 2,500BC to 800BC

GLOSSARY

Bronze: a metal made by mixing [copper](#) and [tin](#) which can be used to make stronger and sharper metal tools

Cereals: plants with grains that are used for food like wheat and barley

Charcoal: is a material made by heating up wood in a special way that stops it from burning away completely which makes it black. Charcoal is used to help fires get very hot, which is important when making [bronze](#)

Charred: what happens when something is badly burnt and turned black by a fire



*A [charred](#) piece of wood
from Must Farm*

Clay: clay is a natural material that can be easily moulded into different shapes and can be used to make [pots](#) and as a building material

Contexts: the information linked to archaeological [finds](#) and layers, including where it is, what soil it is found in and how it connects to other discoveries

Context sheets: forms used to record information about [archaeology](#) found during a dig. These are important records for people to look at it in the future

Copper: copper is a soft metal that is one of the ingredients used to make [bronze](#)

Coprolite: a preserved poo



*An archaeologist holding a
[coprolite](#), a preserved poo!*

Crops: plants that are grown by farmers for food or resources, for example [cereals](#)

Cultivation: preparing land and growing plants and crops

Decompose: when something breaks down and rots away

Deliberate deposition: when [archaeologists](#) can tell that people in the past have thought about where to place or drop [artefacts](#) or materials

Ditch: a long hole that has been dug into the ground that is usually used to divide up spaces

Domesticated: an animal species that has been tamed or plants that are [cultivated](#)

Evidence: information and facts that can be used to build [theories](#) and ideas

Excavation: carefully digging up [archaeological finds](#) and evidence from the ground

Experimental archaeology: using experiments, like making replicas of [artefacts](#) or trying out activities, to try and understand how people did things in the past

Finds: things discovered by [archaeologists](#) during excavations such as pieces of pot, bones and tools

Flax: a plant with fibres that can be used to make a cloth called [linen](#)

GLOSSARY

Haft: a wooden handle for a tool or weapon like an [axe](#) or spear



*A Bronze Age axe haft
still in the ground*

Hearth: a fireplace used for cooking and to provide heat

Hoards: collections of [artefacts](#), usually metal, buried in the ground by people in the past

In-situ: still in its original place

*A [prehistoric logboat](#) in
an old river
channel*



Interpretation: using [evidence](#) to come up with ideas and [theories](#). [Archaeologists](#) interpret the things they find to try and work out what happened in the past

Lime bast: is a strong and flexible fibre that is found under the bark of lime trees and can be used to make thread and cloth

Linen: linen is a strong fabric that is made from [flax](#) and can be used to make clothes

Logboat: a simple boat made from a hollowed-out tree trunk that was used by people in [prehistory](#)

Midden: a dump of rubbish

Mould: a hollow shape into which molten metal can be poured to form an [artefact](#) when it cools. In the [Bronze Age](#) moulds are used to make tools and weapons

Ore: a natural rock or sediment that contains metal

Organic material: materials that come from living things like plants, wood, bones, leather and even [poo](#)!

Palisade: a large wooden fence made from wooden stakes driven into the ground

Photogrammetry: a technique that can be used to create [3D models](#) from lots of photographs

Piles: big, straight pieces of wood that are pushed into the ground. The [roundhouses](#) at Must Farm were built on top of these piles



*[Piles](#) that would have held
up the houses at Must Farm*

GLOSSARY

Pit: a hole that has been dug in the ground



A circular pit that had lots of bones buried in it

Plans: top-down drawings of the archaeology found during digs, a bit like a map. Plans are made by carefully measuring points using a grid

Pollen: a powdery substance produced by trees and plants that can be used to find out what species existed in old landscapes

Posthole: a round hole created when a wooden post was placed in the ground to hold up a building. Over time the wood rots away leaving a dark stain in the soil that archaeologists can use to understand buildings

Pottery: artefacts made from firing clay to make it hard and suitable for drinking and eating from

Prehistory: the time before written records that includes periods like the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age

Broken Bronze Age pots that have been carefully stuck back together



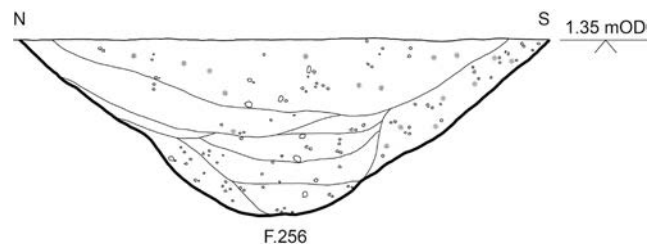
Preservation: something staying the same. In archaeology this usually means something not decaying or rotting over time, for example wood or cloth surviving in the ground

Radiocarbon Dating: a scientific method that can tell how old an organic object is, usually used on wood, charcoal and bone

Rafters: rafters are part of a roof that helps to hold it up

Razors: sharp tools that are used to shave hair

Reconstruction: using evidence to imagine what things might have looked like in the past, for example a picture or object



A section drawing of a ditch showing the different layers that have built up

Roundhouse: a type of circular house that people lived in during prehistory during the Bronze Age and Iron Age

Samples: materials that are taken by archaeologists to be tested scientifically like small pieces of pottery or buckets of soil

Scale drawing: drawing an object to a different size than it is, but making sure the proportions are the same. This allows archaeologists to fit big things, like ditches, onto smaller bits of paper

Section drawing: a drawing of an archaeological feature from the side, a “cross section” that shows the different layers in the soil

GLOSSARY

Settlement: a place where people lived

Sickle: a tool usually used for harvesting [cereals](#) like wheat and barley



*A [Bronze Age sickle](#)
found at Must Farm*

Smelting: getting the metal out of [ore](#) by heating it to high temperatures

Soil composition: what the soil is made of, usually a mixture of sand, silt or [clay](#)

Spear: a sharp pointed weapon used for hunting and warfare. In the [Bronze Age](#) spears had bronze spearheads

Specialists: [archaeologists](#) who are experts in special areas of [archaeology](#) like [pottery](#), bones or scientific techniques

Stratigraphy: the different layers found underneath the ground that can tell [archaeologists](#) the order things happened in the past



*One of the Bronze Age [textiles](#)
discovered at Must Farm*

Survey: recording [archaeology](#) and [finds](#) using technology to make plans and [3D models](#)

Terminus: the end of a [ditch](#) where it stops

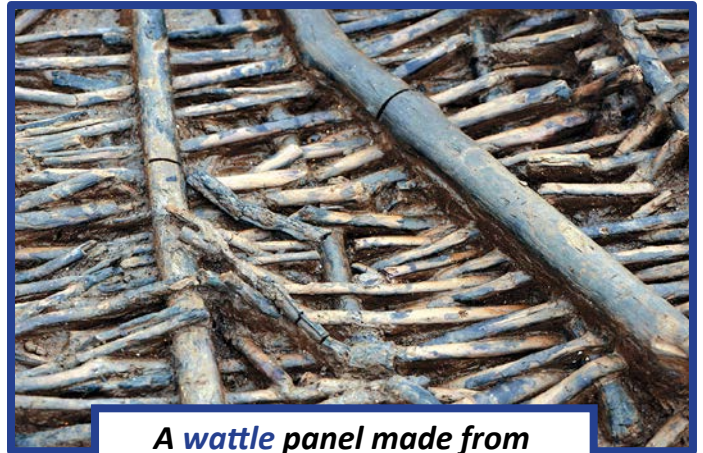
Textiles: textiles are threads and fabrics that can be made from plant or animal fibres

Theories: ideas that are based on information and facts

Tin: tin is a soft, silvery metal that is one of the ingredients used to make [bronze](#)

Turf: the top layer of soil that is held together by grass and roots

Waterlogged preservation: conditions in the ground that are very wet that can stop fragile [artefacts](#) like wood from rotting away



*A [wattle](#) panel made from
weaving bits of wood together*

Wattle: weaving together smaller pieces of wood to make bigger panels that could be used for walls or floors

Woodchips: small pieces of wood made when people are using [axes](#) to chop and shape pieces of wood

