

Pottery Firing Using a Bonfire

Key Stage 2 & 3



SCC Archaeological Service offers the opportunity to re-create technology from the past through practical work with your students.

Pottery production was an important aspect of many societies in the past. Pottery served as a means of cooking and storing food, of showing status and often as part of the society's burial rites.

We can offer the chance to make and fire pottery from the Iron Age (Celtic) and Saxon periods using the methods of the time.

During the session we will keep a video and photographic record of events for you to use in any follow up work.

How the Visit is Structured

Timing

- Two and a half days for 60 pupils in 2 groups of 30

Requirements

- An indoor area suitable for pottery making
- An outdoor space such as the corner of a school field

Programme

- **Day one:** Introduction to techniques and styles of pottery making using evidence from excavation work around Suffolk. (Where possible we will use evidence from your local area).

- Make pottery using coil techniques. Explore the evidence and discuss how the firing will be done
- **Day two:** *(This will need to be at least three weeks after the first session to allow for pottery to dry fully before firing)* Build, load and fire the kiln using archaeological evidence and strategies from Day one for guidance. The firing process takes a few hours but is possible within the school day.
- To involve more students and make this a more cost effective exercise we are happy to take groups throughout the day to watch and have the process explained



Meeting Curriculum Objectives

- Know the basic health and safety requirements
- Evaluate evidence of Saxon shelters discovered within the river valleys
- Work in teams to negotiate, design and build a weather proof shelter for the group
- Evaluate, review and modify shelters
- Working in teams test comfort level and durability by living in the shelter. Experiment with different materials and evaluate suitability
- Appreciate the characteristics of different materials

Costs

A full day working costs £200 plus travel and materials.

Contact: Duncan Allan, SCC Archaeology Service
01473 583288 duncan.allan@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk