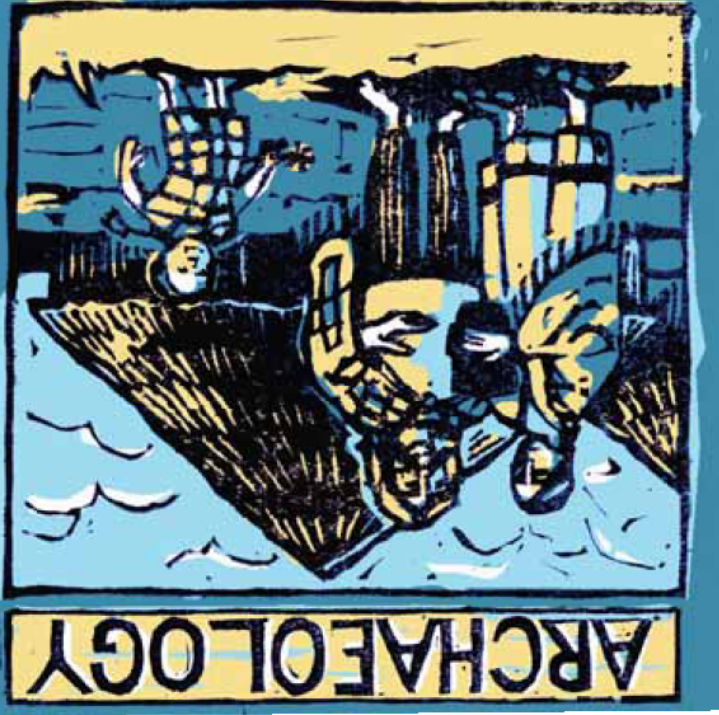


find out about the PEOPLE WHO LIVED HERE  
2500 years ago – in the IRON AGE  
in NORTH SOMERSET and GOBLIN COMBE



FIND OUT ABOUT



photo: YCCART

leaflet written and designed by C&M associates  
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There are several flourishing local archaeology groups in the area. If you would like to be involved, or find out more about archaeology in North Somerset please contact -

Archaeological activities in North Somerset  
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## Living here 2500 years ago

If you had come to North Somerset two and a half thousand years ago, you would have found a flourishing population and a vigorous culture. These people were successful farmers and lived in large tribal groups dispersed across the landscape in farms and small communities. They are often called the 'Celts'.

The Celts were not a single ethnic group. They were a number of different 'peoples', spread across central and northern Europe, who shared a culture and spoke similar languages. They also were highly skilled in the use of metals.



People had already discovered how to make tools and weapons from bronze, centuries before. Bronze is an alloy of copper and tin. The success of the Celts was partly due to the exploitation of a new material – iron.

Iron was not only harder and stronger than bronze, it was more plentiful. Iron ore is found in numerous places across Europe and the British Isles. Iron was, in effect, 'cheaper' than bronze.



But iron rusts. Most of the iron objects that have been found from this period are severely corroded, but many of them point to the practical uses of iron. A complete set of carpenters' tools, including saws and files, was found at the Glastonbury Lake Village. Above are some iron nails from Cadbury Congresbury hillfort – 2km west of Goblein Combe.

far left: Part of the Clevedon Torc – a heavy Iron Age gold necklace. Replicas of the piece can be seen in the City of Bristol Museum and North Somerset Museum, Weston-super-Mare.

left: A bronze axe head from a hoard found at Kings Weston, also in the City of Bristol Museum. It dates from the late Bronze Age.

photos: Liz Milner, by kind permission of the City of Bristol Museum  
illustrations: Lindy Clark



above: An artist's impression of a late Bronze Age / Iron Age settlement. This would be very similar to the settlement in Cleeve Wood, which may have been occupied before the Romans arrived and in use after they left – see timeline below. We will only know more when the site has been excavated.

right: The daily grind – it would have been a daily task to grind flour from grain. At its most basic a 'quern' is made from a flat piece of stone and a large pebble. Every home would have had one.



left: The Celts grew their own wheat and beans but wild foods were also important in their diet. Acorns (boiled to remove the bitter tannin) and hazelnuts were abundant and highly nutritious.



possible extent of period of occupation of Cleeve Wood enclosure



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