Ancient Arts
Experimental Archaeology and Replica Artefacts

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*Inside an Ancient Arts' roundhouse.*

*A reconstruction of a Romano-British relief.*
Ancient Arts

We aim to bring the past to life through our replica artefact collections, reconstructed objects, courses and experimental work.

We work with museums, heritage sites and education providers who want to create a tangible sense of our shared heritage and deliver an experience to remember!

“Ancient Arts are a committed team determined to bring our most ancient past to life. They are perceptive about the client needs and flexible in working to a specific brief whether that is exhibition, an event or a research project.”

Jill Cook, Head of Prehistory
Who are Ancient Arts?

Ancient Arts is a team of friendly and enthusiastic archaeologists who have many years experience in both experimental and field archaeology.

We strongly believe in sharing our fascination with the skills and knowledge from the past with people of all ages and background.

What we can provide for you.

- Reconstructed objects and replica artefacts for exhibitions and displays.
- Reconstructed objects and replica artefacts for hands on educational resources such as teaching collections.
- Hands on displays and demonstrations in ancient skills and technologies for specific events or to compliment exhibitions.
- Staff training in teaching ancient technologies and how the past worked.
- Courses and training in experimental archaeology as a discipline or as stand alone experiments into specific technologies or artefacts.
- Research, experimental work, reports and demonstrations based on specific artefacts; exploring how they were made and how they were used.
- Research, design and build reconstructions of ancient buildings, such as Prehistoric roundhouses and Anglo Saxon theatres for use as teaching resources or for public events.
- Short films on how our ancestors lived, how objects from the past were made and equally importantly how they were used. These can be used as part of exhibitions or as stand alone teaching resources.
Benefits for you:

- We design and provide exciting and innovative activities which will vividly illustrate ancient life to your visitors.
- Our displays of replica artefacts and reconstructed objects from the past encourage a hands on approach which allows your visitors to touch and experience the past.
- Our demonstrations and displays are fun as well as educational and suit the whole family.
- They can be designed to compliment exhibitions or illustrate specific themes at your heritage site or museum.
- By providing an interesting and tangible experience of the past our displays and demonstrations will increase short term visitors numbers and help introduce a wider range of visitors to your site.
- Similarly our hands on education resources can add a vivid and real experience to any heritage site or museum by bringing archaeological artefacts back to life.
- Our demonstrations of ancient technologies and skills are ideal at attracting positive media interest.

Touching the past.

Making ale using hot stones to reconstruct a Prehistoric burnt mound at The National Museum of Wales.
Replica Artefacts and Collections

We specialise in making high quality replica artefacts and reconstructed objects for museums & educational institutions.

Reconstructed Early Medieval carpentry tool display.

Our artefacts are made from authentic materials and techniques and can be used as teaching collections or for museum display.

Replica Bronze Age mirror, axe head, spoons and shears.

Prehistoric Pots.
They can include reconstructions of specific artefacts from collections or from scaled drawings.

Here we are reconstructing a decorated horse jaw from Kendrick’s Cave, Llandudno for the local museum. The original is on display at the British Museum.

The reconstructed objects can be of a single material or a composite object such as these bronze axes hafted onto yew handles using rawhide bindings.

“Ancient Arts supplied artefacts for the BBC Timewatch production of Stone Age. These were used as part of a drama reconstruction. The artefacts were historically accurate and made with excellent attention to detail.”

Emma Parkins, Producer Timewatch BBC TV
Displays and Demonstrations

We can bring the past to life in a real and inspirational way through demonstrations of ancient technologies and hands on displays of reconstructed objects and replica artefacts.

One of our hands on activities: making a shale bangle using a flint tipped hand drill.

“Our Ancient Arts have been absolutely inspirational...”

Jill Cook, Head of Prehistory

Our Prehistoric copper mining display at Parys Mountain, Anglesey.

Our displays of artefacts and reconstructed objects and demonstrations can be designed for particular locations or themes or compliment exhibitions or projects.

A bronze casting demonstration.

Our Prehistoric Man and the Sea display at the Holyhead Maritime Festival.
A demonstration in building a bread oven and baking bread.

“Working with Ancient Arts was a fascinating and rewarding experience.

Their practical hands-on approach is a brilliant way of interpreting our archaeological heritage. This combined with their ability to share their knowledge and passion in such an engaging and down to earth manner, gave us a tangible sense of our ancestor’s ingenuity - and really brought our story to life.

Thank you Ancient Arts for your ideas, enthusiasm and your flexibility - always appreciated on a tight Time Team schedule!”

Billie Pink, Director
Courses

We have run many courses in ancient technologies for universities, museums and other education organisations.

Staff Training: Training in *hands on* activities illustrating ancient technologies for museums, universities and people who work within the historic environment.

![Making cordage from plant fibres.](image1)

![Teaching how to build using wattle & daub.](image2)

Traditional crafts and skills: Exploring and training in ancient building techniques, the making of stone and metal tools, cordage, ancient cooking and fire making techniques and bone working.

“I just wanted to say thank you so much for the excellent workshops that you provided for the experimental archaeology course…

They were so enjoyable, and very inspiring for the students, and I really appreciated all of the hard work and thought that went into them…it was great working with you on this.”

Dr Kate Waddington, University of Wales
Design and Build

We have many years of experience in the reconstruction of ancient buildings. These can be used part of a museum display or as usable public spaces for events.

**Design:** We will undertake a feasibility study and design the layout of your ancient settlement and reconstruct the individual buildings using traditional methods; whether you require a faithful reconstruction of an ancient building or a usable community space with a strong archaeological basis.
Project Management: Working with a team of highly skilled specialist contractors, we can offer several options in the project management of your buildings in order to suit your budget.

“We Dressing”: We can also authentically dress the interiors of the buildings, using examples of furniture and objects taken from the archaeological record.
Experimental Archaeology

As part of our journey to bring the past to life, Ancient Arts is involved in a number of experimental projects where we take archaeological evidence from excavations and attempt to replicate and understand the processes that produced them.

We have worked with a number of universities, museums and TV production companies to undertake exciting and informative experiments.
“Working with Ancient Arts on this project has been a great pleasure. They have great experience in ancient crafts & are mindful of the academic aspects of the project. They also bring fun and enthusiasm to the experiments which help to communicate the research to a much wider audience.”

Jill Cook Head of Prehistory

Adding hot stones to a trough of water to make Prehistoric ale at the National Museum of Wales.

Comparing different types of heat shattered stones.

Replica stone carving from Gobekli Tepe made for The National Geographic Channel.
Ancient Arts has over 20 years of experience working with the media. We have provided on screen demonstrations of ancient technologies and artefact reconstructions for a number of TV and radio programmes.

“The contribution that Ancient Arts made to our production was invaluable. Dave’s knowledge and understanding of the materials and techniques was a real asset on location. His skills in metal working made for exciting and engaging sequences, & he delivered information with genuine onscreen enthusiasm.

Next time we need an insight into prehistoric crafts we know who to contact first.”

Luke Pavey

Identifying metallurgical material for the Time Team.
We have also supplied off-screen archaeological advice and guidance on experimental techniques.

In recent years we have also developed our own film unit which produces short films on ancient technologies for museums, heritage sites and educators.

We have also made films which illustrate our archaeological reconstructions and records our own experimental work.

Jacqueline Sharples, Atlantic Productions for The National Geographic Channel

“In Ancient Arts is a company that understands the filming process very well, and Dave was a pleasure to work with. I hope there will be further opportunities to feature his fascinating work.”

Filming at Llangelynnin Studio.
Our Clients

Ancient Arts' clients include museums, heritage sites, archaeological units, archaeological societies, design companies & television production companies:

**Museums, Universities and Heritage Sites**

- The British Museum
- The National Museum of Wales
- Cadw
- Historic Scotland
- National Trust for Scotland
- Irish National Heritage Park
- National Portrait Gallery
- Liverpool Museum
- Manchester Museum
- The Royal Academy, Tain
- Oriel Ynys Mon, Anglesey
- La Hogue Bie Museum, Jersey
- Wrexham Museum
- Plas Mawr, Conwy
- Oriel Bangor, Gwynedd
- Jersey Heritage Trust
- Bede’s World Jarrow
- The Centre for Ancient Technologies, Dorset
- Bersham Iron Works
- Mold Museum
- Llandudno Museum
- The Council for British Archaeology
- University of Wales, Cardiff
- University of Wales, Bangor
- University of Wales, Lampeter
- University of Central Lancashire
- University of Bournemouth
- University of Newcastle
- Denbighshire County Council
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Cheshire County Council
- Wrexham County Council
- Menter Mon, Ynys Mon
- Forest Enterprise
- Habitats & Hillforts
- Heather & Hillforts
- Forest Schools
- Alderney Maritime Trust
- The Great Orme Mines Ltd
- Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

**Television and Radio**

- The National Geographic Society Channel
- Time Team Channel 4
- Timewatch BBC TV
- Coast BBC TV
- The One Show BBC TV
- The History of Wales BBC Wales
- Country Focus BBC TV
- Fishlock’s Wales BBC Wales
- Inside Out BBC Wales
- Reading the Ruins BBC Wales
- Severn Stories Channel 4
- Scientific Eye Yorkshire TV
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