

Our land has been home to people for centuries. From Neanderthal man to the

end of the Iron Age each has left its mark. These ancient places show us a bit about how life used to be hundreds of years ago

Wales History Map



Great Orme Copper Mines

What? Bronze Age copper mines

Where? Llandudno

During the Bronze Age, this mine would have been really noisy with people working to find copper! This was used to make bronze.

Archaeologists have found a lot of tunnels in this mine. Just think - they were dug out over 3,500 years ago by miners using only stone and bone tools.

Did you know..? The Great Orme

Copper Mines are the largest prehistoric mines in the world.

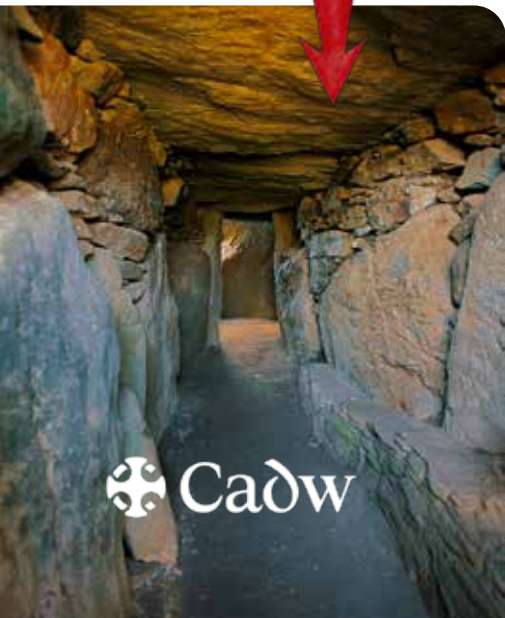
Bryn Celli Ddu

What? Neolithic burial chamber

Where? Anglesey

Bryn Celli Ddu is on Anglesey and dates back to the 3rd Millennium BC. There was a beautiful stone with patterns on it at the back of the chamber. Now you can see a replica of the stone there.

Did you know..? Bryn Celli Ddu was built so that when the sun rises on the longest day, the rays of light can reach into the inner chamber!



Tinkinswood Burial Chamber

What? Neolithic burial chamber

Where? Vale of Glamorgan

The bodies of over 50 Neolithic people were found here, with bits of broken pottery and flint.

It was built around 6,000 years ago in the Vale of Glamorgan. The tomb's capstone weighs around 40 tonnes. That's almost the same as a lorry! It is one of the largest in Britain.

Did you know..? A folk legend says that anyone who spends a night here before May Day, St John's Day (23 June) or Midwinter Day will either die, go mad, or become a poet.

Wales History Map

Neolithic

Bronze Age

Iron Age

Romans

Long before it became known as Wales, our land was home to many ancient peoples. From the time of Neanderthal man through to the end of the Iron Age each has left its mark on the landscape of Wales. Monuments like Neolithic burial chambers, Bronze Age cairns and Iron Age hillforts act as reminders of this distant past, and offer an insight into the lives of our mysterious ancient ancestors.

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Other prehistoric sites on Anglesey:

- Barclodiad y Gawres
- Penrhos Feilw Standing Stones
- Holyhead Mountain Hut Circles
- Bodowyr burial chamber
- Din Lligwy Hut Group

Tinkinswood Burial Chamber

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Other prehistoric sites in south east Wales:

- St Lythan's Burial Chamber
- Llanmelin Hillfort
- Caerau Hillfort
- Chepstow Bulwarks Camp

Great Orme Copper Mines

What? Bronze Age copper mines

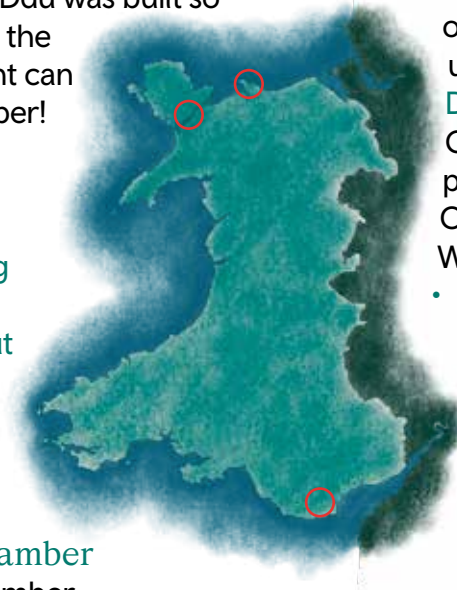
Where? Llandudno

During the Bronze Age, this mine would have been really noisy with people working to find copper! This was used to make bronze.

Archaeologists have found a lot of tunnels in this mine. Just think - they were dug out over 3,500 years ago by miners using only stone and bone tools.

Did you know..? The Great Orme Copper Mines are the largest prehistoric mines in the world. Other Prehistoric sites in north Wales include:

- Dyffryn Ardudwy burial chamber near Barmouth
- Clwydian Range Hillforts
- Capel Garmon Burial Chamber
- Various sites on the Llyn Brenig trail



Wales History Map

Long before it became known as Wales, our land was home to many ancient peoples. From the time of Neanderthal man around 225,000 years ago through to the end of the Iron Age in AD 75, each has left its mark on the landscape of Wales.

Monuments like Neolithic burial chambers, Bronze Age cairns and Iron Age hillforts act as tangible reminders of this distant past, and offer an insight into the lives of our mysterious ancient ancestors.

Bryn Celli Ddu

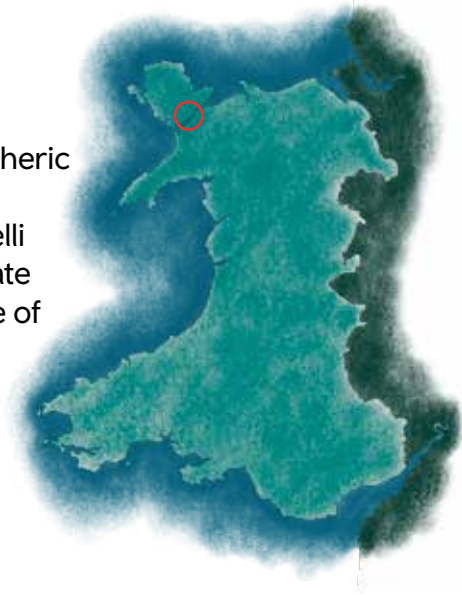
What? Neolithic burial chamber dating back to the late 3rd Millennium BC

Where? Anglesey

A well known monument in Wales, this accessible and atmospheric burial chamber has a long and complex history.

Translating directly to 'The Mound in the Dark Grove', Bryn Celli Ddu is situated on the Isle of Anglesey and dates back to the late 3rd Millennium BC. The burial chamber sits within a landscape of prehistoric places on Anglesey, including ancient rock art and standing stones.

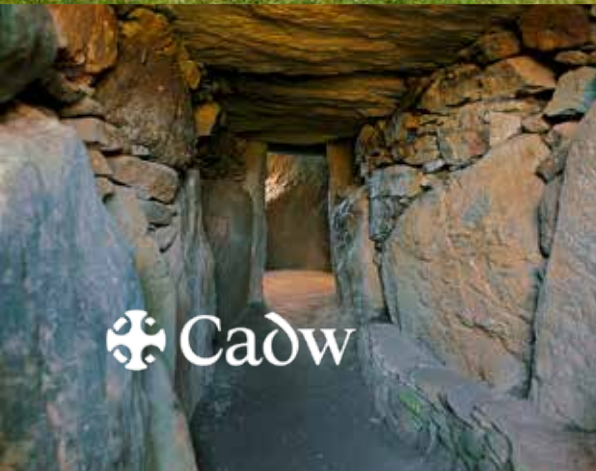
A beautifully decorated patterned stone was discovered at the back of the chamber during restoration which is now in the care of the National Museum of Wales. Visitors to the site can view an exact replica of the stone in its place.



Did you know..? Bryn Celli Ddu is the only tomb on Anglesey which is accurately aligned to coincide with the rising sun on the longest day of the year. At dawn on midsummer solstice (21 June), shafts of light from the rising sun penetrate down the passageway to light the inner burial chamber. Perhaps this sunlight was meant to bring warmth and life to the long buried ancestors?

Other prehistoric sites on Anglesey:

- Barclodiad y Gawres
- Penrhos Feilw Standing Stones
- Holyhead Mountain Hut Circles
- Bodowyr burial chamber
- Din Lligwy Hut Group
- Din Dryfol Burial Chamber





Great Orme Copper Mines

What? Bronze Age copper mines uncovered in 1987

Where? Llandudno

Around 4,000 years ago, during the Bronze Age, this site echoed with the noise of mining on an industrial scale. The prize was copper – an essential ingredient in making bronze, the alloy that gave its name to this period of prehistory.

Since the site was found in the 1980s, archaeologists, engineers and cavers have continued to discover the vast range of tunnels and passages that make up this ancient mine.

Tours allow visitors to experience these prehistoric mine workings, including the amazing Bronze Age Cavern, dug out over 3,500 years ago by miners using only tools made of stone and bone.

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Tinkinswood Burial Chamber

What? Neolithic burial chamber

Where? Vale of Glamorgan

During excavation in 1914, the bodies of over 50 individuals from the Neolithic period were found in Tinkinswood Burial Chamber along with shards of broken pottery and worked flint.

Constructed almost 6,000 years ago, the site stands upon a vast sloping valley in the Vale of Glamorgan – just over seven miles from the heart of Cardiff.

This area would have been very desirable during the Neolithic period. There is a stream nearby, good soil for growing crops and plenty of stone suitable for making tools.

Modern visitors can marvel at the tomb's capstone which, at around 40 tonnes, weighs the same as an articulated lorry. It is one of the largest examples in Britain.

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