

# Hurdle

**Period:** All  
**Material:** wood  
**Complete item**

This is a small example of a hurdle panel. Larger hurdles would be used as fencing, gates or moveable panels to manage livestock, for example in a sheepfold. They can also be used as wall panels for houses (and other structures) known as wattle, which is then covered in a clay-based 'daub' to keep out the elements.



© Aberdeen City Council

*Remains of medieval hurdle at Aberdeen*

Hurdles can be made from any flexible branch, but were most commonly made from willow and hazel as these grow fast and straight. Although this example is straight, hurdles can be made in almost any shape, making them extremely versatile. People have been weaving wood into hurdles since the prehistoric period but as the wood rarely survives there are only a handful of examples dated to the Medieval period or before. Excavations at Aberdeen and Inverness have revealed rare examples of Medieval hurdles.

## ***How else might you use a hurdle?***



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*Wattle walls at Dornie*

### **See also:**

CT Basketry  
 Box 3, Baskets object sheet

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