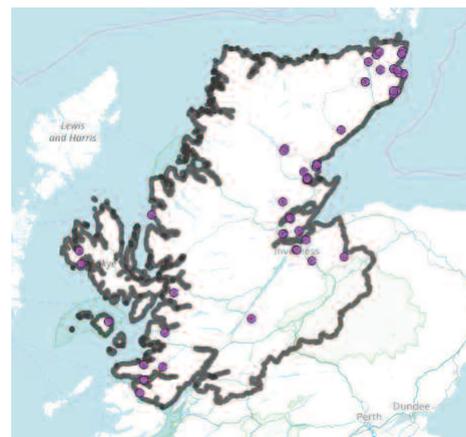


Leaf-shaped Arrowhead

Period:	Neolithic (c. 4000 - c. 2500 BC)
Material:	stone (flint, but other stone types also used)
Composite item:	other materials include wooden shaft, resin glue, binding twine or sinew, feather fletching

Leaf-shaped arrowheads were made by knapping – a process of striking a stone with another piece of stone or antler to knock off flakes until you have the pieces of the size and shape you desire. The



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Leaf shaped arrowhead from Portmahomack on display at Tarbat Discovery Centre

edges of this arrowhead have been carefully worked to make sure it had a fine edge. An arrowhead like this one could be produced within an hour, but did require skill and practice to make. They were usually struck from flint, chert or quartz, and this example is from a honey-coloured flint. These artefacts are commonly associated with the earlier part of the Neolithic period.

Sharp arrowheads like this would be set into a wooden arrow shaft and used with a wooden bow, but only one example of a longbow from the Neolithic has survived in Scotland. They could be used as weapons against people or to hunt wild animals such as birds

and predators. During the Neolithic period people were eating domesticated animals, but they may still have been using bows and arrows regularly to protect livestock and crops.

What animals may have posed a threat to crops and livestock?



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Arrowheads from Morayston



A variety of leaf-shaped arrowheads found, and probably made, at Littleferry near Golspie. Over 500 have been found on this site, one of the largest concentrations found anywhere in the UK

See also:

CT Flint Knapping

When? Mesolithic

Additional Image: Leaf-shaped Arrowhead from Tulloch of Assery

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