

# Wooden Spoon

**Period:** all periods

**Material:** wood

**Complete item**

This wooden spoon has been carved from freshly cut birch. Making items from unseasoned wood is known as 'green woodworking'. The rough shape of the spoon was carved out using an axe, before being refined with a knife. The bowl of the spoon was carved out using a curved 'crook-knife'. The curved socketed knife from the Wester Ord or southern Skye bronze hoards may be early examples of this tool.



This spoon has been roughly made in around an hour, then allowed to slowly dry to avoid the wood splitting. At this stage it could be further smoothed by carving a thin layer away with a knife, or sanding with sandstone.



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*Wooden spoons from Museum of the Isles, Skye*

Although no prehistoric examples of wooden spoons have been found in the Highlands it is assumed that they would have been common items. It is possible that most people would have had basic woodcrafting skills in order to make and adjust their own items as and when needed. In this example the shape of the handle follows the grain of the wood to keep it strong but also to add interest. Traditions of creating intricate wooden spoons survive in several parts of the UK. An example of this is Welsh love spoons which are used as symbolic keepsakes.

***What shape of spoon would you carve?***



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*Socketed knife from Wester Ord Bronze Age hoard – possibly an early crook knife. Now in the NMS, Edinburgh*

**See also:**

CT Green woodworking

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