

## Object Summaries - What they were used for

### Box one

Microlith (c. 8500 BC – c. 4000 BC)

*A versatile shaped piece of flint or other stone used for a range of tasks - notably as arrowheads, borers, scrapers or used together with other microliths and set in a haft to make longer cutting blades.*

Leaf Shaped Arrowhead (c. 4000 BC – c. 2500 BC)

*An arrowhead of flint or other stone mounted on a wooden shaft, and used as a weapon for hunting or against other people.*

Scrapers (c. 4,000 BC – c. 2,500 BC)

*A item of flint or other stone with an edge used to work animal hides or wood. Some forms are used into the Bronze Age (c. 2500 – c 800 BC)*

Blades (c. 4000 BC – c. 2500 BC)

*Cutting tools made of flint or other stone used for a range of tasks. Flint blades were very quick items to make, usually created as a by-product of making other flint items.*

Stone Axes (c. 4000 BC – c. 2500 BC)

*Axes were either used for felling trees and chopping wood or as ceremonial items.*

Carved Stone Balls (c. 4000 BC – c. 2500 BC)

*No one really knows what the carved stone balls were for. However, they were probably not weapons as they aren't found with damage and the carved shape provides no benefit over an unshaped stone of the same size.*

Pottery Sherds (c. 4000 BC – c. 300 AD)

*Coarse prehistoric pottery was used predominantly for cooking or the storage of foods including liquids, but also for some funerary vessels.*

Barbed and Tanged Arrowheads  
(c. 2500 BC – c. 800 BC)

*These are arrowheads, again made from flint or other stone, with protrusions making them more effective for hunting or as weapons for using against people.*

*The shape would cause increased damage and bleeding to the target. Some may be ceremonial.*

Bronze Halberd (c. 2300 BC – c. 1500 BC)

*Halberds were thought to have been weapons. However, due to the thin metal it is possible they weren't hugely effective, and so may have had a predominantly ceremonial use.*

Bronze Flat Axes (c. 2300 BC – c. 1500 BC)

*Like stone axes, used for the felling and chopping of wood or as ceremonial and prestige items.*

Beaker Pots (c. 2200BC – c. 1500 BC)

*Beaker pots were used in both domestic and burial contexts, for the storage of foods including liquids or placed in Bronze Age burials.*

### Box Two

Bone Dice (c. 3800 BC – c. 1560 AD)

*Dice were used, as today, in games as a leisure activity.*

Bronze Swords (c. 1000 BC – c. 800 BC)

*Swords were used as weapons but would also have been a show of status and prestige.*

Bronze Sickles (c. 1000 BC – c. 800 BC)

*Sickles were used for harvesting crops and cutting of other plants such as herbs or plants for making dyes.*

Bronze Gouges (c. 1000BC – c. 800 BC)

*Gouges were used to carve channels in wood, and could be used to create bowls, cups and other dished items.*

Bronze Spear (c. 1500 BC – c. 800 BC)

*A weapon used in combat or for hunting. Some more elaborate designs may have been more ceremonial or status items rather than a functional item.*

**Bronze Sunflower Pin (c. 1000 BC – c. 800 BC)**  
*A piece of jewellery and likely mainly a show of status. It would have been used to pin clothing together.*

**Woven Belts and Bands (c. 2500 BC – c. 1000 AD)**  
*Woven bands were used to edge clothing to provide decoration and reinforce the garment.*

**Bone Pin (c. 800BC – c. 1000 AD)**  
*Pins were decorative but also used in conjunction with thread to pin clothing together or to hold hair in place.*

**Whetstone (c. 800BC – c. 1000 AD)**  
*These were used to sharpen iron or bronze tools and weapons. Whetstones of various forms continued to be used into the medieval and modern times.*

**Wooden Cup (All periods covered)**  
*Wooden cups and bowls were used in the same way they are today.*

**Wooden Spoon (All periods covered)**  
*Spoons were used in the same way they are today.*

**Cordage (All periods covered)**  
*Cords and rope were used in a variety of situations from binding together items, building structures and controlling the sails of boats.*

### **Box Three**

**Antler Comb (c. 300 AD – 1560 AD)**  
*Combs were used for combing hair and could be used for the removal of nits, as they are today, but various styles were popular at different times.*

**Iron Nail (c. 800 BC - Present)**  
*Nails were used for construction of objects and structures, primarily of wood. Their use has changed little over time.*

**Pictish Carved Stone (c. 300 BC – c. 1000 AD)**  
*Some Pictish symbols stones were grave markers and cross slabs had religious significance. They were created to impart messages but the actual message and who they were for is the ongoing subject of debate.*

**Baskets (All periods covered)**  
*Baskets were used in a similar way to ones today, for transporting and storing almost anything that will fit inside.*

**Hurdle (All periods covered)**  
*Hurdles could be made into a wide variety of shapes and sizes and so had many uses from fencing to wall panels in structures.*

**Ring Money (c. 800 AD – c. 1000 AD)**  
*Silver bracelets used as jewellery by the Vikings but also as a weight-based currency to facilitate trade.*

**Scottish Coins (c. 1140 AD - present)**  
*Coins minted in Scotland were used as a currency to facilitate trade, as they are today.*

**Lead Seals (c. 1750- c. 1850 AD)**  
*Lead seals were used to provide a guarantee of quality and authenticity on cloth and other products traded long distances.*