
Manx Iron Age

(500 BC - 500 AD)

Around this time the Isle of Man saw the arrival of new ideas and influences from across the Irish Sea, including knowledge of working with iron. It was during the Iron Age that the island prepared itself against invasion.

Large hill forts appeared on summits and smaller promontory forts were built along the coastal cliffs. The people of this time were not just advancing with their fortifications but were building more sophisticated roundhouses.

These large timber structures had low roofs and central hearths. A chieftain, his family, household and animals all lived together under one roof. Later homes of this type were even built partly with stone.

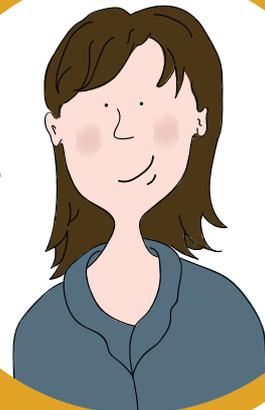
Objects

Stone spindle whorl

This object is based on original spinning whorls found at Clooney Chollagh - an Iron Age coastal promontory fort in Malew. The spindle whorls may have weighted down warp threads in weaving looms or could have been used to weight down a single rod onto which wool was spun.



Spindle whorls have been used for thousands of years. They can be difficult to date unless they are found in context together with other dateable objects.



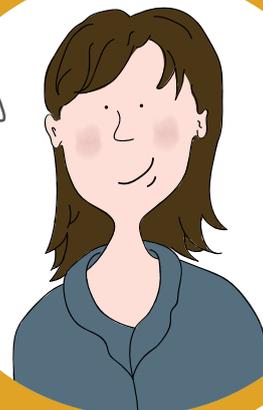
Objects

Bone Weaving Tool

These bone weaving tools may have been used to weave cloth or nets. Threads would be wound on to the bobbins that could be made from wood or bone. To weave the threads into cloth they built big upright wooden looms. Wool was the most useful material for clothes, because it was warm to wear, and easy to spin and weave. Flax plants were grown so that some cloths could be made from linen. The linen fibres are processed from the stems of the flax plant.



Textiles rarely survive from such a long time ago, so any find is very precious.



Objects

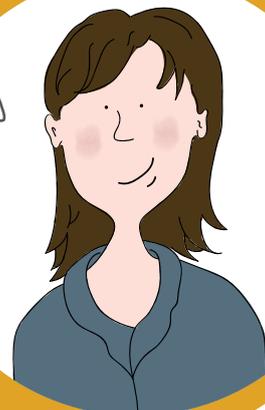
Brooch

This is a bronze 'penannular' brooch based on an original found at Clooney Chollagh promontory fort. Penannular means having the form of a ring with a small break in the circumference.

Investigate how this brooch was used.



Brooches and pins were very important. They held people's clothes together!



Objects

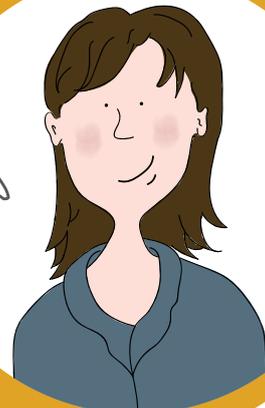
Terret Ring

Iron Age British chariots were usually drawn by a pair of yoked ponies. Terrets, or 'rein-guides', are small rings, which were set in line along the yoke. Five terrets were usually used per chariot. We have good evidence for the positioning of terrets due to Iron Age chariot burials.

Chariot burial was an Iron Age custom; while the wooden chariot decayed, the horse harness, usually made from bronze, survives well. Enough bronze has been discovered in archaeological sites, especially from the iron wheel covers and other iron parts of the chariot to enable well-informed reconstructions.



Only the richest were buried with their chariots. Wealthy Iron Age people were often buried with many other valuable grave-goods too!



Objects

Bone Comb

Iron Age people were interested in their appearance. They combed their hair with bone combs, which were intricately carved. This small comb has a hole where a leather thong or chord could have held it around the neck or possibly attached around the owner's waist.



Search for the [Close ny Chollagh Bone Comb](#) on the [imuseum.im](#) website.