

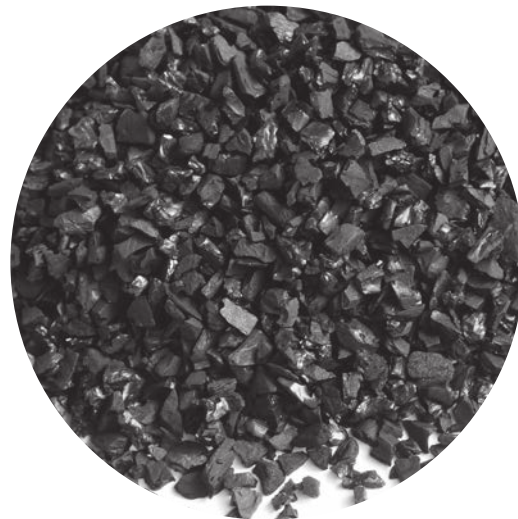
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# Environmental

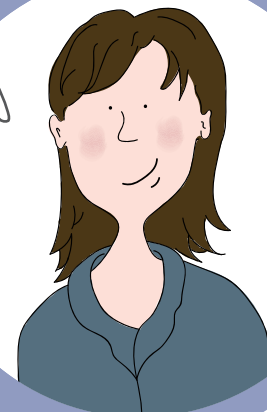
## Charcoal and carbonised hazelnut shells

Environmental archaeologists look for answers about the relationships between the environment and people. They look for ecofacts - natural remains - such as those of wild and domesticated plants and animals found in the archaeological record.

One method that scientists use to date artefacts is called radiocarbon dating. All living things on Earth are made up of a high percentage of an element called carbon. Most carbon on Earth is not radioactive, but a very small percentage is. When something dies, the radioactive carbon starts to decay at a known rate. Scientists can measure how much carbon is left and work out when that life form died.



Burnt charcoal and hazelnut shells can be used to date an archaeological site.



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# Environmental

## Emmer Wheat

The transition from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic, when modern humans began to settle and grow food, marks an important step in the evolution of civilization and technology.

In Europe, agriculture slowly spread from ancient Anatolia (modern-day Turkey), where domesticated plants including wheat were first farmed about 10,000 years ago, through the Mediterranean and central Europe. Archaeologists believe that farming did not reach the British Isles until about 6,000 years ago.



This stone object is a stone 'saucer' quern. The Meayll Hill farmers may have used a stone like this to grind grains.

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# Environmental

## Spelt

Spelt was an important cereal crop in parts of Europe from the Bronze Age to medieval times. Spelt is thought to be a subspecies closely related to modern wheat.



Some cereal grains have been identified in Neolithic pottery on the Isle of Man that possibly show first farming practices on the island.

