



## Large Anglo-Saxon Burial Ground

### Who were the Anglo-Saxons?

- The Anglo-Saxons were tribes that moved from modern-day Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands to Britain in the fifth century AD.
- Different Anglo-Saxon tribes ruled over areas of Britain after the Romans left. Little is known about the time because they left few written records. This is partly why the period is sometimes known as the dark ages.

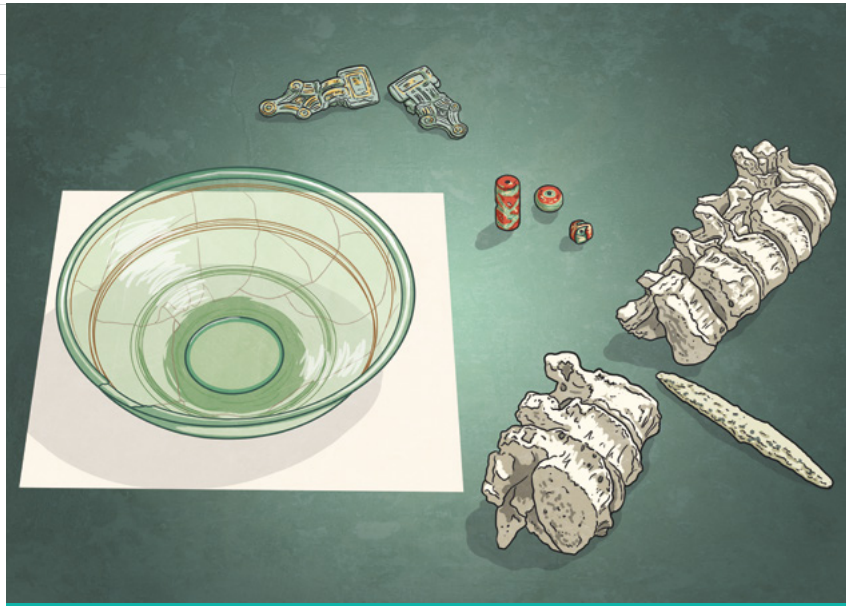


Illustration: Some of the items found; an Anglo-Saxon bowl, brooches, beads and the iron object found in a man's spine.

A large Anglo-Saxon burial site has been unearthed in Wendover, Buckinghamshire. Archaeologists say it gives an insight into how Anglo-Saxons lived.

138 graves have been **excavated** containing many different items. Three quarters of these are high-quality objects. This suggests it was a cemetery for wealthy Anglo-Saxons.

The graves date to the fifth and sixth century.

Dr Rachel Wood was one of the archaeologists on the site. She said: "This significance of this site for our historical and archaeological understanding of Anglo-Saxon Britain is huge."

She said that the burial sites dating "to the end of the Roman period is particularly exciting". This is because little is known about this time.

Many of the graves were found with two brooches on their collarbone. These would have been used to hold up cloaks and other garments.

Some burials contained toiletries, including ear wax removers, toothpicks, tweezers and combs. A tube was found which might have contained eyeliner.

The archaeologists say that many of the burials contained **unique** items. This

suggests Anglo-Saxons were buried with items important to them.

One high-status female was buried with a huge range of items. She was buried with a complete **ornate** glass bowl made of pale green glass. She also had silver and copper rings, iron belt fittings and other precious items.

One item even gave insight into how someone died. A sharp iron object was found lodged in a man's spine. Scientists believe he was between 17 and 24 years old.

Altogether, archaeologists uncovered over 2,000 beads, 89 brooches and 40 buckles. They also found many weapons - 51 knives, 15 spearheads and 7 **shield bosses**.

### Glossary

<b>excavated</b>	Dug up.
<b>unique</b>	One of a kind.
<b>ornate</b>	Elaborately decorated.
<b>shield bosses</b>	A round piece in the centre of a shield.

# Questions

1. Find and copy **two** words or phrases which have been used to describe to the place where the Anglo-Saxons were buried.
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2. Which of these words could **not** replace 'lodged' as used in the sentence: **A sharp object was found lodged in a man's spine? (tick one)**

embedded

stuck

caught

disconnected

3. Which of the following two statements do you most agree with. **Tick one and explain your answer using evidence from the article.**

Anglo-Saxons were similar to people today.

Anglo-Saxons were very different to people today.

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4. Using information from the article, fill in the missing words to complete the sentence.  
Archaeologists found an \_\_\_\_\_ burial site. One female was buried with a \_\_\_\_\_. They also found \_\_\_\_\_ knives and \_\_\_\_\_ brooches amongst the \_\_\_\_\_ graves.

5. How do you think archaeologists felt when they found the burial site? Explain your answer.
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6. Which of the following alternative headlines best summarises the article? **(tick one)**

Important Anglo-Saxon Cemetery Found

Anglo-Saxons Used Tweezers

Little Known About Anglo-Saxons

Archaeologists Learn About Romans