

Bronze Age burials

Burials before the Bronze Age

Earlier in the Stone Age, people had different ways of burying their dead. They buried people in shallow graves because they didn't have strong tools for digging. Sometimes, boulders were placed over graves.

In the Neolithic period (the New Stone Age), people started to dig deeper graves and sometimes made burial mounds.

People also started to bury their dead in tombs. These tombs were covered with long barrows that were long mounds of earth.

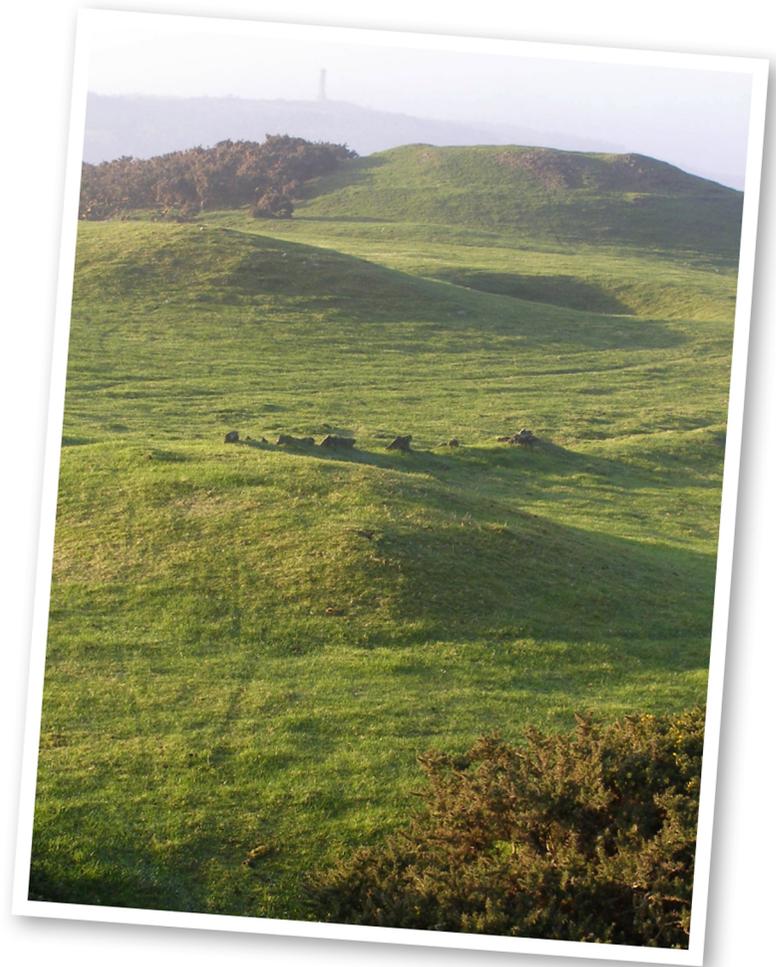


Early Bronze Age burials

Around 2300 BC, people began to bury their dead in small earth mounds. Bodies were placed sideways, in a crouching position.

Goods such as flint tools and jewellery were buried with the bodies.

Graves were often grouped together in cemeteries called round barrows. Round barrows are small, roughly circular mounds of earth. Many round barrows are found near larger monuments, such as Stonehenge.



Mid Bronze Age burials

Later in the Bronze Age, people stopped burying their dead in elaborate graves and cremated their bodies instead.

The ashes were placed in urns and buried in pre-existing burial mounds.



Later Bronze Age burials

Towards the end of the Bronze Age (around 700 BC), people still cremated their dead.

However, the ashes were now deposited in small, shallow pits, rather than placed in urns.

Archaeologists think that the ashes were wrapped in materials that have long-since perished.

