

Date	Chronological Period	Metalwork Assemblages (MA)/Type	Ceramic Assemblages/Type	Key Points
c.2,500-2,400 BC	Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age transition (sometimes referred to as the Copper Age or Chalcolithic)	MA I-II	Early Beaker Phase	Earliest use of gold & copper.
c.2,300-2,050 BC	Early Bronze Age (EBA)	MAIII  Early bronze objects include flat riveted daggers from <i>Butterwick</i> (Yorkshire) & flat axes and bronze ornaments from <i>Migdale</i> (NE Scotland)	Late Beaker Phase, Food Vessels	First appearance of copper alloyed with tin for bronze production.
c.2,050-1,700 BC	EBA	MA IV–V  Flat axes with stop bevels and/or raised edges, narrow butts and slender bodies, as seen at <i>Aylesford</i> (Kent) & <i>Willerby Wold</i> (Yorkshire)	Late Beaker Phase, Food Vessels, Collared Urns	Associated with the Wessex I, named after the so-called <i>Wessex culture</i> - a group of rich burials found in central & southern Britain, originally defined by the British archaeologist Stuart Piggott in 1938.
c.1,700–1,500 BC	EBA	MA VI  Broad range of bronze objects from <i>Arreton Down</i> (Isle of Wight)	Food Vessels, Collared Urns	Arreton Down hoard represents the final EBA metalwork traditions in southern England. This arguably represents the first large scale burial of metalwork in prehistory, a practice that would continue for many centuries (and millennia) to come.
1,500–1,400 BC	Middle Bronze Age (MBA)	Acton Park Phase	Deverel-Rimbury ware	Smaller forms of axes (palstaves) began to appear alongside the first 'socketed' spearheads (attached to the shaft by a hole in the base). Acton Park is characterised by various types of palstave, typically ornamented with a shield-shaped motif on the blade. Thrusting weapons (dirks, rapiers) appear.
1,400–1,250 BC	MBA	Taunton Phase/'Ornament Horizon'	Deverel-Rimbury ware	Continuation of traditions from previous metalwork phase. Bronze ornaments are found in southern and eastern England including ribbed, plain and coiled bracelets; spiral-twisted torcs; coiled and plain finger-rings; incised arm-rings; and quoit-headed pins.
1,300–1,140 BC	MBA	Penard Phase	Deverel-Rimbury ware/Local Urn types	The Penard Phase is characterised by a flowering in experimentation in bronze working, possibly spurred on by increased contact with the Urnfield culture of Continental Europe from where early sword & shield imports came. Developments included the invention of the cylinder sickle and leaf-shaped pegged spearheads, mirroring an increase in the use of sheet bronze. Clay moulds and new lead-rich alloys were also employed.
1,140–1,020 BC	MBA	Wilburton-Wallington Phase	Deverel-Rimbury ware/Local Urn types	Introduction of copper-lead-tin alloys in bronze making and by the manufacture of leaf-shaped slashing swords, socketed spearheads secured to a shaft with a peg, & horse-bits. Increase in lighter socketed axes may be connected to new woodworking practices.

1,020–800 BC	Late Bronze Age (LBA)	Blackmoor/Ewart Park Phase	Plain ware	There are several regional sub groups in this period, most significantly the Carp's Tongue complex in the SE. Experimentation in metal alloying sees the appearance of a number of new artefact types of unknown purposes.
800-700 BC	LBA/Early Iron Age (EIA) transition	Llyn Fawr Phase	Plain ware	Famous for its leaf-shaped swords. Bronze and iron co-existed although the latter was more limited to cutting implements whilst bronze was used for both weapons & other items such as cauldrons, razors, horse harness mounts and winged chapes.