

WHAT CLARK FOUND AT STAR CARR

Sir Grahame Clark excavated Star Carr from 1949 to 1951. He dug trenches that covered an area of around 17 metres long by 15 metres wide. In these, he found:

Plant remains:

- lake water plants – mare's tail, pondweed, stonewort, water lily (white), water lily (yellow);
- lake-side swamp plants & trees – bittersweet, bog bean, club rush, cowbane, deergrass, gipsywort, grey willow, horsetail, marsh willowherb, meadow rue, meadowsweet, reed, sedge, spearwort, spike rush, water dock;
- open ground plants – bistort, black nightshade, chickweed, crowberry, goosefoot, hemp nettle, knotgrass, nettle, ragwort, redshank, sorrel, St. John's wort;
- woodland plants & trees – aspen, birch, hawthorn, hedge woundwort, moss, pine, red campion, rowan.

Animal bones, 1,159 bones or fragments of bones of mammals:

- 532 red deer bones;
- 218 elk bones;
- 171 wild cattle bones;
- 117 roe deer bones;
- 56 beavers (7 animals);
- 31 wild boar;
- 24 pine marten (2 animals);
- 5 wolf or dog (2 animals);
- 2 badger (1 animal);
- 1 hedgehog;
- 1 hare;
- bones from 1 fox.

Also bones of birds: buzzard, crane, great crested grebe, lapwing, little grebe, pintail duck, red-breasted merganser, red-throated diver, white stork.

Antlers from deer:

- 106 red deer antlers;
- 48 roe deer antlers;
- 13 elk antlers and fragments.

Flint tools and the waste from making the tools, 17,000 flints, of which nearly 1,200 were deliberately shaped tools:

- 426 scrapers, for scraping hides and other materials;
- 336 gravers, for working antler or other hard materials;
- 248 microliths, for inserting into wooden handles as arrowheads or knives or awls;
- 114 awls, for boring or piercing other materials;
- 7 axes or adzes, for wood-working and felling trees;
- 5 saw blades, for cutting;
- 59 other tools.

Antler and bone tools:

- 191 antler/bone barbed points (187 antler and 4 of bone), for hunting or fishing;
- 9 worked antler tines, to make various types of tool;

- 6 elk antler mattocks, for digging into the ground;
- 8 bone pins;
- 11 aurochs bone scrapers, for scraping hides;
- 21 antler headdresses.

Other tools:

- a wooden paddle, signifying a boat, probably a hide boat like a coracle
- 37 beads and pendants made of amber (1), animal teeth (2), bird bone (1) and shale (33).

Other materials

- many birch bark rolls;
- birch resin, useful as a type of glue;
- 2 lumps of amber, which could be used to make jewellery;
- moss for bedding;
- bracket fungus for tinder in fire-making;
- 4 pieces of pyrites which can be struck to make sparks for fire-lighting;
- lumps of haematite, used as a red pigment.

The most important and exciting of the finds were the 21 antler frontlets, made from the tops of deer skulls to be worn as headdresses. This is the largest number of deer headdresses ever found from one site. Only ** have ever been found elsewhere (all in Germany).

The 191 barbed points is also the largest number of these ever found at one site in Britain.