

Iron Age Girl - 2,500 years ago

The earliest iron implements found in Wales come from **Llyn Fawr in the Rhondda Valley**, where various objects have been found such as an iron sword, spearhead and sickle thought to be deposited as offerings to the gods. These items are thought to date from about 2650 years ago.

During the Iron Age, Britain was a land of farms and small villages, with people living in round houses with thatched roofs. Archaeologists find when they excavate these sites that the most common Iron Age remains are the rubbish from daily life, such as pot sherds, animal bones and broken tools. Most people were full or part-time farmers, their lives governed by the farming year and the religious festivals that marked it.

However, this is also when we see the construction of very large hillforts with huge defensive banks and ditches surrounding a central area, such as **Pen Dinas near Aberystwyth and Tre'r Ceiri on the Llŷn Peninsula** which continued to be occupied even during the Roman period. The earliest distinctively Iron Age settlement in Wales is thought to be **Castell Odo**, a small hillfort near the tip of the **Llŷn Peninsula**, from about 2,400 years ago. The largest hillforts are found along the eastern border of Wales, with some large examples also found in the lowlands of north-west Wales. Hillforts are also very numerous in the south-west, but tend to be smaller, with **Castell Henllys in Pembrokeshire** being a very good example.

Links

Hillforts

<http://www.peoplescollectionwales.com/Collection/618-hillforts>

Castell Henllys - Pembrokeshire

<http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk/default.asp?PID=397>

<http://resourcesforhistory.com/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/history/sites/themes/society/celts_thepeople.shtml

Din Lligwy Ancient Village - Anglesey

http://www.walesdirectory.co.uk/Ancient_Sites/Din_Lligwy_Hut_Group.htm

Garn Goch - Bethlehem Llandeilo

http://www.llandeilo.org/h_pre.php

St Ffagans - Cardiff -Iron Age village

www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/stfagans/

www.rcahmw.gov

Castell Odo - Gwynedd

Fflint through the Ages

<http://www.fflint.co.uk/celts.html>

General

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/celts/> - interactive site in welsh and english

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/british_prehistory/peoples_01.shtml#three

http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/online_tours/britain/daily_life_in_iron_age_britain/daily_life_in_iron_age_britain.aspx