

**An outline of experiments under way at
Butser Ancient Farm,
constructed by David Freeman.**

David Freeman

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Main Enclosure

N.B. All roundhouses within the enclosure are built to match the original foot-print of each excavated site. This includes the post-size, and spacing. Materials used to construct each house are sourced to match those from the landscape, local to the site, at the time the original house was built, using whenever possible, the environmental record of the excavation.

Little Woodbury Round House 2007

To explore the engineering and construction of a major two-ring Wessex House. To record the material quantities required to build a house of this scale.

Porch re-shaped 2012 to improve water flow.

Porch re-designed to gable-end 2018.

Repairs to North side of roof eave 2018.

Roof re-thatched in total 2018/2019

Moel y gerddi Round House 2002/2012

To explore the engineering and construction of a small two ring round house. The use of a back door. The running of a fire in a sunken fireplace in the floor. Monitor the earth burning under the hearth.

Glastonbury Lake Village Round House M74 2009

To explore the engineering and construction of a light weight round house as found on a lake village.

Exploration of alternate materials and minimalist construction

Run with a hole in the top of the roof for 4 months to test fire risk in 2013.

Rebuild of the roof to replace minimal purlins from phase 1 in 2014 , and change thatch from slope to rings, to prove material savings between the two styles.

Glastonbury Lake Village Round House M59 2009

To explore the engineering and construction of a light-weight round house as found on a lake village.

To calculate the weight, and quantity, of materials in a minimalist build.

Rebuild of the roof to replace minimal purlins from phase 1 in 2014.

Danebury Hill Fort Round House CS1 2010

To explore the engineering and construction of a plank built round house. To construct and observe a packed chalk floor. To furnish and dress a house to iron age standards, using evidence for all items. To create a 'live' experience for schools and public.

Danebury Hill Fort Round House CS14 2016/17

To explore the engineering and construction of a late iron age stake-built round house.

Round House Roofs

To explore the workings of the thatch and roof space.

Items of interest :

- Height of smoke ceiling and clear space under it
- Escape of smoke through the thatch
- Containment of combustion gasses and oxygen levels
- Deposition of tar on the inside surfaces
- Preservation of food due to smoke
- Thickness of thatch layer
- Methods of thatching
- Rain water run-off and drying
- Pest infestation
- Monitoring and recording of temperatures within the roof space

Stone Age Enclosure

N.B. All houses within the enclosure are built to match the original foot-print of each excavated site. This includes the post-size, and spacing. Materials used to construct each house are sourced to match those from the landscape, local to the excavation, at the time the original house was built.

Durrington Walls 851 2015

Exploration and construction of a Neolithic house, based on the excavations at Durrington Walls. Construction of alternative roofing? (other than thatch). Walls of wattle and daub. House to be fitted out and furnished in accordance with the archaeological evidence.

Roof re-shaped in 2017

Ancillary Building to 851 2014

Very small building of light-weight materials. To work in conjunction with 851 as described in the excavation report.

Chalk Spread

Constructed according to the description in the excavation report. Attempt to understand, and monitor.

Llandygai Long House 2015

To explore the engineering and construction of a Neolithic long house. Constructed specifically as resource for the education programme under the National Curriculum.

Roof Trial 2014

Construction of, and monitoring, a small poled-roof. Poles to be chinked with chalk paste. To be left exposed through all seasons.

Experiment completed, David Freeman

Other Structures

Chicken House 2009

Exploration of four post structures.

Four post Structure Granary 2008

Exploration of four post structures. The construction of a working granary based on a four post structure. Use of carpentry to make a secure structure, avoiding the use of wooden pegs or nails.

2011 To store and use a years worth of grain, as required by a family in the iron age.

Prove viability of the grain after a year in storage.

Iron Age Toilet 2008/2015

Exploration of four post structures. To construct an iron age toilet, purely as a demonstration building to be looked at.

Not the Round House 2012

To explore the engineering and construction of a small sub-rectangular house. The transition from a wall of rounded corners to a square-cornered roof.

Deconstructed in 2017. Experiment terminated by Butser Education CIC.

Four Post Structure Cart Shed

Exploration of four post structures. To create a large open four post structure.

Extended to a six post structure in 2017

Deconstructed 2019. Experiment terminated by Butser Education CIC.

Danebury Nine Post Structure

Construct to use as shelter, with in-roof storage. Roof structure and thatch.

2018

Clunch Shed

Clunch walls with timber roof, thatched.

Deconstructed in 2017. Experiment terminated by Butser Education CIC.

Post Holes

Four Post Structure Haystack 2014/2016/2018

Exploration of four post structures. To construct a working platform for the storage of hay, as used for feed for the animals.

Four Post Structure 2008

Exploration of four post structures. To construct a compost 'bin'.

Single Post Structure Haystack 2008-2018

Based on the evidence of 'a single post hole with depression' the haystack creates the evidence by blocking light and water to the ground underneath.

Two Post Structure 2016

The construction of a 'drying rack' to duplicate the evidence.

Two Post Structure 2016

Pole Lathe, to duplicate the evidence

Single Post Hole

The erection of a 'totem' in the middle of the enclosure to duplicate the evidence.

Line of Post Holes

Indicative of a fence line. Wattle fences around the site are an example. A small fence line around the Moel y gerddi is typical of marker boundaries between the round houses at Hengistbury head.

No Post Holes

Pit - Larder 2011

Construction of a larder pit from the Danebury hill-fort. The monitoring of the decay of the steps.
Roof collapse March 2019

Pit - Storage 2008

Excavation of a pit to represent a grain store from the iron age.

Clunch Shed 2005/2008

Construction of a roof.

De-constructed in 2017. Experiment terminated by Butser Education CIC.

Pit - Midden

Dug 1mx1m.

The deposition of waste over a period of time. The decay of materials. The decay of the pit, and covering of the waste.

Garton Station Cart

Construction of an iron age cart based on the finds from a Chariot Burial at Garton Station, East Yorkshire.
Deconstruct 2018 by David Freeman.

Bread Oven

Located within the Moel y gerddi. Construction of a wood-fired bread-oven, in an Iron Age style. To be used.
Removed after collapse in 2016

Bread Oven

Located within the Danebury CS14. Construction of a wood-fired bread-oven, in an Iron Age style. To be used.

Water Flow

Digging and maintaining drip trenches. Observing water flow and interaction between the buildings. Observing erosion and deposition of material moved by water flow. Growth cause by, and maintained by, retention of moisture flowing across the site.

[On Site](#)

Haseris Kiln

Construction of a pottery kiln.
Repeated use of the kiln to fire ceramics.
Removed. David Freeman

Romano-British Kiln

Brick built in a bank 2016

Grazing of the Ditch and Bank

Monitoring the effect of allowing animal grazing on the external surface of the ditch and bank of the enclosure.

Wattle Fencing

The time and materials taken to construct lengths of wattle fencing. Calculations of life-span of the fence. Land area needed to maintain supply of materials. To build and maintain a data-base record.

Not Constructed by David Freeman

[The Enclosure 1992](#)

Ditch and bank constructed to mimic that found in the archaeology.
Constructed as an octagon, aligned to the compass points. This enables easy long term monitoring and recording of all surfaces and decay patterns.

Charlton Saxon Hall

Sparshot Roman Villa

David Freeman

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