

Cliffe Castle Museum

Stanbury Bronze Age Burial

This display case, located in the Bracewell Smith Hall at Cliffe Castle Museum, contains findings from a Bronze Age burial site. These items were discovered in 2007, by chance, when some people living at a farm in Stanbury decided to remodel their garden. When investigated, the burial site revealed a selection of artefacts. There were three pots known as collared urns, one of these urns contained cremated human remains of young Bronze Age man. The remains are estimated to be between 3790 and 3860 years old. A set of objects were also recovered from the burial site, including a polished battle-axe, an accessory cup, a bone pin, a belt hook and the melted remains of bronze earrings.

Archaeologists have discovered that burning bodies of the dead was a common form of burial during the Bronze Age. People would build a pyre of wood to rest the body on and set it alight. When the fire had burnt out and the remains had cooled, they were carefully gathered and placed in a collared urn to be buried.



Talk Topics

- How would you feel if you found an ancient Bronze Age burial site in your garden?
- How do you think archaeologists might have concluded what time period this burial site was from?
- What does this finding tell us about the way that people in the Bronze Age felt about members of their families and community?
- Why do you think jewellery, tools and weapons were buried alongside the remains?
- What clues about the person can we gather from the possessions they were buried with? Who do you think they were? What do you think they were like?