

Artefact

The artefact is a glass bead found at Caerau hillfort during an excavation. The glass is colourless but is designed with a yellow swirl. The bead would have been produced in Meare Lake Village in Somerset and dates between 100 BC to 100 AD.

This small, opaque glass bead was found during an excavation of Caerau hillfort, an Iron Age hillfort located in the western suburbs of Cardiff. The bead features a yellow wave design and was most likely manufactured at Meare Lake Village in Somerset due to its distinctive features. It is thought to date between 100 BC and 100AD. The discovery of this glass bead within Caerau hillfort suggests trading connection across the River Severn. This bead may have been worn as a necklace or as an accessory to clothing or a hair ornament.

I chose the glass bead for two reasons. The first being the locality of its discovery, Caerau Hillfort. I live very near to Caerau Hillfort and found it an exciting unearthing so close to me. It really brought the Iron age that much closer to me as I thought of who would have handled that bead 4000 years ago. I also chose this bead because it interested me the most, I was drawn to it. The design and the craft that went into producing it thousands of years ago.

The most interesting thing I learnt was that this specific bead was quite rare. Though it seemed clear that it was produced at Meare Lake Village in Somerset the design was unique on the Caerau bead, one of a kind.

The course was extremely interesting and opened up a whole world I never knew about that I now feel deeply connected to. It has made me feel closer to our prehistoric human ancestor who walked the same ground with just a few thousand years in difference.