

Do you 'dig' Archaeology? Day

6+

Summer
Staycation
Club!

Neolithic Boat Challenge

Can you help solve this puzzle which has kept archaeologists guessing for decades?

Around 4000 BC, Neolithic settlers introduced sheep to Britain from Europe. These Neolithic settlers were the first farmers, keeping livestock and growing crops.

These settlers came to Britain from Europe, travelling on boats made from either animal skins or hollowed out log boats. It seems almost impossible to imagine using these small boats to travel long distances especially carrying livestock.

Can you make your own model of a Neolithic boat? and can you see how many people and sheep you can fit in it to migrate to Britain?

We'd love to share your Neolithic boat photos and films. Please send your pictures to learning@barnsley.gov.uk

Challenge Rules

- your boat must float.
- It must be able to withstand water- so seal all the edges.
- Use models, figures or even pebbles to show how the settlers and sheep would have fitted in.



Photo: Simon Speed



Dugouts at Kierikki, Stone Age Centre, Yli-li, Oulu
Photo: Ninaras



We used paper straws to replicate a wicker frame on this boat with grease proof paper for animal hide- it was quite a squeeze for our 2 settlers and 2 sheep but it did float.

Our dug out log boat only fitted in one small lamb and tipped up when our settlers tried to come on board

