

Appendix 7: The instructions for creating 'an Interpretive assignment' or an Artefact-project for the Prehistory of Europe course.

The material could be ***Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age or Iron Age*** in date from ***anywhere in Europe***, and may be selected from any of the museum collections of Cambridge, provided you have the full agreement of the appropriate curators. Curators are busy individuals and may require some considerable warning, if you are to be able to handle objects. Many objects on show will not be accessible for such a project. Please remember that, with appropriate permission, you can use the computerised catalogue of the

1. Select an object or small group of related objects.
2. Present a report on the collection history, conservation, context (if any), provenance, distribution, technology, comparative typology and style, and other interpretative detail. This should be illustrated and contain bibliographic references to comparative material, as if you were preparing the object for publication.
3. You should answer the following questions and present them coherently as a report, setting out your working and reasoning of each answer.

- a) How old is the object?
- b) What is it made from?
- c) How was it made?
- d) Where was it made?
- e) Where was it found?
- f) How was it used?
- g) What was its cultural significance?
- h) What comparison can be made with it?
- i) How representative is the object of its class?
- j) How representative is the object of its period?
- k) What further research would increase our knowledge?
- l) What is its current state of conservation?
- m) How did the object enter the collection?
- n) How can the object be interpreted?

4. Make a drawing of appropriate detail and using standard conventions. A photo taken by you may also be useful.
5. Present a word processed version with appropriate references (This must not exceed the guide length - 6 pages including 2 pages of illustration, but not including references.)
6. Marks will be given for structure, method, comprehensiveness, presentation and interpretation. The project should concentrate on description of the object and interpretation **must not** exceed one page and form a clearly differentiated section.
7. DEADLINE: All practical projects ***MUST*** be handed in to the Departmental Office by ***16.00*** on ***Friday 7th May, 2010***, but it is recommended that you hand them in much earlier.