All structures within our Stone Age area are built to match the original excavated footprint of each site. This includes post size and spacing. The materials used to construct each house are sourced to match those that could have been found in the landscape, local to the excavation, at the time the original structure was built, and construction techniques are based on appropriate available technology.

MESOLITHIC SHELTERS
Aim: To demonstrate the range of temporary structures used during the Mesolithic period, experimenting with material, structure and form. These structures change throughout the year.

DURRINGTON WALLS 851
Aim: The exploration and construction of a Neolithic House, based on the excavations at Durrington Walls near Stonehenge. The walls are made with Wattle and Daub and it is thatched with wheat straw. The excavation showed evidence of furniture imprints on the chalk floor so we have furnished this house in accordance with the current archaeological evidence of Neolithic furnishings.

ANCILLARY BUILDING TO DURRINGTON 851
Aim: To construct a very small building of lightweight materials which works in conjunction with Durrington 851 as described in the excavation report. The unusual curved, spiral shape of this building has earned it our affectionate nickname of 'snaily house!' and illustrates the transition to a more circular style of house construction with associated benefits for stability and durability.

LLANDYGAI LONGHOUSE (NOW DISMANTLED)
Aim: To explore the engineering and construction of a Neolithic Longhouse, based on that excavated near Bangor in North Wales. The main frame was made of ash and birch, with hazel wattle and a roof thatched with water reed. Reed was chosen because of the Llandygai's proximity to the Menai Strait wetlands between Anglesey and mainland Wales, where the plant was readily available. The aim of this build was also to show that a large structure could be successfully constructed using small timbers of no more than 10cm diameter as found in the archaeology from the site.

HORTON HOUSE (ONGOING CONSTRUCTION)
Aim: To explore the construction of a large Neolithic house with no evidence of internal posts excavated at the Kingsmead Quarry, Horton, Berkshire. For this building we are testing a construction in which the roof stretched all the way to the floor, so that the roof rafters are ground-fast, providing additional strength. The thatch is again reed thatch - the excavated site is on a floodplain and the River Thames would have had many more tributaries in this area when the house was constructed. Both end walls will be constructed in wattle and daub with Scots Pine used for the A frames of the building. For this project we have worked closely with Wessex Archaeology, the archaeological unit responsible for excavating the Horton House.