



CHILTERN
OPEN AIR
MUSEUM

*Where buildings come
alive through history*

Wattle and Daub



Location:

- The Daub Project.

Practical Notes:

- The daubing that the children will be doing will not contain any dung (unlike traditional techniques).
- Non-powdered vinyl gloves are available on request.
- Children will be asked to wash their hands thoroughly after this session.

Purpose and content of the activity session:

- The children will have a chance to try their hands at daubing and will learn about the different structures found during the medieval period.

Background Information

This is an experimental project, designed to test and demonstrate different methods and mixes for filling the panels within a timber frame. The methods of construction illustrated here were in use during the Iron Age through to the nineteenth century, when factory produced materials became widely available.

The rectangular spaces between the timbers are filled with a woven lattice (wattle) of split chestnut. The wattle is covered with a wet mixture of clay and dung, which has dried to form a wind-proof, insulating wall. A layer of clay alone would crack badly as it dried (much like a muddy puddle); straw and other fibres in the dung help to bind the clay, reducing the cracking. Children can be asked to sniff the wall, to convince them daubed houses did not smell!