Arborfield Barn

What is it?
A barn for storing food or keeping animals. We think this because the door is located at one end and there are lots of gaps to let air circulate and dry crops.

How old is it?
About 500 years old.

Where did it come from?
Carters Hill Farm in Arborfield, near Reading.

What is it built from?
A cruck frame: long curved pieces of oak shaped like an 'A' to make the walls and roof at the same time. The frame rests on small flint walls and the floor is made of chalk and soil. The roof is thatched with straw.

Why is it here at the Museum?
In 1977, the Ministry of Agriculture decided it couldn't be used because of its poor condition. Today we use it to run our Anglo Saxon and Viking workshops!

Home Learning

Imagine
Beowulf is an old English epic poem. When you travel back in time at the Museum you may even get to hear a tale from an Anglo Saxon Aeolderman. It has been retold over thousands of years. Michael Morpurgo's version of Beowulf is our favourite but you can find many versions online! https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/story-of-britain-anglo-saxon-britain/zdh2t39 Can you learn about one of these tales and turn one of Beowulf's tales into a comic strip? Get help here https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkgcwmn/articles/zbk47nb

Research
Most Anglo Saxons did not read or write in the same way that we do today. They used a Futhork Alphabet. Each letter was written as a rune that hinted at the philosophical and magical significance of its visual form. Runes were used in religious ceremonies. and were used to write short inscriptions to show possessions such as 'This belongs to Offa'. Can you research the Futhork alphabet and use it to write some magical or secret messages? Find help on our website.

Create
Design and make an Anglo Saxon brooch like we do in our workshops. Follow the instructions on our website or find out more about Anglo Saxon jewellery here https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/anglo-saxons/anglo-saxon-jewellery/