



Experimental Archaeology

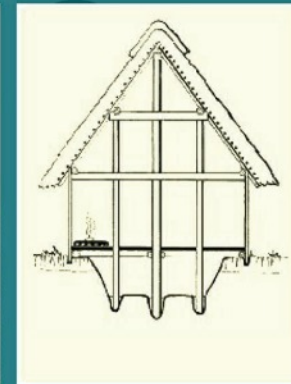
What is experimental Archaeology?

It tests ideas from excavations in a practical way. This includes Archaeology, buildings, farming, tools, crafts, technology and others.

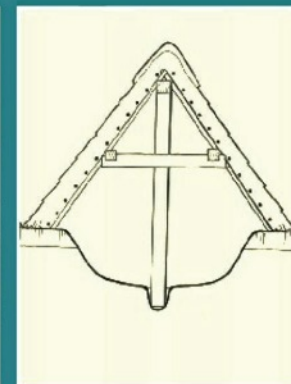


What is a reconstruction?

Experimental buildings were first constructed to test a new idea that Anglo-Saxons had wooden floors across the pit below.



A second building tested evidence that people lived in these pits directly on earth floors, with a simple timber-framed roof overhead.



*Remember to visit the Anglo-Saxon Museum
See the finds from the Anglo-Saxon Village and the local area*



Experimental Reconstructions



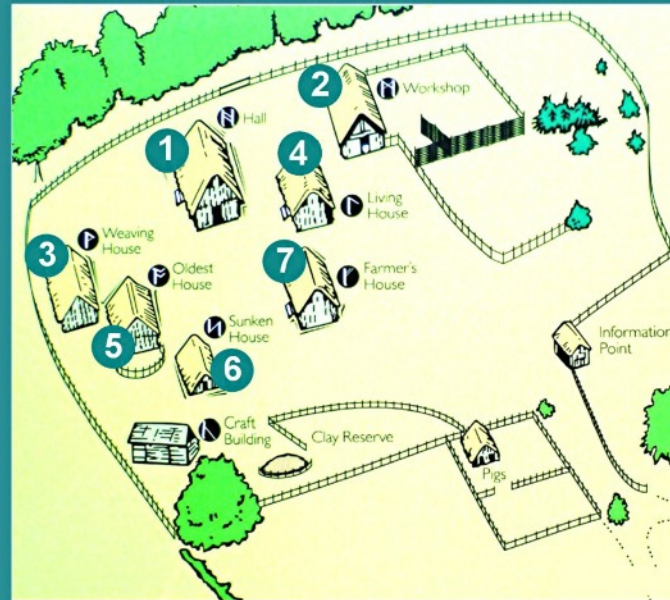
1 The Hall (2005) is a post-built structure without a pit under the floor. The Hall was the communal building and focal point for the village.



2 The Workshop (1991) was built to meet present day needs. It has an oak framework with wattle and clay walls. Although there is no direct evidence for it at West Stow, it is based on actual buildings from the end of the period.



3 The Weaving House (1984) is a two-post house. It has been fitted out with looms based on evidence from an Anglo-Saxon house fire.



4 The living House (1987) is a six-post house reconstructed as a living space.



5 The Oldest House (1974) was built with simple technology to test the basic idea that a wood floor was built over the pit and that the roof is supported by the six posts, not the walls.



6 The Sunken House (1976) was built to show the old idea of Anglo-Saxons living in a pit. It does not match the archaeological evidence found here so we do not believe it is correct.



7 The Farmer's House (2007) is a six-post house with a deep wood lined pit. Only a few pits like this have been found on the site.