

TREASURES FROM THE RIVER SHANNON

BRONZE AGE SHIELD

The Bronze Age (2500-500 BC) introduced metalwork in bronze (a mix of copper and tin) and gold. The metal tools and weapons were stronger and worked better than stone ones.

The high numbers of Bronze age objects found in and around Athlone shows how important the crossing on the River Shannon was to those early settlers.

Amongst these finds is the bronze circular shield believed to be from circa 800 BC

This shield was discovered at the bottom of the River Shannon near Athlone bridge by the members of the Athlone Sub-Aqua Club in the Summer of 1981. It was initially mistaken for a hubcap from a car's wheel!

Bronze shields would have been used during the battles, but because of the small size of the Athlone shield, archaeologists think it was probably used for ceremonial purposes.

Did you know:

The Bronze Age people threw weapons, ornaments and coins to the river probably as an offering to the Gods for a safe-crossing.

Have fun drawing the other half of the Athlone Bronze Shield!

