
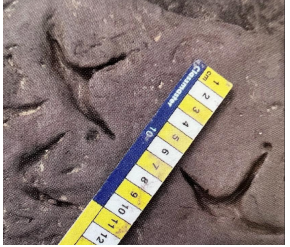


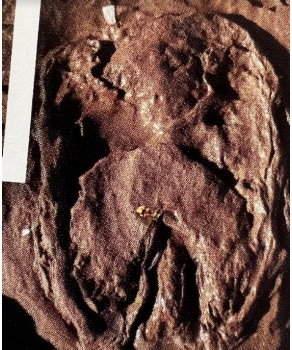

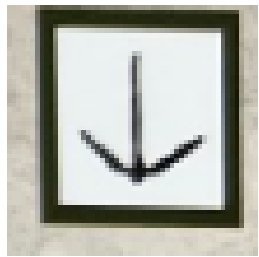
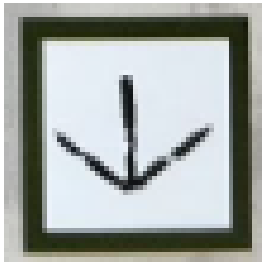
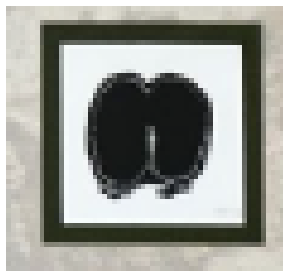


Footprints in the sand	Footprints	A Picture of who they belong to?	Added Information
			
			
			

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FOOTPRINTS MOST COMMONLY FOUND AT FORMBY POINT



Humans

Print Size

Adult males: 22-31cm, 4-13 UK shoe size, 5'6"-6'2" estimated height

Adult females and adolescents: 18-25cm, 1-7 UK shoe size, 4'8"-5'9" estimated height
Toddlers and children: 5-16cm, 9cm = child's UK shoe size 1. 16cm = child's size 9, 1'2" -3'8" estimated height

The people of the intertidal marshy reed-beds were hunter-gatherers, drawn to the area by the openness of the environment and its rich food supply. The reed-beds enabled groups to forage for food such as eggs, shellfish, seaweed, seeds and fish in the shallow water. Hunting for red deer, a very important resource at the time, may also have taken place as several sets of red deer and human prints have been found appearing to run together.

The footprints of men, women and children can be found in the mud along the whole length of the beach. Some prints run parallel to the sea and probably indicate that people walked between communities. Others, such as those seen at Gypsy Wood Path, suggest people moving from their encampment further inland onto the salt-marshes.



Aurochs

Print Size

Prehistoric range: 22-28cm
Modern Average: Now Extinct

A very large type of wild ox, the aurochs was approximately 6 feet high at the shoulder and 11 feet long, with large, forward-pointing horns. It would have been a fearsome sight to the humans on the beach if encountered unexpectedly! Aurochs prints can be found on the southern areas of the beach, usually at Lifeboat Road and Blundell Path.



Red Deer

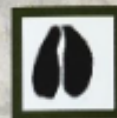
Print Size

Prehistoric range: 10-15cm
Modern Average: 9cm

There are more red deer prints on the beach than those of any other animal. They can be found along the whole beach, but most can be seen in the mud between Lifeboat Road and Victoria Road. These red deer were much larger than the breed living today.



DID YOU KNOW...
that the Red Deer living at about 5,000 BC were a third again the size of our present Red Deer?



Roe Deer

Print Size

Prehistoric range: 4-5cm
Modern Average: 4-5cm

Roe deer frequently grazed in the marshes, probably with the red deer at dawn and dusk. Their prints can be found with red deer and look similar, but they are much smaller and rounded at the back, with a division of the hoof at the front.

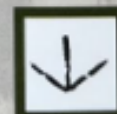


Wild Boar

Print Size

Prehistoric range: 8cm
Modern Average: Variable

The prints of the wild boar are seldom spotted, but have been seen recently at Blundell Path. The wild boar would have eaten shoots of the reeds and would have enjoyed rooting about in the mud.

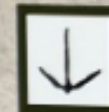


Oystercatcher

Print Size

Prehistoric range: 4-7cm
Modern Average: 6 cm

Flocks of seabirds came to the reed-beds to shelter, feed and breed. Oystercatchers were one of the most common birds along the coast. Their footprints can often be found in the mud.



Crane

Print Size

Prehistoric range: 15cm
Modern Average: 15cm

Cranes are no longer found in the north of England, but during prehistoric times were commonly found in coastal regions. They would have nested at the edge of the wetland.



Dog/Wolf

Print Size

Prehistoric range: 8cm
Modern Average: Variable

The prints of the wolf and dog are so similar that they would probably have looked the same in the mud. They are rarely spotted and are difficult to distinguish from prints left by modern dogs on the beach.

A jawbone of a Neolithic dog was discovered some years ago. Its dating, along with that of a set of red deer antlers, helped to establish the age of the prints. Dogs were domesticated at this time and would have associated with the humans on the beach.