

unseaworthy construction. Nothing like it survived anywhere in the world. They realised that smaller-scale reconstructions were needed in order to learn how such weird boats performed.



*A half-size reconstruction of the boat was trialled in Dover Harbour. Beeswax sealed the stitch-holes*

Research into the underlying technology followed our close study of the timbers. In the excavation we had avoided using metal tools, uncovering the soft oak with wooden spatulas sandpapered smooth and water-sprays. As a result we knew that any visible tool-marks on the waterlogged oak were made by the Bronze-Age craftsmen and not by us!



*Still fresh, tool marks appeared as we excavated the sandy silt using only wooden spatulas*

Published drawings of Bronze-Age tools with blades which matched the marks on the boat were tracked down. It was decided to build a full-sized mid portion of the boat in unseasoned oak, using cast bronze copies of the contemporary tools. The team sharpened them and fitted hafts.



*Replicating 3,500-year-old tool marks on green oak*