



## Lindow Man and Worsley Man: Northwest Bog Bodies



One of our SciBar participants prepared this glossary, independently of Bryan Sitch. Your feedback on the level of information and usefulness of the SciBar glossaries is most welcome.

<p><b>Anaerobic</b> Without oxygen. Waterlogged peat bogs exclude air from buried remains, preventing the survival of microorganisms that would normally decompose organic material. Hence, 'bog bodies' are remarkably well preserved even 2000 years after death.</p>	<p><b>Lindow Moss</b> A boggy area with areas of sphagnum moss and pools of water on the Mobberley side of the border with Wilmslow. The peat bog has been forming for up to 7000 years and is still being extracted. Four sets of ancient human remains, including Lindow Man, have been found here.</p>
<p><b>Bog bodies</b> Human remains preserved in peat bogs over northwest Europe, dating from the Iron Age (500 BC–AD 100).</p>	<p><b>Mistletoe</b> A plant sacred to the druids of the Iron age, with medicinal properties and which archaeologists believe was used as a narcotic as part of religious ceremonies.</p>
<p><b>Chat Moss</b> A large (12 square miles) area of peat bog in the borough of Salford. Worsley Man (actually just a head) was discovered in the eastern part of the moss near Worsley. The peat bog has been forming for up to 7000 years. In a landmark case in 2011, permission for continued peat extraction was refused.</p>	<p><b>Palaeopathology</b> The study of medical disorders and injury in skeletal and soft tissue remains. Certain medical conditions, such as arthritis, leave identifying marks on bones, while the eggs of intestinal parasites can be identified in some ancient remains.</p>
<p><b>CT scan (CAT scan)</b> Computed tomography. This works by taking a large number of X-rays to image separate slices of the body, which can be combined to create a 3-dimensional image.</p>	<p><b>Radiocarbon dating</b> A method of estimating the age of organic remains from measuring the amount of the naturally occurring isotope carbon-14 in the sample compared to the amount of this isotope present in the atmosphere today. This depends on many half-lives that have passed.</p>
<p><b>Half-life</b> The time taken for half the unstable nuclei in a sample of a radioactive isotope to decay.</p>	<p><b>Triple death</b> A ritual sacrifice associated with Celtic tribes in ancient Britain: a blow to the head, garrotting and a cut throat.</p>

### Useful weblinks:

Reprint of 2009 magazine article on Finding Lindow Man, in *British Archaeology*, in the 25<sup>th</sup> year after the discovery of Lindow Man:

[www.britarch.ac.uk/ba/ba107/feat1.shtml](http://www.britarch.ac.uk/ba/ba107/feat1.shtml)

BBC News story from March 2012 on forensic investigation of Worsley Man:

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-17300084](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-17300084)

SciBar will be back after the summer break on Monday 10 September.