

1 CANADA: Analysis of wood samples from the Norse settlement at *L'Anse aux Meadows* in Newfoundland, shows that Vikings occupied the Americas as early as 1021 – exactly 1,000 years ago. **This is the earliest known record of humans crossing from Europe to the New World**



Archaeological discoveries of 2021

A selection of notable finds from the past year

2 FRANCE: A freshly-unearthed Bronze Age stone known as the *Saint-Bélec Slab*, may be the oldest 3D map in Europe. Archaeologists believe the patterns engraved on the 4,000-year-old slab depict an area of western Brittany



3 EGYPT: The discovery of a 3,000-year-old city near Luxor known as *Aten* – is hailed as one of the most important finds since Tutankhamun's tomb. **The "lost golden city" was founded by Tutankhamun's grandfather Amenhotep III (1391-1353 BC), one of ancient Egypt's most powerful rulers**



4 U.S.: Radiocarbon dating of fossilised footprints found in New Mexico show that people were living in North America more than 20,000 years ago – about 5,000 years earlier than previously thought. **The previous theory was that ice sheets had prevented human migration to the region during the ice age**



6 MOROCCO: Artefacts unearthed in a cave in Morocco, dating back 120,000 years, indicate that humans used bone tools to render animal skins for fur and leather. **The discovery provides the oldest-known evidence for clothing in the archaeological record**



7 SAUDI ARABIA: A series of camel sculptures carved into rock faces are believed to be the oldest large-scale animal reliefs in the world. **A fresh study puts the camels at between 7,000 and 8,000 years old – older than Stonehenge (5,000 years old) or the Pyramids at Giza (4,500 years old)**



5 LEBANON: The remains of at least 25 soldiers, killed defending Christian-held Sidon during the Crusades, are uncovered in the moat of the Saint Louis Castle. **This is one of only two archaeologically documented mass burials of Crusaders**



8 TIBET: A pattern of hand and footprints made by children more than 220,000 years ago is the oldest artwork ever found. **The youngsters, probably Neanderthals or members of the related Denisovan species, pressed their hands and feet into soft limestone, which later hardened**

