Mammoth graveyard artefacts on display for first time

The remains of a mammoth and other artefacts which inspired a David Attenborough documentary are on display at a Gloucestershire museum

Mammoth teeth, a marine crocodile skull and a tooth from a straight-tusked elephant are among can be viewed at the Corinium Museum in Cirencester.The items were dug up from a site in Cerney Wick known as "mammoth graveyard", where multiple remains of steppe mammoths were found in 2019.

New fossils from a dig completed in the summer of 2024, which have never been displayed before, are on display at the museum from 15 February until 15 March. It's been an amazing achievement," said Sally Hollingworth, who led the project with her husband Dr Neville Hollingworth.

Mrs Hollingworth explained how the dig began in 2017 when she found spotted a Neanderthal hand axe.That's what led to the Attenborough and the Mammoth Graveyard documentary," she said.The site is believed to date back to 220,000 years ago.

"The finds that were from the site were truly unique," said Dr Hollingworth."It's an internationally important location, because there's very few locations around where you'll find Neanderthal stone tools mixed up with mammoth bones and ice age animals."

Mrs Hollingworth explained the site also has fossils and ammonites from the Middle Jurassic Period, dating back 167 million years.