

Early Man

The Stone Age

The Stone Age was from 3000,000 to 2,200BC.

The Stone Age is divided into:

- **Palaeolithic (old stone age)**
- **Mesolithic (middle stone age)**
- **Neolithic (new stone age)**



In Palaeolithic times, people were hunter gatherers. No large buildings or permanent settlements were left behind. Any remains from this time are usually found in caves.



In Mesolithic times, Britain finally became an island (about 8,000BC). The first evidence of houses has been found from this period (marked by scatters of stone tools).

Neolithic times saw the beginning of farming in Britain (around 4,000BC). This mainly saw the keeping of livestock (cattle, sheep and pigs) and the growing of grains (wheat and barley).

Neolithic man made pottery for the first time, and had developed woodworking skills.

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The Bronze Age

The Bronze Age was from 2,200 to 800BC.

People in the Bronze Age used metals to make tools and weapons. Bronze replaced stone as the main material to use. Metal objects were usually cast in moulds.



Lots of pottery hails from this time. The most important and earliest was Beaker Pottery.

The Bronze Age is known for its round barrows (burial mounds).



People were either buried in the crouch position or in a coffin.

Cremation became more common during this time too.

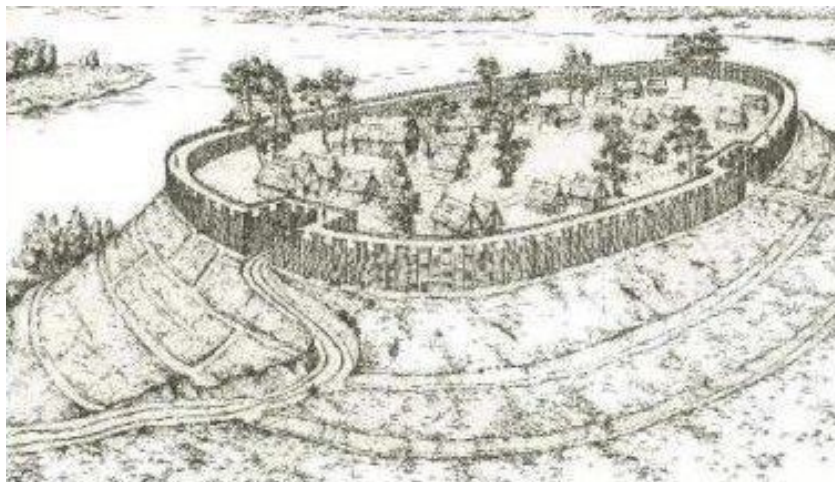


1500BC saw the beginnings of villages, fields, hedgerows and trackways. Field systems were laid out and the first roundhouses were built.

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The Iron Age

The Iron Age was from 800BC to 43AD and ended with the Roman invasion of Britain. By the end of the Iron Age, Britain was divided into a number of tribal territories. Oppida were important trading centres. These were generally new, larger settlements enclosed by a large ditch.



During the Iron Age, iron replaced bronze as the main material to use. Towards the end of the iron age, coins were starting to be made. People continued to live in roundhouses, but settlements became bigger. Some Iron Age sites show evidence of defence. These defences included hill forts and brochs.

