

British Stone Age sites

This is by no means a comprehensive list of sites!

By Tricia Kern, learning volunteer

Name of Period	Estimated From	Estimated to	Main Developments
Palaeolithic	1,000,000 BC	10,000 BC	Ending of the last of the Ice Ages, around 10,000 BC, Britain was still attached to Europe. Hominids were walking on two legs. Wild animals could be huge in comparison to humankind. Use of stones as tools. Caves were a form of protection from predators and the elements. Cave art made. Temporary shelters also made.
Mesolithic	10,000 BC	4,200 BC	Hunter-Gatherers. Often peripatetic lifestyle. Inhabited the continents of the world. Became skilled at knapping of flint to make effective weapons; to use on other human beings when under threat, or to kill animals for food. Cave art work. Beginning of domesticating wolves, horses and aurochs as "additional family helpers". Seasonal favourite places to visit. Spiritual element to lifestyle. Doggerland flooded.
Neolithic	4,200 BC	2,500 BC	Close and extended family members settling down more by building dry stone walled dwellings. Farming increased and also domestication of herding and pack animals. Pottery making and art work continued. Burial rites became more spiritual. Appreciation of the difference between the cosmos and earth by building monuments and burial chambers in tune with the winter and summer solaces. Cave art made.
Last Ice Age	Various times	10,000 BC	There were several Ice Ages which were followed by intervals of warmer weather. The last Ice Age ended around 10,000 B.C. and it took about 100 years for it to leave Britain. Not all of Britain was covered by the glacier. As the ice in Europe melted too, it caused changes in the landscape. One of the most important ones for Britain was a continental rock shelf shifting in Norway, around 8,500 BC causing a tsunami that flooded Doggerland and made Britain an island.

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Avebury	Wiltshire	3,000	Neolithic	Henge & stone circle & standing stones & barrows.
Aveline's Hole	Somerset	8460 -8140 BCE	Mesolithic	Oldest known cemetery in the U.K. – neonatal to adult bodies buried.
Barnhouse	Orkney Isles	3115BC - 2875BC	Neolithic	Settlement of homes and part of sacred landscape.
Boxgrove	West Sussex	500,00	Palaeolithic	One leg bone of a male Homo heidelbergensis found.
Coldrum	Kent	4,800	Neolithic	Farming community. Tombs found with 22 peoples bones including babies to age of 40 years. Farming was a less healthy lifestyle than that of the hunter gatherer because of disease at staying in one place.
Cresswell Crags	Derbyshire/Lincolnshire boarder	1,000,000 BCE – 2,500 BCE	Palaeolithic Mesolithic Neolithic	Most northerly cave art found, to date with drawings, ceiling art and rock carvings made at times between the Ice Ages and the three Stone Age periods. A bone carving of a horse's head was found along with flints.
Crickley Hill	Gloucestershire	3,500	Neolithic	Top of hill, farming community that came under attack. The attackers won, burning down the settlement. Flint arrows found pointing towards the hill top.
Doggerland	North Sea	16,000 – 5,500 BCE	Palaeolithic Mesolithic Neolithic	About 10,000, BCE Doggerland was the land of plenty for hominid visitors to the area. It was a vast area of streams, rivers, lakes, salt marshlands, tundra and mudflats and it is suspected it was one of the richest areas in Europe for food foraging and hunting. The tsunami that happened in 5,500 BCE flooded the area for good. With recent, industrial drilling in the area, items have been found from the period Doggerland existed.
Durrington Walls	Wiltshire	2,480 - 2460	Neolithic	Over 4,000 dwellings are thought to have been built in this area, possibly to house builders of Stonehenge, or to house those at times of gatherings to the sacred area of Salisbury Plain. Groove- ware from Orkney was found along with evidence of seasonal feasting of suckling pigs.

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East Barns	Scotland	8,500	Neolithic	A population of humans built one of Scotland's oldest know dwelling and farming settlement. The area can also claim standing stones, cairns for burials and carvings.
Echline	South Queensbury. Scotland	8,240	Mesolithic	An indication of an ancient bivouac type dwelling has been found on the edge of the River Forth. It is possibly the oldest one of its kind in Scotland. It is thought it was a seasonal dwelling that was constructed of wooden poles and covered with animal skins or turf.
Etton	Cambridgeshire	3,700	Neolithic	A causeway of well preserved, wooden slats which are thought to have been used for 3 to 4 hundred years near a settlement. Other finds included pottery.
Flixton Lake	Yorkshire		Mesolithic	Flixton Lake is a glacier water, around which housed, temporary, bivouac type dwellings at the side of its waters.
Goldcliff	South Wales	7,500	Mesolithic	Estuary levels were lower than today because much water was stored in glaciers. At the spring low tides, over 200 human footprints of varying sizes can be seen along with over 150 bird claw prints, possibly of cranes.
Gough Cave	Somerset	7150 BCE	Mesolithic	Cheddar Man, is the oldest, almost whole, human skeleton to be found in the British Isles. His remains were found at Gough's Cave, Cheddar Gorge, Somerset. It is thought Cheddar man was a 20, year old, hunter-gatherer who died a violent death.
Grey Lake	Somerset	8,300	Mesolithic	The oldest, found, open-air cemetery in the British Isles.
Grimes Graves	Norfolk	3,000	Neolithic	Grimes Graves mines, at West Tofts, Norfolk supplied high quality, black flint to local people and was traded beyond the immediate area. Mining picks of antlers have been found on site as well as groove-ware pottery. Individual, chalk, statue carvings have been found. The area was a settlement over many hundreds of years.

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Happisburgh	Norfolk	500,00	Palaeolithic	Although no human bones have been found it is believed the Happisburgh settlement was the home to humans known as Homo heidelbergensis, (the same species and age of Boxgrove Man). Many hand axes and tools have been found along with mammoth, elk, a type of beaver, horses, hyaenas and fish.
Howick	Northumbria	7,800 BCE	Mesolithic	The Mesolithic, Howick site has rendered one of the best-preserved bivouac type dwelling foundations, so far discovered in Britain.
Mount Sandel	Northern Ireland	7,000	Mesolithic	This is one of the oldest Stone Age sites found in Northern Ireland and the findings were of bivouac type dwellings, that were not as substantial as the one found at Howick, Northumbria.
Nymsfield	Gloucestershire	2,800 BCE	Neolithic	Nymsfield Long Barrow is one of the earliest finds of a burial site with separate burial chambers.
Pakefield	Suffolk	7,000 BCE	Palaeolithic	Tools thought to have been made by humans called Homo heidelbergensis have been found at this site.
Paviland	County Durham		Late Palaeolithic Early Mesolithic	In 1823. The Rev. William Buckland found the human remains and named the deceased person the "Red Lady of Paviland" as he thought the person might have lived a compromised life. Subsequently, the red ochre toned, skeletal bones have been re-assessed as being of a male who was 20 years old and who lived around 31000 BC. Other finds at this burial site included jewellery of reindeer teeth and mammoth ivory and worked flint tools.
Pontnewydd	Wales	500,00	Palaeolithic	The cave holding the oldest Homo heidelbergensis human remains found in Wales, to date. The bones indicate 5 people are buried here including a child, as a milk tooth was found.

Sacred Sites	Orkney Isles	5,000	Neolithic	Ring of Brogar, Ness of Brogar, Stones of Stenness and Skara Brae to name a few sites. Skara Brae has the earliest sanitary installation found in Britain. Also, items found on Westray and Papa Westbury Islands. Westray homes, pre date Skara Brae.
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What	Where	Time BC	Name	Comment
Somerset Levels	Somerset	3,807 BCE	Neolithic	<i>Sweet Track</i> is a wooden planked path linking Neolithic farms together which were situated to join small islands on the levels. The area has often been prone to flooding and the creations of small islands.
Star Carr	Yorkshire	9,000	Mesolithic	Substantial settlement near a lake. Antler head dress found along with other artifacts which could be used daily.
Stonehenge	Wiltshire		Neolithic	A stone circle. Salisbury Plain is part of a huge, sacred area, of archaeological importance, with areas shared with the armed forces for training. The plains are also famed for the re-wilding of the great Buzzard in 2006, (Ref:-BBC), the world's heaviest flying bird, which became extinct in Britain in 1800s..
Swanscombe	Kent		Palaeolithic	Three pieces of skull bones from a female human, (<i>Homo heidelbergensis</i>), who was thought to be about 20 years of age when she died.
Welland Bank Quarry	Lincolnshire		Palaeolithic to Neolithic	Ground was planted here at a time when it was thought farming had not taken place yet in Britain. Alongside the growing grounds was evidence of a settlement.
West Kennet	Wiltshire	3,000 – 2,600	Neolithic	English Heritage cares for West Kennet barrow, a huge burial site of more than 40 people of differing ages and gender. The barrow has five chambers. Many relics of personal use were found with the people's remains, such a stone dagger, beads and pottery. The site has extensive views of Windmill and Silbury hills, both of which have significant Stone Age interest.

In addition to sources quoted in the text, information has come from the following books: -

Cave Art (World of Art) Paperback – Illustrated, 16 Feb. 2017 by [Bruno David](#) (Author)

DK findout! Stone Age Flexibound – 16 Jan. 2017 by [DK](#) (Author), [Klint Janulis](#) (Author)

KS2 Discover & Learn: History – Stone Age to Celts Study Book, Year 3 & 4: perfect for catch-up and learning at home (CGP KS2 History) Paperback – 27 Sept. 2014 by [CGP Books](#) (Author, Editor)

Home: A Time Traveller's Tales from Britain's Prehistory Paperback – 1 Oct. 2015 by [Francis Pryor](#) (Author)

Lost Civilisations Of The Stone Age: A Journey Back to Our Cultural Origins Paperback – 2 Sept. 1999 by [Richard Rudgley](#) (Author)

Stone Age (Britain in the Past) Hardcover – Illustrated, 13 Aug. 2015 by [Moira Butterfield](#) (Author)

English Heritage Book of Stone Age Britain: Explore 500 Thousand Year of Human Existence Paperback – 5 Nov. 1997 by [Nicholas Barton](#) (Author)