

Where was prehistoric evidence found?

THE EARLIEST HUMANS

In 2010 archaeologists working near Happisburgh in Norfolk uncovered flint tools dated to about 900,000 years ago. The people who used them were early humans (known as hominoids) who periodically visited Britain in warmer eras between Ice Ages.



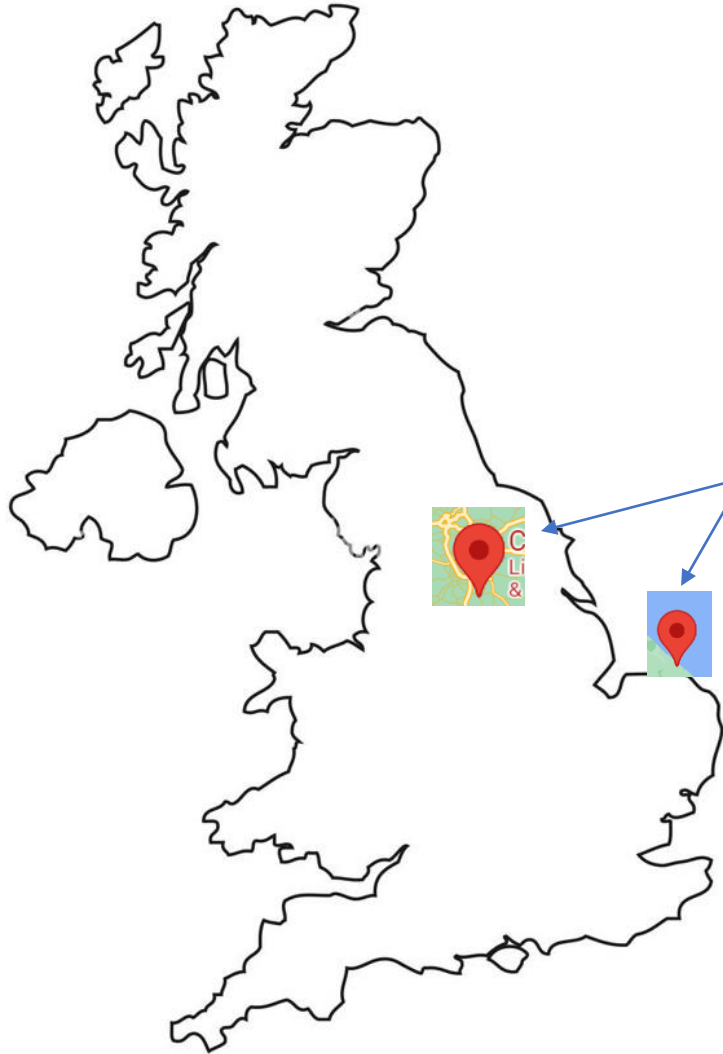
Made out of a stone called flint which is easy to chip away.

Useful for hunting and scraping.

Ice Age humans created the earliest known cave art in England at Creswell Crags in Derbyshire about 13,000 years ago.



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HUNTERS AND GATHERERS (9500–4000 BC)

Continuous human occupation of Britain began as the climate improved at the end of the last Ice Age. People in Britain at this time were still hunters and gatherers who made use of wild plants and animals. Although most of these people were probably nomadic, recent discoveries of buildings suggest that some had settled lifestyles.



First farmers (from 4000 BC)

The people who brought the farming techniques must have travelled to Europe by boat.

They farmed barley, wheat and pulses.

Rather than settle in one place, they moved around different territories.

Windmill Hill is an example of a gathering place.

Large numbers of cattle and sheep were killed or eaten on the site and it is possible that it might have been a place to hold festivals, or a market where animals were slaughtered and artefacts traded.

Windmill Hill, Wiltshire (built 3650 BC)



Burial sites

Other territories were made into burial sites.

Many had stone chambered tombs:



Belas Knap, Gloucestershire (about 3650 BC)



West Kennet Long Barrow, Wiltshire (about 3650 BC)



Wayland's Smithy, Oxfordshire (about 3400 BC)

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Some were gathering places like the causewayed enclosure at **Windmill Hill**, Wiltshire (built about 3650 BC). Others were burial sites with

impressive long barrows. Many had stone chambered tombs, such as **Belas Knap**, Gloucestershire, **West Kennet Long Barrow**, Wiltshire (both about 3650 BC), and **Wayland's Smithy**, Oxfordshire (about 3400 BC).