

Project glossary

AD

The time after Christ was born. It stands for *anno Domini*, which is Latin for 'in the year of our Lord'.

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archaeologist

Someone who studies artefacts from the past.

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ard

An iron-tipped plough used in the Iron Age.

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artefact

A human-made object that is of historical interest.

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BC

Stands for 'before Christ' and is used after a date to show the number of years before Christ's birth.

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BCE

Stands for 'before common era' and is sometimes used instead of BC.

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Briton

A Celt who lived in southern Britain before the Roman invasion.

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bronze

A metal alloy made by mixing copper and tin.

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Bronze Age

The time when tools and weapons were made from the metal bronze. In Britain, it lasted from c2500 BC until c800 BC.

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CE

Stands for 'common era' and is sometimes used instead of AD.



Celt

One of a group of people who travelled from Europe and brought their ironworking skills to Britain.

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century

A period of 100 years.

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circa

Abbreviated to 'c' and used before a date to show that the date is approximate.

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copper

A malleable, reddish-gold metal found in the ground.

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druid

A priest of the Celtic religion in the Iron Age.

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earthwork

A raised area of earth used for defence.

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era

A period of history that begins with a significant event.

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flint

A shiny, grey or black stone.

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hammerstone

A large rock used in the Palaeolithic period as a hammer to create other tools.

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hand axe

A Palaeolithic tool consisting of a stone sharpened at both ends.

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henge

An earthwork made up of a flat, circular area of land surrounded by a ditch and a bank.

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hillfort

A settlement built on a hill that is protected by ditches and fences.



Homo erectus

An early species of human. The name means ‘upright man’.

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Homo heidelbergensis

An early species of human.

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Homo neanderthalensis (Neanderthal)

An early species of human.

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Homo sapiens

The only species of human left on Earth today. The name means ‘wise man’.

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hunter-gatherer

A person who lives by hunting animals and collecting plants to eat.

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invention

A new creation that has never been made before.

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iron

A strong, hard, silvery-grey metal found in rocks as iron ore.

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Iron Age

The time when tools and weapons were made from the metal iron. In Britain, it lasted from c800 BC until AD 43.

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long barrow

A Stone Age earthwork containing burial chambers.

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loom

A tool used to weave yarn into cloth.

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megalith

A large stone, sometimes part of a circle, in the Stone Age.

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Mesolithic

The middle period of the Stone Age from c10,000 BC until c4000 BC.



metalworker

A person who makes objects out of metal.

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microlith

A small piece of sharp flint often used as a spear point or arrowhead.

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migration

The movement of people or animals from one place to another.

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millennium

A period of 1000 years.

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Neolithic

The latest period of the Stone Age from c4000 BC until c2500 BC.

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nomad

A person who lives by travelling from one place to another rather than staying in the same place.

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ore

A rock from which metal can be obtained.

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Palaeolithic

The earliest period of the Stone Age from c750,000 BC until c10,000 BC.

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plough

A farming tool with blades that digs the soil for seeds to be planted.

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prehistoric

Relates to any object, animal, person or place that existed before written records began.

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primary source

Evidence that was around at the time, such as jewellery and tools.

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quern

A stone used to grind grain to make flour.



radiocarbon dating

A scientific method used to find the age of an object.

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roundhouse

A circular building with a thatched roof and walls made from wattle and daub.

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secondary source

Evidence that tells us about the past but is not from the past, such as textbooks and television programmes.

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settlement

A place where people live.

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sickle

A tool with a semi-circular blade and short handle used for cutting grass and crops.

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standing stone

A square or rectangular stone found standing on its edge, often as part of a stone circle.

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Stone Age

The time when tools were made of stone. In Britain, it lasted from c750,000 BC until c2500 BC.

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stone circle

A circular arrangement of standing stones.

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tin

A silver-coloured metal that can be mixed with copper to make bronze.

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tranchet adze

A Mesolithic tool made of a stone with a sharp cutting edge thought to have been mounted in a wooden handle.

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wattle and daub

A mixture of sticks and mud used in Bronze Age Britain to make walls for roundhouses.

