

800,000 BC Start of the Palaeolithic period. Early humans reach Britain.

Some of the earliest evidence for humans in this country comes from Happisburgh in Norfolk where archaeologists found footprints of humans in sediments dating from 800,000 years ago.

Palaeolithic people were hunters and gatherers who would have travelled around the landscape in search of food.

Britain wasn't an island but was a peninsula of NW Europe.

Evidence has been found that Palaeolithic people hunted and ate red deer, mammoth, antelope, aurochs (wild cattle), reindeer, horse, and hare.

Tools were made from flint.



Palaeolithic handaxe from Hampshire © Wessex Archaeology



Palaeolithic handaxe from Swanscombe, Kent © Wessex Archaeology



Late Upper Palaeolithic long blades from Old Windsor © Wessex Archaeology