



Stone Age

Surrey

850,000 – 2400 BC

The period known as 'early prehistory' or 'the Stone Age' covers over 800,000 years – beginning with the earliest evidence of humans in Britain – and is broken down into three separate major periods. The Palaeolithic began with the appearance of the first humans, and our main evidence of this period are the stone tools such as hand-axes which would have been used for butchering and skinning animals. In the Mesolithic, small groups of hunters and gatherers left behind flake tools such as blades and knives as evidence of their occupation. In the Neolithic, people lived in more permanent settlements, using tools such as polished axes to help clear areas of forest for farmland. This was also the period when the first pottery was made and the first large earth-built monuments were constructed.

