

The Story of Eastbourne

Stone Age Eastbourne

Use this box to explore and uncover the Stone Age story of Eastbourne and the surrounding area.

Find a selection of real artefacts used and made by people in Eastbourne as well as suggested learning activities. This box also features digital files including an introduction to Eastbourne during the Stone Age



Neolithic Scraper

After hundreds of thousands of years hunting and gathering, around 6000 years ago people in Britain began to change their ways. Slowly over the next two millennia domestication of animals and then plants developed along with a more settled way of life which in itself led to permanent settlements, religious monuments and population growth.

In Eastbourne most of the evidence we have of these people is from their flint and stone tools with which they used to clear the downs for farming. However, we also have two rare monuments built around 3500BC, traces of which can still be seen in the form of banks and ditches on the Downs at Butts Brow and Combe Hill. We are not sure what these enclosures were used for but suggestions range from meeting places or animal enclosures to sacred spaces for funerary rites.

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There have been people in Britain since 800,000BC. For most of that time tools and weapons were made from stone. Flint is one of the best stones for making tools as it can be quite easily worked and very sharp. Because so much Flint occurs naturally around Eastbourne, lots of ancient tools are also found. The tools in this box have been found in and around Eastbourne

Contents



Palaeolithic Hand Axe
Used for EVERYTHING
including cutting meat



Mesolithic Pick for digging holes,
digging up roots to eat and
removing roots from trees.



Neolithic Axe Head
mostly used for cutting
down trees to clear the
area for farming



Palaeolithic Hand Axe
Used for EVERYTHING
including cutting meat



Neolithic Blade possibly
had a wooden handle



Neolithic Saw for
cutting through wood



Neolithic Scraper for
removing fat from animal
hide to stop it rotting and
soften it ready for making
clothing or shelter.



Palaeolithic Chopper
for chopping
through bones
and wood