



English Heritage Periods List (formerly RCHME Archaeological Periods List)

[Description, Comment on](#)

Term	Description	PERIOD_UID	CHRON_ORDER	PARENT_UID	MAX_DATE	MIN_DATE
PALAEOLITHIC	The Old Stone Age defined by the practice of hunting and gathering and the use of chipped flint tools. This period is usually divided up into the Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic.	5	5	95	-10000	-500000
LOWER PALAEOLITHIC	The earliest subdivision of the Palaeolithic, or Old Stone Age; when the earliest use of flint tools appears in the current archaeological record. A hunter gatherer society is a defining characteristic.	54	10	5	-150000	-500000
MIDDLE PALAEOLITHIC	The second subdivision of the Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age. Characterized by the fine flake tools of the Mousterian tradition and economically by a hunter gatherer society.	55	15	5	-40000	-150000

UPPER PALAEOLOGIC	The third and last subdivision of the Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age; characterized by the development of projectile points made from bony materials and the development of fine blade flint tools.	56	20	5	-10000	-40000
MESOLITHIC	The Middle Stone Age, falling between the Palaeolithic and the Neolithic; marks the beginning of a move from a hunter gatherer society towards food producing society.	6	25	95	-4000	-10000
EARLY MESOLITHIC	The earliest subdivision of the Mesolithic, or Middle Stone Age.	57	30	6	-7000	-10000
LATE MESOLITHIC	The latest subdivision of the Mesolithic, or Middle Stone Age.	58	35	6	-4000	-7000
EARLY PREHISTORIC	For monuments which are characteristic of the Paleolithic to Mesolithic but cannot be specifically assigned.	95	40	52	-4000	-500000
NEOLITHIC	The New Stone Age, this period follows on from the Palaeolithic and the Mesolithic and is itself succeeded by the Bronze Age. This period is characterized by the practice of a farming economy and extensive monumental constructions.	7	45	94	-2200	-4000
EARLY NEOLITHIC	The earliest subdivision of the Neolithic, or New Stone Age.	59	50	7	-3300	-4000
MIDDLE NEOLITHIC	The second subdivision of the Neolithic, or New Stone Age.	60	55	7	-2900	-3300

LATE NEOLITHIC	The third and latest subdivision of the Neolithic, or New Stone Age.	61	60	7	-2200	-2900
BRONZE AGE	This period follows on from the Neolithic and is characterized by the increasing use of Bronzework. It is subdivided in the Early, Middle and Late Bronze Age.	8	65	94	-700	-2600
EARLY BRONZE AGE	The earliest subdivision of the Bronze Age.	62	70	8	-1600	-2600
MIDDLE BRONZE AGE	The second subdivision of the Bronze Age.	63	75	8	-1200	-1600
LATE BRONZE AGE	The third and latest subdivision of the Bronze Age.	64	80	8	-700	-1200
IRON AGE	This period follows on from the Bronze Age and is characterized by the use of iron for making tools and monuments such as hillforts and oppida. The Iron Age is taken to end with the Roman invasion.	9	85	94	43	-800
EARLY IRON AGE	The earliest subdivision of the Iron Age.	65	90	9	-300	-800
MIDDLE IRON AGE	The second subdivision of the Iron Age.	66	95	9	-100	-300
LATE IRON AGE	The third and latest subdivision of the Iron Age.	67	100	9	43	-100
LATER PREHISTORIC	For monuments that can be identified only to a date range from Neolithic to Iron Age.	94	105	52	43	-4000

PREHISTORIC	For monuments that can be identified only to a date range from Palaeolithic to Iron Age.	52	110	-	43	-500000
PREHISTORIC OR ROMAN	Uncertain prehistoric or Roman for uncertain period allocations.	26	115	-	410	-500000
ROMAN	Traditionally begins with the Roman invasion in 43AD and ends with the emperor Honorius directing Britain to see to it's own defence in 410AD.	10	120	-	410	43
EARLY MEDIEVAL	This dates from the breakdown of Roman rule in Britain to the Norman invasion in 1066 and is to be used for monuments of post Roman, Saxon and Viking date.	11	125	-	1066	410
MEDIEVAL	The Medieval period or Middle Ages begins with the Norman invasion and ends with the dissolution of the monasteries.	28	130	-	1540	1066
POST MEDIEVAL	Begins with the dissolution of the monasteries and ends with the death of Queen Victoria. Use more specific period where known.	16	135	-	1901	1540
TUDOR	Dating to the reign of the Tudor monarchs.	97	140	16	1603	1485
ELIZABETHAN	Dating to the reign of Elizabeth 1st of England.	101	145	97	1603	1558
JACOBEAN	Dating to the reign of James I of England (VI of Scotland).	102	155	98	1625	1603

HANOVERIAN	Dating to the reign of the Hanoverian kings.	99	160	16	1837	1714
GEORGIAN	Dating to or characteristic of the reigns of any of the first four kings of Great Britain called George.	106	161	99	1830	1714
VICTORIAN	Dating to the reign of Queen Victoria.	100	165	16	1901	1837
EARLY MED. OR LATER	Use for monuments where the dating is uncertain but likely to be post-Roman.	53	170	-	1540	410
20TH CENTURY	Previously recorded as 'Modern'.	24	175	-	2000	1901
EARLY 20TH CENTURY	The first third of the 20th century.	103	180	24	1932	1901
EDWARDIAN	The period covering the reign of Edward VII. Do not use for the reigns of Edwards I-VI.	110	181	103	1910	1902
FIRST WORLD WAR	Used to record buildings, defensive monuments and sites dating to, and associated with, the First World War. For other types of building, such as houses, built during this period use EARLY 20TH CENTURY.	108	182	103	1918	1914
MID 20TH CENTURY	The mid third of the 20th Century.	107	183	24	1966	1933
SECOND WORLD WAR	Used to record buildings, defensive monuments and sites dating to, and associated with, the Second World War. For other types of building, such as houses, built during this	109	184	107	1945	1939

	period use MID 20TH CENTURY.					
LATE 20TH CENTURY	The final third of the 20th century.	104	185	24	2000	1967
21ST CENTURY	Twenty first century phases and events.	105	187	-	2100	2001
UNCERTAIN	Catch all for uncertain period allocations.	25	190	-	-	-

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