

Local History

Desborough Castle is an Iron Age hill fort which consists of a Norman ringwork (a defensive structure), partly overlying a mound, which lies within a square enclosure in Castlefield, High Wycombe.

During the Iron Age, the hill fort was an ideal defensive position. It had a high bank, so the enemy could be seen from distance. There was a large central area, which provided ample space for troops and families. There would have been a large wooden barrier around it.



Important facts

Bronze Age

- The Bronze Age started at different times around the world
- Tools were made from **bronze** (copper and tin were heated up and poured into casts)
- The Bronze Age started when the Beaker People arrived from Europe
- Bronze Age people lived in settlements which was a group of round houses which were made from wattle (sticks and daub) mud or dry stones
- Burials were important to Bronze Age people – they placed stone circles where burials took place

Bronze tool heads



Comb made out of bronze



Iron Age

- Tools were made from iron. Iron was heated up then the hot iron was hammered into shape
- Settlements became larger because tribes were better able to farm and defend themselves
- At the end of the Iron Age, coins were made and used as currency.
- There were lots of battles between tribes who fought each other for more land and power.

Iron tool heads



Key Vocabulary

archaeologist	Someone who studies the past by exploring old remains
artefact	An object from the past that shows evidence of what life was like
bronze	Copper and tin are melted together to make a metal called bronze
druids	Powerful religious people
gather	Collect things together
hillfort	Settlement built on hills to provide more protection 
invasion	To try and take over a place by force
migration	A movement from one place to another in order to settle there
Rampart	A defensive wall built for protection 
sacrifice	Offerings to spirits such as weapons, animals and humans
stone circle	Burials took place in stone circles 
trade	The activity of buying, selling or exchanging goods or services

Timeline

c. 800,000 BC - 10,500 BC:
Palaeolithic Stone Age

c. 4,000 BC - 2,500 BC
Neolithic Stone Age

c. 1,000 BC: The cart with wheels is invented.

c. 80 BC Coins are thought to be first used.

c. AD 43 The Romans conquer Britain. This marks the end of the Iron Age.

c. 10,500 BC - 4,000 BC
Mesolithic Stone Age

c. 2,300 BC: Bronze Age begins when the Beaker people began to arrive in Britain.

c. 800 BC: The Iron Age begins

c. 55-54 BC Julius Caesar first invades Britain.