



First Impressions: exploiting the natural landscape

Background information

Archeology suggests that Fairlop Plain has been a site of continuous human occupation since the Middle Bronze Age c.3500 years ago. Forest, rivers and woodland clearings made it an ideal location to live. It could provide food, water shelter and fuel and eventually resources for making money.

The first humans to explore the Plain were hunter/ gatherers who lived a nomadic life passing through the local landscape looking for sources of food. Gradually, over thousands of years, people began to settle and farm the area, making their mark in clearings in the forest, building boundary ditches for their fields and to mark the burials of their dead.

Roman field systems and other archaeological features at Fairlop - FLQ97



Hainault Works
Industrial Estate

— Prehistoric — Late Iron Age/ Early Roman
— Later Roman — Unphased

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Fairlop PlainTimes for Schools

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Just like today, people came from abroad and made permanent settlements amongst the local people. Through this landscape passed people of the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, each with their own cultures which were absorbed by the local communities. All left their mark on England's landscape.

A casual visitor to the local area in the past might be forgiven for thinking that this natural, forested landscape was wild and untamed. But it has been a landscape managed by man for hundreds of years to provide building materials, shelter and sources of food.