

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS



DATE	KEY EVENT
250 million years ago	Limestone rock began to form on the bottom of a large inland sea.
230 million years ago	Rivers cut into the rock forming the caves and a small gorge as the land lifts upwards.
2 million - 150,000 years ago	As ice sheets advance and retreat, the immense pressure of ice form streams creating the gorge and caves as they are today.
120,000 years ago	In the warm climate hippopotamus, lion, bison and red deer live in the area.
90,000 - 70,000 years ago	The climate cools down dramatically. Mammoth, reindeer, bison, horse, hyena, woolly rhinoceros, giant deer, wolf and brown bear live in the area.
50,000 years ago	Neanderthal people camp in the caves at Creswell Crags and hunt reindeer.
30,000 years ago	The first 'Modern' people camp in the caves.
18,000 years ago	A very cold period when very little lived in the area.
13,000 years ago	People return after the intense cold, camp in the caves and hunt horse and arctic hare. They leave carvings in the cave.
10,000 years ago	The climate warms up to today's temperatures.
8,000 years ago	Human groups use Creswell as a winter camp.
2,000 years ago	The Romans invade Britain.
1876	The caves are explored and dug for the first time by Victorian antiquarians and geologists.
1920s, 1960s, 1980s and 2000s	Archaeologists continue to excavate the caves using increasingly sophisticated techniques.
Today	You visit Creswell Crags.