Creswell Crags

A month in retrospect

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The Crags

- Magnesium Limestone rock
- 23 Caves
- Wide range of wildlife, including endangered bat species
- Owned by the Welbeck estate
- Lies on the boarder between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire

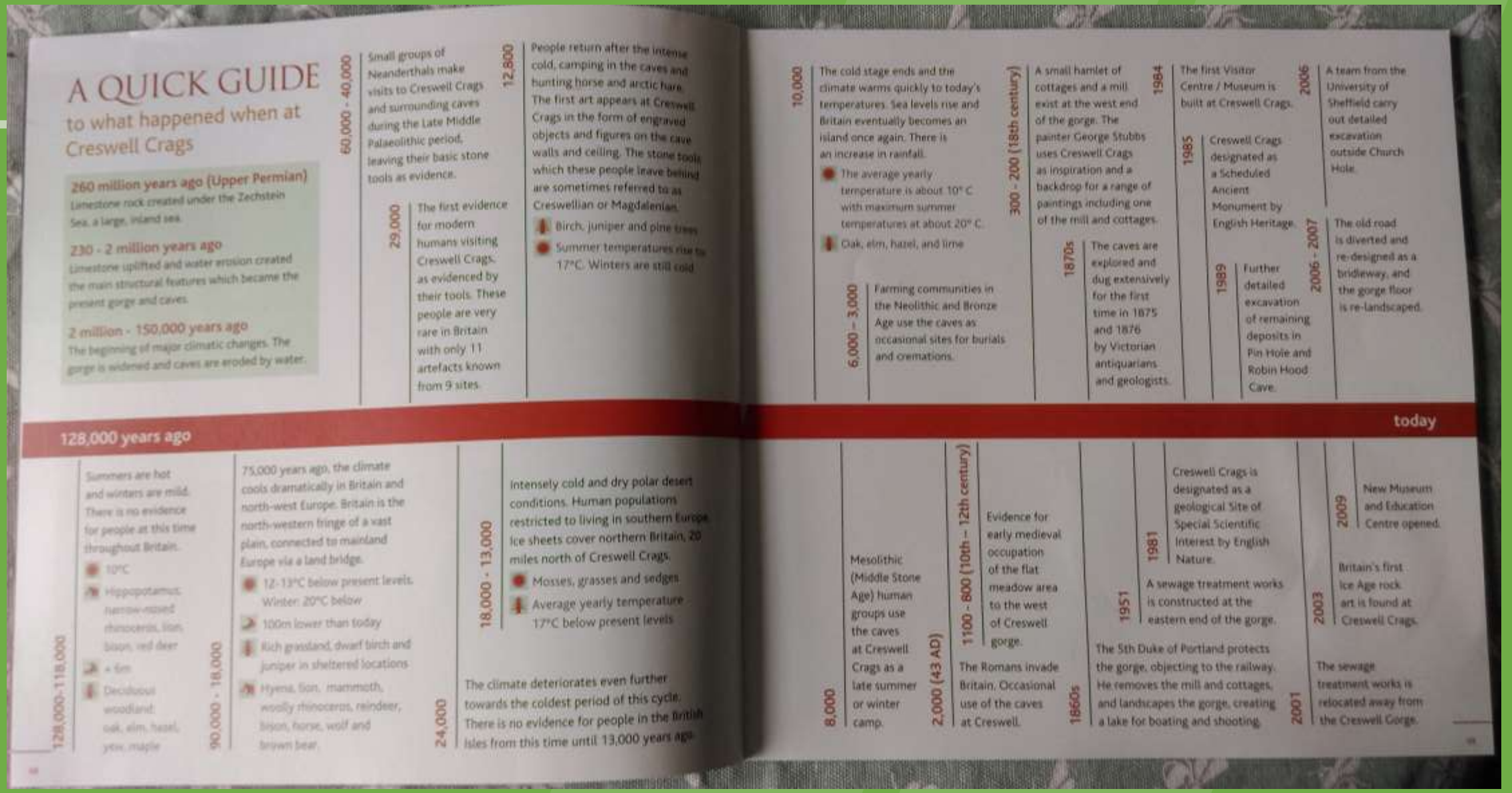








A brief history



A QUICK GUIDE

to what happened when at Creswell Crags

260 million years ago (Upper Permian)
Limestone rock created under the Zechstein Sea, a large, inland sea.

230 - 2 million years ago
Limestone uplifted and water erosion created the main structural features which became the present gorge and caves.

2 million - 150,000 years ago
The beginning of major climatic changes. The gorge is widened and caves are eroded by water.

128,000 years ago

128,000-118,000
Summers are hot and winters are mild. There is no evidence for people at this time throughout Britain.
- 10°C
- Hippopotamus, narrow-nosed rhinoceros, lion, bison, red deer
- + 6m
- Deciduous woodland: oak, elm, hazel, yew, maple

90,000 - 18,000
75,000 years ago, the climate cools dramatically in Britain and north-west Europe. Britain is the north-western fringe of a vast plain, connected to mainland Europe via a land bridge.
- 12-13°C below present levels. Winter: 20°C below
- 100m lower than today
- Rich grassland, dwarf birch and juniper in sheltered locations
- Hyena, lion, mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, reindeer, bison, horse, wolf and brown bear

24,000
The climate deteriorates even further towards the coldest period of this cycle. There is no evidence for people in the British Isles from this time until 13,000 years ago.

18,000 - 13,000
Intensely cold and dry polar desert conditions. Human populations restricted to living in southern Europe. Ice sheets cover northern Britain, 20 miles north of Creswell Crags.
- Mosses, grasses and sedges
- Average yearly temperature 17°C below present levels

12,800
People return after the intense cold, camping in the caves and hunting horse and arctic hare. The first art appears at Creswell Crags in the form of engraved objects and figures on the cave walls and ceiling. The stone tools which these people leave behind are sometimes referred to as Creswellian or Magdalenian.
- Birch, juniper and pine trees
- Summer temperatures rise to 17°C. Winters are still cold

29,000
The first evidence for modern humans visiting Creswell Crags, as evidenced by their tools. These people are very rare in Britain with only 11 artefacts known from 9 sites.

60,000 - 40,000
Small groups of Neanderthals make visits to Creswell Crags and surrounding caves during the Late Middle Palaeolithic period, leaving their basic stone tools as evidence.

today

8,000
Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) human groups use the caves at Creswell Crags as a late summer or winter camp.

2,000 (43 AD)
The Romans invade Britain. Occasional use of the caves at Creswell.

1100 - 800 (10th – 12th century)
Evidence for early medieval occupation of the flat meadow area to the west of Creswell gorge.

1860s
The 5th Duke of Portland protects the gorge, objecting to the railway. He removes the mill and cottages, and landscapes the gorge, creating a lake for boating and shooting.

1951
A sewage treatment works is constructed at the eastern end of the gorge.

1981
Creswell Crags is designated as a geological Site of Special Scientific Interest by English Nature.

2001
The sewage treatment works is relocated away from the Creswell Gorge.

2003
Britain's first Ice Age rock art is found at Creswell Crags.

2009
New Museum and Education Centre opened.

10,000
The cold stage ends and the climate warms quickly to today's temperatures. Sea levels rise and Britain eventually becomes an island once again. There is an increase in rainfall.
- The average yearly temperature is about 10° C with maximum summer temperatures at about 20° C.
- Oak, elm, hazel, and lime

6,000 – 3,000
Farming communities in the Neolithic and Bronze Age use the caves as occasional sites for burials and cremations.

300 - 200 (18th century)
A small hamlet of cottages and a mill exist at the west end of the gorge. The painter George Stubbs uses Creswell Crags as inspiration and a backdrop for a range of paintings including one of the mill and cottages.

1870s
The caves are explored and dug extensively for the first time in 1875 and 1876 by Victorian antiquarians and geologists.

1984
The first Visitor Centre / Museum is built at Creswell Crags.

1985
Creswell Crags designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument by English Heritage.

1989
Further detailed excavation of remaining deposits in Pin Hole and Robin Hood Cave.

2006 - 2007
The old road is diverted and re-designed as a bridleway, and the gorge floor is re-landscaped.

2006
A team from the University of Sheffield carry out detailed excavation outside Church Hole.

Week 1-2

- Started with Education team
  - Easter Crafts
  - Very busy
  - Many donations
- Progressed to help with Marketing
  - Canva
  - Creating posters/leaflets
- Asked to look into maps
  - Looking for Old Creswell
  - Using the library

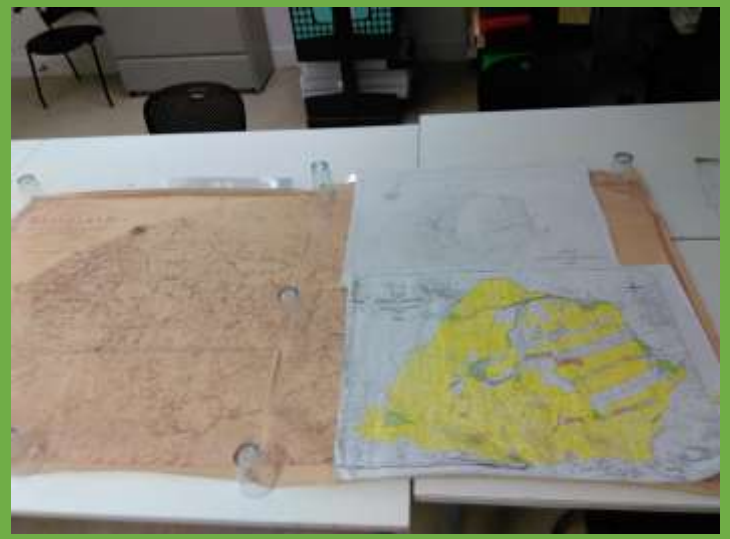












Week 3-4

- Finished map investigation
  - Located some of use
- Continued creating marketing material
  - Began making material for Victorian week
  - Began putting materials up around site
- Aided Finance Manager in preparing assets database
  - Refining and organising spreadsheet
  - Preparing for import to Sage



To conclude...

- Very enjoyable time
- Restricted by funding
- Would have liked to spend time with ranger team
- Family like atmosphere
- Would readily work there again



THANK YOU

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