

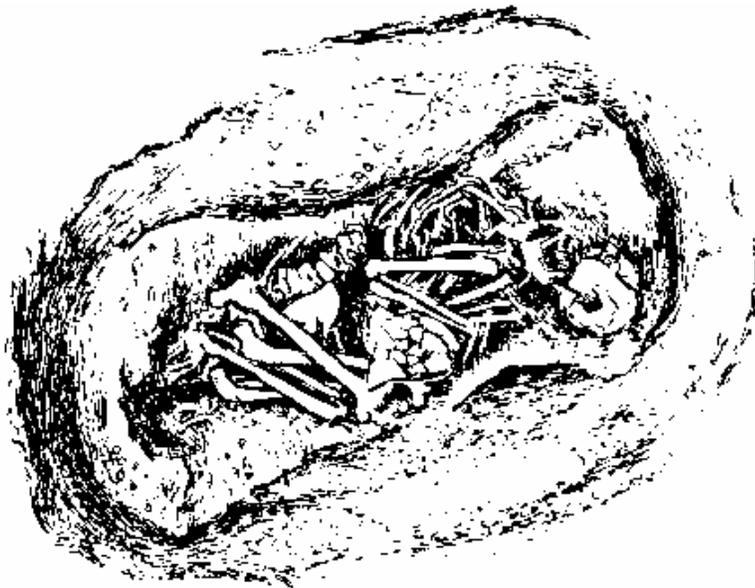
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Stone Age Lighthorne, the first known Villagers

by Peter Hinman (2000)

When people first arrived in Lighthorne can never be known for certain, but there is archaeological evidence of occupation for at least 4000 years. Because of its sheltered position and constant good water, it was probably originally used as a resting or hiding place. The earliest tracks ran past the valley. The southern track, ran along the high ground line of the Wellesbourne road, passed where Heath Farm stands today and on towards Bishops Itchington. The northern track followed the line of the road from Chesterton as far as Keepers Cottage and then along the bridleway towards the church and on past the church towards the Fosse Way and Warwick. Side tracks to the valley ran to the left of Newbold Barn from the south, and along the Chesterton road and past the Church from the north. This northern track was closed by the enclosure acts in 1724 and replaced with a new road now known as Dark Lane or Moreton Morrell Lane. The road past Newbold Barn was rerouted at the same time.

Many ancient peoples buried their dead along the lines of old trackways. Old maps show what appear to be barrows along the line of the trackways. One barrow is recorded along the southern track but so far none have been proved. However several have been found along the north side track including the oldest known in Lighthorne.



The skeletons of a woman and child were found buried together in Mill Field. They were placed in a typical foetal position as shown above. Archaeologists have dated the burial to the Neolithic period. The woman was wearing a string of amber beads which indicates that she had been of some importance in her community. The beads were taken by a villager, a Mr. Parker, and turned into hatpins.