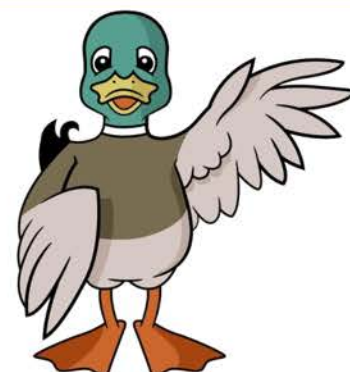




HEADSTONE MANOR & MUSEUM

A message from....
Bill the Duck!



Hi again! 🖐️ In my last post I said that Headstone Manor's history goes back even further than 1310, when the oldest parts of the Manor House were first built. The name 'Headstone' comes from the Saxon name 'Heggeton', which is what the farm was called when Ailwin de la Hegge lived and worked here - he's the first recorded person to live on this land, around 1233!

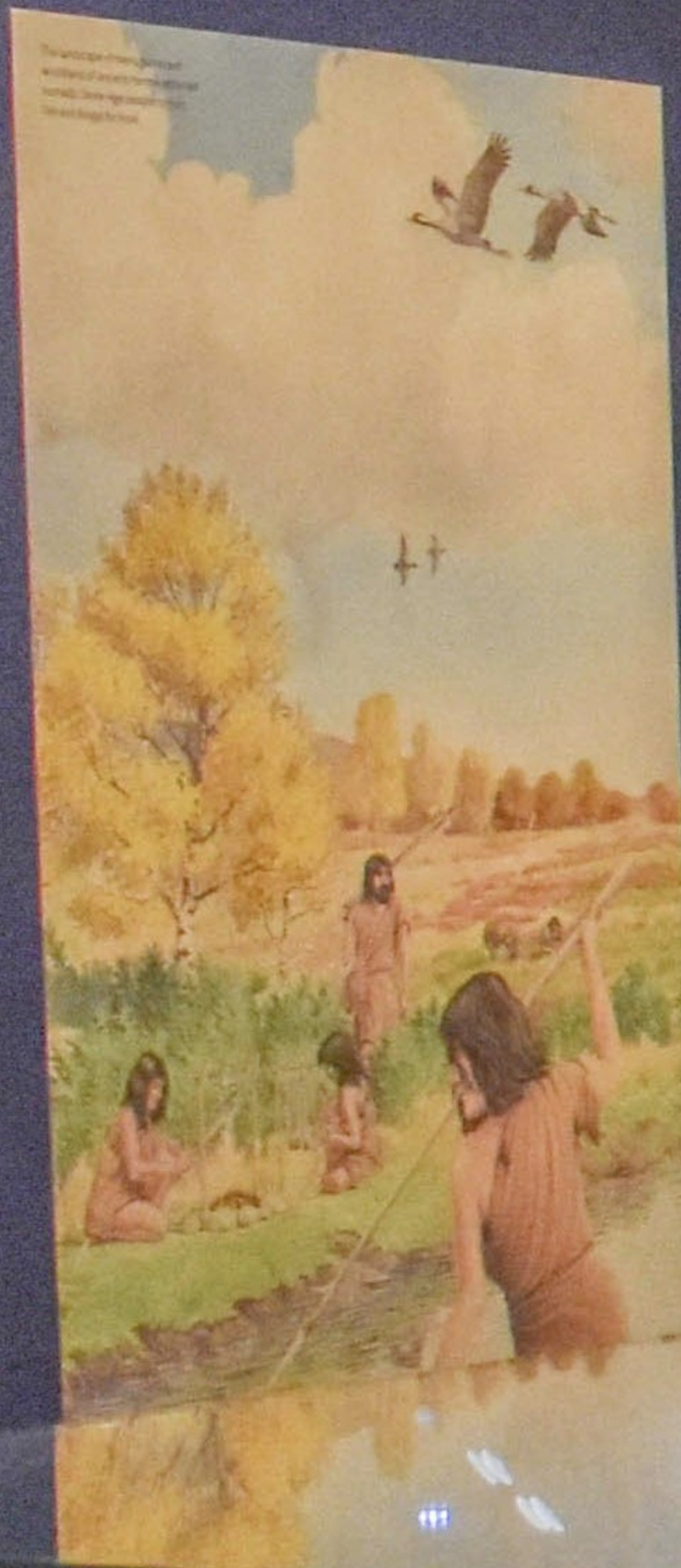
'Heggeton' is made of two Old English words 'Hege', meaning surrounded by hedges, and 'tun' meaning a large homestead - sounds like Headstone to me!

The history of Harrow goes back even further than this though. In fact, Harrow's history goes all the way back to the Stone Age! Can you believe it? People have found Stone Age tools in Harrow-on-the-Hill, like axes, which suggests people were using the land, and maybe even staying here! There's also a lot of evidence of Romans in Harrow, such as shards of pottery and coins! One of the pieces of pottery has a stamp on it that belonged to Doinus, a Roman potter. I think that's really cool! After the Romans left Britain, the Anglo-Saxon people who farmed this land founded the villages which would go on to become Stanmore, Pinner, Roxeth, and more. So there we have it, did you know people had been in Harrow for all that time? That's even old than my Great Grand-duck Billeth! It's even older than his great grand-duck... now that's really old. 🦆 🦆 🦆

Finally, on our way out
we go through the Small
Barn again – to see
Harrow's earliest history!

STONE AGE HARROW

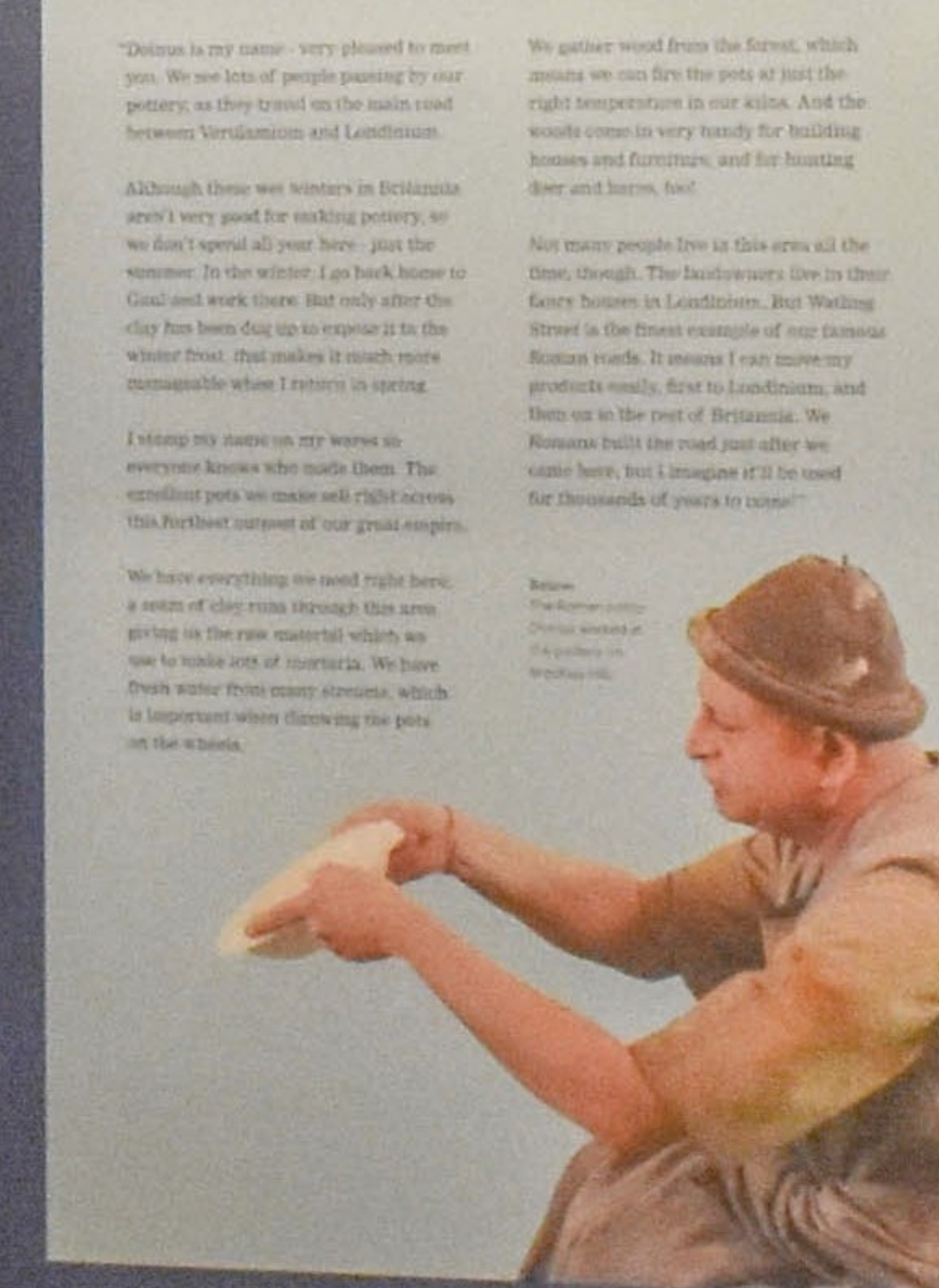
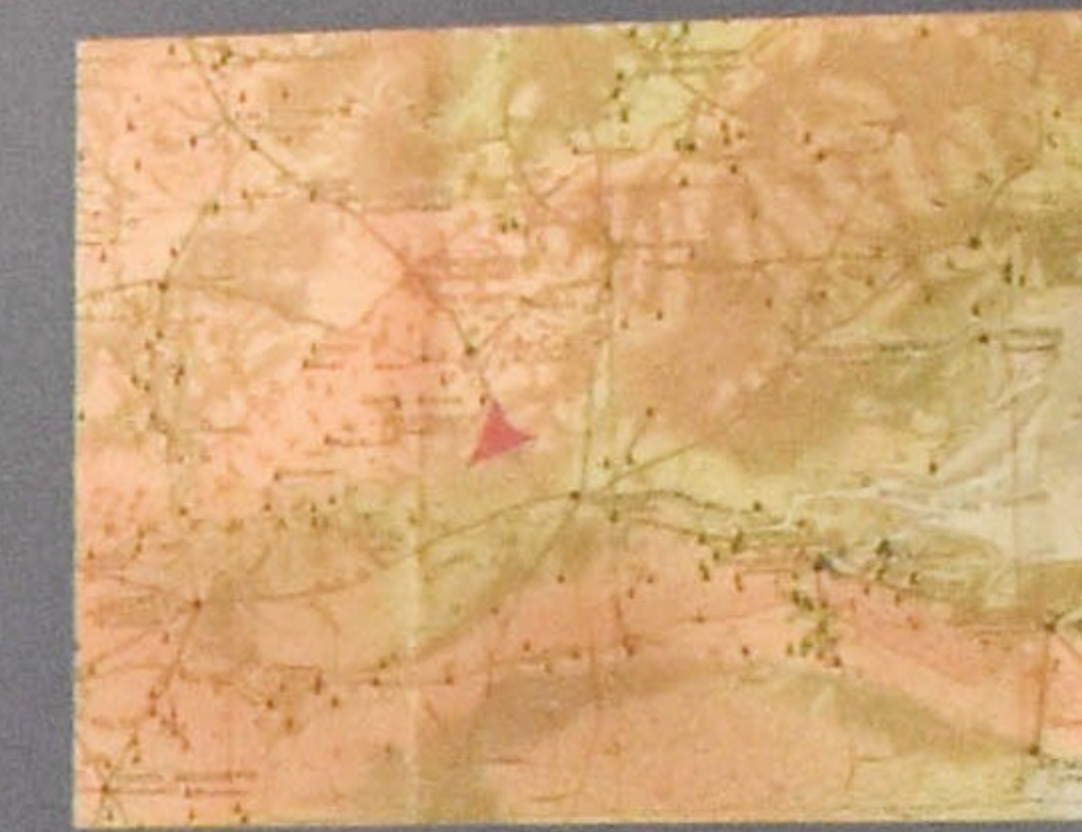
Around 10,000 years ago Harrow was covered in woodland. This plain between two hills, criss-crossed by streams, was an attractive site to nomadic Stone Age people. The landscape provided fresh water, good hunting, and many trees and shrubs from which fruits and nuts could be foraged.



ROMAN HARROW

By the dawning of the first millennium, people in Britain had mastered the use of metals such as bronze and iron. They had settled in small villages of roundhouses, farming and making pottery. The Roman Empire began to influence Britain through trade links with Europe, and eventually the Romans invaded Britain in 43 CE.

Here we meet our first voice from Harrow's past, Dolnus the Potter.



Objects here are related to
the Stone Age, Roman
period, and Anglo-Saxon
era in Harrow.





Objects from these earliest periods right up to today are found all over Harrow on archaeological digs –

Like this Roman pottery sherd, Georgian spoon, and medieval bead!

Early in the Anglo-Saxon period (c. 410-1066CE), a 'herga' was built atop Harrow Hill.

That sacred site was rebuilt as St Mary's church in 1094, and the word 'herga' gave the town its name – Harrow.



Can you spot Anglo-Saxon Princess Cwoenthryth giving the deed to the lands of Harrow to the Archbishop in this stained glass window at St Mary's?



Before the Anglo-Saxons ruled, the Romans occupied Britain from 43CE.
Here are some of the cool things they left behind in Harrow!



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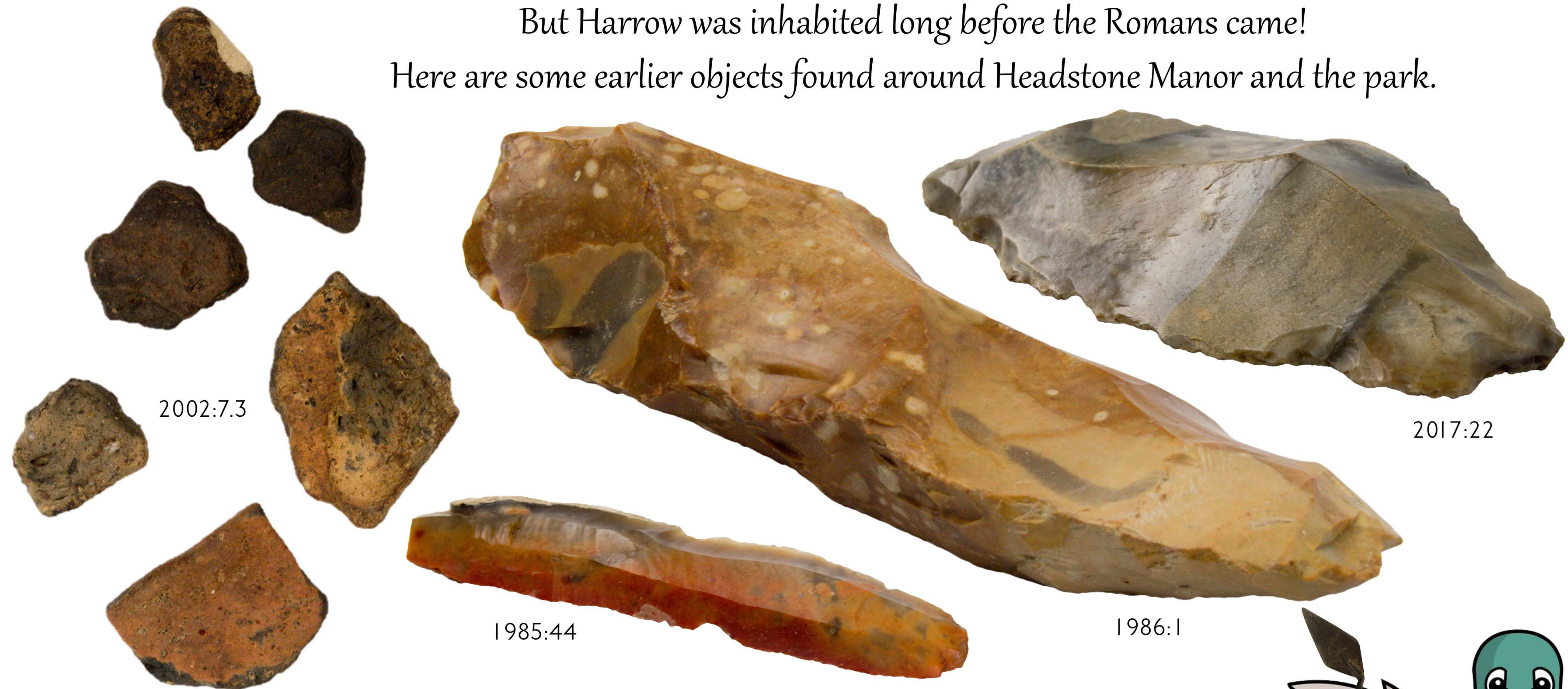


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A sherd of a bowl decorated with mythical sea creatures, the top to an amphora-like vessel, a coin all the way from Germany, and a tile which a dog stepped on whilst it was drying!



But Harrow was inhabited long before the Romans came!
Here are some earlier objects found around Headstone Manor and the park.



The Iron Age pottery sherds show that settlements were here when the Romans arrived.
In fact, stone tools like microliths, blades, and large hand axes tell us that people lived here
as early as 500,000 years ago!

