**Timeline of British Pagan History**

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| **Date (estim.** | **Era** | **Events** | **Pagan & Other Stuff** |
| 700,000 BCE | Paleolithic | Proto-humans | Ireland, Britain attached to Europe. Hunter-Gatherers. Lived in Caves. |
| 380,000 BCE | Paleolithic | Neanderthals | Religious Rituals, met in circles. Bred w/ proto-humans |
| 42,000 BCE | Paleolithic | First Humans Arrive | Ice Ages during this time, people came and left Britain  Sea rose and fell, Ireland & Britain separated from mainland Europe  Neanderthals bred with humans; Humans used stone tools; pottery;  Jewelry from amber and agate. Shamanism = Hoodening rites |
| 38,000 BCE | Paleolithic | Neanderthals died out  Humans |
| 30,000ish BCE | Paleolithic | First human burials Wales | Ritualized funerals, Sun and Moon worship, Goddess worship  “Goddess” images found on Mainland |
| 9,000 BCE | Mesolithic | Ireland Separated Britain  Land Bridges Europe off and on | More people arrive from mainland Europe. Humans domesticate dogs; Tools for fire; better pottery. Use entheogens for Shamanic rites  People draw images of hunt in caves on continent. Wild God worship  In Britain, horned helmets, rods or wands. Tents & cave homes. |
| 6,000 BCE | Mesolithic | Agriculture | Plant crops, wheat introduced. Permanent dwellings. Towns. Horses domesticated. Herding & nomadic, too. Worship agricultural deities. |
| 5,000 – 3,500 BCE | Neolithic | All land bridges gone. | Barley, sheep, goats introduced. New professions – dairying, tanning. New Gods followed. Holidays for agriculture and herding. Stone circles and tombs built. Still use stone tools. |
| 2,600 BCE | Neolithic | Pre-Celtic People | Stonehenge construction begins. People begin using coal and turf heat. |
| 2,000 to 1,200 BCE | Celtic or  Bronze Age | Goidelg Celts arrive in Britain | Intermarry w/ pre-Celts, or older races die out. Folktales = fairies  Come from Spain and France. Become Irish and Scots.  Mine copper and tin, manufacture bronze tools and weapons. Fishing, sailing, trade w/ other cultures. Celtic legends, deities. Druid class.  Celts also on mainland Europe. Smith Gods. Cauldron. |
| 800 BCE | Iron Age | Celts begin working iron |
| 500 – 400 BCE | Iron Age | Brythonic Celts arrive in Britain | Come from Spain, France, Germany, Belgium, Finland  Gods and legends mutate & syncretize |
| Betw. 2600 –43 BCE | Iron Age | Celtic Britain & Gaul | Druids develop Sequani calendar on mainland. In Brit. Isles, Druid class  Common people develop many magickal systems used today: folkplays, divination, spirit communic., tradesman rituals, holidays w/ fire, spells |
| 43 BCE | Roman Era | Romans invade Britain | Romans invade Britain under Julius Caesar. Battles, then trade, then more battles, withdrawals, finally conquering. |
| 1st Century CE | Roman Era |  | Romans bring Christianity – OK at first. Spread is gradual.  Augustian Christianity / Roman Catholicism – not so OK |
| 43 BCE to 410 CE | Roman Era | Romano-British | Druid priesthood deliberately wiped out. Over ½ male population of what’s now England wiped out. Romans intermarried w/ Celts.  Romans bring roads, baths, plumbing, coins, alphabet, representational art, along with their own Gods. Roman Gods syncretize w/ Celtic Gods.  Many Celtic religious sites destroyed. Latinized names.  Not so much damage in Ireland, little in Scotland. Synch w/ Christianity |
| 410 CE | Dark Ages | End of Roman Era | Romans withdraw |
| 400s to 1066 CE | Dark Ages  Or Norse &  Anglo-Saxon | Norse, Danes, Teutonic Tribes | First trade, then battles, then trade, then more battles, withdrawals, finally conquering. Bring Norse / Teutonic Heathenism & Gods  Destroy Christian churches. Colonized Britain = England. Colonies in Ireland, Scotland. Not so much in Wales. Impregnate British women; fertility Goddesses decline. Old English language. Rites, holidays, Gods & magick syncretize. |
| 1066 CE | Norman Conquest | “Normans” or Norse / Teutons from European Continent invade Britain | Most Anglo-Saxon nobility wiped out. Danish and Saxon kings killed.  Feudal System. Norman nobility Christian, claims all peasants are too.  Many common people still Pagan. |
| 1066-mid 1400s ish | Medieval or Middle Ages | Feudal | Gradual spread of Christianity. Some deities become saints. Some holidays become saints’ days. Medieval graffiti, hoodening, wells, holiday rites, spells, tradesmen’s rites, other Pagan rites still practiced. |
| 1340s to ‘60s | Medieval or Middle Ages | Black Plague at its worst | Witch hunts on European continent. Not so much in British Isles  Plague means tradesmen & peasants call the shots – work  Virgin Mary supplants Goddesses |
| 1300s – 1400s | Medieval or Middle Ages | More people in cities and towns | Ceremonial magick imported from Middle East and Asia to European continent, then Britain. Specialized magick. Alchemy |
| 1500s ish | Renaissance | Arts, Science, Trades | Great time to be Pagan in Britain. Resurgence of belief in fairies, open magickal practice, ritual dances, folkplays, other expressions. Syncretize with Catholicism. |
| 1534 | Renaissance | Henry VIII | Church of England established |
| 1542, 1563 | Renaissance | Henry VIII, Elizabeth I | Both passed witchcraft laws forbidding certain harmful practices like killing people, destroying churches, love spells. Punishable by death |
| 1604 | Protestant | King James I of England,  IV of Scotland | Revised Bible. Hated witchcraft. More laws against witchcraft & more witch hunts. Outlawed Catholic and Pagan practices. Forcible removals of certain ethnicities |
| 1640s | Protestant | Witch Hunts | Matthew Hopkins appoints himself “witchfinder general”. Over 300 witches killed in England in two years. Witch trials in Scotland. Only 5 in Wales. Catholicism suppressed. Some folkways vanished. |
| 1700s | Early Modern | Age of Reason | Witchcraft Laws. Mostly about fraud. Forcible removals of certain ethnicities. Some Pagan practices re-emerge. Robert Burns Scotland |
| 1800s | Modern | Interest in Occult | Occult and Ceremonial Magic Societies established. Spiritualism. Renewed interest in folklore, fairies, folktales. Welsh Renaissance. Several folklorists & anthropologists write academic works. Revival of cultural practices, including dances, holidays, folk magick. |
| Late 1800s to early 1900s | Modern | Academic study Paganism | Hermetic Society of the Golden Dawn; Sir James G. Frazier, Cecil Sharp, Wm. B. Yeats, Alexander Carmichael |
| 1914-18, 1939-1944/5 | Modern | WWI, Spanish Flu, WWII | Many working-class people killed. Some folkways vanished. Some Pagan sites destroyed in wars. |
| 1920s-30s | Modern | Academic study Paganism  Wicca | Margaret Murray, Gerald Gardner, Cecil Williamson, Doreen Valiente, Wicca established 1939ish |
| 1940s - present | Modern | Wiccan and modern Paganism | Wicca established in Britain, becomes popular after last witchcraft law repealed in 1944. New authors. Comes to USA in late 60s-early 70s. |
| 1980s | Modern | Pagan Reconstruction | Pagan and cultural practices revived, including folklore, dances, folk magick, holidays, and more. |