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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Land at Lower Mount Farm,  
Cookham Rise, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Pierre-Damien Manisse**

**Site Code: LMF22/82**

**(SU 8797 8401)**

# **Land at Lower Mount Farm, Cookham Rise, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Copas Farm Limited**

by Pierre-Damien Manisse  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LMF 22/82

**August 2022**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Lower Mount Farm, Cookham Rise, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 8797 8401

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 18th August 2022

**Project coordinator:** Danielle Milbank

**Site supervisor:** Pierre-Damien Manisse

**Site code:** LMF 22/82

**Area of site:** c. 0.49ha

**Summary of results:** The evaluation was carried out as intended and three trenches were successfully excavated. No deposits nor finds of archaeological interest were found. The site is considered to have very low potential.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited in an appropriate designated museum or repository, to be decided by the local planning authority, in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 19.08.22 Steve Preston✓ 19.08.22
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# Land at Lower Mount Farm, Cookham, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Pierre-Damien Manisse

Report 22/82

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out south of Lower Mount Farm, on the south side of Long Lane, Cookham Rise, Berkshire SL6 9EE (centred on SU 8797 8401) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned Mr David Jacobs on behalf of Copas Farms, Hedsor Park Farm, Heathfield Road, Taplow, Buckinghamshire SL6 0HX.

Planning permission (21/01824) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of a new stable with associated car parking and turning areas. This consent is subject to a condition (5) that requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. It was determined that this would take the form, initially, of trial trenching, based on the results of which further work might be required. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021) and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Linden Ellicott, Archaeology Officer of Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological adviser to the Royal Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Pierre-Damien Manisse, on 18th August 2022 and the site code is LMF 22/82. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited in an appropriate designated museum or repository, to be decided by the local planning authority, in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located between the villages of Cookham to the north and Furze Platt, a suburb of Maidenhead to the south (Fig. 1). The River Thames passes 2.8km to the east. The site is an essentially rectangular plot of land of about 0.5ha, within a larger grass field. It is slightly sloping down towards the south and east, at about 39m above Ordnance Datum on average. It is bounded to the north by Long Lane, with Lower Mount Farm the other side of the Road, and other meadows to west and south. To the east is a small industrial compound. The underlying geology is shown as Lynch Hill Gravel member. (BGS 2005)

## **Archaeological background**

A consultation response to the planning application by Berkshire Archaeology highlighted the site's archaeological potential, which stems in general from its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley. The Berkshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record has inventoried a wide range of sites in the wider area (Ford 1987; Gates 1975; Dils and Yates 2013). Cookham can trace its origins to at least the late Saxon period and is known to have possessed a minster church as early as the 8th century AD (Astill 1978). Prior to gravel extraction, a Roman settlement had been identified to the north-east and other Roman deposits were recorded nearby during work at Cookham cemetery extension. To the south a Late Bronze Age settlement was excavated (Lobb 1980). Moreover a number of Palaeolithic hand axes are also recorded locally and local sites have produced significant results for the Palaeolithic (Wymer 1968) though at much deeper level than the projected development. Recent archaeological work in Cookham has generally been on a small scale but has occasionally produced evidence for Saxon and prehistoric occupation (e., McNicoll-Norbury and Munding 2013).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. More specifically the research aims of this project as stated in the project specification were to determine:

- if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on site;
- if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- if there are any deposits of Bronze Age or Roman date on the site.

The evaluation was to follow the guidance of the CIfA (CIfA 2020). It was proposed to dig three trenches, each 20m long, between 1.6m and 2m wide and targeting the areas impacted by the development. Mechanical stripping was to be undertaken under constant archaeological supervision. Any features were to be hand cleaned and sufficiently sampled to answer the objectives of the project. Any discoveries were to be assessed in regards to general research agendas (HE 2017) or more local or thematic research priorities (Hey and Hind 2014).

## **Results (Figs 2-3; Pls 1-4)**

A 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, 1.80m wide, was used to strip the trenches under archaeological supervision. All trenches were dug as intended. They ranged in length from 20.10m to 20.50m

and in depth from 0.25m to 0.30m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

The stratigraphy observed was uniform across the site. The lowest deposit encountered was the geological horizon, a firm and very dry orange clay with very common flints. It was directly overlain by 0.25-0.30m of topsoil, a friable brown grey clayey silt with common unsorted natural flints and gravels. Rare brick or tile fragments were noted in the topsoil along with modern rubbish. The spoilheaps were visually checked for finds. The trench backfilling was confirmed remotely by Ms Fiona McDonald of Berkshire Archaeology.

#### Trench 1 (Pls 1-2)

Trench 1 was aligned S - N and was 20.50m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying natural geology. A test slot was made at the south end to confirm the interpretation of the geological natural below the level at which the strip ends. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

#### Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned SSW - NNE and was 20.10m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

#### Trench 3 (Pl. 4)

Trench 3 was aligned SW - NE and was 20.50m long and 0.25m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

### **Finds**

No finds were considered for retention; only modern debris was noted in the topsoil.

### **Conclusion**

Three trenches were dug as intended. They were all sterile and did not produce any archaeological deposits nor finds of interest. Based on these results the site's archaeological potential is considered to be very low.

### **References**

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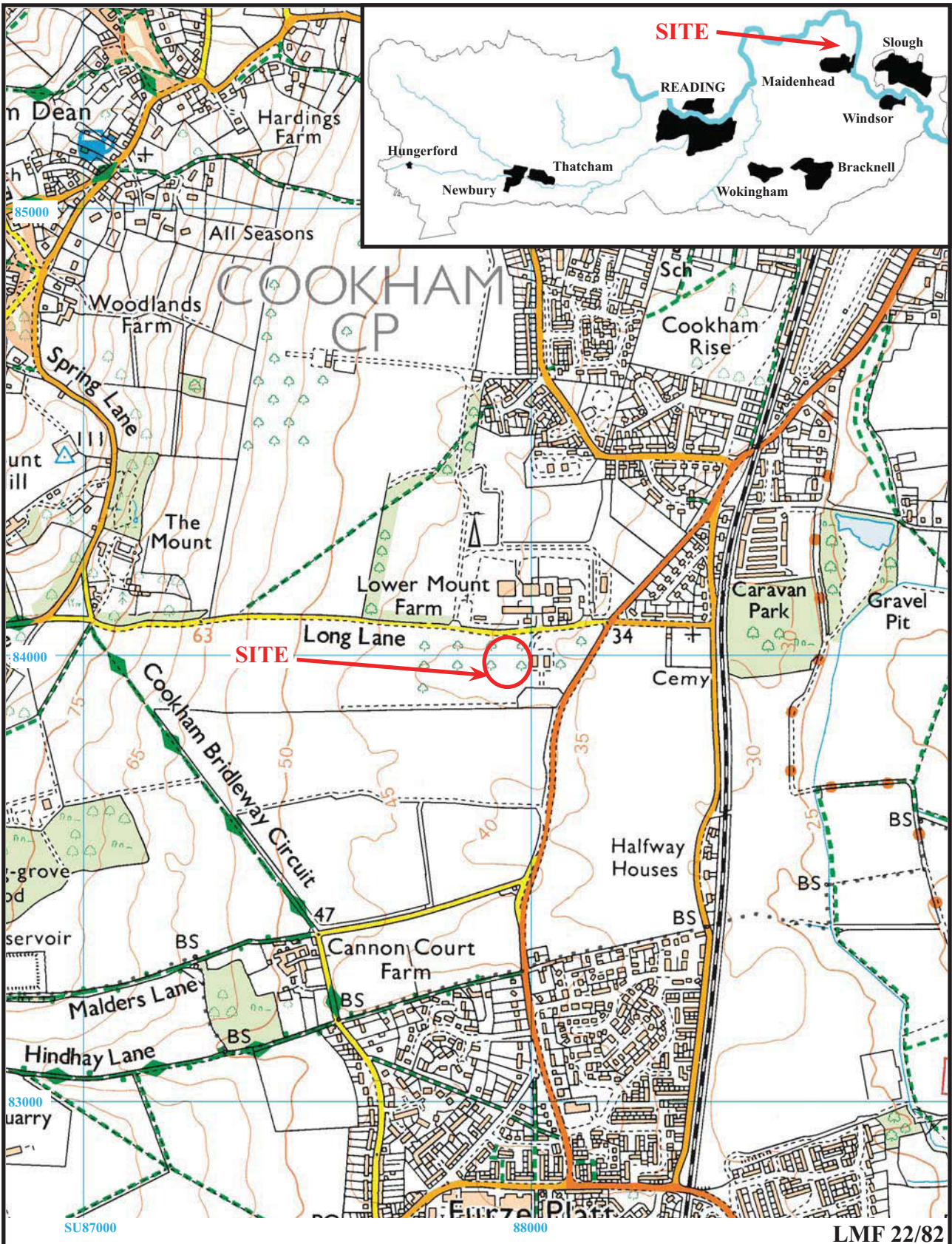
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## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S, SW or SSW end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>20.50</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>0.30</b>	0–0.25m topsoil (brown grey clayey silt with common unsorted natural flints and gravels); 0.25m+ natural geology (orange clay with very common flints). [PIs. 1–2]
<b>2</b>	<b>20.10</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>0.30</b>	0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ natural geology. [PI. 3]
<b>3</b>	<b>20.50</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>0.25</b>	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25m+ natural geology. [PI. 4]





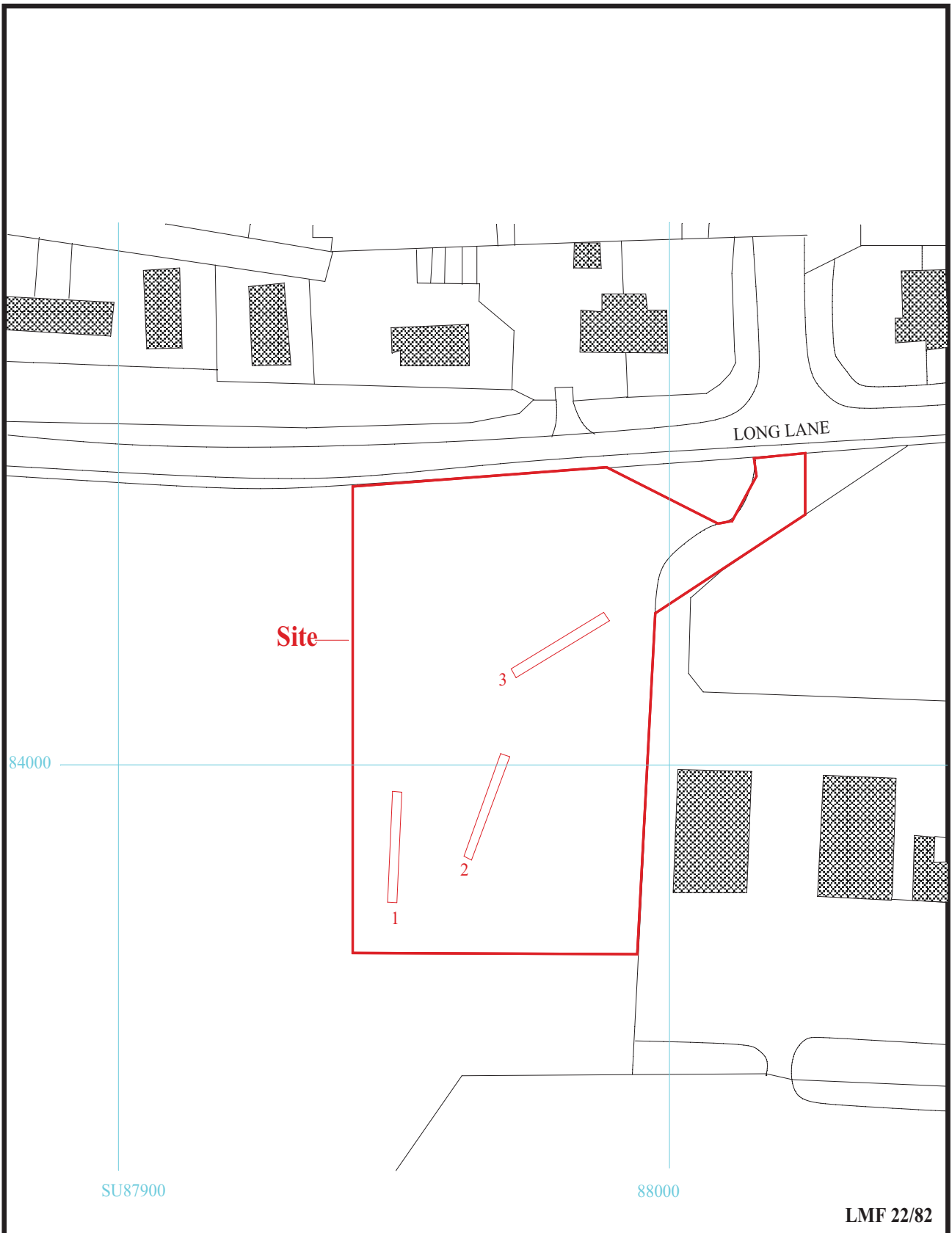
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Cookham and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Site plan.



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SSW

NNE

36.4m aOD

Topsoil

Natural geology



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Figure 3. Representative section of trench 2



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north;  
Scales: 2 x 1m and 0.50m



Plate 2. Test slot in trench 1, looking west,  
Scales: 1m and 0.50m



Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north-north-east;  
Scales: 2 x 1m and 0.50m



Plate 4. Trench 3, looking north-east;  
Scales: 2 x 1m and 0.50m

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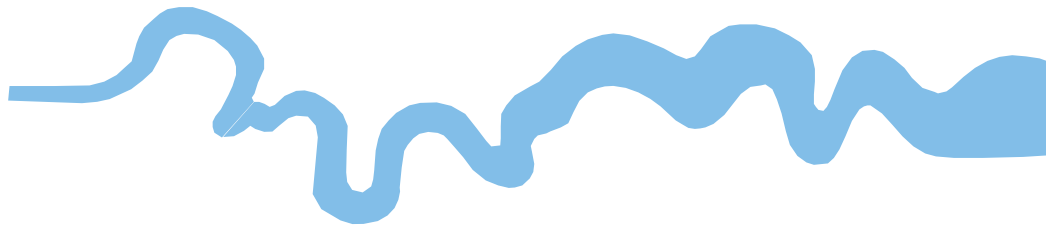
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Plates 1 to 4.**

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## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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