

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**New Barns, Scotts Farm, Walton Grounds,
Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Mundin

Site Code: KSN12/52

(SP 5088 3463)

**New Barns, Scotts Farm, Walton Grounds,
Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Simon Pickering

by Andrew Munday

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code KSN 12/52

July 2012

Summary

Site name: New Barns, Scotts Farm, Walton Grounds, Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire

Grid reference: SP 5088 3463

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 28th – 30th May 2012

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Steve Crabb and Andrew Mundin

Site code: KSN 12/52

Area of site: Barn 1 = 375 sq m; Main Barn (2) = 1755 sq m

Summary of results: Pad foundations associated with two new barns were observed. It was noted from the surrounding area that the topography of the farm had been modified, as it lies lower than the adjacent area containing an earthwork to the east of the current farm. The farm is situated to the south of a river valley and has been terraced into the valley slope. The stratigraphy observed in the footing pads generally showed truncation from previous structures on the site, with very little natural geology noted, though alluvial flood deposits were noted in many of the pads. No archaeological features were recorded in these works and 20th-century finds were not retained.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading.

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Report edited/checked by: | Steve Ford ✓ 20.07.12 |
| | Steve Preston ✓ 13.07.12 |

New Barns, Scotts Farm, Walton Grounds, Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andrew Muddin

Report 12/52

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Scotts Farm, Walton Grounds, Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire (SP 5088 3463) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Richard Gale, Astrop Park Farm, Upper Astrop, Kings Sutton, OX17 3QL on behalf of Mr Simon Pickering, of the above address.

Planning permission (S/2012/0130/FUL) has been gained from South Northamptonshire District Council to demolish existing agricultural buildings and construct three new replacement barns within the farm compound. The consent is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks, due to the site's location in the historic hamlet of Walton, thought to have Late Saxon origins and connections with St Rumbold, a 7th-century infant saint.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Adviser for Northamptonshire County Council and based on a brief prepared by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2012). The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Crabb and Andrew Muddin between 28th and 30th May 2012. The site code is KSN 12/52.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the eastern edge of the Cherwell Valley floodplain with Kings Sutton approximately 2km north of the farm. The M40 motorway following the course of the river lies approximately 800m to the west (Fig. 1). A tributary stream feeding the Cherwell is to be found just to the north. The sites of the new barns are mostly over areas where previous buildings stood, or were covered by a concrete slab (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is Clay and Siltstone over Marlstone Rock (BGS 1968). The farm lies at c. 92m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

Archaeological background

The potential for the site has been highlighted in a brief prepared by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2012). In summary, the site is on the hamlet of Walton, which is noted in Domesday Book, held by the Bishop of Bayeux from the King, with reference to one slave and two villans working one plough. There was also a mill, worth four shillings (William and Martin 2002). The brief also notes that the settlement was destroyed during late medieval times by an enclosure act (NCC 2012), probably due to either the settlement's disuse or abandonment, as much of this land would have been controlled from Kings Sutton.

Though the farmyard is enclosed and has been lowered into the valley side, other earthworks away from the farm are present in the adjacent fields. A hollow way, building platforms enclosures and ponds recorded by aerial photography (NCC 2012), have since been ploughed out from the intense agricultural activity over these fields in the last 30 years. The record of a Chapel is noted here, in a field known as the Chapel Field. It was noted to be in a ruinous state in 1744 (NCC 2012). It is also recorded that this was where St Rumbold was baptised. An earthwork mound (Fig. 2; Pl.1) immediately to the east of the farm, seen during site observations, is approximately 20m in diameter, and spread with sizable pieces of limestone, perhaps from an underlying structure.

Medieval pottery has been recovered in large quantities from the earthworks, as well as small amounts of Roman pottery. The site is also in the vicinity of Rainsborough Camp, an early Iron Age hill fort (Tingle 2004, 50), 1.5km to the east, and the projected course of the North-South aligned Roman road (Port Way) between Aynho and Kings Sutton (Margary 1955; Route 161a). Evidence of Roman settlement sites (villas) are also known in the vicinity (Tingle 2004, 64).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features exposed within the groundworks for the new barns, with the primary focus of the main barn, and then observation of the other two barns where necessary.

Specific aims of the project were;

Determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on the site.

Determine if archaeological deposits of any period survive on the site.

Determine if deposits relating to late Saxon, Medieval or Early Post-Medieval settlement are present.

Results

The barns are primarily of a frame construction with foundation pads supporting steel joists at regular points. All new services were to follow the course of the existing service runs.

Barn 1 (Figs 3 and 4)

This barn comprised the excavation of fourteen pad foundations around the outer edges with no interior supports (Fig. 3). The pad holes were all 1m x 1m, and excavated to a depth of 0.75m. Parts of the building were dug through concrete with others dug through rubble. A representative section (Fig. 4) was recorded for the concrete cut pad holes in the north-west. The stratigraphy was generally uniform consisting of concrete laid on scalpins above made ground (dark brown silty sand) above clay recorded at the base of excavation. The only finds noted were brick rubble from the top of the dark brown silty sand made ground. No finds were recovered from the clay at the base of excavation.

Main barn (Barn 2) (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

This barn's foundations comprised twenty-four pads, making up exterior and interior beam supports for three conjoining structures. The pad holes, were all 2.2m x 1.6m and 1m deep and eighteen of the pad holes were observed.

The northern pads displayed the presence of made ground to a depth of only 0.4m, which overlay what is considered to be alluvium. No subsoil or old topsoil was present. The probable alluvium was present either to the base of the excavations, or overlay a lighter brown clay in the north-eastern most pad. The latter was interpreted as the natural clay horizon.

All the central and southern pads displayed a slightly different stratigraphy, as the modern made ground reached a maximum of 0.78m deep. This in turn overlay further made ground comprising a grey-blue brown clayey silt, which contained brick and orange Horton stone, likely to represent demolition debris of previous agricultural buildings from the 1970's. This area revealed no finds and features of archaeological interest.

Footings for Barn 3 were not observed due to the levelling of previous buildings on this part of the site, under the existing structure. The chances of surviving remains in this area were negligible due to previous truncation in this area and the ground reduction of the farm compound.

Finds

Glass by Andrew Muddin

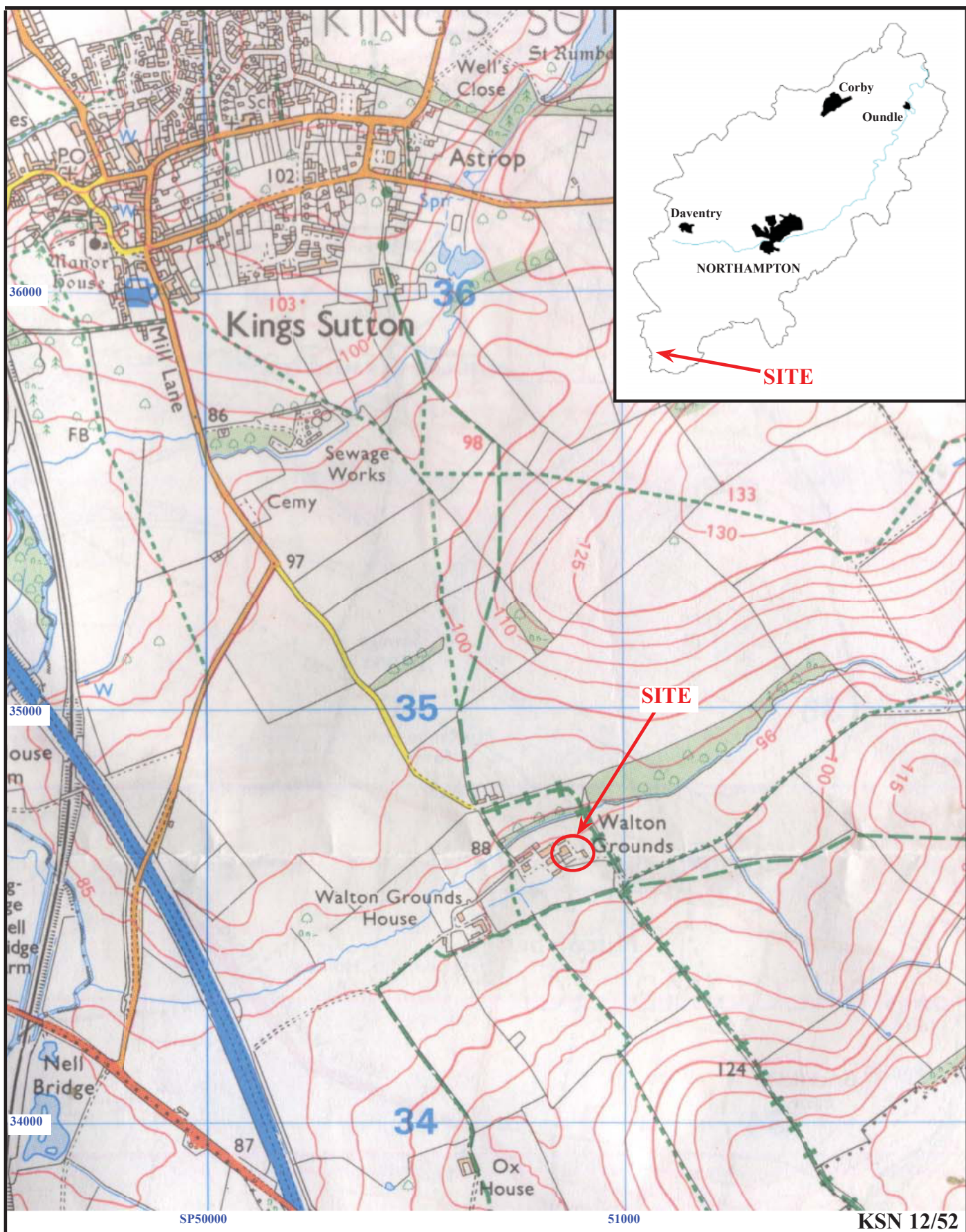
A complete glass bottle came from the made ground in the main barn excavation. It is of 20th-century date, 140mm long with a base diameter of 30mm. It was retained on site.

Conclusion

Construction of the new barns on the site required only small scale excavations for the new foundations and only limited areas were available for observation. However, for all of the footprint of the new barns, deposits of modern made ground were revealed directly overlying the natural geology with no topsoil or subsoil present. The relative changes in depths of this made ground suggests some truncation of the archaeologically relevant horizon had also occurred. No archaeological finds or features were recorded for the site.

References

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- William, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book: A complete translation*, London



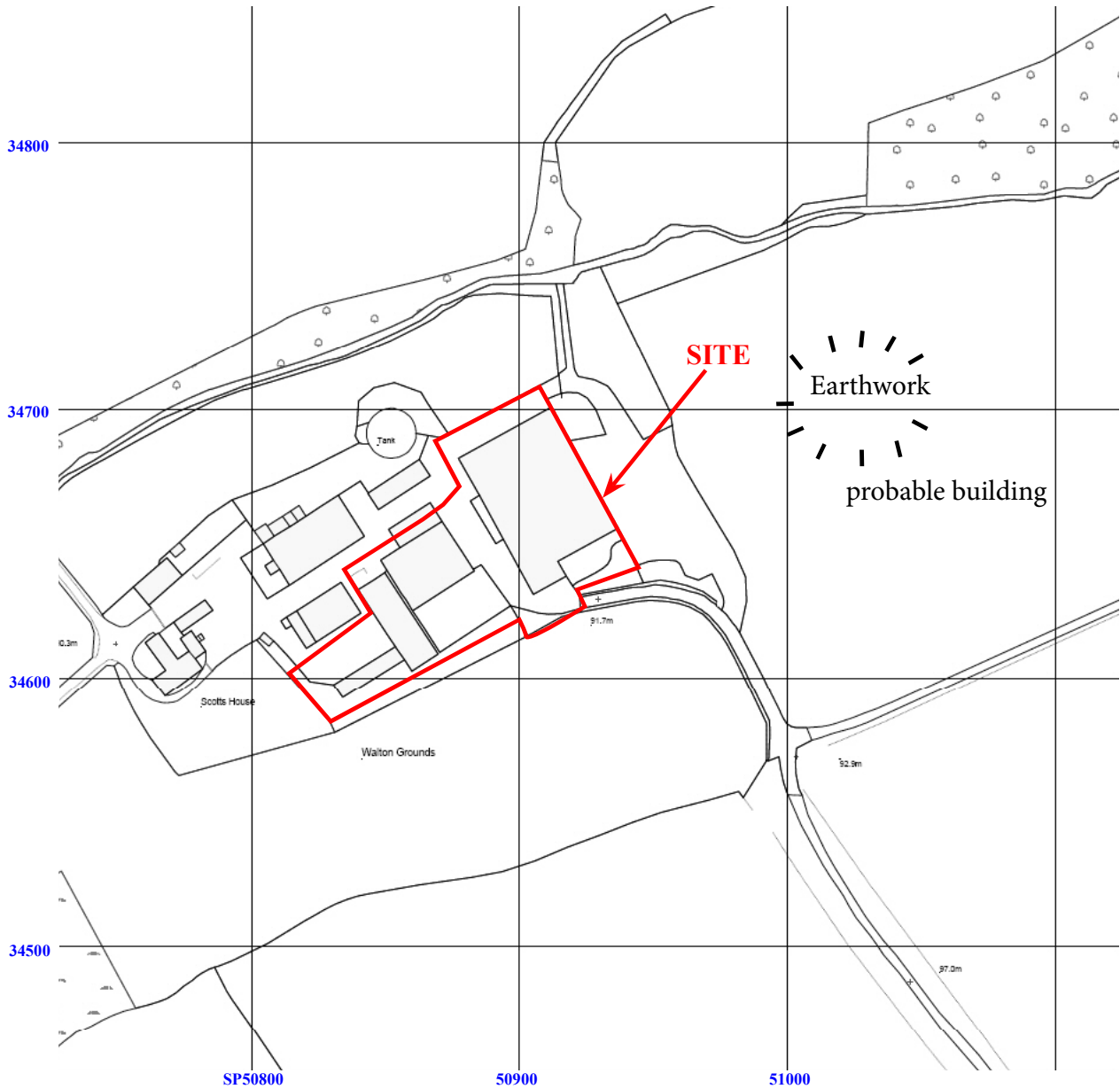
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Northamptonshire, 2012**

Archaeological watching brief

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Kings Sutton and within Northamptonshire.

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 Figure 2. Detailed location of farm prior to recent modifications.

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.

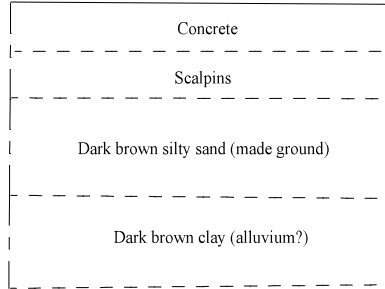


Barn 1

SW

NE

90.2maOD

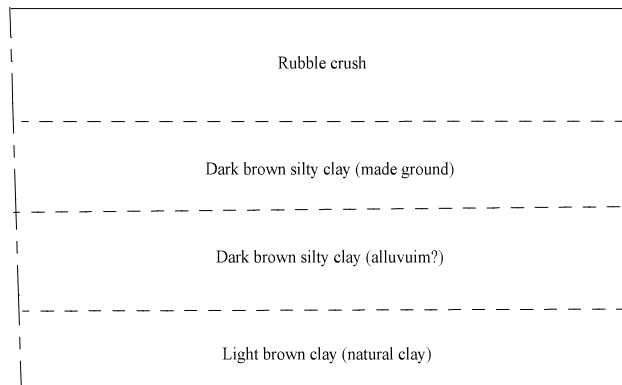


Barn 2 (Main barn)

SW

NE

90.5m



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Figure 4. Representative sections from pads.





Plate 1. Earthwork in field to east, looking north east.



Plate 2. Excavation of pad for main barn in progress, looking east.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Pad foundation 1, looking north. Scales: 1m and 0.5m



Plate 4. Pad foundation 23, looking east. Scales: 1m

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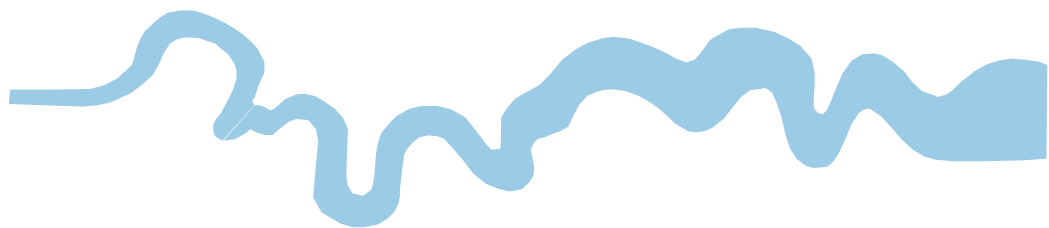
Plates 3 and 4.

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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 |
| Iron Age _____ | BC/AD 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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