

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**The Red Lion, 2 Church End,
Haddenham, Buckinghamshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Site Code: CEH12/148

(SP 7408 0811)

The Red Lion, 2 Church End, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Mr and Mrs Austin-Crowe**

By David Platt
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code CEH12/148

September 2012

Summary

Site name: The Red Lion, 2 Church End Haddenham, Buckinghamshire

Grid reference: SP 7408 0811

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 24-25th September 2012

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: CEH12/148

Summary of results: Three pits were uncovered within trench 1, one of these was of significant size, being approximately 5m in diameter. A small collection of pottery suggests that at least two of the pits are medieval. A few residual sherds of Roman pottery were also recovered.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford 29.09.2012 Steve Preston 27.09.2012

The Red Lion, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Report 12/148

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at The Red Lion, 2 Church End, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire (SP 7408 0811) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jake Collinge, of Jake Collinge Planning Consultancy, 4 Arnold Way, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 2QA on behalf Mr and Mrs Austin-Crowe, 15 Rosemary Lane, Haddenham, Aylesbury Buckinghamshire, HP17 8JS. Planning permission is to be sought from Aylesbury Vale District Council to re-develop part of the land at the Red Lion Public House, 2 Church End, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, a field observation has been requested as detailed in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012). A single component of work is proposed at this stage, a field evaluation by means of machine trenching. Further fieldwork may be required if archaeological deposits are encountered which cannot be preserved *in situ*. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Dr William Boismier, the archaeological planning officer for Buckinghamshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and Kyle Beaverstock on the 24th September 2012 and the site code is CEH12/148. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the southern edge of the town of Haddenham at the junction of Church End, Station Road and Gibson Road (Fig. 1). The area examined in the evaluation is located on the eastern side of Gibson Road and is currently a tarmac parking area to the rear of the Red Lion public house (Fig. 2). St Mary's Church is located not far to the south. The underlying geology is Portland Stone (BGS 1994) and this was observed in the trenches as brownish white limestone with limestone marl. The site lies at *c.* 76m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its position within the historic core of Church End within Haddenham. Haddenham was the centre of a substantial manor at the time of Domesday Book in AD1086 (Williams and Martin 2002). It was assessed at 40 hides with arable land for 30 ploughs (a huge area) and a total (adult male) population of 56 free tenants and 15 slaves. Two mills are listed, a church and meadows. The church is one of very few mentioned in Buckinghamshire and is normally reckoned to have been a Minster. The extant St Mary's church, however, is 13th century. Haddenham's unusual layout suggests it may have developed around separate medieval foci, and the area near the church should be a key area to explore this possibility. Evaluation and excavation on sites to the north in Townsend confirmed the area's potential with numerous settlement deposits of medieval date being revealed with tentative evidence for late Saxon activity (Weale 2012). Medieval and possibly late Saxon activity is anticipated for the environs of the proposal site.

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.

The specific research aims of this project are:

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and

To determine whether archaeological deposits relating to late Saxon and medieval settlement of Church End are present;

Two trenches, 5m and 10m long and 1.6m wide were to be dug. These were to be dug by using a JCB-type or 360⁰ excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision, either down to the natural geology or until archaeological features were encountered. All archaeological deposits were to be hand cleaned, excavated and recorded, except where such remains might warrant preservation *in situ* or might better be investigated under the conditions appertaining to full excavation. All spoil heaps were to be monitored for artefacts. Archaeological features were to be investigated by hand.

Results

All the trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 3). They were 1.6m wide and were 10.0m and 5.10m in length and 0.50m to 1.50m in depth. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 4 and 5; Pls 1 and 3)

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 10m long and between 0.50 and 1.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of Tarmac overlying 0.17m of hardcore, this in turn overlay 0.13m of mid greyish brown sandy silt, this overlay the natural limestone geology. Three pits (1, 2 and 3) were uncovered in this trench.

Pit 1 was 0.90m deep and had steep convex sides and a rounded base, due to its location at the end of the trench the diameter could not be determined but it appears to be substantial. This pit's fill consisted of 3 separate deposits; the primary fill (54) was a pale greyish brown sandy clayey silt with frequent limestone inclusions. The secondary fill (53) was a mid greyish brown clayey sandy silt with frequent limestone inclusions, the tertiary fill (52) was a dark brownish grey clayey sandy silt with occasional limestone inclusions. No finds were recovered from this pit.

Pit 2 was approximately 2m in diameter, 0.75m deep and also contained three separate deposits (55, 56 and 59). The sides were steep and slightly concave and the base was slightly rounded. The primary fill (59) was a mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt with frequent limestone inclusions. The secondary fill (56) was a dark brownish grey sandy clayey silt with frequent small limestone inclusions. The tertiary fill (55) was a mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt with occasional limestone inclusions and contained fragments of bone and pottery dating from the 13th century.

Pit 3 was approximately 5m in diameter and as such was only partially excavated at this stage of works, it appeared to have very steep slightly concave sides and a flattish base. The part excavated contained two fills (57 and 58) and was 0.70m deep. The primary fill (58) was a dark brownish grey sandy clayey silt with frequent small limestone inclusions. The secondary fill (57) was a mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt with occasional limestone inclusions and contained fragments of bone and pottery dating from the 13th century. The relationship with pit 2 was unclear.

Trench 2 (Fig 3 and Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned N - S and was 5.1m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of Tarmac above 0.2m of hardcore overlying the natural geology. No archaeological deposits or finds were recovered.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 9 sherds with a total weight of 57g. It was recorded using the coding system of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (Mynard and Zeepvat 1992; Zeepvat *et al.* 1994), as follows:

RB: Roman. 2 sherds, 3g.

MS2: Medieval Sandy Ware, 12th – 14th century. 4 sherds, 33g.

MS9: Brill/Boarstall Ware. 1200-?1600. 2 sherds, 14g.

In addition, the following ware, not included in the Milton Keynes type-series, were noted:

OXAC: Cotswold-type ware, AD975-1350. Oxfordshire fabric OXAC (Mellor 1994). 1 sherd, 7g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 3. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region, other than the sherd of OXAC, which is common in Oxfordshire, but only tends to occur in the extreme west of Buckinghamshire, although it has been recorded (in some quantity) from Haddenham recently (Blinkhorn in Weale 2012). The sherd was from the rim of a jar. The rest of the medieval sherds were unglazed and probably also from jars, other than the sherds of MS9, which were from glazed jugs. This is also typical of sites in the region. Both the Roman sherds are clearly residual, and heavily abraded.

Animal Bone by Ceri Falys

A small amount of animal bone was recovered from two separate contexts within the evaluated area. A total of 19 pieces of bone were present for analysis, weighing 287g (Table 2). The surface preservation of the remains was generally good, although a moderate amount of fragmentation was present.

A minimum of three animal individuals were present within the assemblage: two large (one horse, one cow) and one medium sized animal. Both the horse and cow individuals were identified by single proximal phalanges (contexts 55 and 57, respectively). The medium sized animal was identified by five non-descript long bone shaft fragments in context (57). The species of origin was not able to be determined.

A pathological observation made on an unidentifiable large animal long bone shaft fragment in (55). New woven bone formation (grey in colour, porous and striated) was present indicating periosteal reaction. In humans, this observation is caused by inflammation of the periosteum (the tissue covering the outer layer of

bone), as the result of trauma or infection. A minimum of two transverse cut marks were also present on this piece of bone, suggesting butchery practices were performed.

No further information could be retrieved from this small assemblage of animal bone.

Conclusion

The results of the evaluation have shown that archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site. Trench 2 showed that the hardcore for the Tarmac lay directly on top of the natural geology suggesting that some intrusive groundworks may have taken place in the past, however due to the relatively shallow depth of the Tarmac and the depth of the features uncovered in Trench 1, it is likely that any archaeology, if present, may also survive in this area. Of the three pits found in Trench 1 two can be dated to the medieval period and from the similarity of form, it might be supposed that pit 1, although no finds were recovered, may also be medieval in date. These pits may be the result of medieval limestone quarrying, only secondarily used for rubbish disposal, however further work would need to be done to confirm this. Both pottery and animal bone survived, albeit in small quantities, in two of the pits.

It is clear from the evaluation that the site has a high archaeological potential and that these archaeological deposits will be affected by the development of the site.

References

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S and SW end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.0	1.6	0.50-1.50	0-0.10m Tarmac, 0.10-0.27m hardcore, 0.27-0.40m mid greyish brown sandy silt, 0.40m+ natural geology. Pits 1-3. [Pls 1 and 3]
2	5.10	1.6	0.50	0-0.10m Tarmac, 0.10-0.30m hardcore, 0.30m+ natural geology. No features. [Pl. 2]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

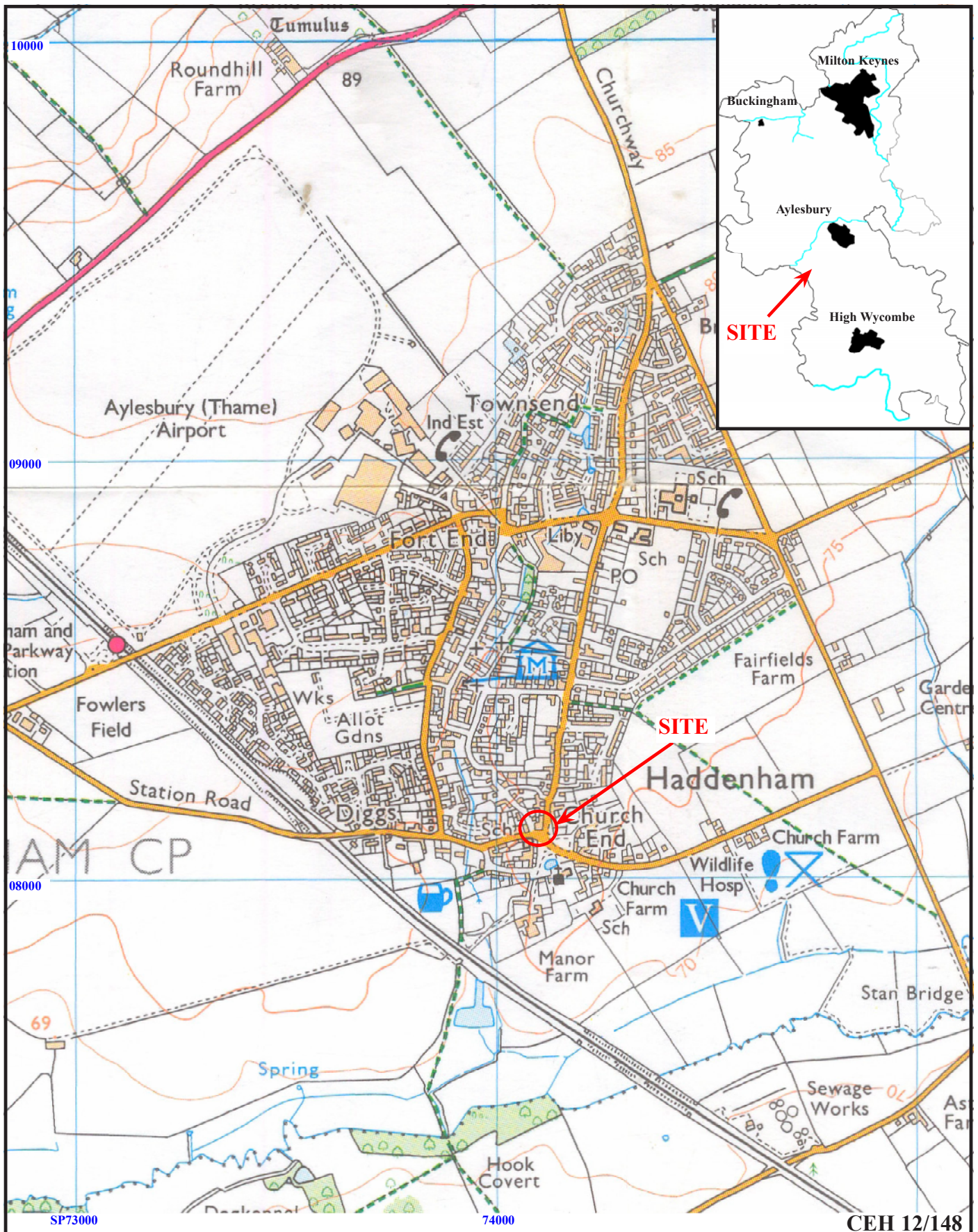
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	1	52, 53, 54	Pit		
1	2	55, 56, 59	Pit	C13th	Pottery
1	3	57, 58	Pit	C13th	Pottery

APPENDIX 3: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type.

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>RB</i>		<i>OXAC</i>		<i>MS2</i>		<i>BB</i>		<i>Date</i>
			<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	
1	2	55	1	2			1	5	1	7	13thC
1	3	57	1	1	1	7	3	28	1	7	13thC
		Total	2	3	1	7	4	33	2	14	

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of animal bone.

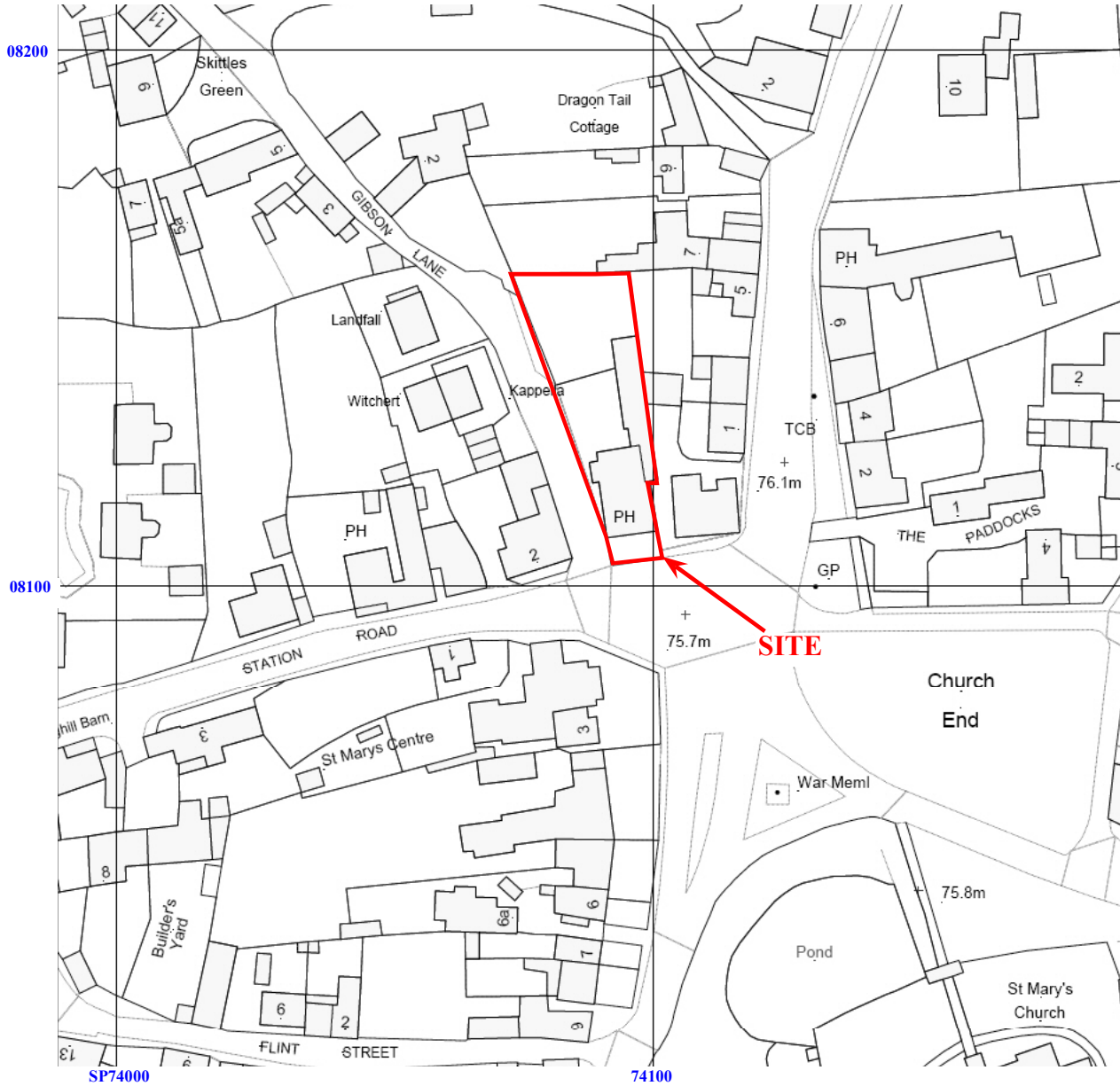
<i>Context</i>		<i>No. Frags</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Identified – by size category</i>			<i>Unidentifiable</i>
<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>			<i>Large</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Small</i>	
2	55	11	205	6 (horse)	5	-	-
3	57	8	82	2 (cow)	2	-	4
Total (MNI)		19	287	1 horse 1 cow	1 unidentified medium sized animal	-	-



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Figure 1. Location of site within Haddenham and Buckinghamshire.

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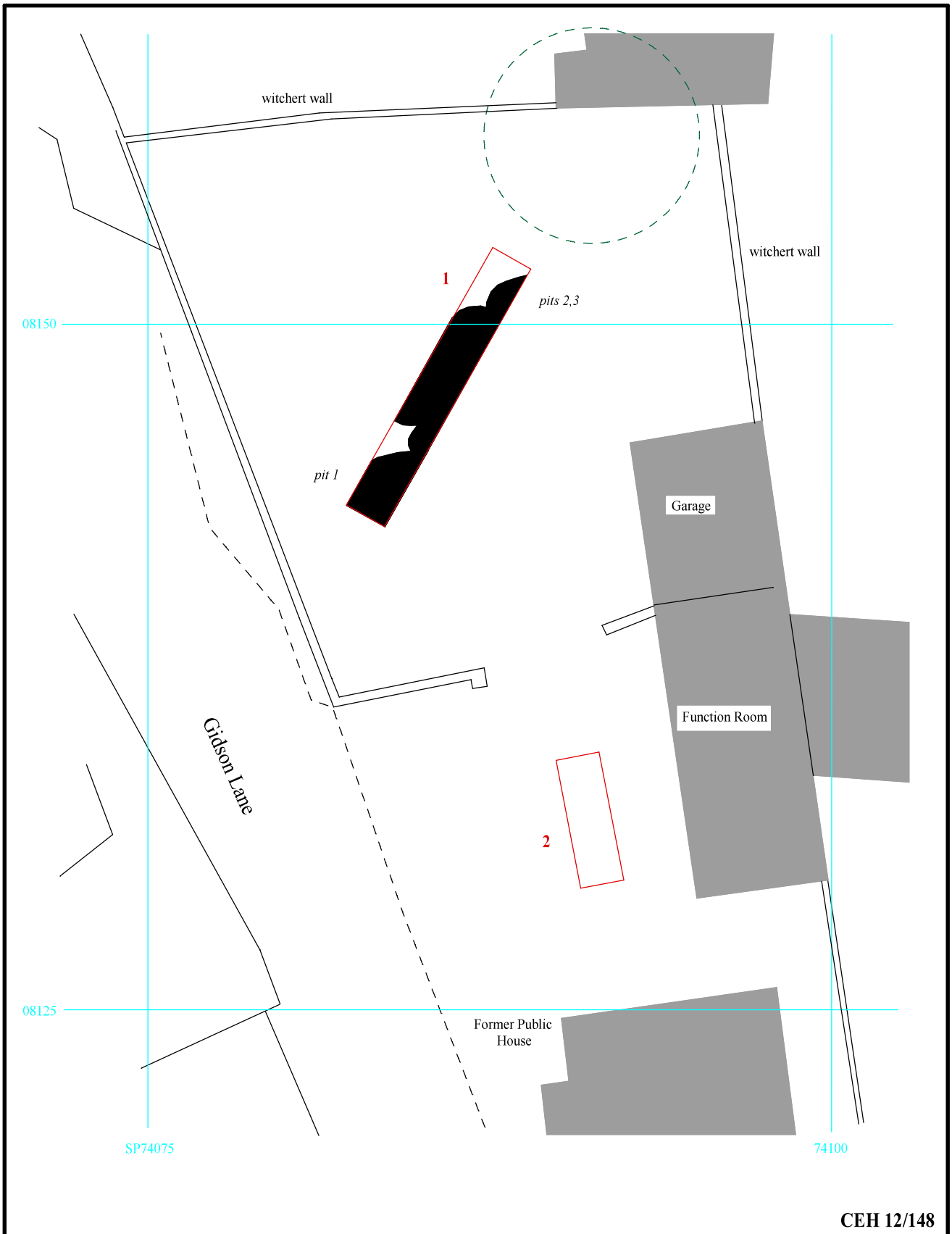


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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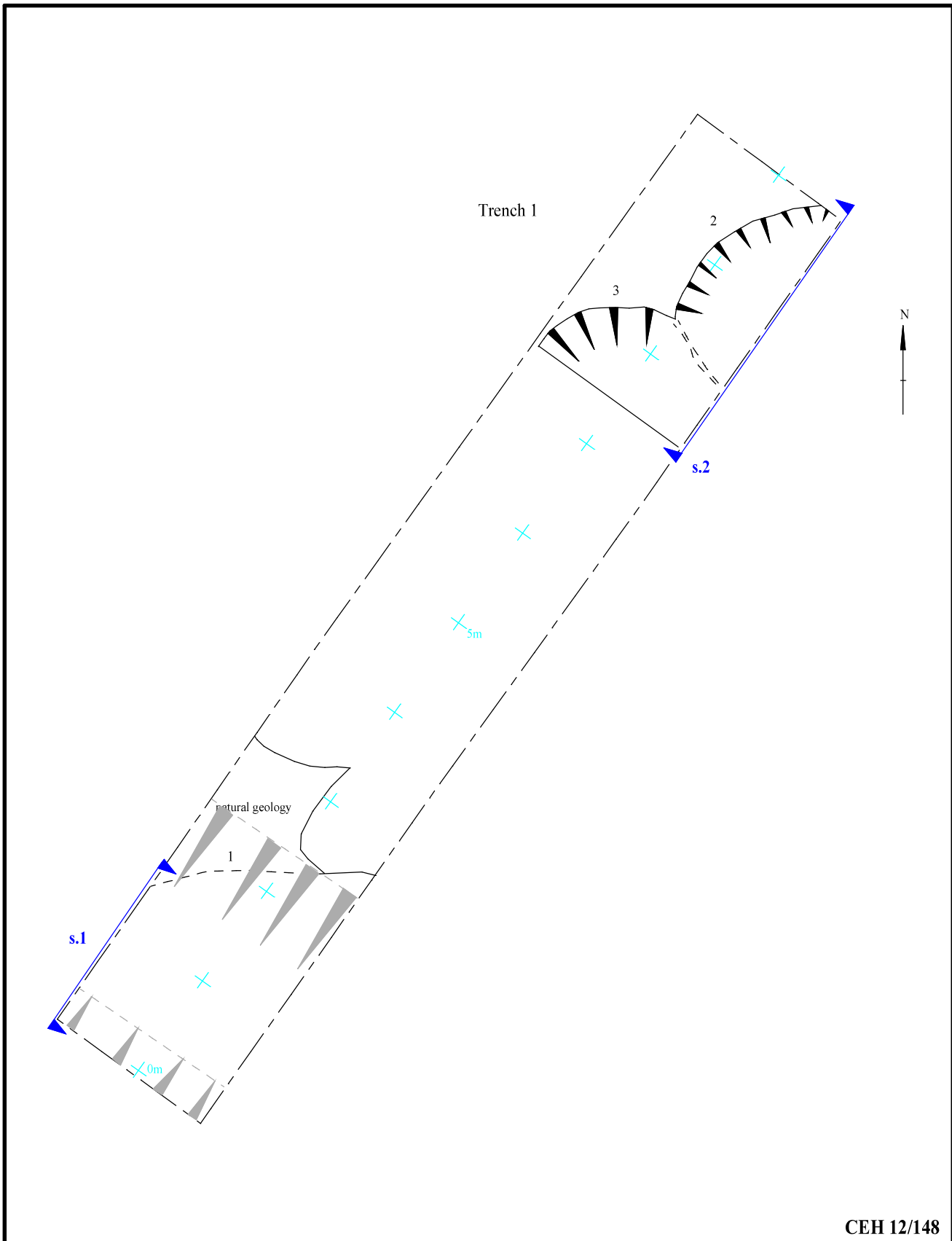
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Figure 4. Detail of Trench 1.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 3. Trench 1, pit 1, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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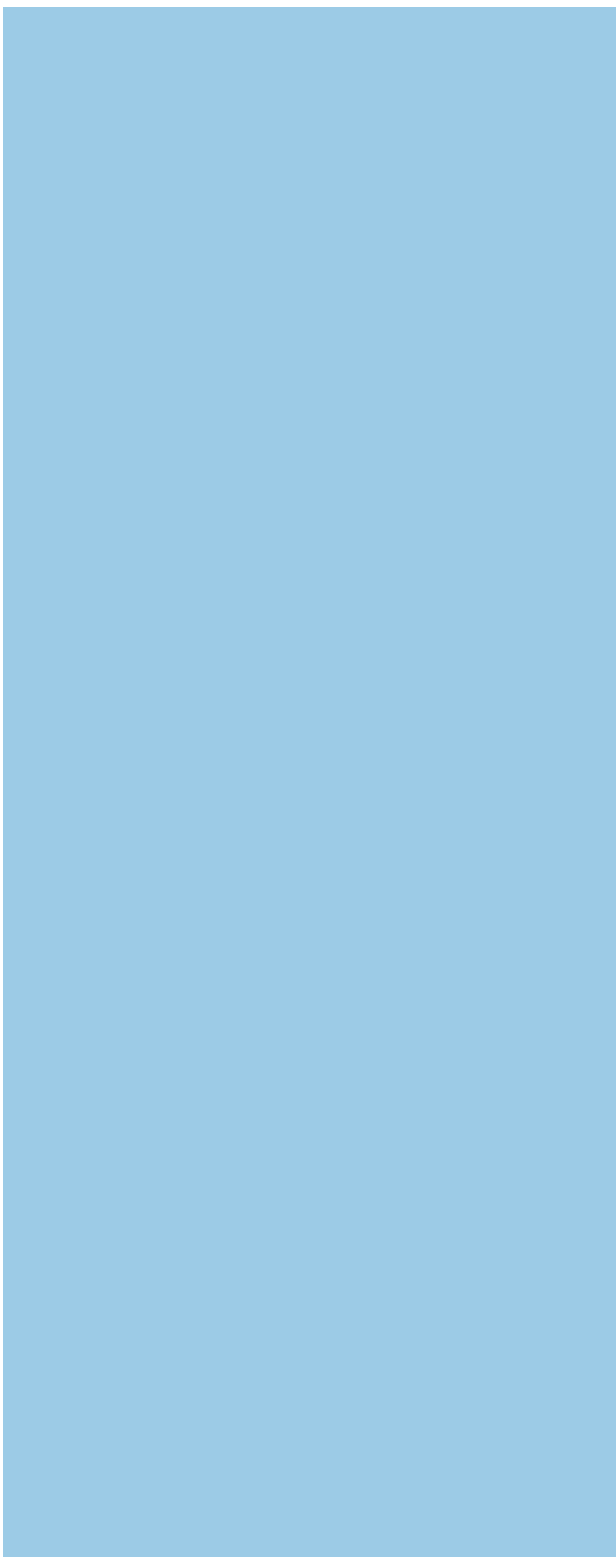
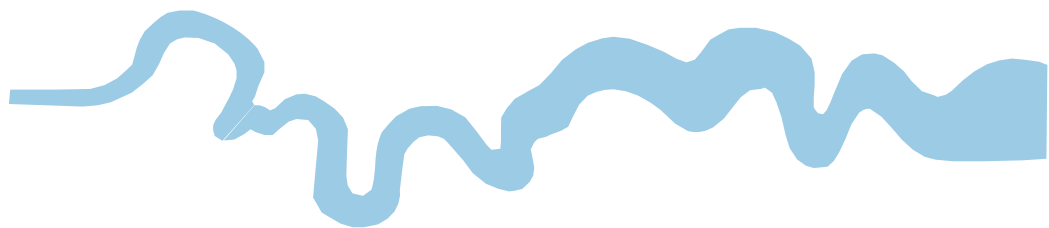
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Plates 1 - 3.

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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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