

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at West End, Warfield,
North Bracknell, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt and Joanna Pine

Site Code: NBB10/69

(SU 8684 7112)

Land at West End, Warfield, North Bracknell, Berkshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Berkeley Homes**

by David Platt and Jo Pine
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code NBB10/69

October 2013

Summary

Site name: Land at West End, Warfield, North Bracknell, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8684 7112

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 30th September – 10th October 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford/Jo Pine

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: NBB10/69

Summary of results: No finds or features of archaeological significance were found. It is considered that the proposed new road corridor and stream side zone have no archaeological potential

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a local museum willing to accept it.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 17.10.13 Steve Preston✓ 18.10.13
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Land at West End, Warfield, North Bracknell, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt and Jo Pine

Report 10/69

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land located at Park Farm, West End, Warfield, North Bracknell, Berkshire (SU 8684 7112) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Elkie Lees, for Berkeley Homes, Berkeley House, Farnham Lane, Farnham Royal, SL2 3RQ. Planning permission is to be sought from Bracknell Forest Borough Council to construct new housing on the site. Information relating to archaeology is required to accompany the hybrid planning application for spatially fixed components of the overall scheme layout. These components comprised a proposed main link road aligned north-south at the eastern margins of the site, and areas of proposed balancing ponds adjacent to a stream known as The Cut.

This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona Macdonald, Principal Archaeologist for Berkshire Archaeology, advising the Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt, Joanna Pine and Kyle Beaverstock between 30th September and 10th October 2013, and the site code is NBB10/69. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a local museum willing to accept it in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site as a whole is located on the northern edge of Bracknell and is bordered to the north by the B3034, the south by Harvest Ride, to the east by a bridle way and by farmland and woodland to the west (Fig. 1). However, the fieldwork detailed below was located at the eastern end of the site. The latter areas were currently used as grazing land with temporary horse paddocks arranged within it. The area is split down the middle by The Cut, a canalized stream which runs from north to south. The site is approximately 55m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology in the majority of the site is London Clay with the exception of the north of the site in the area of The Cut which is floodplain gravel (BGS 1981), both of these geologies were observed in the trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Wallis 2010). In summary the site lies in an area of moderate to high archaeological potential with significant archaeological deposits of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date being found during archaeological projects to the south (Torrance and Durden; 2003; Lowe 2013) and west (Roberts 1995). Surface finds of prehistoric flintwork and Roman/medieval pottery are also recorded for the site itself (Ford 1987). Of particular note is the presence of a Roman site to the north-west on Cabbage Hill (Mees 1989). Part of the overall proposal site, mainly to the south, has been previously evaluated (Ford 1989) with Roman and Bronze Age deposits located just to the south and flintwork of Mesolithic date also present.

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 were;

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any deposits representing late Saxon or medieval deposits are present, and if so their date and nature; and
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

Twenty-five trenches were to be dug, each 30m in length and 2m wide and targeted at the two infrastructure zones. The work was to be carried out by a 360⁰ tracked excavator fitted with a ditching bucket and constantly supervised by an archaeologist. All spoil heaps were to be monitored and all possible archaeological deposits were to be hand cleaned and excavated.

Results

All 25 trenches were dug (Figs 2 and 3) and these ranged from 28.50 to 34.50m in length, between 1.6–1.8m in width and between 0.28–0.57m in depth. Due to some difficulty of access, both a JCB-type machine and a tracked excavator were used. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

The trenches varied slightly in stratigraphy. Trenches 1, 2, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21-24 showed a subsoil layer below the topsoil (Fig. 4; Pl. 2). This subsoil was a light brown yellow silty sand and overlay the natural geology

(which varied in each trench; see Appendix 1 for details). Trench 12 showed topsoil overlying made ground onto a buried soil onto clay geology which contained occasional gravel inclusions (Fig. 4). The remainder of the trenches showed topsoil directly onto natural geology with no subsoil present (Pl. 1). A small number of trenches showed features and deposits worthy of investigation (Appendix 2), these were all either of dubious human origin or late post-medieval/early modern in date.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned north- south and was 32m long and between 0.36m-0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil (only in the northern half of the trench) onto a mid yellow brown clay with frequent gravel natural geology. An ephemeral linear feature (2) on a NW-SE alignment was very shallow (0.06m deep)(Fig. 4) and is of dubious archaeological origin.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned north-south and was 32m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying a light reddish brown clay natural geology. A shallow gully (1) was recorded on an east-west alignment. It was 0.50m wide and 0.10-0.15m deep (Fig. 4). It contained two sherds of late post-medieval stoneware, a piece of clinker, a fragment of slate and two pieces of tile (retained on site).

Trench 18

Trench 18 was aligned north- south and was 32m long and between 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying a light reddish brown silty clay with gravel patches (natural geology). A late post-medieval/early modern ditch was observed from which factory-produced brick was observed (retained on site).

Trenches 17 and 19

Trenches 17 and 19 showed a layer of made ground below the topsoil; aligned approximately north-south along the northern part of trench 17 and southern part of trench 19. This material deepened to the west; with natural geology below the topsoil to the east in these particular end of the trenches. This made ground material is likely infill intended to build the land up; these trenches are positioned on ground sloping down from east to west, on a north-south axis close to the present course of The Cut. It is likely these trenches are positioned on the edge of the stream valley and the infill has been used to level this area. The made ground contained modern brick (retained on site).

Conclusion

The evaluation trenching has revealed a small number of deposits cut into the natural geology, but on investigation these were revealed to be either late post-medieval or modern in date, or of likely geological or biological origin. No artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered. On the basis of these results the areas evaluated appear to have no archaeological potential.

References

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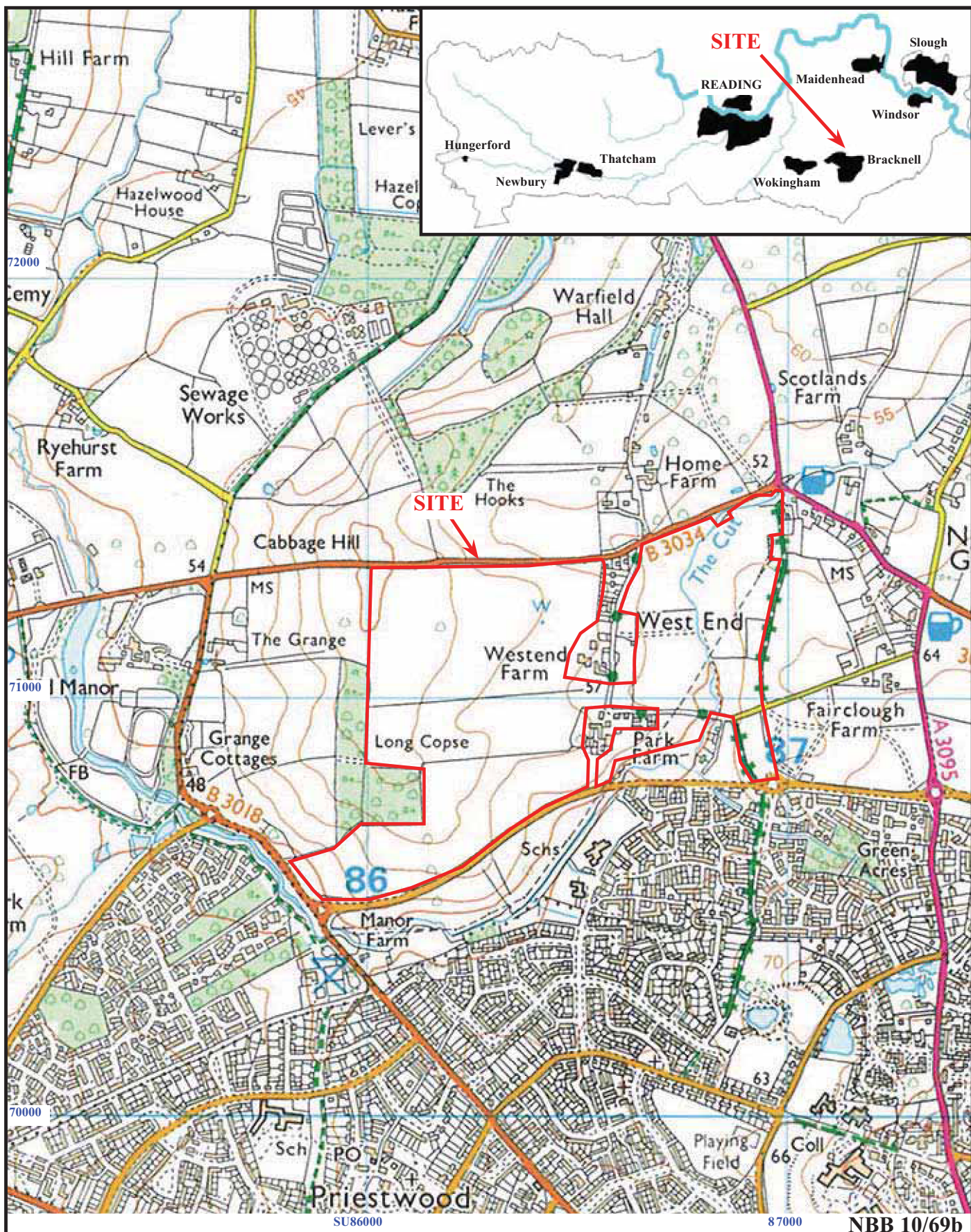
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S, SE, SW end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	32	1.8	0.40	0–0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.36m light brownish yellow silty sand subsoil; 0.36m+ red-yellow silty sand and grey yellow clay with gravel patches natural geology. [Pl. 1]
2	32	1.8	0.36-0.40	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.38m light brownish yellow silty sand subsoil; 0.38m+ clay with frequent gravel inclusions natural geology. Ditch [1] post medieval
3	32	1.8	0.28	0–0.22m topsoil; 0.22m+ yellow brown grey clay natural geology.
4	32	1.8	0.35	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28m+ light reddish brown clay natural geology geological linear? [2].
5	32	1.8	0.38	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28m+ light reddish yellow clay natural geology. [Pl. 2]
6	32	1.8	0.34	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28m+ light red and yellow clay natural geology.
7	32	1.8	0.38	0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32m+ mid reddish brown clay natural geology.
8	32	1.8	0.40	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28m+ mid reddish brown clay natural geology.
9	32	1.8	0.38	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28m+ light reddish brown clay natural geology.
10	35	1.6	0.40	0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ light red yellow clay natural geology.
11	28.5	1.6	0.30	0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27m+ mid brown clay natural geology.
12	32.2	1.6	0.50	0–0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.33m grey brown clay sand made ground with frequent gravel inclusions; 0.33-0.48m dark brown grey clay silt buried topsoil; 0.48m+ natural London Clay geology.
13	34	1.6	0.66	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.56m light brownish yellow silty sand, 0.55m+ gravel with patches of light red brown clay [Pl. 3]
14	33	1.6	0.50	0–0.39m topsoil; 0.39-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m+ mid grey brown clay with gravel patches.
15	32	1.8	0.40	South end: 0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35m+ light reddish brown silty clay natural geology. Northern end: 0-0.28 topsoil; 0.28+Madeground.
16	35	1.6	0.57	0–0.37m topsoil; 0.37-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ light grey brown sandy gravel and clay natural geology.
17	32	1.8	0.54	0–0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.44m subsoil; 0.44m+ light yellow silty clay natural geology.
18	32	1.6	0.45	0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29m+ light red brown silty clay with gravel patches natural geology.
19	32	1.8	0.50	South end: 0–0.28m topsoil; 0.35m+ light reddish brown clay natural geology. Northern end: 0-0.28 topsoil; 0.28+Madeground
20	34.50	1.6	0.50	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.47m subsoil; 0.47m+ mid grey brown clay with yellow red sandy clay patches natural geology.
21	35	1.6	0.56	0–0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ natural gravel geology with clay patches. [Pl. 4]
22	32	1.8	0.54	0–0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ mid red brown clay with patches of gravel natural geology.
23	32	1.8	0.52	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.50m subsoil, 0.50m+ mid red brown clay with patches of gravel natural geology
24	35	1.6	0.50	0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35m+ 0.50m+ light red brown clay with patches of gravel natural geology
25	33.30	1.6	0.50	0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ mid red brown clay with patches of gravel natural geology

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
2	2	53	Linear (geological)	No date	-
4	1	52	Gully	Late post-medieval /early modern	Pottery, clinker, slate



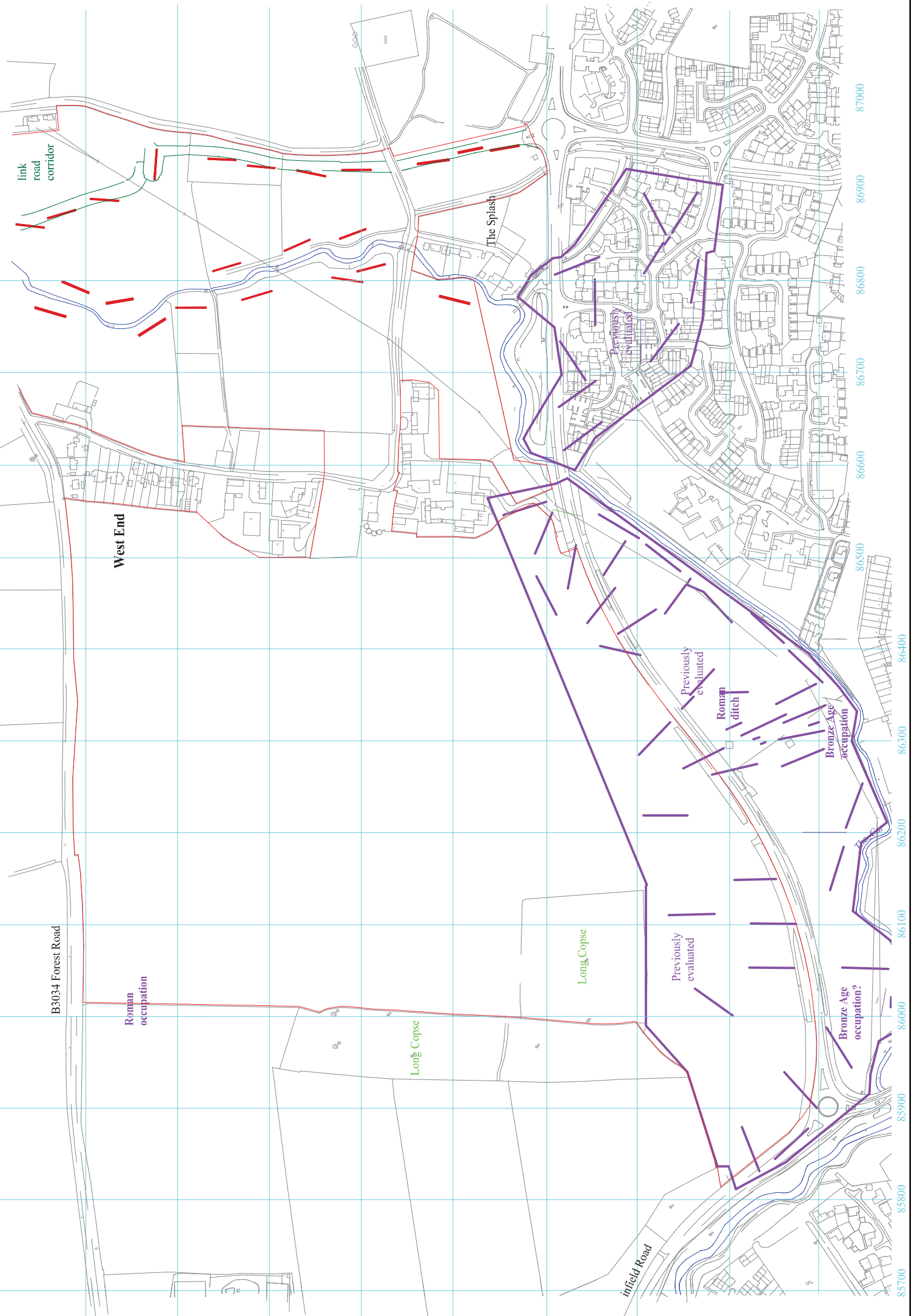
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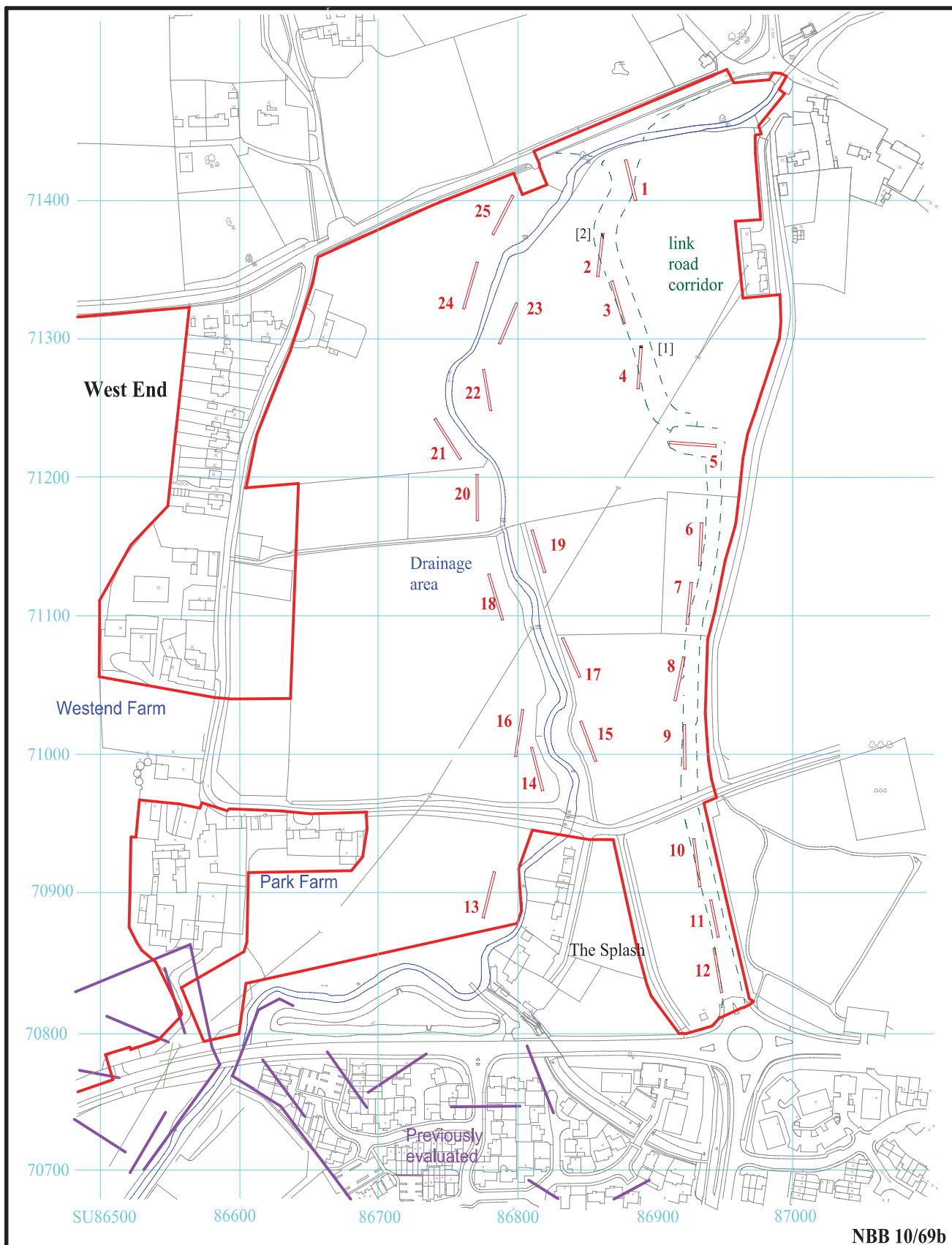
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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to North Bracknell and
West End and within Berkshire.

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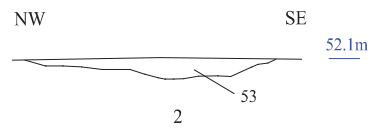
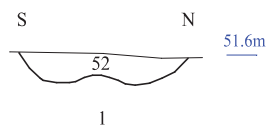
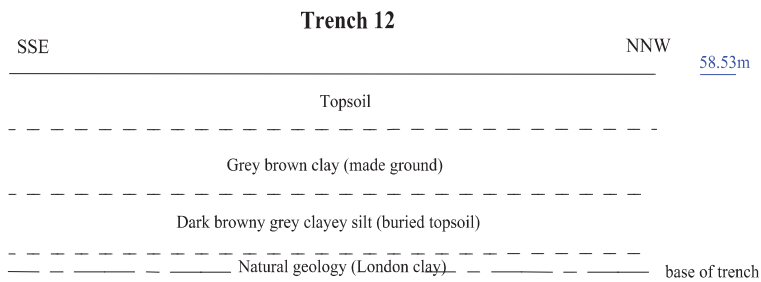
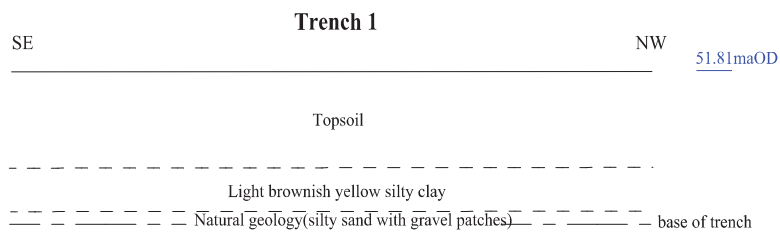
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Figure 3. Detailed location of trenches at eastern side of the site.

0 100m

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Figure 4. Representative sections and recorded sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 5, looking south west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 13, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 21, looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

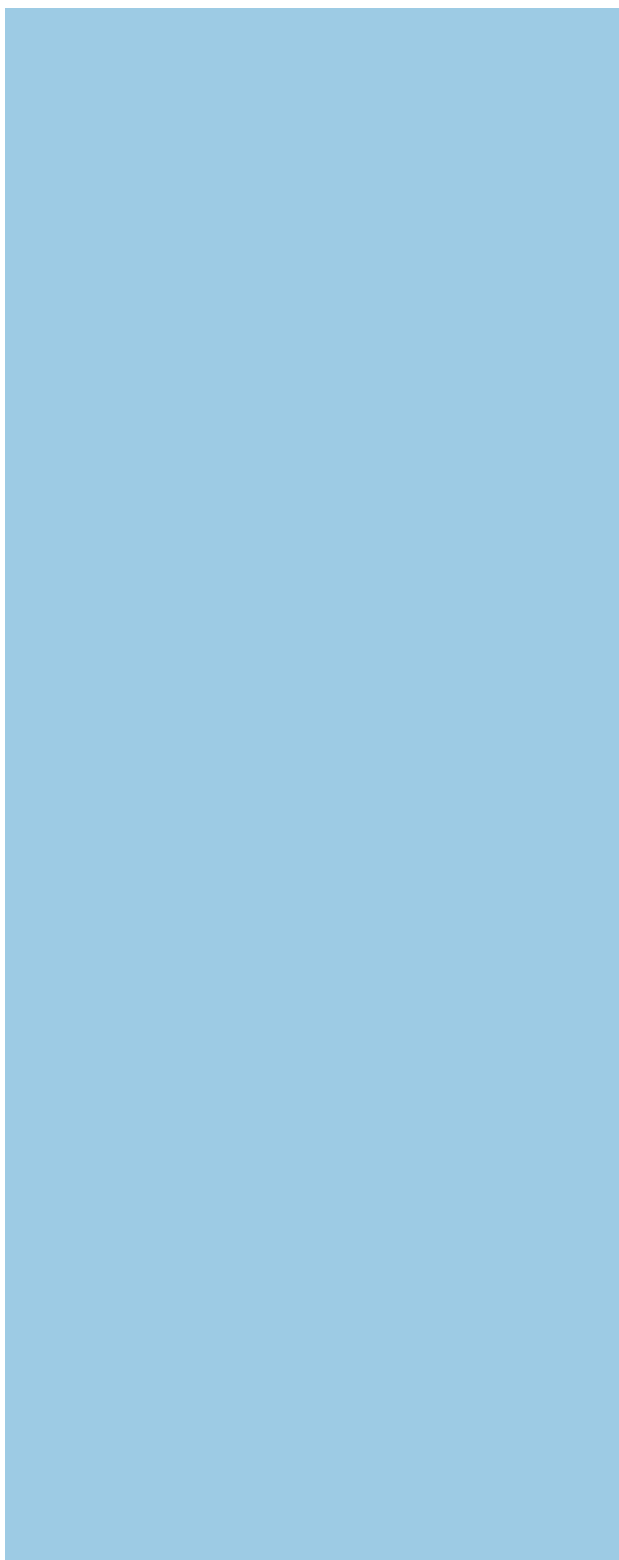
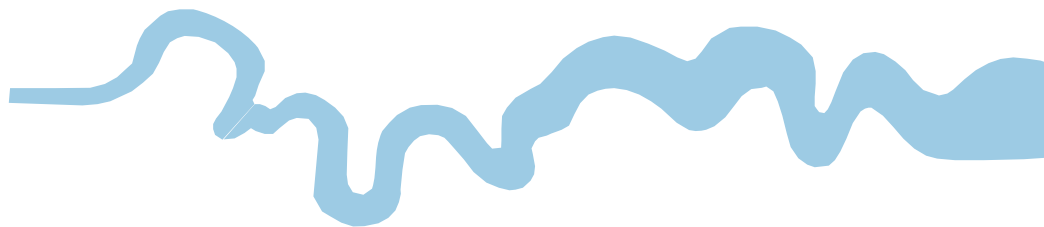
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Plates 3 - 4.**

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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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