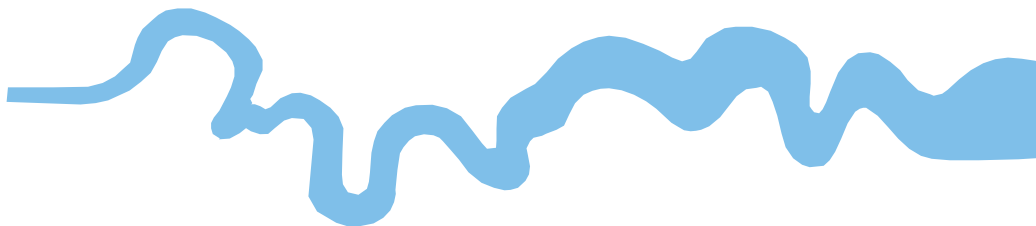


T V A S



SOUTH WEST

**Quarry 4, Blacklands, Acton,
Langton Matravers, Dorset**

Archaeological Recording Action

by Nicholas Dawson

Site Code: BAD12/78

(SY 8815 7775)

Quarry 4, Blacklands, Acton, Langton Matravers, Dorset

An Archaeological Recording Action

for Lovell Purbeck

by Nicholas Dawson

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BAD 12/78

July 2018

Summary

Site name: Quarry 4, Blacklands, Acton, Langton Matravers, Dorset

Grid reference: SY 8815 7775

Site activity: Archaeological Recording Action

Date and duration of project: 28th June 2018

Project manager: Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Site supervisor: Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Site code: BAD 12/78

Area of site: 0.15 hectares

Summary of results: No archaeological features were uncovered. Three flints were recovered from topsoil.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited at Corfe Castle Museum.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 09.07.18 Steve Preston ✓ 09.07.18

Quarry 4, Blacklands, Acton, Langton Matravers, Dorset An Archaeological Recording Action

by Nicholas Dawson

Report 12/78a

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Quarry 4, Blacklands, Dorset (ST 9915 7775) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Nick Dunn of Land and Mineral Management Ltd, The Roundhouse Cottages, Bridge Street, Frome, Somerset BA11 1BE on behalf of Mr Simon Hart, Lovell Purbeck Ltd, Downs Quarry, Langton Matravers, Dorset BH19 3JP.

Planning permission (06/2012/006) has been gained from Dorset County Council to extract mineral from a c. 0.8ha of land in Blacklands Field to the south of Priest's Way and south of Langton Matravers, Dorset. The consent includes a condition (18) relating to archaeology, as guided by *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010) and the County Council Mineral Policies, that states "The programme of archaeological works, including the watching brief during all topsoil stripping, in accordance with the scheme submitted with the letter dated 13 April 2005 from Land & Mineral Management and approved by this Authority by letter dated 8 June 2005, shall be complied with at all times." It is acknowledged that NPPF (2012) has superseded PPS5.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Agata Socha-Paszkiewicz, Nicholas Dawson and Piotr Wrobel, on 28th June 2018 and the site code is BAD 12/78. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services South West, Taunton and will be deposited at Corfe Castle Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the southern edge of the village of Acton within the parish of Langton Matravers. 3km to the north east lies the village of Langton Matraver and 3.7km to the east the coastal town of Swanage. The site lies towards the south side of the Isle of Purbeck near the top of a limestone plateau at 130m above Ordnance Datum. The plateau slopes gently off towards the north east and 1km to the south it drops sharply as cliffs in the English Channel. The new quarry sits on and within an area of pastoral farmland. The underlying geology is Cretaceous Limestone part of the Stair Hole Member with no superficial deposits (BGS 2001).

Archaeological background

A desk-based study, and an evaluation (Papworth 2004) have detailed the archaeological background for the site and its environs. In summary, the existing Blacklands quarry just to the west of the proposal area was archaeologically monitored in the 1940s and evidence of Iron Age and Roman occupation associated with the working of Kimmeridge Shale was uncovered. The 13-trench evaluation of the proposal site and fields to the east uncovered a low density of archaeological deposits. Four trenches (A-D) were dug in the proposal field with only trench A at its south-eastern end revealing possible occupation evidence in the form of a pit (not excavated) with late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pottery on its surface; spreads or possible other cut features (planned but not excavated) containing prehistoric pottery and charcoal further to the south. Worked flint was found in the plough soil. Fieldwalking, and fieldwork during excavation of the other trenches to the east found concentrations of worked flint. In trench K c. 200m to the NE of the current quarry area a concentration of Roman pottery and flints were associated with ditches and pit (not excavated). Subsequent geophysical survey suggested an enclosure of 80m by 20m in extent.

An archaeological recording action was also undertaken by Thames Valley Archaeological Services on the previous phase of Quarry 4 (Weale and Bray 2014) situated immediately to the south of the current area. This work revealed a single gully containing pottery of Late Iron Age or Roman date.

Objectives and methodology

The general objectives of the project were to excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas affected by the extraction. This involved examination of all areas stripped of overburden, amounting in this instance to just under 0.1ha.

Topsoil and overburden were removed by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket to expose the uppermost surface of archaeological deposits. Following machine clearance, all investigation of archaeological levels was by hand. All archaeological features were planned and sectioned as a minimum objective. Linear features such as field boundaries were to be sampled at a minimum of 5%. All termini were to be examined.

Results

No features of an archaeological nature were identified though three flints were recovered from the topsoil during the strip. Three land drains running north south were identified one of which was investigated with a small section confirming its purpose as a land drain.

The excavated feature, with dating evidence, is summarized in Appendix 1.

Finds

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

Two prehistoric struck flints flake was recovered from the site during topsoil stripping. These comprised a flake and a core. The core was patinated white whereas the flake was patinated light blue in small patches. Neither pieces is chronologically distinctive and only a broad Neolithic or Bronze Age date can be suggested.

Conclusion

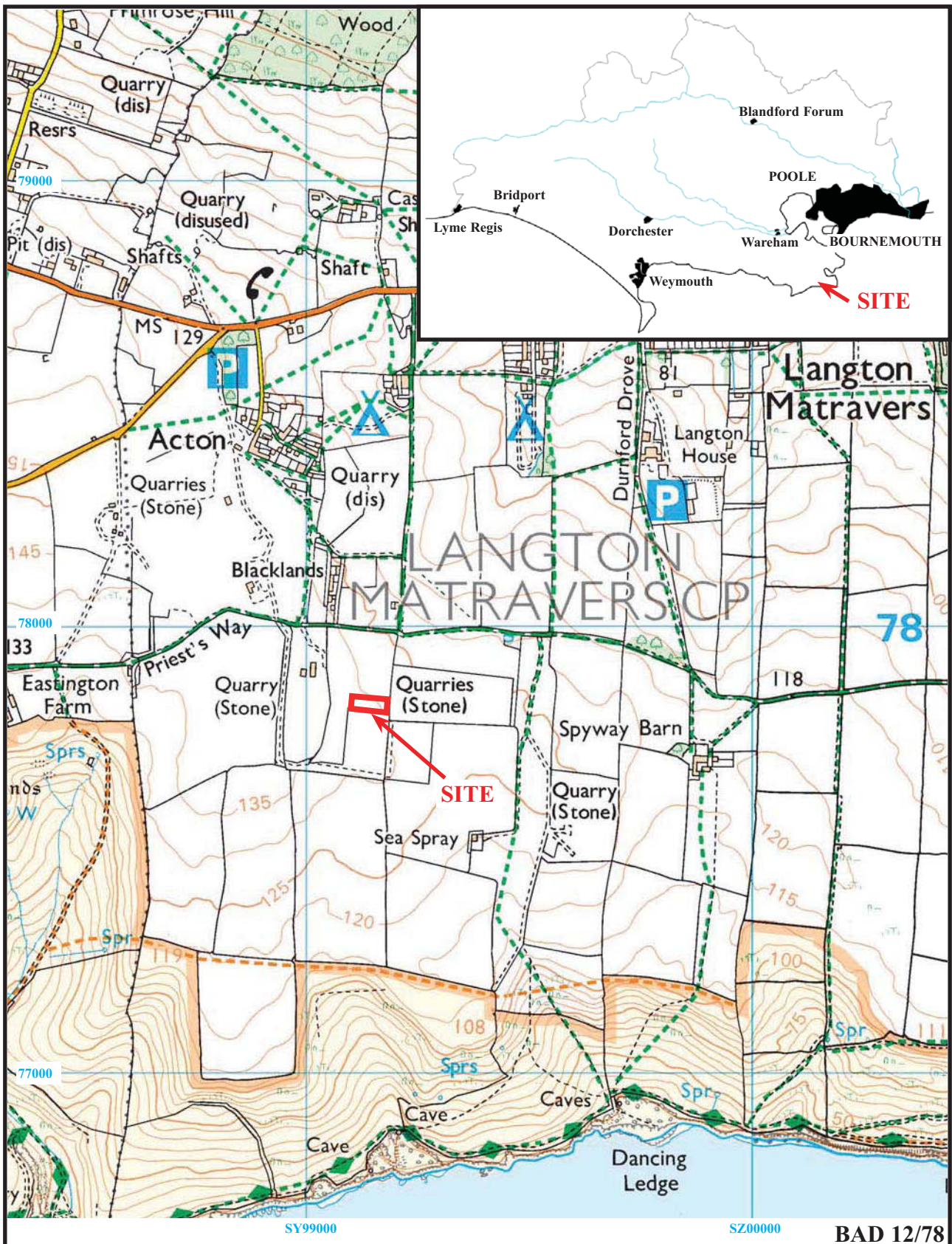
While no archaeological features were recorded within the phase II area the surface finds of three flints and previous archaeological work has shown that there is prehistoric and Roman activity within the surrounding area.

References

- BGS, 2001, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 343, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Papworth, M, 2004, 'Archaeological Evaluation Trenches, Blacklands, Langton Matravers', National Trust. Corfe
- Weale, A, and Bray, D, 2014, 'Quarry 4 Blacklands, Acton, Langton Matravers, Dorset: An Archaeological Recording Action', Thames Valley Archaeology Services unpubl rep 12/78, Taunton

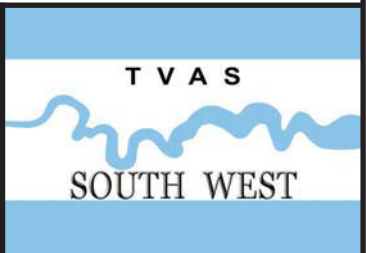
APPENDIX 1: Feature details

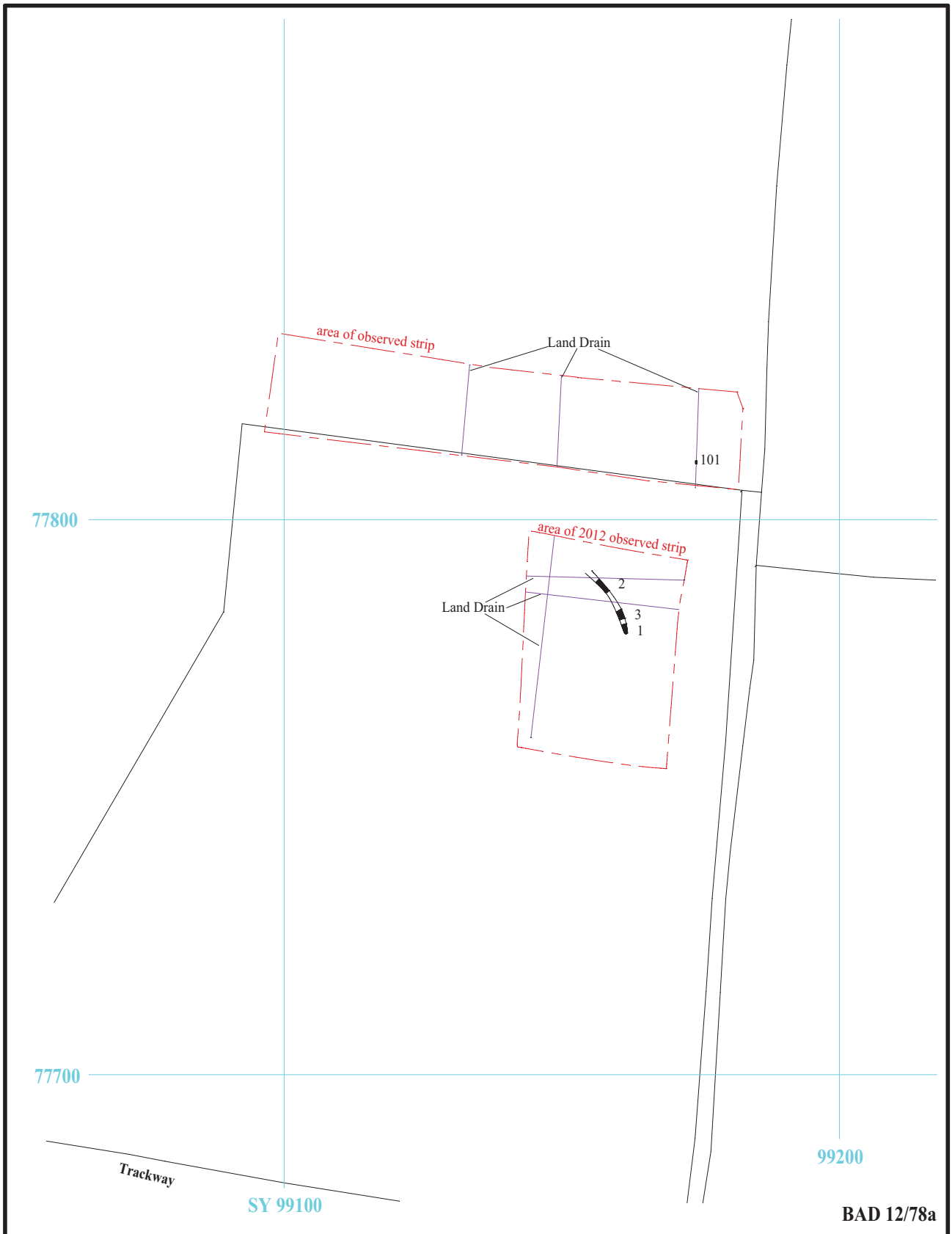
<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill(s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
101	150, 151	Land Drain	undated	



**Quarry 4, Blacklands, Acton,
Langton Matravers, Dorset, 2018
Archaeological Recording Action**
Figure 1. Location of site within Acton and Dorset.

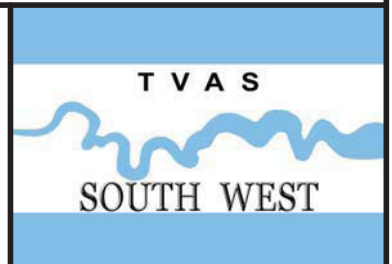
Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500
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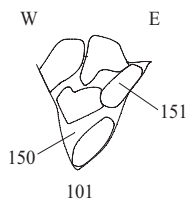




**Quarry 4, Blacklands, Acton,
Langton Matravers, Dorset, 2018
Archaeological Recording Action phase II**

Figure 2. Site plan.





BAD 12/78a

**Quarry 4, Blacklands, Acton,
Langton Matravers, Dorset, 2018
Archaeological Recording Action phase II**

Figure 4. Section.

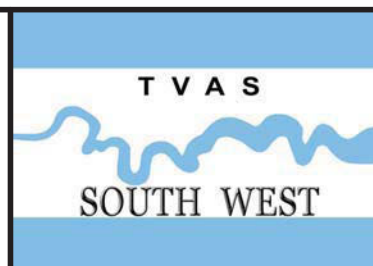




Plate 1. Area stripped, looking East.



Plate 2. Land drain 101, looking North, Scales: 0.5m and 0.2m.

BAD 12/78a

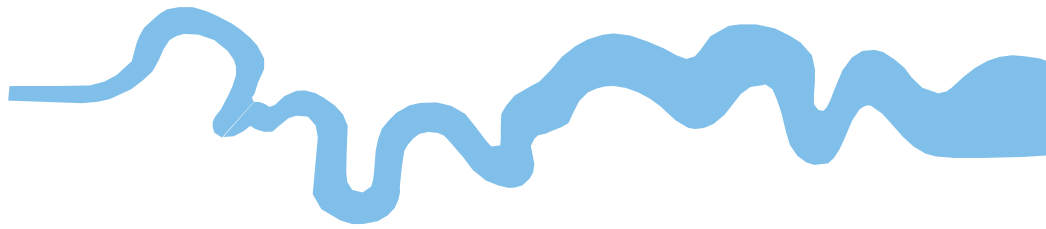
**Quarry 4, Blacklands, Acton,
Langton Matravers, Dorset, 2018**
Archaeological Recording Action phase II
Plates 1 and 2.



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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