

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**New stable block, Lambs farm, Back lane,  
Swallowfield, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Aidan Colyer**

**Site Code: LFS18/164**

**(SU 7154 6541)**

# **New stable block, Lambs Farm, Back Lane, Swallowfield, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For JP Winkworth Limited**

by Aidan Colyer

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LFS 18/164

**October 2018**

## Summary

**Site name:** New stable block, Lambs farm, Back lane, Swallowfield, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 7153 6537

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 16th October 2018

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** Aidan Colyer

**Site code:** LFS 18/164

**Area of site:** 144 sq m

**Summary of results:** No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed present.

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 24.10.18
	Steve Preston✓ 24.10.18

# **New stable block, lambs farm, Back lane, Swallowfield, Berkshire**

## **An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Aidan Colyer

**Report 18/164**

### **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Lambs Farm, Back lane, Swallowfield, Berkshire RG7 1PQ (SU 7153 6537) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Libby Reynolds of Robert Davies John West Ltd, The Courtyard, 59 Church Street, Staines upon Thames, Middlesex, TW18 4XS, on behalf of JP Winkworth Limited, Estates Office, Lambs Farm Business Park, Basingstoke Road, Swallowfield, Berks RG7 1PQ.

Planning permission (181939) has been granted by Wokingham Borough Council for the construction of a new stable block. The permission is subject to a condition (5) which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018) and the Council's policies on archaeology. It was determined that this should take the form of a watching brief on the footings for the new stable block. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona Macdonald of Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisers to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Aidan Colyer on 16th October 2018. The site code is LFS 18/164.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate museum service or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

### **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located at the southern end of Swallowfield, a village south of Reading, Berkshire (Fig. 1). The land is currently in use as a small paddock adjacent to modern structures including early 21st century buildings. The site of the new stable block is south of the main range of buildings of Lambs Farm (Fig. 2). Geologically the site lies on an outcrop of London clay (BGS 2000). This was not observed on site due to the shallow depth of the footings.

## **Archaeological background**

Due to the site's location within the archaeologically rich Loddon valley the potential for archaeological finds is high. A range of finds from prehistoric, and later, periods have been discovered within the general area (Ford 1994-7, Gates 1975). To the north of the site several Iron Age and Roman sites have been excavated (Ford *et al.* 2011; Milbank 2010; Taylor and Dawson 2017; ). Further work to the south in Riseley has examined components of an Iron Age and Roman cropmark complex (Lobb and Morris 1973). More recent work in Riseley and Heckfield has uncovered Middle and Late Iron Age occupation (Taylor 2018; NEHHAS 2018). More immediately relevant to the current site, Iron Age to Roman occupation has been recorded in Spencer's Wood not far to the north (Stevens 2005).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks associated with the demolition and removal of existing structures as well as those for the new development. This was expected to involve monitoring of grubbing out of existing foundations and hard standing, foundation trench digging and other intrusive groundworks such as the excavation of service trenches and overburden removal.

## **Results**

The foundations were excavated with a small tracked digger using a narrow toothless bucket. All spoil was removed to the edge of the site. The foundation trenches were a maximum of 0.35m in depth although the majority of the trenches were 0.3m in depth. The entire rectangle of the trench was 24.8m on the long side and 5.8m on the short side (externally) (Fig. 3).

The trenching depth was not enough to expose natural geology across the majority of the site, removing only topsoil overlying subsoil (Pls 1 and 2). The areas that were exposed were minimal, although they contained no archaeology. A darker patch was observed in the middle of the northern footing, which was part of a tree bole. This contained modern roof tile so was not excavated. No finds of interest were noted in the spoilheaps.

## **Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

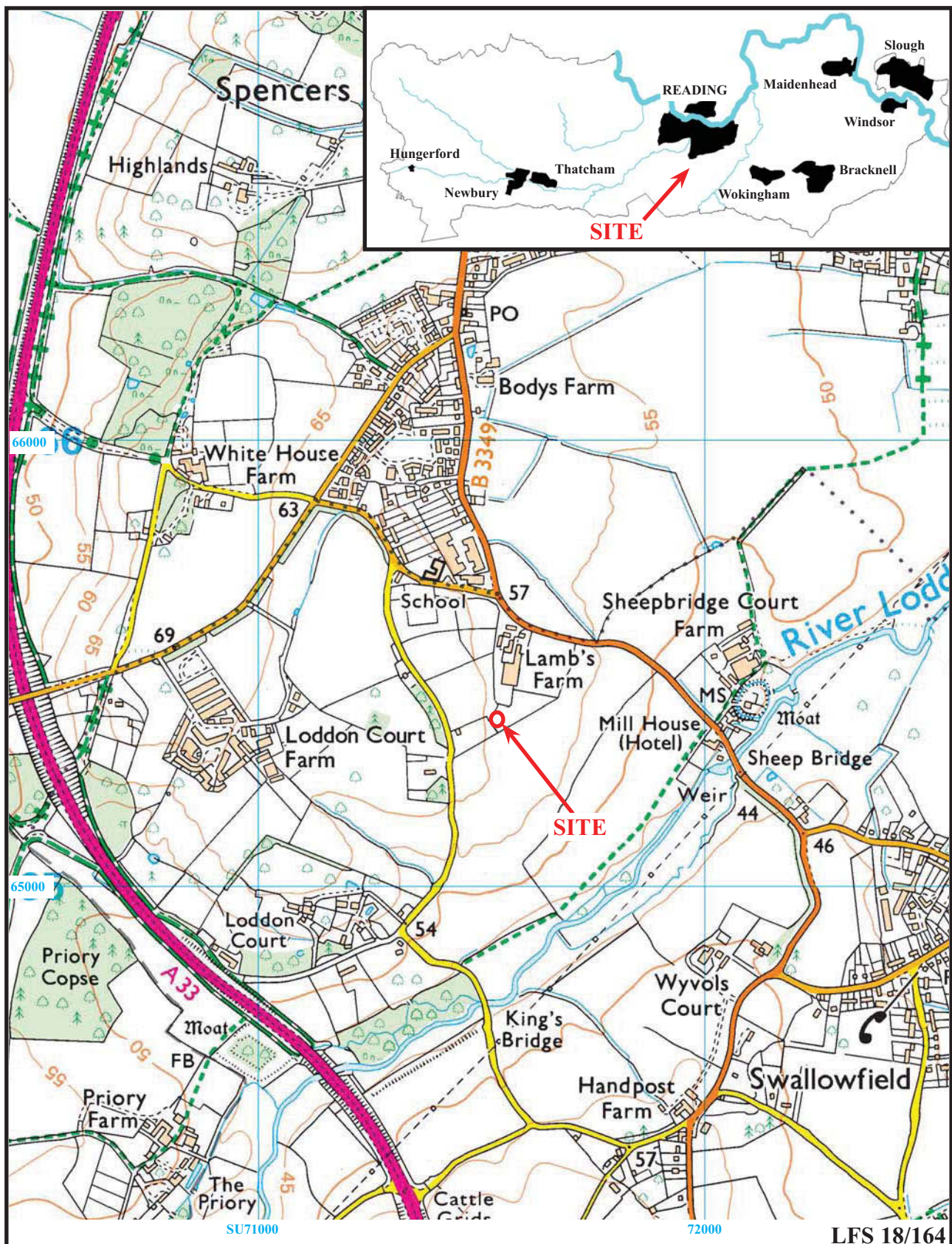
## Conclusion

Desite being located within an area with an abundance of recorded archaeology, The modest scale of the groundworks here did not reveal any finds or features of archaeological interest. The shallowness of the excavations meant that the archaeologically relevant level was not exposed in the majority of the site.

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**New Stable Block, Lambs Farm, Back Lane,  
Swallowfield, Wokingham, Berkshire, 2018  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Swallowfield and Berkshire.

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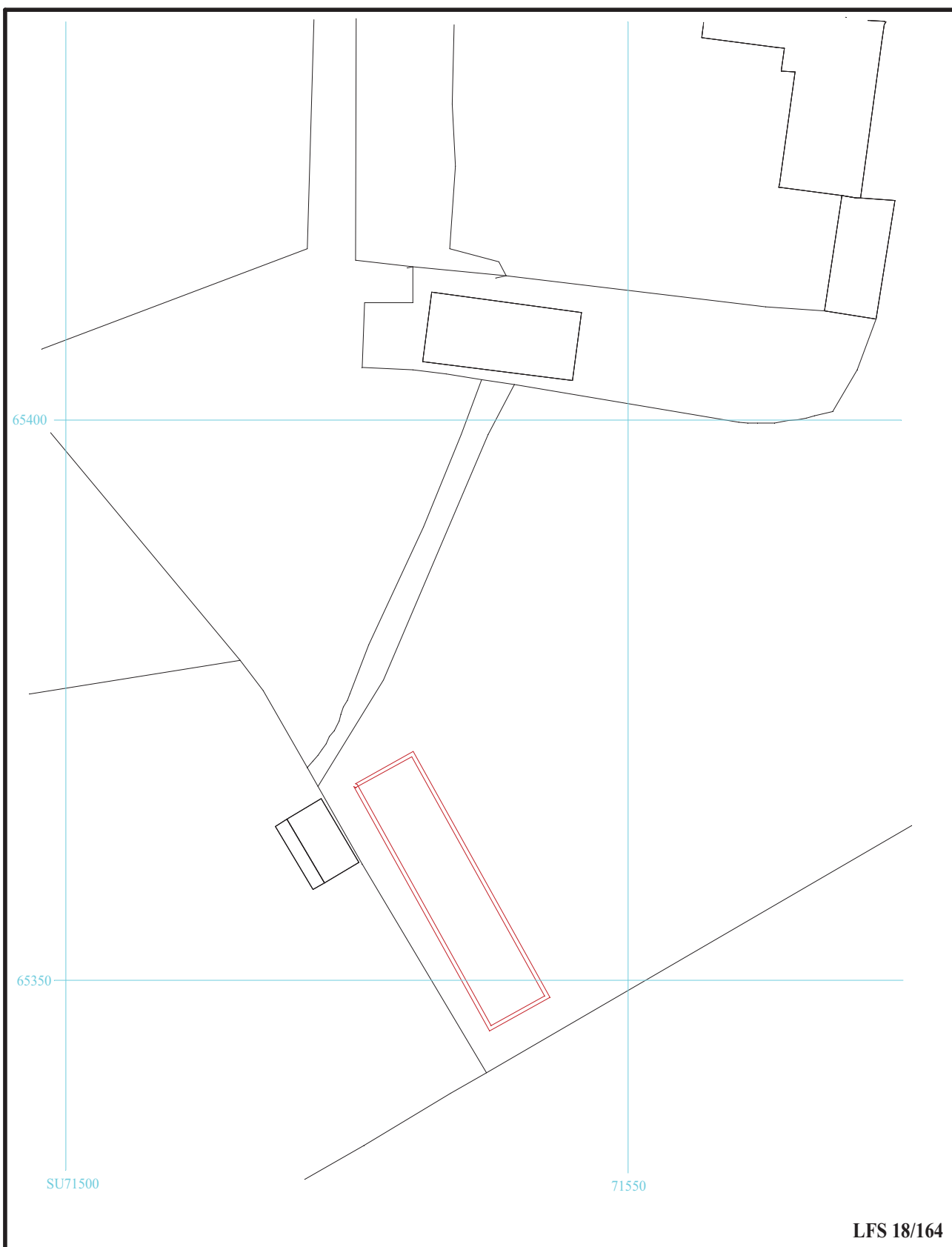


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**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
Figure 2. Detailed location of area observed within the site.

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Swallowfield, Wokingham, Berkshire, 2018  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 2. Survey grid layout.



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Plate 1. Area of new footings, looking north west.



Plate 2. Footings section, looking north west, Scales: 0.3m.

LFS 18/164

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Swallowfield, Wokingham, Berkshire, 2018**  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Plates 1 and 2.

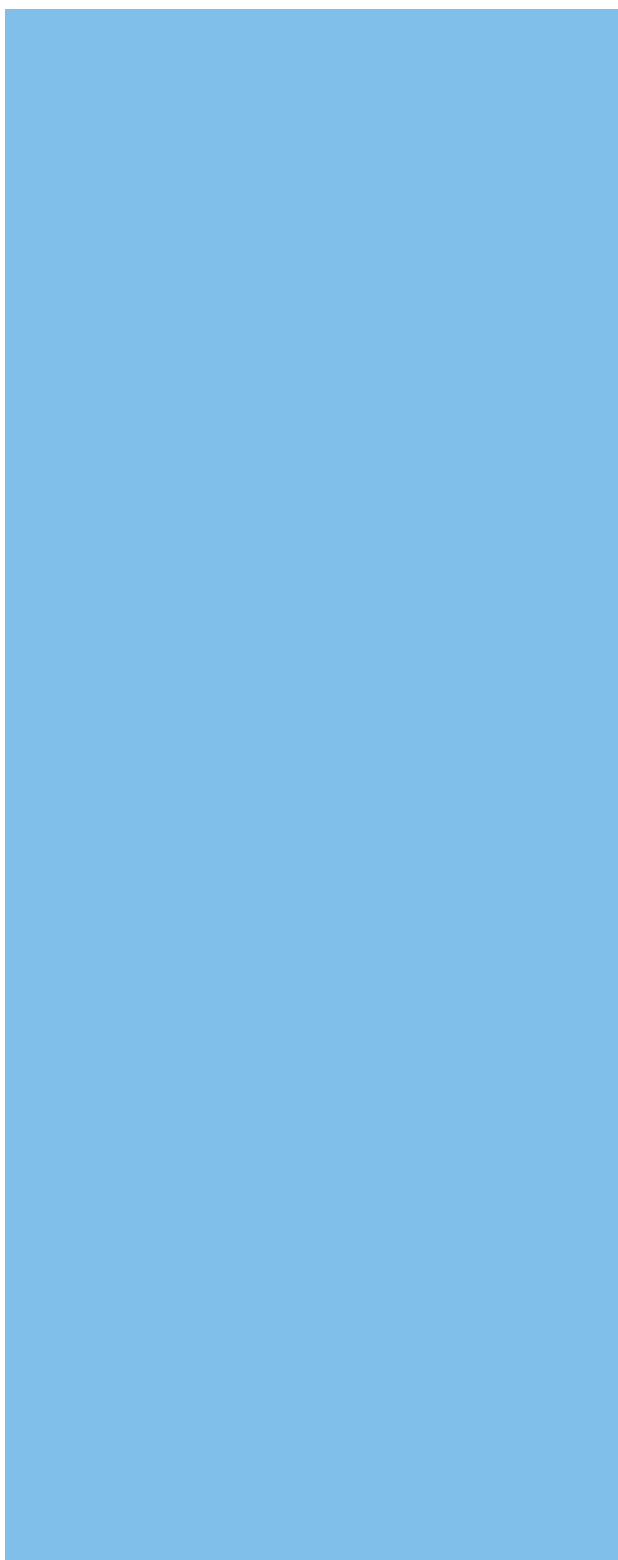
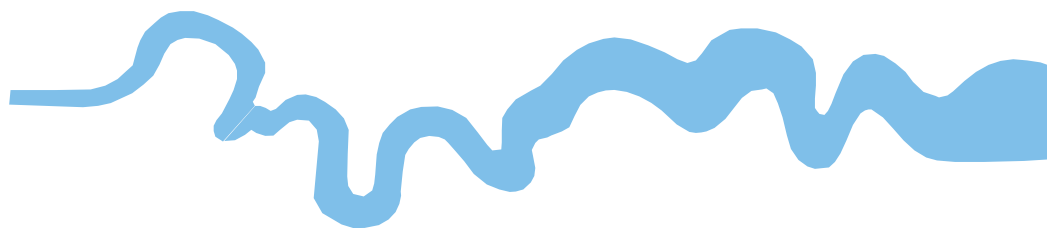
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## TIME CHART

### 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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