

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Millfield, Croft, The Conifers and Spinnaker,
Windmill Lane, East Grinstead, West Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andrew Taylor

Site Code: WLEG10/34

(TQ 3860 3902)

**Millfield, Croft, The Conifers and Spinnaker,
Windmill Lane, East Grinstead, West Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Berkeley Homes (Southern) Ltd**

by Andy Taylor
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

SiteCode: WLEG10/34

April 2010

Summary

Site name: Millfield, Croft, The Conifers and Spinnaker, Windmill Lane, East Grinstead, West Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 3860 3902

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 15th-16th April 2010

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: WLEG 10/34

Area of site: c.0.43 hectares

Summary of results: Twelve trenches revealed three ditches and a gully, all of post-medieval, probably 19th-century date. No deposits specifically relating to the known 19th-century windmill on the site, or any precursors, were located.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 25.04.10 Steve Preston✓ 20.04.10

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Windmill Lane, East Grinstead, West Sussex
An Archaeological Evaluation**

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Report 10/34

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at properties known as Millfield, Croft, The Conifers and Spinnaker on Windmill Lane in West Sussex (TQ 3860 3902) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jon Neville, of Berkeley Homes Southern Ltd, Berkeley House, Summers Place, Stane Street, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9GN.

Planning permission (09/03020/FUL) has been approved by Mid Sussex District Council to demolish the existing buildings on the site and construct 13 new dwellings with associated parking and open space. The consent is subject to a condition (10) relating to archaeology which requires a programme of archaeological work. This was to take the form, initially, of field evaluation by trial trenching, based on the results of which a mitigation strategy could be devised if appropriate.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr John Mills, Senior Archaeologist with West Sussex County Council, advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor, James Earley and Jacqueline Pitt between the 15th and 16th April 2010 and the site code is WLEG 10/34. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at East Grinstead Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in a residential area of the town to the west of Windmill Lane, East Grinstead. The site comprises approximately 0.43 hectares and is currently occupied by four residential houses, outbuildings and gardens (Fig. 2). The underlying geology comprised Upper Tunbridge Wells sand (BGS 1972), which was observed in all trenches. The site lies at a height of 127.5m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

Background archaeological information about the site has been obtained from consultation advice from the West Sussex Archaeological Officer and from historic Ordnance Survey maps. In summary, a windmill is depicted on the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey (1873) set within an irregular enclosure (Fig. 6). The windmill was still present by the time of the Second Edition map (1899) (Fig. 7) but had been removed by 1911. Earlier maps depict a windmill somewhere in the vicinity as early as 1724 (Budgen's map) and the remains of these and any ancillary components may be present on the proposal site.

A windmill is known to have stood on Grinstead Common since the mid 16th Century and would originally have been a post mill, with mills with roundhouses being of much later date. A 1720 ledger mentions a mill that later burnt down in 1757 and had to be rebuilt. By the end of the mill's life photographs show the structure to be in a poor state of repair prior to its demolition in 1900 (Henderson 2009).

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.

Specific aims of the 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 whether the 19th century mill has ancillary structures in adjacent areas; and
- To determine whether there were any earlier mills and ancillary structures on this site.

A total of 10 trenches were to be dug, 10m long using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds including use of a metal detector.

Results

Twelve trenches were eventually dug. These measured between 5.70m and 12.50m in length and 1.5m width. They were dug using a small 360°-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 4 and Pl. 3)

This trench measured 11.70m in length and was 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology. A ditch was located at the southern end of the trench. A slot (2) was dug across it and showed it to be 2.20m wide and at least 1.20m deep with a steep-sided profile. The base was not reached due to the excessive depth in the trench and the rapid influx of the water table. It contained two fills (53 and 54) with the upper fill (53) containing two pieces of tile and one piece of glass.

Trench 2

This trench measured 12.50m in length and was 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology.

Trench 3

This trench measured 9.50m in length and was 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology. An area of modern truncation was located at the north-eastern end of the trench.

Trench 4

This trench measured 10.00m in length and was 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology.

Trench 5

This trench measured 10.30m in length and was 0.77m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying yellowy brown sandy clay natural geology. Two square, modern, postholes containing metal and concrete were located at the northern end of the trench.

Trench 6 (Figure 4 and Plate 1)

This trench measured 11.30m in length and was 0.34m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology. A shallow gully was located at 5m. A slot (1) was dug across it and showed it to be 0.68m wide and 0.07m deep. Its light grey brown sandy clay fill (52) contained a single piece of post-medieval tile.

Trench 7

This trench measured 11.20m in length and was 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying a yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology.

Trench 8

This trench measured 11.40m in length and was 0.40m deep at the southern end and 0.68m deep at the north. The stratigraphy consisted of shingle and Tarmac overlying made ground comprising brick rubble. This overlay subsoil overlying yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology. The northern end of the trench showed evidence of backfilling with rubble. This is possibly from a pond that was located in this part of the site indicated on the 19th century Ordnance Survey maps (Figs 6 and 7).

Trench 9 (Fig.4 and Pl.4)

This trench measured 10.00m in length and was 0.36m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac overlying made ground. This overlay subsoil overlying yellowy brown sandy clay natural geology. The north-eastern end of the trench was truncated by a soakaway. A ditch was located at 7m. A slot (3 and 4) was dug into this and showed it to be 1.11m wide and 0.28m deep. It contained two fills (55 and 56) with 55 containing one piece of brick, a piece of drainage pipe and three clay pipe stems. Feature 3 cut the fill of 4 (57). Feature 4 had very irregular edges and a flat base and may be a second ditch or merely a depression in the natural geology. Its grey blue silty clay fill may indicate the presence of standing water possibly suggesting that these are some form of drainage feature.

Trench 10 (Pl. 2)

This trench measured 10.40m in length and was 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac overlying made ground overlying subsoil overlying yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology.

Trench 11

This trench measured 8.50m in length and was 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying a yellowy grey silty clay natural geology. A probable ditch terminus (5) was located at the north-eastern end of this trench, but was not dug. This may be a continuation of the ditch identified in Trench 1. A further ditch was located between 3.10m and 4.50m. This contained brick rubble, a fragment of asbestos and a manhole cover and can be regarded as modern.

Trench 12

This trench measured 5.70m in length and was 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of gravel overlying a pink gravel made ground overlying subsoil overlying a yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology. This trench was heavily truncated by a service run at the northern end, as well as a square pit both containing rubble and bitumen.

Finds

Brick and Tile by Andy Taylor

Three pieces of tile (from gully 1 and ditch 2) and one small piece of brick (from ditch 3) were recovered weighing a total of 448g. All of these were post-medieval in date, most likely 19th Century and probably contemporary with the windmill and its associated outbuildings.

Clay Pipe by Andy Taylor

Three clay tobacco pipe stems were recovered from ditch 3 weighing a total of 10g. All of these were most likely of 19th-century date.

Glass by Andy Taylor

A single (2g) piece from the base of a green/brown glass bottle, was recovered from ditch 2.

Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed a moderate amount of cut features of 19th and 20th century date, although no direct evidence of the windmill or any ancillary buildings were encountered. The ditch in Trench 1 is most likely part of the irregular enclosure surrounding the windmill, shown on the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps, although its depth and near vertical sides are certainly strange and further work would be required to ascertain the nature of this feature. It is possible that this feature turns and terminates, as shown in Trench 11, as it certainly did not continue across this trench in the direction seen in Trench 1, nor return into the north end of Trench 1. If this is indeed the feature shown on the maps, it would place the location of the windmill under The Conifers. The gully in Trench 6 is of a similar date to the enclosure ditch and may be associated. However, its very shallow nature may indicate that this is a grubbed out hedge row or garden feature. The ditch identified in Trench 9 may be a short lived drainage feature, as it does not appear on the maps of the site.

Overall, the evaluation has shown the presence of archaeological deposits on the site, almost certainly of 19th-century date, but further work would be required to determine the full nature of these features as well as to determine if any trace of the windmill is still present close to the existing buildings. If this did exist it may be of very limited extent, similar to that recorded at excavations carried out in Denmead, Hampshire (Taylor 2006), where a semi-circle of brickwork from the very base of the windmill's structure was encountered.

References

- BGS, 1972, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 302, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Henderson, R, 2009, Wealden Power, East Grinstead
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
Taylor, A, 2006, 'Land at Mill House, 17 Mill Road, Denmead, Hampshire', Thames Valley Archaeological Services Report 06/21b, Reading

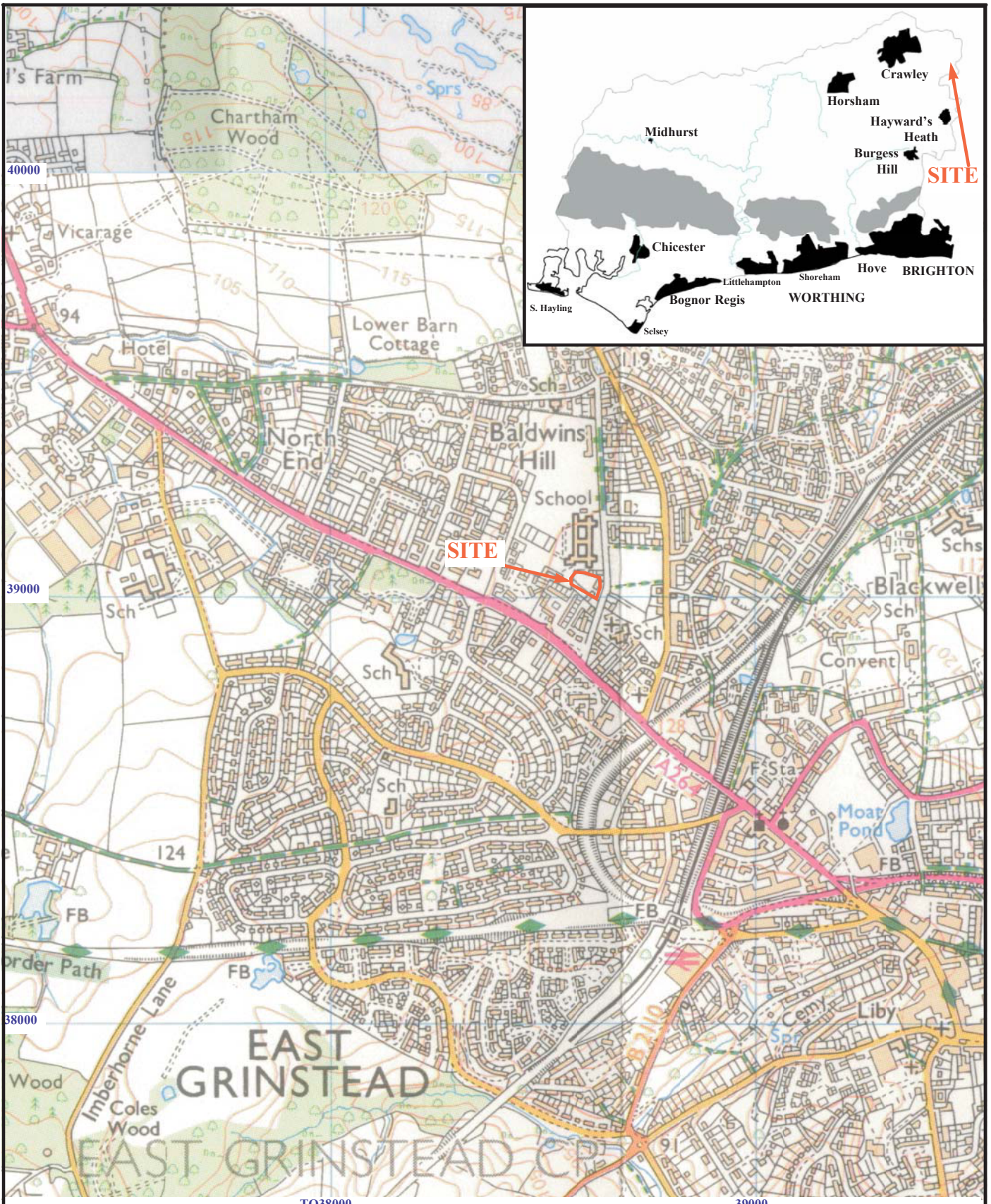
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	11.70	1.50	0.44	0.00m–0.09m topsoil; 0.09m-0.42m subsoil; 0.42m-0.44m+ yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology. Ditch 2 [PI. 3]
2	12.50	1.50	0.38	0.00m-0.08m topsoil; 0.08m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology.
3	9.50	1.50	0.42	0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m-0.42m+ yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology.
4	10.00	1.50	0.42	0.00m-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology.
5	10.30	1.50	0.77	0.00m-0.21m topsoil; 0.21m-0.74m subsoil; 0.74m-0.77m+ yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology.
6	11.30	1.50	0.34	0.00m-0.08m topsoil; 0.08m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.34m+ yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology. Gully 1 [PI.1]
7	11.20	1.50	0.38	0.00m-0.09m topsoil; 0.09m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology.
8	11.40	1.50	0.40 (S) 0.68 (N)	0.00m-0.08m shingle/tarmac; 0.08m-0.32m made ground; 0.32m-0.40m subsoil 0.40m+ yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology. Dump of rubble at North end.
9	10.00	1.50	0.36	0.00m-0.09m tarmac; 0.09m-0.22m made ground; 0.22m-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ yellowy brown sandy clay natural geology. Ditches 3 and 4 [PI. 4]
10	10.40	1.50	0.40	0.00m-0.09m tarmac; 0.09m-0.20m made ground; 0.20m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology. [PI. 2]
11	8.50	1.50	0.37	0.00m-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m-0.37m+ yellowy grey sandy clay natural geology. Ditch Terminus 5
12	5.70	1.50	0.40	0.00m-0.10m gravel; 0.10m-0.26m pink gravel; 0.26m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ yellowy grey sandy clay 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>
1	2	53, 54	Ditch	19th Century	Tile
6	1	52	Gully	19th Century	Tile
9	3	55, 56	Ditch	19th Century	Tile, Clay Pipe
9	4	57, 58	Ditch?	Unknown	None
11	5	59	Ditch Terminus	Unknown	None

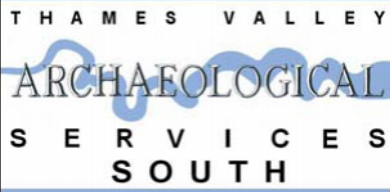


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Figure 1. Location of site within East Grinstead
and West Sussex.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Windmill Lane.

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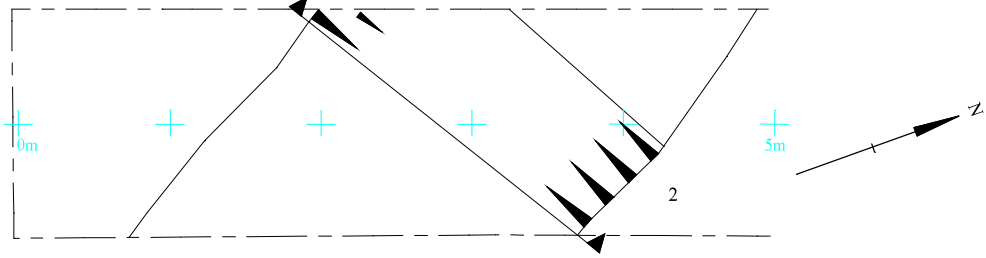
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Figure 3. Location of Trenches

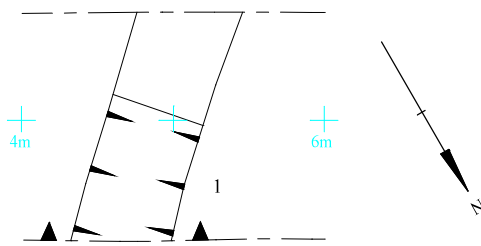


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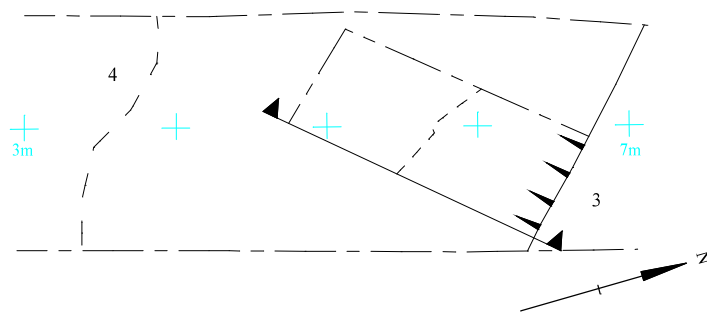
Trench 1



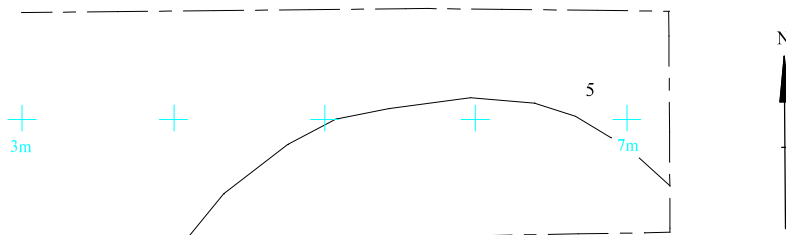
Trench 6



Trench 9



Trench 11

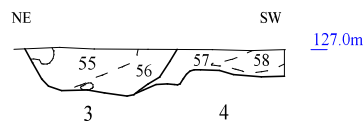
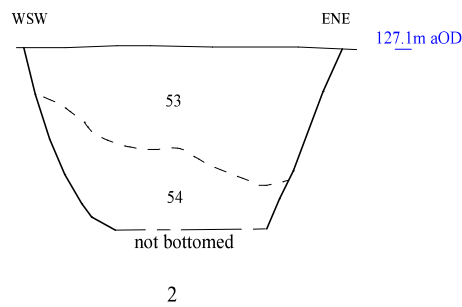
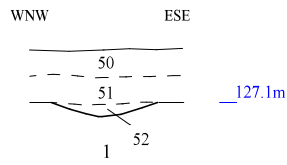


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Figure 4. Detail of trenches.



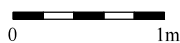


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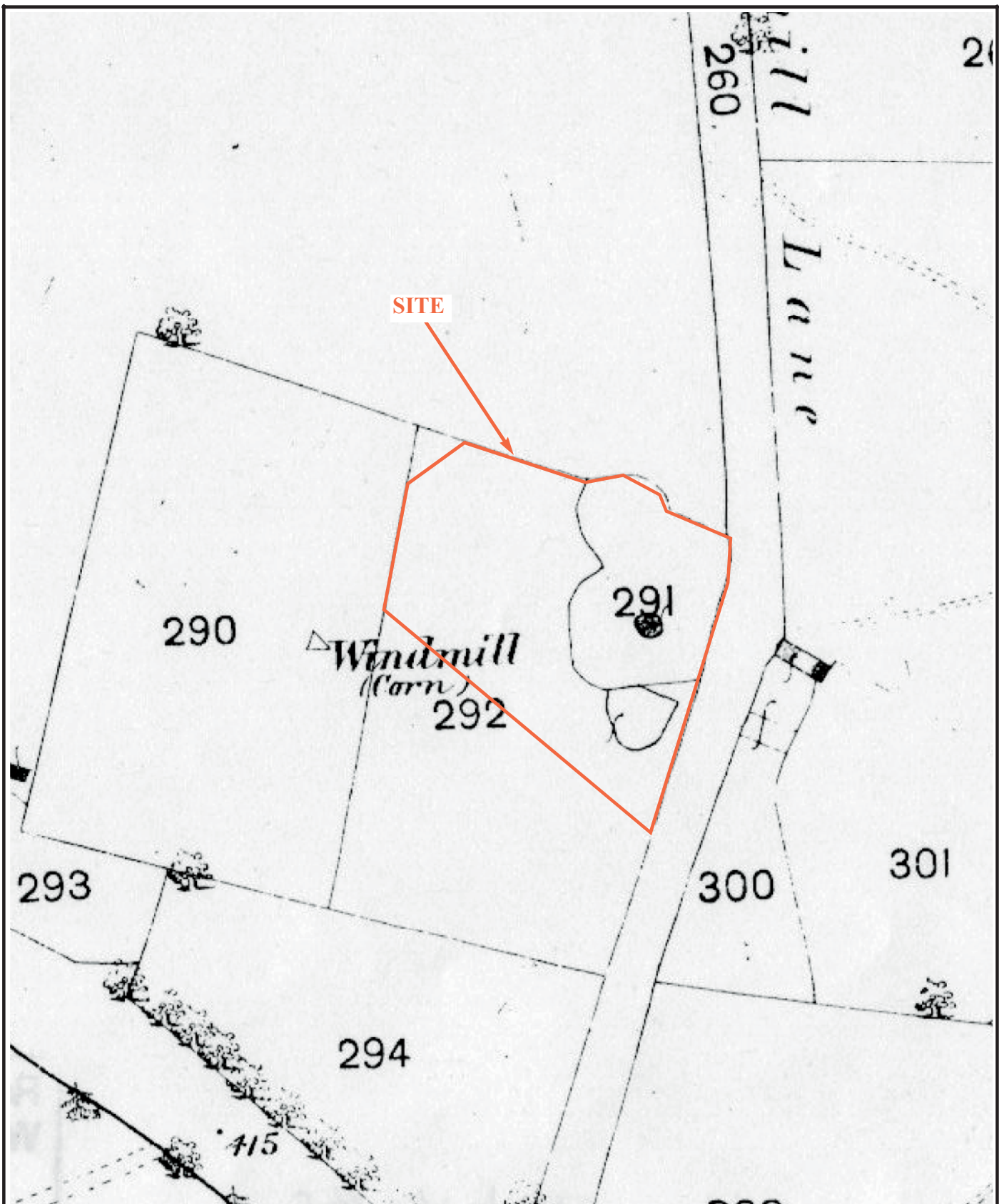


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Figure 5. Sections.



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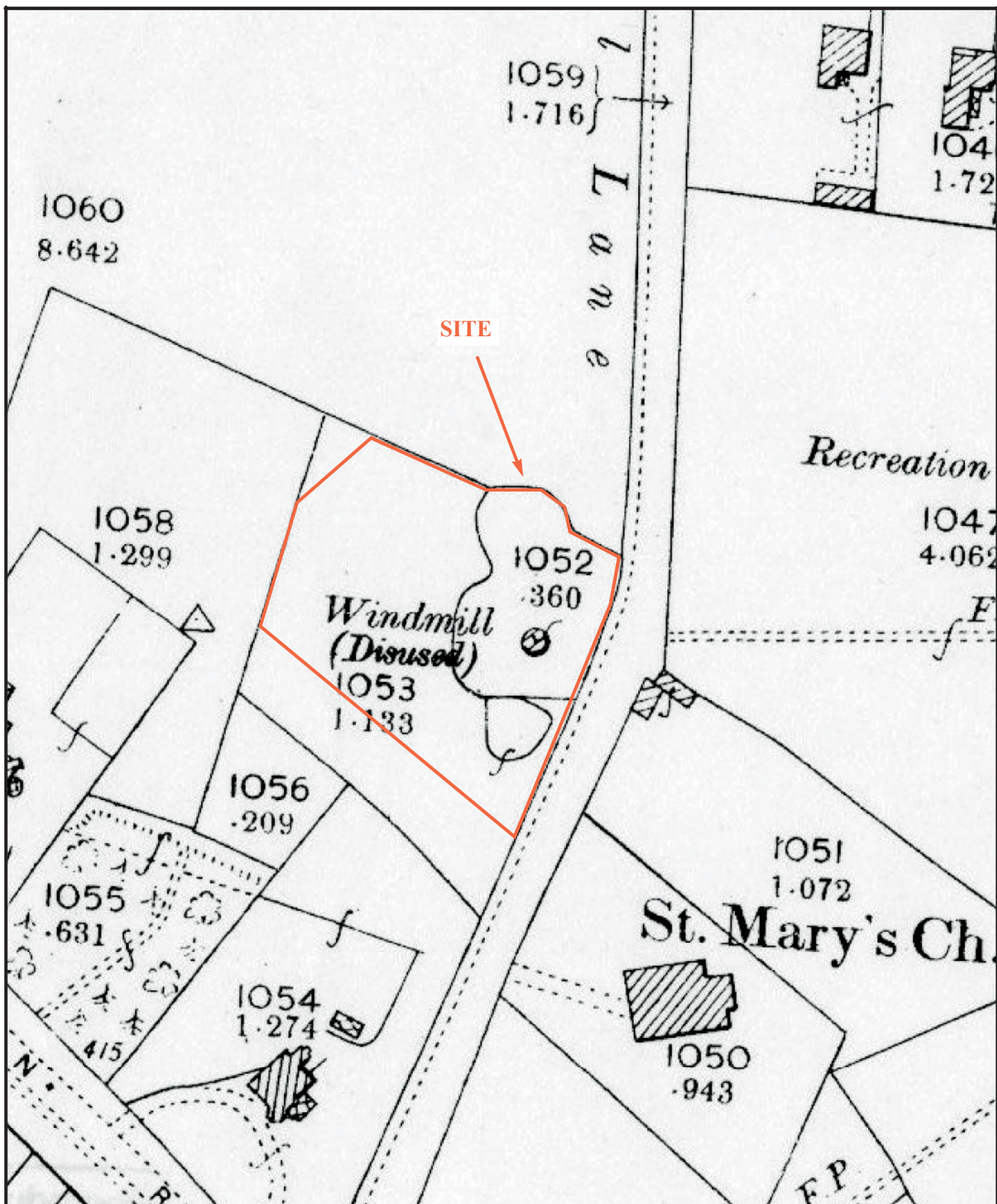


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Figure 6. Location of site on First Edition
Ordnance Survey Map 1873

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Figure 7. Location of site on Second Edition
 Ordnance Survey Map 1899

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Plate 1. Trench 6, looking north east; scales, horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical scale 0.5m



Plate 2. Trench 10, looking north; scales, horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m

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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2**

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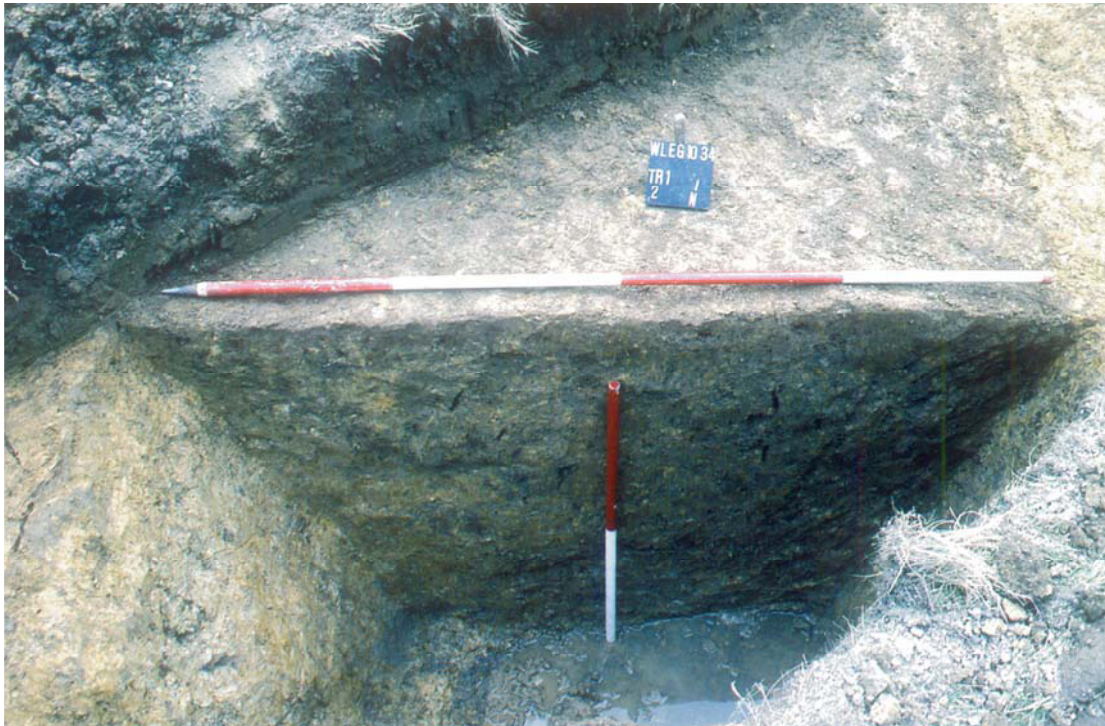


Plate 3. Trench 1, ditch 2, looking south; scales, horizontal 2m, vertical 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 9, ditches 3 and 4, looking east south east, scales, horizontal 1m, vertical 0.1m.

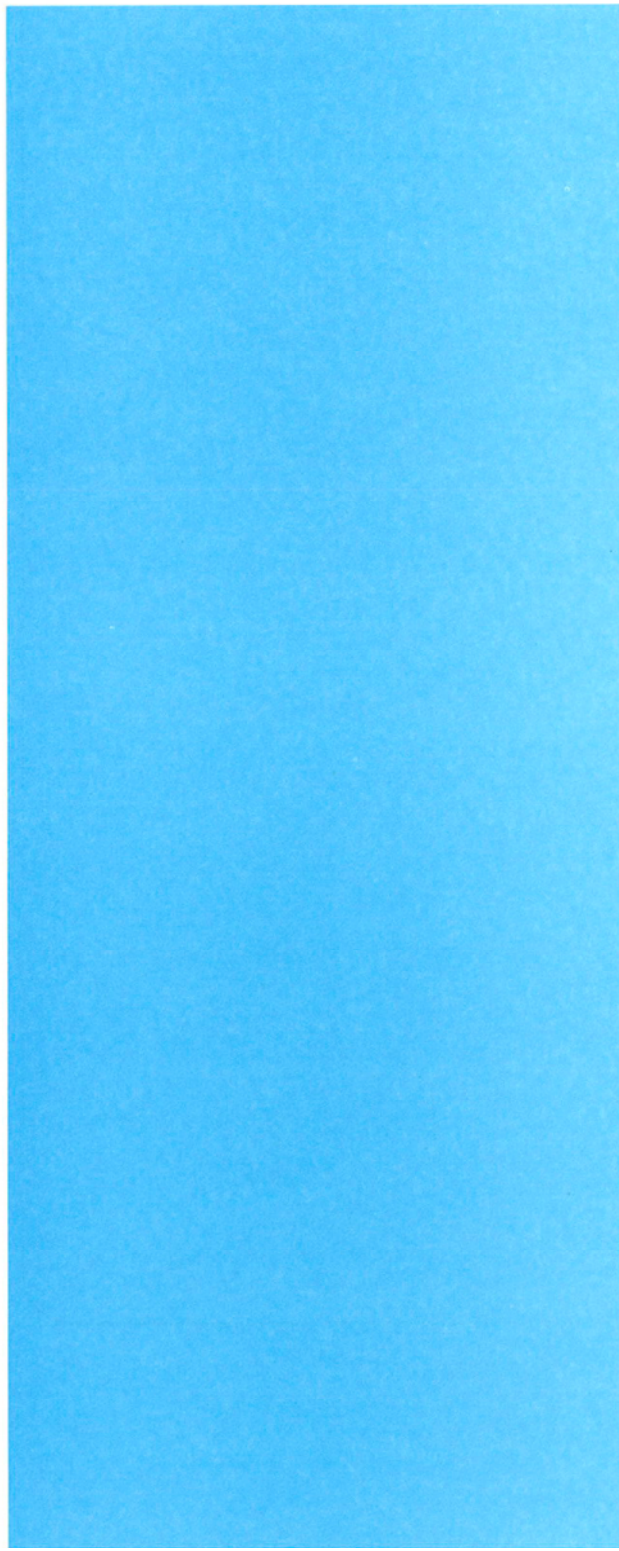
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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 4**

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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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