

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**Marnel Park, Popley,  
Basingstoke, Hampshire**

**Phase II**

**An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey**

**by Steve Ford  
for CgMs Consulting**

**Site Code: MPB11/125**

**(SU6380 5510)**

# **Marnel Park, Popley, Basingstoke, Hampshire**

**Phase 2**

**An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey**

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Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code MPB11/125

**June 2014**

## Summary

**Site name:** Marnel Park, Popley, Basingstoke, Hampshire, Phase 2

**Grid reference:** SU6380 5510

**Site activity:** Fieldwalking

**Date and duration of project:** 23rd–25th April 2014

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Steve Ford

**Site code:** MPB11/125

**Area of site:** c. 13.75 ha

**Summary of results:** A small amount of struck flint, largely or wholly of later Neolithic or more likely Bronze Age date was recovered from the proposal site, with a tendency to cluster towards the south east. Despite this apparent clustering, it is not considered that this material is certainly indicative of an occupied area but demonstrates the widespread use and discard of flint tools across the landscape. A single sherd of Bronze Age pottery was also recovered. Sherds of later post-medieval pottery from the 17th-19th centuries are thought to be indicative of the episodic manuring of farmland during this period.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston ✓ 10.06.14
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# Marnel Park, Popley, Basingstoke, Hampshire, Phase 2 An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey

By Steve Ford

**Report 11/125b**

## **Introduction**

This fieldwalking study was commissioned by Mr Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting, 140 London Wall, London, EC2Y 5DN as a preliminary part of an assessment of the archaeological potential of a c. 13.75ha plot of land at Marnel Park, Popley, Basingstoke, Hampshire. This report constitutes a non-invasive stage of a process to determine the presence/absence, extent, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains that may be affected by development within the area.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford and Genni Elliott between 23rd and 25th April 2014 with the site code MFP11/25. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Museum Service in due course.

## **The site**

The whole proposal site comprises a sub-rectangular parcel of arable land centred at NGR SU6380 5510 covering 13.75ha, on the northern margins of Basingstoke. The site comprises a single field on land that includes a fairly level ridge top to the north at a height of 90m above Ordnance Datum, which then slopes down moderately to the south and becomes fairly level again at a height of 80m AOD. The underlying geology is Reading Beds to the south and London Clay to the north (BGS 1981), the latter being locally pebbly, as was observed on site.

## **Planning background and development proposals**

The site is to be developed for housing.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location close to the rich chalklands of north Basingstoke with a wealth of earlier prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman sites recorded in the area, many during the expansion of the suburbs of the town, and others recorded by aerial photography. Recent excavations on earlier phases of development at Marnel Park to the south located prehistoric and Roman settlement and landscape (Wright *et al.* 2009) and a Roman enclosure was present to the south-west (Coles *et al.* 2011). Fieldwalking just to the south-west of the proposal site revealed a very few prehistoric struck flints and a few sherds of post-medieval pottery (Ford 2011).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The fieldwalking took place along north–south lines spaced at 10m intervals and based on the National Grid. Material was collected from units of 10m intervals along these lines with an average search width of 1m. This approximates to a 10% sample of the surface area of the site. The methodology is comparable with that practised in other regions of central southern England (Richards 1990; Ford 1987a, appendix 1) though the sample fraction here is higher. All pre-19th century artefacts (primarily struck flint and pottery) were to be collected and retained. Dense scatters of brick/tile or burnt flint were to be recorded in the field but only a sample of material collected from these for dating purposes.

A record was made of conditions which may have influenced recovery rates, such as stoniness of ground, vegetation cover, bright sunlight and which individual walked which line. The topography was also recorded to assist in interpretation of the finds.

## **Results**

A total area of c. 13.75a was fieldwalked by two individuals.

### *Collection conditions*

All of the fieldwalked areas had been planted with corn crop which was at a very low stage of growth. In effect the whole ground surface was observable. The weather was overcast all of the time of the survey and the ground damp. The presence of a moderate to dense amounts of flint pebbles were noted towards the north-east of the site.

## **Finds**

### *Struck flint by Steve Ford*

In all, just 37 pieces of struck flint were recovered as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 with one further piece which was probably a modern plough strike. The collection comprised 27 flakes, 2 narrow flakes, 5 cores, two spalls (pieces less than 20x20mm) and a possible fabricator. The distribution is shown in Figure 2. The flint collection is dominated by broad flakes and contains no closely datable items. Even the two narrow flakes are no certain indication of an early (Mesolithic) component to the collection. It is considered that the collection is largely or wholly of later Neolithic or Bronze Age date (Ford 1987b). A single retouched piece was recovered which is possibly a fabricator (strike-a-light) of Mesolithic or later date, but the identification is not certain.

## *Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn*

Some 23 sherds of pottery were recovered. A single sherd of prehistoric, possibly Bronze Age, pottery was recovered with the remainder being of post-medieval date. The composition of the collection is detailed in Appendix 3 and the distribution across the site is shown on Figure 2. There was no marked clustering.

The following fabric types were noted:

**?Bronze Age:** Sparse to moderate angular white flint up to 2mm.

**FREC: Frechen Stonewares.** AD1550 - 1750. A range of hard, grey, salt-glazed fabrics produced at the eponymous site in the Rhineland (Gaimster 1997).

**BW: Border Ware,** AD1550–1700. Wide range of utilitarian and tablewares in a fine, white fabric with a bright green, yellow or brown glaze. Manufactured at a number of centres on the Surrey/Hampshire border and the main coarseware pottery type in London in the post-medieval period (Pearce 1988).

**MET: Metropolitan-type Slipware,** 17th–18th century. Similar fabric to Red Earthenware, with geometric designs in white slip under the glaze. Produced at a number of centres, but particularly Harlow in Essex (Davey and Walker 2009).

**GRE: Red Earthenware,** 16th–19th century (Brears 1969). Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century.

**EST: English Stoneware.** 1680+ (Blacker 1922). Hard, grey fabric, often with a brown, iron-rich exterior wash. Range of utilitarian vessels, particularly mugs.

**19thC: Miscellaneous 19th and 20th century wares.** Mass-produced white earthenwares, stonewares etc.

## *Burnt flint and brick/tile*

A very small volume of burnt flint and brick/tile fragments was observed on the site without any clustering. This material was not collected.

## *Discussion*

There is a modest presence of struck flint across the area with some tendency to cluster to the south-east. However, the density of material recovered is still low when compared to data produced by large scale surveys (e.g. Ford 1987a). The density of struck flint here is lower than the threshold for designation as a 'site' from these surveys which included geological outcrops both rich and poor in the presence of natural flint raw material. Here, supplies of flint direct from the chalk are easily obtainable within a short distance of the site and its use/discard could have been profligate if desired. The presence of struck flint here as a background scatter, presumably represents off-site, landscape scale activity such as casual loss or discard, or dispersal by manuring practice (Foley 1981).

The small amount of post-medieval pottery recovered does not form any clusters which could be indicative of the presence of unrecorded settlement sites and is therefore likely to represent manuring scatters of arable land. The pottery has a relatively wide date range, spanning a few centuries, and is likely to indicate this land was used frequently, if not continuously for arable farming in these times. Later (late 19th and 20th century) material was not collected but indicates continued use as arable land up to the present day. The single sherd of

prehistoric pottery is noteworthy for its survival and the possibility that it may indicate the presence of contemporary settlement somewhere in the environs. However, it is possible that it too arrived on site at some time incorporated in manure, which need not necessarily have been in the Bronze Age.

## Conclusion

The fieldwalking has resulted in the recovery of a low volume of prehistoric lithic material despite the nearby outcropping of chalk which could have provided abundant raw material. These fieldwalked finds indicate some prehistoric activity in the wider area, but the few finds recovered, despite a tendency to cluster to the south east, do not appear to be certainly indicative of the presence of an occupation site. It may have no more relevance than demonstrating the widespread use and discard of flint tools across the landscape. The sherds of late post-medieval pottery are unlikely to be indicative of anything other than the manuring of farmland at this time. The results are broadly similar to those obtained for the phase 1 area fieldwalking survey located to the south west.

## References

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**APPENDIX 1: Struck flint Summary**

Flakes	27
Narrow flakes/blades	2
Cores	5
Spalls	2
Fabricator?	1

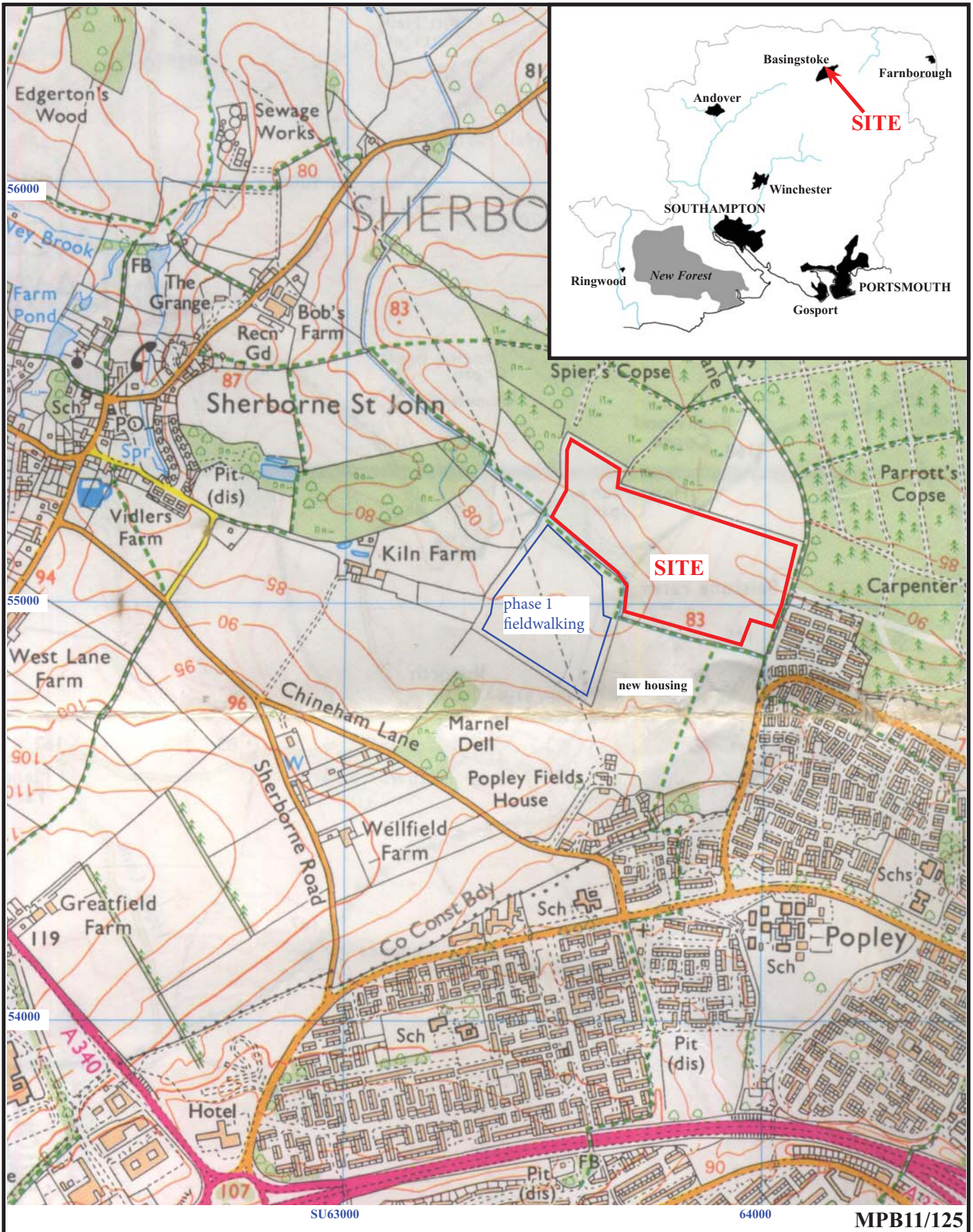


## APPENDIX 2: Struck flint detailed locations

<i>Grid East</i>	<i>Grid North</i>	<i>Intact Flake</i>	<i>Intact Blade</i>	<i>Broken flake</i>	<i>Broken Blade</i>	<i>Spall</i>	<i>Core</i>	<i>Other</i>
63540	55160	1						
63550	55110			1				
63550	55180					1		
63550	55270				1			
63650	55220	1						
63650	55310			1				
63660	55270			1(fresh?)				
63690	55040			1				
63690	55060					1(pat)		
63720	54920			1				
63760	54990			1			1	
63770	54990			1				
63800	55000	1						
63820	54960						1	
63820	55180	1						
63830	55020			1(burnt)				
63830	55080			1				
63840	54960	1					1	
63840	55030			1				
63850	55080		1					
63860	55040	1						
63860	55120			1				
63880	54940	1						
63880	54990	1pat						
63890	54970			1				
63890	55040			1(hammer?)				
63900	54910						1	
63900	54960	2						
63920	54950			1				
63950	55030							Fabricator?
63960	55150			1				
63970	55000						1 (pat)	
63970	55020			1(pat)				
63990	55000			1(pat)				
64010	55100	1						
64020	55100			1				
64020	55130	1pat						
64070	55160	1pat						

### APPENDIX 3: Pottery detailed locations

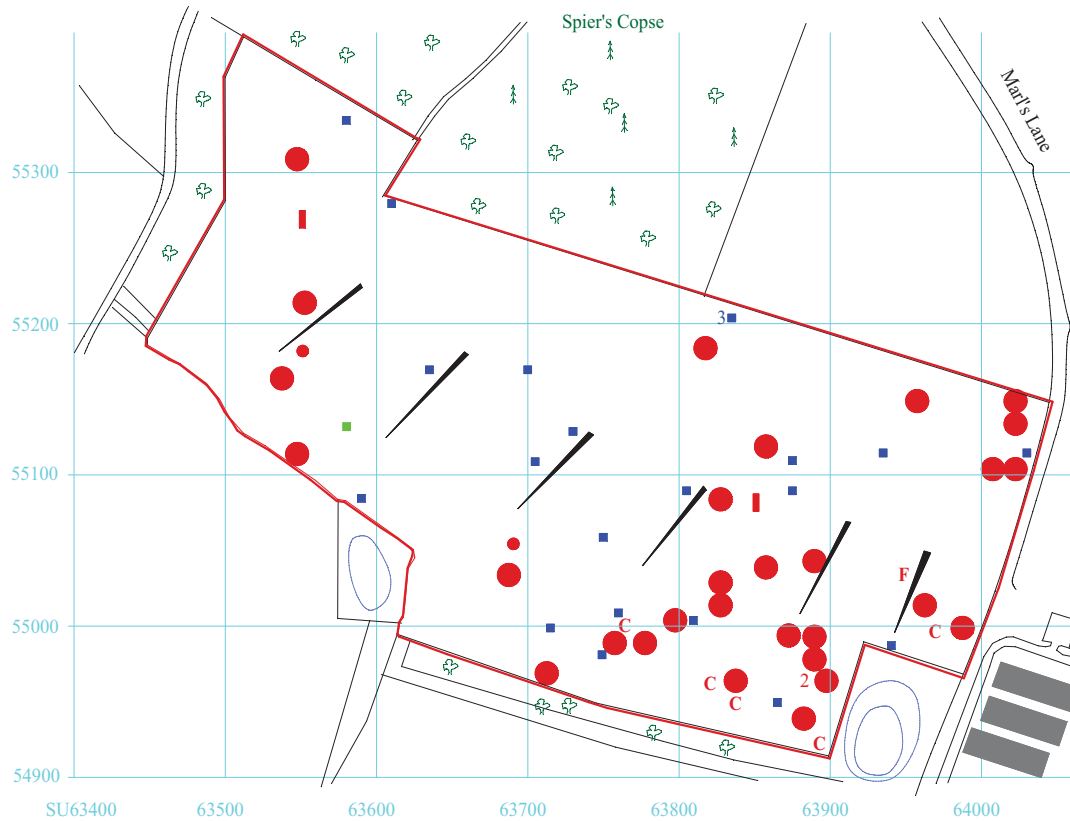
<i>Grid</i>	<i>Grid</i>	<i>BA</i>		<i>GRE</i>		<i>BW</i>		<i>FREC</i>		<i>MET</i>		<i>EST</i>		<i>19thC</i>	
		<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>
43810	55000			1	9										
43810	55080			1	37										
63570	55130	1	3												
63570	55330			1	11										
63580	55080			1	9										
63610	55280			1	10										
63640	55170			1	5										
63700	55170			1	4										
63710	55110			1	12										
63720	55000							1	12						
63730	55130			1	9										
63750	54980			1	10										
63750	55060			1	18										
63760	55010			1	10										
63840	55210			1	6					1	6	1	27		
63860	54950									1	11				
63870	5090			1	21										
63870	55110			1	15										
63940	54970					1	10								
63940	55120			1	4										
64040	55120													1	41



**Marnel Park, Popley, Basingstoke, Hampshire 2014  
An Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey- phase 2**

Figure 1. Location of site within Popley and Hampshire

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- Flake
- ▬ Narrow flake
- Spall
- C Core
- F Fabricator?
- Prehistoric pottery
- Post-medieval pottery

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**Marnel Park, Popley, Basingstoke, Hampshire, 2014**  
**Phase II**  
**Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site and artefacts recovered.

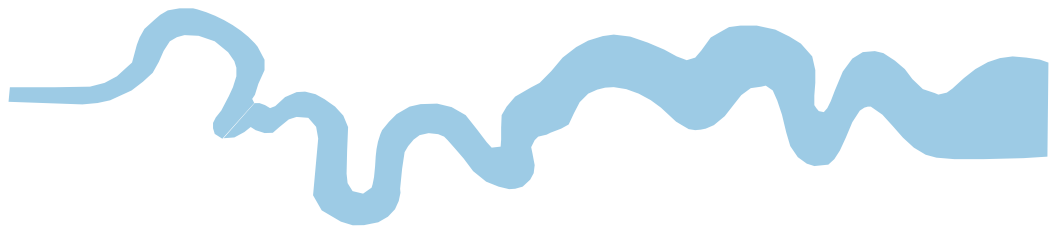


THAMES VALLEY  
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## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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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