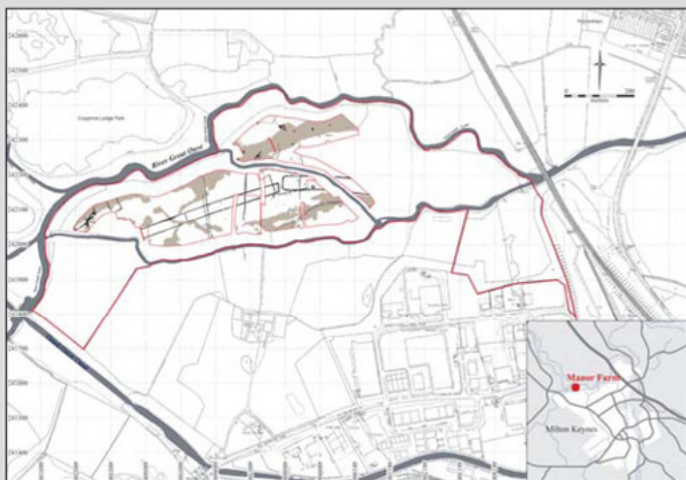


The Archaeology at Manor Farm, Old Wolverton, Milton Keynes



Between 2007 and 2011, the Cambridge Archaeological Unit carried out a series of archaeological investigations at the Manor Farm quarry, Old Wolverton, on behalf of Hanson Aggregates and Phoenix Consulting. The excavations revealed significant archaeological activity across the floodplain of the River Great Ouse, spanning the Upper Palaeolithic through to the Roman period, with a peak in activity during the Neolithic, when the landscape was transformed into a monumental ritual space through the construction of three cursus features and a hengiform monument.

The Palaeolithic flints represent a single knapping event of an imported flint core, technologically characteristic of the Federmesser industry (approx. 14,000 years old). The re-fitting blade fragments were found in a scoured riverbank of an ancient river channel; remains left by people crossing the valley in pursuit of migrating herds of animals.

Late Mesolithic flint scatters were also found north of an ancient course of the River Great Ouse, representative of transient activity across the landscape.

The quarry area is bordered by a complex braided river system to the north (earlier courses of the Great Ouse), spanning the early Holocene through to the early Medieval period (approx. 10,000 to 1,000 years ago). Partial remains of aurochs and humans have been recovered from the ancient channels, as well as butchered remains of several red deer. Later artefacts from the channels include wooden posts, possibly associated with fish weirs, and a wooden bucket.

