

**Lower Thames Crossing
6.3 Environmental Statement
Appendices
Appendix 6.14 – Timeline**

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Lower Thames Crossing

6.3 Environmental Statement Appendices

Appendix 6.14 – Timeline

List of contents

	Page number
1 Cultural Heritage	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Other time periods	3

List of tables

Page number

Table 1.1 Cultural Heritage Timeline 1

1 Cultural Heritage

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This timeline sets out the chronological time periods referenced in the Cultural Heritage Environmental Statement. The table below details the time period names, dates, durations and places them in historical context. The chronology includes archaeological time periods and cultural periods. For the purposes of this report, periodization is as follows:

Table 1.1 Cultural Heritage Timeline

Name	Description	Start date	End date
Palaeolithic	The period once referred to as the Old Stone Age. It is defined by the practice of hunting and gathering and the use of chipped flint tools. This period is usually divided up into the Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic.	-1,000,000 (BC)	-10,000
Lower Palaeolithic	The earliest subdivision of the Palaeolithic, or Old Stone Age; when the earliest use of flint tools appears in the current archaeological record. A hunter gatherer society is a defining characteristic.	-1,000,000	-150,000
Middle Palaeolithic	The second subdivision of the Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age. Characterized by the fine flake tools of the Mousterian tradition and economically by a hunter gatherer society.	-150,000	-40,000
Upper Palaeolithic	The third and last subdivision of the Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age; characterized by the development of projectile points made from bony materials and the development of fine blade flint tools. Incorporates Late Upper / Late Glacial periods	-40,000	-10,000
Mesolithic	The Middle Stone Age, falling between the Palaeolithic and the Neolithic; marks the beginning of a move from a hunter gatherer society towards food producing society.	-10,000	-4,000
Early Mesolithic	A period of massive environmental change following the retreat of the ice sheet and increase in temperature and rising sea levels.	-10,000	-7,000
Late Mesolithic	Final period of hunter gatherer cultures in Europe.	-7,000	-4,000
Neolithic	The New Stone Age, this period follows on from the Palaeolithic and the Mesolithic and is itself succeeded by the Bronze Age. This period is characterized by the practice of a farming economy and extensive monumental constructions.	-4,000	-2,200

Name	Description	Start date	End date
Early Neolithic	The earliest period of the Neolithic coincides with the introduction farming and greater settlement.	-4,000	-3,300
Middle Neolithic	The third and latest subdivision of the Neolithic.	-3,300	-2,900
Late Neolithic	The final period of the stone age prior to the introduction of metal.	-2,900	-2,200
Bronze Age	This period follows on from the Neolithic and is characterized by the increasing use of Bronze. It is subdivided in the Early, Middle and Late Bronze Age.	-2,600	-700
Early Bronze Age	The earliest subdivision of the Bronze Age.	-2,600	-1,600
Middle Bronze Age	The second subdivision of the Bronze Age.	-1,600	-1,200
Late Bronze Age	The final subdivision of the Bronze Age.	-1,200	-700
Iron Age	This period follows on from the Bronze Age and is characterized by the use of iron for making tools and monuments such as hillforts and oppida. The Iron Age is taken to end with the Roman invasion.	-800 (BC)	43 (AD)
Early Iron Age	The earliest subdivision of the Iron Age.	-800	-300
Middle Iron Age	The second subdivision of the Iron Age.	-300	-100
Late Iron Age	The final subdivision of the Iron Age.	-100	43
Roman	Traditionally begins with the Roman invasion in 43AD and ends with the emperor Honorius directing Britain to see to its own defence in 410AD.	43	410
Early Medieval	This dates from the breakdown of Roman rule in Britain to the Norman invasion in 1066 and is to be used for monuments of post Roman, Saxon and Viking date.	410	1066
Medieval	The Medieval period or Middle Ages begins with the Norman invasion and ends with the dissolution of the monasteries.	1066	1540
Post-medieval	Begins with the dissolution of the monasteries and ends with the death of Queen Victoria. Use more specific period where known.	1540	1901
20 th Century	Includes the cultural periods, Edwardian (1902 to 1910), First World War (1914 to 1918), Mid 20th Century (1933 to 1966), Second World War (1939 to 1945) and Cold War (1946 to 1991).	1901	2000
21 st Century	The current century.	2001	2100

After Historic England Periods List and the chronological scheme from <http://www.heritage-standards.org.uk/chronology/> .

1.2 Other time periods

- 1.2.1 Other broad time periods such as Prehistoric (all the periods from the Palaeolithic up to and including the Iron Age) are used in the ES where more precise dates cannot be assigned based on current knowledge. Holocene and Quaternary are also used referring to geological periods. The Quaternary period began 2.6 million years ago and extends to the present and is divided into two epochs; the Pleistocene and the Holocene. The geological and cultural time periods are not exactly aligned. However, the Pleistocene covers the Palaeolithic periods and the Holocene approximately starts with the Early Mesolithic and continues to the present.

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