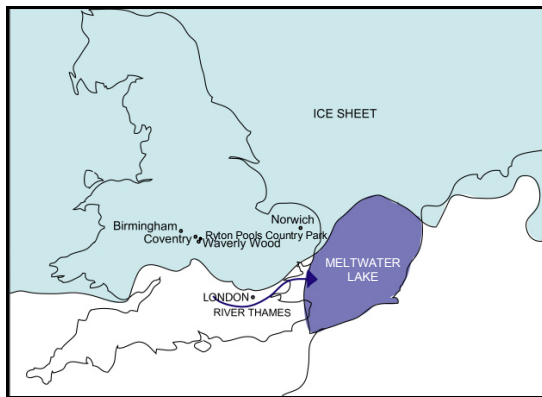


One of these tools has been dated to about 500,000 BC, making it possibly the oldest known human tool in Britain.

The Approaching Ice Sheets

The warm conditions didn't last, and as the temperature dropped, ice sheets in the north began to expand and move southwards towards Bubbenhall (below).

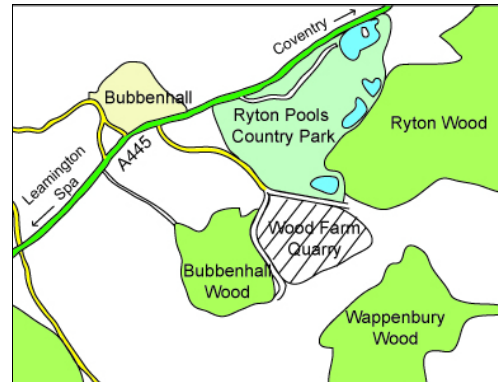
The Bytham River was affected by this climate change, and it started to deposit the Baginton Sands and Gravels.



Eventually, the river system disappeared as an ice sheet overwhelmed the area. The ice deposited a clay containing pebbles on top of the sands and gravels. This was the Thrussington Till.

How to get there

The Waverley Wood Quarries are still being worked and therefore there is no public access to this site. However, further information is available here at the Country Park near Pagets Pool.



Interested in the WGCG?

For further information about the WGCG, including other projects and events, contact us at:

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Westwood Campus, University of Warwick,
Coventry, CV4 7AL Tel: 02476 52 35 33
www.wgcg.co.uk

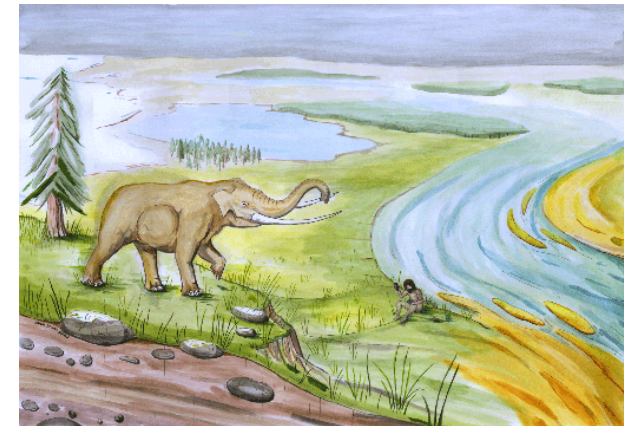


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Warwickshire Geological
Conservation Group



REVEALING WARWICKSHIRE'S ICE-AGE PAST



AT RYTON POOLS COUNTRY PARK

Introduction - An Ancient River

Around half a million years ago, the area around

Ryton Pools lay in the valley of the ancient Bytham River. At the time this was possibly the largest river in Britain, and flowed from Stratford to the Norfolk coast.



The quarrying has revealed important geological and archaeological finds that provide evidence for major climate changes and human habitation during Warwickshire's Ice Age.

Hidden Rivers

At the base of the Waverley Wood Quarry, below the Baginton Sands and Gravels, some very old channels of the ancient river were discovered. In the 1980s and early

1990s they yielded

important geological and archaeological finds, including fossil bones, shells and primitive tools. These have allowed us to reconstruct the ancient environment, and show us that generally the climate was similar to that of the Midlands today (background).

Ancient Life

Many large animal fossils have been found in the channels at Waverley Wood Quarry and at the base of the Baginton Gravels at Waverley Wood and Wood Farm Quarry.



Elephant tooth from Wood Farm.

They include bones and teeth of straight-tusked elephants, horse and bison.

Stone-Age Men

No human remains have been found here, but we know that early humans lived in the area because hand axes have been discovered in both of the Bubbenhall quarries.



Hand axe

These stone tools are thought to have been left at temporary camps made by small groups of humans who were hunting the large animals in the area.

At Bubbenhall it deposited up to 8 metres of sand and gravels. Today these sands and gravels have been extracted for the production of aggregate.

