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Thames Valley Landscapes
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This report presents the results of three excavations (Grim's Ditch, Whitecross Farm and Bradford's Brook) along the route of the Wallingford Bypass. Investigations at Whitecross Farm revealed that an important late Bronze Age site was located on a former river eyot. The results of these and earlier limited excavations are presented. Bringing all this evidence together has allowed the site to be more fully characterised as a place of 'high' status habitation and ritual during the 10th to 8th centuries BC. The bank of the Grim's Ditch earthwork was found to have preserved evidence of earlier prehistoric settlement, and a sequence of cultivation, including ard marks and 'cord-rig'; the latter is rarely found in lowland Britain. The Grim's Ditch can now be precisely placed within a major phase of massive earthwork construction that happened during the late Iron Age and early Roman period as a response to major political reorganisation. At Bradford's Brook traces of multi-period settlement and land division were uncovered. All three sites are discussed within their local, regional and national contexts.



FRONT COVER: Artist's impression of the Bronze Age settlement at Whitecross Farm © River and Rowing Museum

BACK COVER: Metalwork recovered from the river at Wallingford



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