

Oxford Archaeology
Thames Valley Landscapes
Monograph 38

Excavations at the Eton Rowing Course and along the Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Channel revealed extensive evidence for occupation in an evolving landscape of floodplains and gravel terraces set amidst the shifting channels of the Thames.

The most significant evidence was a series of early Neolithic midden deposits, preserved in hollows left by infilled palaeochannels. These deposits contained dense concentrations of pottery, worked flint, animal bone and other finds, and are put into context by other artefact scatters from the floodplain, pits on the gravel terrace and waterlogged environmental deposits from palaeochannels. Early Mesolithic lakeside occupation, later Mesolithic flint scatters along a former channel of the Thames, pits from the middle and late Neolithic and activity areas of the Beaker and Early Bronze Age, demonstrate longer term changes in patterns of occupation.

The excavations also revealed early, middle and late Neolithic human remains in palaeochannels, middle Neolithic crouched inhumation burials and early Neolithic cremated remains. An oval barrow may have first been cut in the early Neolithic. Other ring ditches date from the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age; one contained a central cremation burial in a Collared Urn together with pyre material and the remains of a bier.



This forms part of a three volume set, sponsored by the Environment Agency, Eton College and English Heritage examining the archaeology of a Middle Thames landscape, other titles:

Bridging the river, dividing the land
middle Bronze Age to Roman periods

Gathering the people, settling the land
Anglo-Saxon to post-medieval periods

front cover illustration: midden deposits in Area 6 of the Eton Rowing Course under excavation

back cover illustration: Peterborough Ware vessel from the Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme



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Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES
ISBN 978-1-905905-31-7

£35.00

Opening the wood, making the land

**By T Allen, A Barclay, AM Cromarty,
H Anderson-Whymark, A Parker,
M Robinson and G Jones**

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The Archaeology of a Middle Thames Landscape
Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age

The Eton College Rowing Course Project and the
Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme

By Tim Allen, Alistair Barclay, Anne Marie Cromarty,
Hugo Anderson-Whymark, Adrian Parker, Mark Robinson
and Gillian Jones

