

The construction of an additional passenger terminal (Terminal 5) at Heathrow Airport was preceded by one the largest archaeological investigations ever undertaken in the UK. The previous volume revealed the results of earlier phases of work in 1996 to 2000, while this volume presents a complete account of all excavations up to 2007.

The earliest evidence for human activity revealed in the Terminal 5 excavations related to hunter-gatherers in the 7th or 6th millennia BC. By the end of the 4th millennium BC the landscape had been transformed by a series of major cursus monuments, which were part of a significant ceremonial centre. Further changes by the early 2nd millennium BC resulted in the first archaeologically detectable settlements, fields and trackways. Major elements of this Bronze Age agricultural landscape persisted right up to the medieval period.

A nucleated settlement of Middle Iron Age date remained as a focus of occupation right through into the later Roman period. There is no evidence for post-Roman continuity, although the remains of a dispersed early Saxon settlement were revealed further to the north-west. Extensive medieval and post-medieval activity was found across much of the excavated area, largely comprising field systems and agricultural buildings. The character of the Heathrow landscape remained predominantly rural well into the 20th century.

As with volume 1, this book and accompany CD-Rom are designed to provide the reader with an accessible interpretation of the findings, while also allowing a more detailed exploration of the excavation archive.

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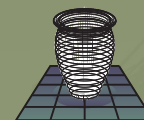
Highly commended, Best Archaeological Innovation -
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Landscape Evolution in the Middle Thames Valley: Heathrow Terminal 5 Excavations Volume 2

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