

# Community in the Upper Thames Valley Excavation of a Prehistoric, Roman and Post-Roman Landscape at Cotswold Community, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

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### Evolution of a Farming Community in the Upper Thames Valley Excava Prehistoric, Roman and Post-Roman Landscape at Cotswold Commu Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Volume 2: The Finds and Environmental

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#### Abstract

The site at Cotswold Community in the western reaches of the Upper Thames Valley has been a focus of research since Neolithic times. Successive Bronze Age, Iron Age & roman settlements developed within an increasingly grassland landscape, which was heavily exploited for the growing of crops and grazing of animals. The lives of the inhabitants were glimpsed through a series of structured pit deposits and ritual monuments, including a Neolithic timber circle and Bronze Age round barrows. One of the most striking landscape features was a series of Iron Age / early Iron Age pit alignments that extended over 500m, possibly marking one of the earliest attempts to demarcate territory on a large scale. It was still a visible feature for some time as it partly dictated the position of the Roman farmstead, which occupied the site from 1st to 4th centuries AD. The farm lay in the shadow of Cirencester less than 5km to the north and may even have been involved in the recycling of refuse from the urban centre. Following abandonment of the Roman farmstead there was no further occupation of the site. A small number of Saxon agricultural structures indicate continuing use of the land, which may now have been a locally-centered Saxon estate.

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