

***Did the farming economy generate the Wessex Culture wealth; changes in environment and agriculture?***

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Does the geoarchaeological and palaeo-environmental evidence from south central England really provide an independent data set to support a rise in economic status (arable cultivation and animal pasturage) to accompany and fund the 'Wessex Culture'? There are two strands of evidence that are briefly visited. The first being if land-use and agricultural change go hand in hand with the inception of the Wessex Culture, then we may expect to see an increase in cereal remains and their processing and storage. Secondly such a change in land-use practices might be expected to be manifest in effect on the soils, soil degradation and erosion in the form of lynchets formation and valley colluviation. These two themes are briefly explored and questioned, and some long held assumptions shown to be data-poor, even if we still accept long-held interpretations.

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