

WHERWELL, HANTS.

1964.

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The subsoil stratification in this river valley is complex and, over the site as a whole, remains unknown. The tentative section shown in the attached sketch would suggest that, at least in the areas from which samples were available, tufa might be sandwiched between river alluvium. It is clear that any disturbance, whether by human or natural agency, could in such circumstances give rise to ambivalent effects.

It would seem, however, that the 'bedrock' in which 'features' appear is in fact essentially tufa, though it contains some flint fragments. If it can be established that neolithic occupation is linked to the tufa surface then the conditions at that time would <sup>very warm and</sup> have been dominated by swampy vegetation growing by the edge of a small lake. <sup>This seems unlikely.</sup> Levels containing tufa fragments occur in disturbed areas overlying neolithic occupation. All fills and lateral levels would appear to be uniformly River Terrace deposits, brown clays and silts with flint pebbles, indicating a rise in river and foreshore level between neolithic and Roman times, and very probably rather early on.

(If this is important enough, comparative evidence could probably be found by searching the geological literature; please advise.)

Without further field evidence it is difficult to go ~~XXXXX~~ beyond this interpretation, and in particular to suggest which features could be due to human agency.

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