

PREHISTORIC DIDCOT

BASED ON FINDS AT DIDCOT WEST



12,000 years ago

6,000 years ago

5,200 years ago

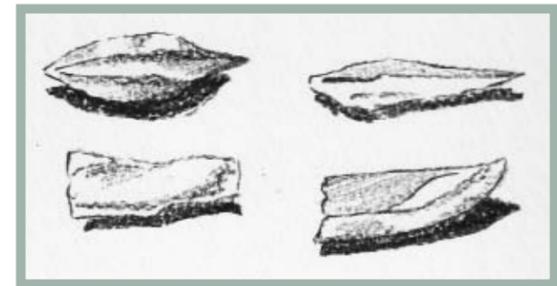
4,300 years ago

2,700 years ago

2,000 years ago

Didcot's ancient history has recently been uncovered in the fields to the west of the town.

More information is still to be investigated and reported on by the builder's archaeologists, but here are some of the finds and what we know about them so far... February 2013



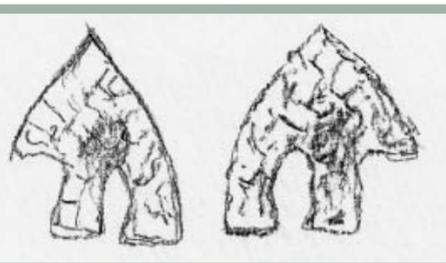
Mesolithic flint implements
Dating back 9000 years ago



Neolithic bowl
Lain complete and undisturbed for 6000 years, a great example of very early pottery

Pond barrow
One of less than 100 found in Britain, mostly in Wiltshire and Dorset and one of only 4 or 5 in Oxfordshire. Didcot's pond barrow had evidence of a 6 post structure, possibly a table for drying bodies... It is likely the site will be built over...

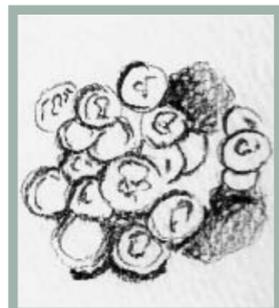
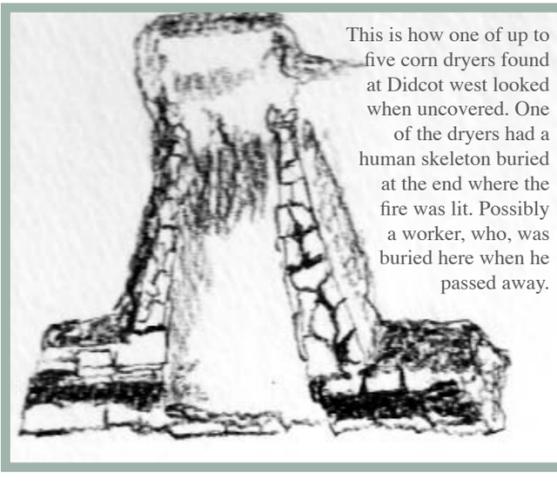
Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age high status flint work
The arrowheads, right, were found at the barrow site with other high status flint work and charred bones



Large Iron Age village
50 to 60 roundhouses and an unusual 8 metre square structure



Pit burials
The 900 or so iron-age pits originally stored food and were sealed with clay. They measured around 1 metre deep and 2 metres across. After use some were used to bury animal and human remains in a ritualistic manner. Lamb skulls in a circle, adults and child's bones, cattle were all found in different pits.



Roman / Romano-British
Pottery, multiple human burials, unusually large number of corn dryers, a villa and gold hoard were all discovered on the site

[Didcot] Village tradition says that human sacrifices were offered on a barrow planted with trees on the high ground to the west of the parish.

P.H. Ditchfield and William Page (eds),
A History of the County of Berkshire: Volume 3,
Published: 1923

Early Bronze Age village
It was unusual to find a village around a barrow, but that's what appeared at Didcot