Geophysical Research Abstracts
Vol. 15, EGU2013-4589, 2013
EGU General Assembly 2013


# Understanding cultural and environmental archaeological records within Holocene alluvial landscapes in the UK: developing an integrated tool-kit approach to geoprospection

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The river valleys of the UK preserve a rich record of post-glacial human activity, which reflects both the attraction of such landscapes for human settlement and the preservation of both cultural and environmental remains under the (relatively) high groundwater tables that have existed for most of the Holocene. The juxtaposition of cultural and environmental records in such environments provides significant opportunities for archaeologists to reconstruct high resolution, extended records of both cultural and environmental landscape development. However, the evolution of these natural sedimentary environments is complex and is influenced by both natural climate cycles (changing flood frequency and magnitude) as well as anthropogenic activity (through deforestation and transformation of local hydrological conditions). Therefore, producing meaningful spatial and temporal datasets requires the collaboration of archaeologists with a range of complementary technical skills from the design stage of individual projects. Using a series of case studies from a number of river valleys, this paper will outline the multi-method toolkit approach developed in the UK and evaluate the validity of such models for enhancing our knowledge of alluvial archaeological records. The paper will conclude by considering how such methodological approaches can be further refined and enhance our understanding of the resilience of human communities to future environmental change.