



Development and history of the River Amstel: results of the North/South line excavations, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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Since 2003 extensive archaeological research has been conducted in advance of a new underground system ('Noord/Zuidlijn') in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Research mainly focuses on two sites, Damrak and Rokin, in the centre of Medieval Amsterdam. Both sites are situated around the (former) river Amstel which is of vital importance for the origin and development of Amsterdam, but information about the river itself is relatively sparse. On the one hand, archaeological research should give more insight on the origins and the socio-cultural development of Amsterdam. On the other hand, we aim to determine the nature of the river Amstel through time within the city of Amsterdam as well as to reconstruct the age of the Amstel River. On basis of the current research in the Damrak and Rokin locations 106 sediment tray logs, grain size and TGA-analysis, pollen, microfauna, C14, and archaeological data will unravel the river's history. Integrated analysis augmented with additional information acquired from nearby archaeological excavations, archival corings, as well as 1214 existing sediment core and cone penetration data in a 3D-model delivers a chrono-stratigraphical sequence of events of the river Amstel within the history of the city of Amsterdam.