



## **Attractiveness of the landscape in the adoption of crop cultivation: role of local soil properties and groundwater table rise during 5000-4300 cal BC in Flevoland (central Netherlands)**

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This paper presents a new perspective for the temporal variation of adoption of crop cultivation during the period 5000-4300 cal BC in Flevoland (central Netherlands). To determine the role of soil properties and groundwater level rise in the choice for adopting crop cultivation, mapping of the mid-Holocene palaeotopography, palaeohydrology, soil conditions and distribution of Swifterbant archaeological remains are combined with in-depth research on cored sediments of two selected study areas. The groundwater level rise during this period increased the biodiversity in Flevoland, hereby possible promoting the adoption of crop cultivation. The low fertility of the soils on Pleistocene sands in southern Flevoland compared to the north, appears to have induced a lack for crop cultivation in the south. This diversification in the adoption of crop cultivation within Flevoland could indicate a first division in the Swifterbant Culture prior to 4300 cal BC. This division could form the basis for the diversification of the Swifterbant Culture around 3900 cal BC into a northern Swifterbant Group and the Hazendonk Group in the western Netherlands.