CONTENTS

Contributors ix
Figures xi
Tables xv
Acknowledgements xvii
Summary xix

Part I Setting

Chapter 1 Introduction
Anwen Cooper, David Gibson, Floor Huisman, Mark Knight & Iona Robinson Zeki
Must Farm pile-dwelling settlement: a summary 3
Excavation method 8
Setting 13
Location 13
Previous investigations at Must Pit 13
Inset: First finds of pottery (Matthew Brudenell) 14
Middle and Late Bronze Age archaeology in the Flag Fen Basin 17
Bronze Age wetland activity in the Fens and beyond 17
Early and Middle Bronze Age: familiarization with the Fens 19
Late Bronze Age: settling the Fens 21
Research themes 23
Original research themes 23
Emergent research considerations 23
Performing Must Farm 23
Situating Must Farm: spectacular comparanda and the complexities of ‘normalizing’ spectacular sites 23
Inset: Engaging a wider audience (Christopher Wakefield) 26
Approaching original material intensities 31
The project and its people 35
The Must Farm books: structure and makeup 38

Chapter 2 River
Rachel Ballantyne, Mark Knight & Iona Robinson Zeki
A landscape-wide stratigraphy 41
Inset: Scientific dating methods (Rachel Ballantyne, Peter Marshall & Ian Tyers) 46
Before the river 46
The river’s tale 48
Form and chronology 49
Palaeochannel stratigraphy 49
Riverbed drying-out events 49
Water flow and aquatic habitats 52
Early channel (1600–c. 1000 BC) 54
Mere outwash events (c. 1000 BC) 54
Later channel (c. 1000–400 BC) 56
The aquatic environment 56
Inset: The Must Farm causeway 58
The waterside environment 62
A Late Bronze Age waterway 62

Chapter 3 Construction: settlement architecture
Mark Knight & Iona Robinson Zeki
Contextual evidence 65
Evidence of the construction process 67
Order of construction 67
Woodworking chaîne opératoire 74
Construction implements 75
Settlement architecture
  The palisade 77
  Walkways and light structures 77
  The principal structures 81
    Preservation 81
Inset: The fire (Karl Harrison) 82
  Structure 1 84
  Structures 2, 3 and 5 91
Inset: Earth and plant-based building materials (Rachel Ballantyne, Alan J. Clapham & Charles French) 92
  Structure 4 96
  Summary 96
  Configuration 97
Discussion 99
  Roundhouse architecture: substructure to superstructure 100
  Concentric double-ring houses 100
  Superstructure 103
Inset: The Living Link: structural use of willow at Cow Hollow Bridge (Michael Ramage) 104

Chapter 4  Woods 109
  Michael Bamforth, Dana Challinor, Zoë Hazell & Iona Robinson Zeki
Treescapes 109
  Environmental and archaeological evidence 110
Composition of wooded habitats 110
  Riverside and carr woodland 112
  Fen woodland and dry woodland 112
  Fields, pasture and fallow land 112
Treescapes of the Flag Fen Basin 113
Selecting and using wood 114
  Selecting structural wood 114
    Selection of heavier structural elements (timber) 114
    Timber uniformity 118
    Old wood 119
    Selection of lighter structural elements (roundwood poles) 121
    Selection of wattle (roundwood rods and stems) 123
    Summary 125
  Selecting wood for artefacts 126
People in the woods 131
  River and carr 131
  Fen woodland and wooded margins 132
    The ash and oak 134
  Dry woodland and beyond 135
  Woodland tempos 135
Discussion 136
  From the river to the woods 136

Part II  Material dynamics 139

Chapter 5  Space and time 141
  Mark Knight, Rachel Ballantyne & Anwen Cooper
Composition and context: a ‘closed-context’ assemblage 144
Deposition and disposition 145
Case study 1. Structuring space–time: refitting the pile-dwelling’s pottery and animal bone assemblages 150
  Pottery and animal bone 150
  Refitting methodology 152
    Animal bone refitting 152
    Pottery refitting 152

vi
Refitting Structures 1 and 4  155
  Structure 1  155
  Structure 4  157
  Summary  158
Case study 2. Dwelling spaces and inventories of routine  161
  Depositional patterning beyond pottery and animal bone  161
  Active inventories and the use of space and time  166
  The use of space  166
Case study 3. Biological temporalities  167
Discussion  171

Chapter 6  Food  173
Rachel Ballantyne, Anwen Cooper & Vida Rajkovača
Sourcing food  175
Foodstuffs  177
Assembling food  180
  Landscape context  180
  Farmed meat on the hoof  180
  Cropping  183
  Foraging  183
Culinary practice  186
  Culinary artefacts  187
    Culinary vessels  187
  Inset: Animal diet  188
    Culinary tools  194
    Culinary architecture  194
  Culinary processes  194
    Time-extended culinary practice: storing, preparing and cooking cereal-based foods  194
    Processing harvested cereal grain  196
    Making and storing (cereal-based) food  196
    Time-condensed culinary practice: animal-based foods  199
  Culinary relationships: linking artefacts, food and architecture  201
    Recipes (food relationships)  201
    Foods, artefacts and architecture  202
Discussion  203

Chapter 7  Material abundance, ordinary life  205
Joanna Brück
The material world of the Must Farm pile-dwelling  205
  Inset: The bronze assemblage (Marion Uckelmann & Rob Wiseman)  213
  Inset: Discovering the fibres and fabrics of Must Farm (Susanna Harris)  218
  Inset: The composite necklace and other beads from Must Farm (Alison Sheridan & Julian Henderson)  222
The Must Farm households and the use of space  224
Production, exchange, networks and connections  226
Must Farm pile-dwelling settlement in context  230
Conclusion  232

Part III  Wider interpretative themes  235

Chapter 8  Water dwelling: a European context  237
Ferran Antolín, Richard Brunning, Anwen Cooper, Anne Crone, Stefanie Jacomet, Ben Jennings, Mark Knight, Aidan O’Sullivan & Bigna Steiner
Glastonbury Lake Village, Somerset and prehistoric wetland settlements in England  237
  Investigations at Glastonbury Lake Village  237
  Landscape setting  240
  Size and structure  240
  Timescales  242
  Fire  243
Economy, society and material culture 245
Why? 245
Conclusion 246
The View from the north: wetland settlement in Scotland and the Black Loch of Myrton 246
Context 246
Chronology: settlement duration and the tempo of change 247
Construction and use 249
Abandonment scenarios 253
Preservation of the ‘special’? 253
Later prehistoric water dwelling in the circum-Alpine region 254
Construction 254
Architecture 257
Chronology and dating 258
Duration 258
Fire 259
Setting and networks 259
On-site material culture distribution 260
Conclusion 260
Neolithic pile-dwellings of the circum-Alpine region 261
Architecture 262
Material culture 262
Temporality 267
Taphonomy 267
Use of space 269
Conclusion 271
Bronze Age wetland dwellings in Ireland 271
Middle Bronze Age wetland settlement 271
Late Bronze Age wetland settlement 272
Conclusion 274
Discussion 274

Chapter 9  Discussion 277
Matthew Brudenell

Matters of architecture 277
Building arrangements and the use of space 279
Enclosure and defence 280

Matters of occupation 283
Material propensity: the extraordinary ordinary 283
Defining inventories 284
Social relations 286

Matters of landscape 288
A changing landscape narrative: Late Bronze Age activity in the Flag Fen Basin 288
Into the wet: shifting perspectives 290
Beyond the Basin: water connected communities 291

Lessons for the future 294
Inset: Buried Humanities 2012–19: beyond the quarry window (Mark Knight, Lesley McFadyen & Lizzy Middleton) 296

Chapter 10  Afterword 299
Richard Bradley

The typical and the extraordinary: a source of reassurance? 300
An ordinary structure in an extraordinary setting? 301
Time depths 302
Living waters 303

Bibliography 305
Index 323