

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE ORIGINS OF WESSEX

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES



FRIDAY 10TH MARCH 2023 7.30PM
PROFESSOR HELENA HAMEROW
ST CROSS COLLEGE, OXFORD

It is well known that the kingdom of the West Saxons – Wessex – was ultimately the most successful of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. What is less well known is that the early heart of Wessex lay in the Upper Thames Valley, and not around Winchester, its later capital, and that its origins lie with the emergence of a rather obscure group referred to by Bede as the Gewisse. My talk will examine how archaeological sites and finds in the Upper Thames Valley reveal its development as a riverine cultural zone and political frontier and suggest new insights into the emergence of the Gewisse during the 6th-7th centuries.

THE LECTURE THEATRE, READING SCHOOL
LECTURE ENDS 9.00PM. ALL ARE WELCOME.

To obtain a gate-code for Reading School please email sexton44@gmail.com. Anyone wishing to join the speaker and committee for supper from 6.00pm (cost £12.50 inc wine) please email r.a.houlbrooke@reading.ac.uk by Wednesday 8th March. Supper bookers do not need to email separately for the gate code, which will be sent to everyone the day before.