

# Connecting Coastal Heritage, Communities and Climate Change

## RAINBOW BAR COMMUNITY PROJECT

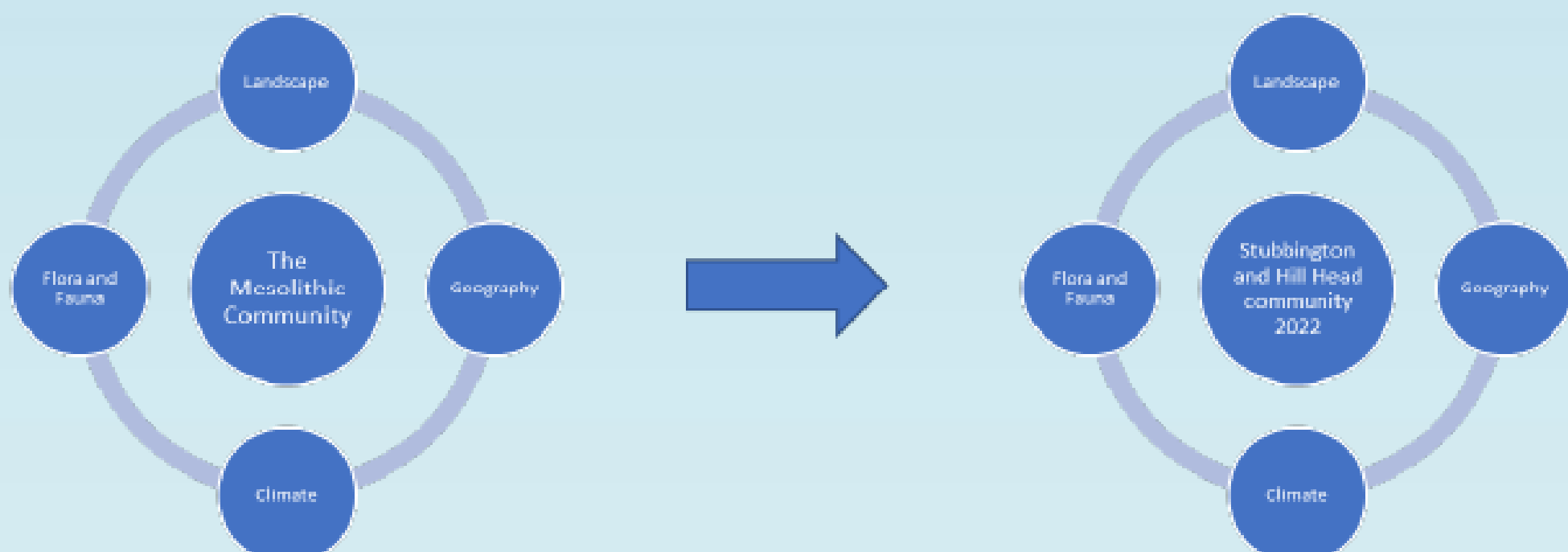
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Rainbow Bar is a shingle spit that reaches out into the Solent from Titchfield Haven; and looks over to Cowes and Queen Victoria's Isle of Wight get-away, Osborne House.

The Rainbow Bar Community Project (RBCP) in 2021 engaged local schools and community groups to begin investigating the Mesolithic of the area. The bar already records a big collection of lithic material from both Palaeolithic and Mesolithic occupations and 2022 will focus on drawing out climatic and landscape evidence!!

Starting with hand auguring the area we will build a picture of climate and landscape changes; helping build archaeological data, but also comparative material for modern communities who use the Bar today.



The Impact of the Anthropocene - A comparative study of the Mesolithic and present day communities and their environment.

From Archaeology to increased Environmental Awareness to Community Climate Action, 2022 promises to be exciting with the RBCP.

Acknowledgements:

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References:

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The wider Solent record of Mesolithic archaeology provides the perfect chance to investigate climate changes and coastal communities; as can be evidenced by work at Bouldnor Cliff (Tidbury, Satchell, and Momber 2017; Bailey et al. 2020) and Langstone Harbour (Allen and Gardiner 2000). The fresh lithic material at Rainbow Bar suggests we can start to think about a local area of Mesolithic activity which could then connect us to the wider Hill Head and Solent area and to Mesolithic Europe through the Solent and Channel rivers.



"Mesolithic coastal scene" from the Arun, by Wessex Archaeology.

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