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Christopher Tilley

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Early prehistoric societies in southern Scandinavia



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To the memory of DAVID CLARKE

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PREFACE

This book has taken a long time in the writing, originally being conceived in 1983 when I had just completed a Ph.D. thesis on the middle Neolithic of Skåne, southern Sweden. I started to draft parts of it in 1988 and ever since then gradually accumulating accretions of the text have been living and moving around with me while I was simultaneously engaged on other projects. The text is based on over ten years of personal research but in large measure also synthesizes and discusses the work of a great number of scholars, too numerous to mention here, but without whom it would have been impossible to write. I have tried to make clear enough my debt to them in the citations and references. I would like particularly to mention here the personal and intellectual debt I owe to Lars Larsson, Berta Stjernquist, Märta Strömberg at Lund, Jarl Nordbladh, Karl-Göran Sjögren at Göteborg, Ian Hodder at Cambridge, Barbara Bender, Danny Miller and Mike Rowlands in London. Karl-Göran Sjögren was kind enough to read through and critically comment on a draft of the entire text, and I have benefited from his advice as well as that of anonymous reviewers. I would like to thank Getrud Andersson, John Duncan and George Nash for their photographs. All errors are, of course, my own responsibility. I dedicate this book to the memory of David Clarke, who first taught me archaeology at Cambridge between 1974 and 1976, and without whose abiding theoretical influence, and generosity of spirit, I doubt very much whether it would exist.

The bulk of the text was completed by October 1993. It was revised during March and May 1994, and submitted for review to Cambridge University Press in June 1994. During March and April 1995, in the light of various comments I had received, and publications which had appeared since the text was completed (most importantly, Ebbesen's (1994) new catalogue of the material from Danish early Neolithic flat graves, published in *Aarbøger* 1992 and Karsten's (1994) study of votive deposits in Skåne), a number of additional revisions to the text were made.

Part of Chapter 4 has been previously published in B. Bender (ed.), *Landscape: Politics and Perspectives*, Berg Publishers (1993), and I am grateful to be able to use that material here with a slightly revised account of the Västergötland passage graves. A few other paragraphs in Part II have previously appeared in print in my paper 'Ideology and the legitimation of power in the middle Neolithic of southern Sweden' in D. Miller and C. Tilley (eds.), *Ideology, Power and Prehistory* published by Cambridge University Press (1984).