Acknowledgements

Funding for this research was provided by an Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Studentship. Optically stimulated luminescence dates were funded by the Quaternary Research Association/Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art Luminescence Award for 2009. Radiocarbon dating and amino acid ratios were funded by a research grant provided by the University of the West of England.

Access to the Gordano Valley was granted through Natural England and the Avon Wildlife Trust. I would like to thank Bob Corns from Natural England and Tim McGrath, Tim Curley and John Harrison from Avon Wildlife Trust for their assistance throughout the research. Permission from Robert Fowler for access to his private land within the valley was very much appreciated.

The Environment Agency is thanked for provision of data for light detection and ranging (LiDAR) images of the Gordano Valley.

I would like to acknowledge the help of a huge number of people from the Faculty of Environment and Technology at the University of the West of England. I would especially like to thank my supervisors: Wendy Woodland, Chris Spencer and Dave Case, for their invaluable help and putting up with me for ten years of undergraduate and postgraduate study. Thanks also go to all the Larss staff at UWE for providing assistance when needed, particularly the laboratory staff: cheery Andy Geary and Emma Brown, who also helped with the field work, and Atul Vadgama.

Special thanks also go to:

Professor Sue Marriott, University of Bedfordshire: for her endless enthusiasm and assistance with lithological work.

Professor Paul Davies and Rachel Chesterton, Bath Spa University: for assistance in identifying mollusc and foraminifera samples.

Dr Jean-Luc Schwenninger, Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, Oxford University, for his work to provide optically stimulated luminescence dates and David Peat, Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, Oxford University, for his patience and help in sample preparation for optically stimulated luminescence dating under trying circumstances.

Dr John Whittaker, Dr Jo Wilbraham and Professor Dave John of the Natural History Museum: for assistance in identifying ostracods and algae samples.

Dr Emma Tetlow, Headland Archaeology: for help with beetle identification.