

Site Formation Processes at a New Kingdom Settlement at Sai Island, Sudan

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Abstract : The important Egyptian New Kingdom settlement at Sai Island Sudan presents a complex stratigraphic archaeological record. This study takes the theoretic stance that it, not just the archaeological material being retrieved from the deposits but the sediments themselves that reflect human agency. These anthropogenic sediments reflect the use life of the buildings and spaces between and the post-depositional processes which operate to complicate the archaeological record. The application of soil micromorphology is a technique that takes intact block samples of sediment and analyses them in thin section under a petrological microscope. A detailed understanding of site formation processes and a contextualized knowledge of the material culture can be understood through careful and systematic observation of the changing facies. The major findings of the study are that soil and sedimentary information can provide valuable insights to the use of space during the New Kingdom and elucidate the complexities of site formation processes.

Keywords : anthropogenic sediment, New Kingdom, site formation processes, soil micromorphology

Conference Title : ICAS 2016 : International Conference on Archaeological Sciences

Conference Location : Singapore, Singapore

Conference Dates : September 08-09, 2016