



Geoarchaeological investigations of a Predynastic and Early Dynastic landscape. A view from the Eastern Nile Delta (Egypt)

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This study deals with the geomorphological and archaeological contexts of Predynastic and Early Dynastic sites in the Eastern Nile Delta. This area is an archaeologically important region for investigating the origins of the pharaonic civilisation. Geoarchaeological investigation has provided significant insights into the early cultural history of the area by elucidating the impact of landscape evolution on the spatial and temporal pattern of archaeological sites. A current project led by the authors since 2002 aims to reconstruct the palaeogeography of several localities in the Nile Delta during the 4th millennium BC. The methodology employed includes a geomorphological mapping of the studied area, the collection and analysis of all subsurface data available and the recognition and interpretation of all the available archaeological markers. The morphological features associated with changes in the Nile river's course and the construction of its alluvial plain appear to be a dominant feature, testifying to the long-term evolution of this fluvial landscape. The study of which will help us understand the prominent environmental features of the region that are culturally relevant to settlement formation and evolution. This study demonstrates the potential of geoarchaeological study to be integrated into archaeological investigations by focusing on landscape contexts as fundamental dimensions of the archaeological record.