



Microstratigraphic analysis of midden formation processes at Neolithic Çatalhöyük, Turkey

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Micromorphology is an essential tool for understanding formation processes of complex, finely stratified anthropogenic deposits, allowing the observation of deposit components and their associations in their precise depositional context. Micromorphology can be further enhanced through the integrated use of complementary analytical techniques, such as spectroscopic and biomolecular analyses, and phytolith analysis of individual layers. Understanding midden formation processes can contribute to the understanding of human resource use and activities at a high temporal resolution. In addition these deposits contain paleoenvironmental signals, providing evidence for human impact and interaction with the environment.

This paper gives a brief overview of midden formation processes at Neolithic Çatalhöyük, Turkey, examined using a combination of micromorphology, FT-IR, GC-MS and phytolith analyses of individual fine layers, and how this has contributed to our understanding of everyday activities and human-environment relationships at the site.