



A fluvial geoarchaeological survey in NE Syria: archaeological sites in their environmental context

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During the summer of 2002 and 2003, a geoarchaeological survey has been undertaken along several small streams of the Upper Khabur watershed in NE Syria in order to understand archaeological sites in their environmental context and to study the interactions between people and their environment. Understanding the causality in sediment deposition requires a fine chronological tuning of different kinds of data-sets. A preliminary fluvial chronology has been established through the use of a thermoluminescence screening method on sherds (Deckers *et al* 2005) and soil formation studies. Additionally, several OSL (Optically Stimulated Luminescence) and radiocarbon samples have been submitted. The geomorphological survey indicated that large parts of the plain are covered with relatively recent fine grained sediments. However, at some locations Mid-Holocene gravel deposits suggest the presence of high energy streams and indicate a relatively moist climate. These moist conditions probably favoured intensive habitation of the area.

Deckers, K.; Sanderson, D.C.W. and Spencer, J.Q.C. (2005) Thermoluminescence screening of nondiagnostic sherds from stream sediments to obtain a preliminary alluvial chronology: An Example from Cyprus. *Geoarchaeology. An International Journal* 20.1, 67-77.