



McDONALD INSTITUTE CONVERSATIONS

Inspired geoarchaeologies: past landscapes and social change

Essays in honour of Professor Charles A. I. French

Edited by Federica Sulas, Helen Lewis & Manuel Arroyo-Kalin



Inspired geoarchaeologies



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Edited by Federica Sulas, Helen Lewis
& Manuel Arroyo-Kalin

with contributions from

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Courtesy of Kasia Gdaniec.

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Appendix to Chapter 11

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Table A11.1. Selected ICPAES concentrations. Results in ppm (part per million) unless otherwise stated.

Reference topsoil		N. samples	Al %	Ba	Ca %	Co	Cr	Cu	Fe %	K %	Mg %	Mn	Na %	Ni	P	Pb	Sr	Zn
Reddish brown fine sandy loam		3	2.4	473	1.8	19	459	37	3.3	1.1	2.2	529	0.3	189	1457	5	251	46
Dark brown fine sand silty loam		2	1.9	320	1.8	24	316	30	3.9	0.9	6.3	460	0.7	250	445	4	281	35
Area	Sample ID	Depth cm	Al %	Ba	Ca %	Co	Cr	Cu	Fe %	K %	Mg %	Mn	Na %	Ni	P	Pb	Sr	Zn
Samaria	Den Staat 1/1	30-40	6.5	640	2.3	23	193	47	4.7	1.8	1.3	743	1.3	70	950	13	311	65
Samaria	Den Staat 1/2	150-162	6.2	620	2.0	24	159	39	4.5	1.7	1.1	697	1.3	54	700	15	291	66
Samaria	GA2/1	0-8	1.6	300	0.6	13	641	22	1.8	0.7	0.8	275	0.2	103	340	3	95	26
Samaria	GA/2/2	2-28	1.8	350	0.9	15	275	24	2.2	0.7	1.0	315	0.2	131	400	2	134	27
Samaria	GA4/2	12-17	2.5	540	2.2	18	461	36	3.4	1.2	2.6	528	0.3	184	1310	<2	320	44
Samaria	GA4/3	35-54	2.5	530	2.8	21	485	41	3.6	1.2	3.0	529	0.3	196	1190	7	380	45
Samaria	GA5/2	10-42	2.3	510	1.7	22	429	33	3.5	1.1	2.1	571	0.3	193	940	5	254	45
Samaria	GA5/3	42-57	2.4	500	1.7	19	418	31	3.3	1.1	2.2	562	0.3	187	950	6	253	41
Samaria	GA6/1	0-8	1.9	350	1.1	12	303	24	2.6	0.9	1.5	396	0.2	129	570	3	160	36
Samaria	GA6/2	8-42	1.8	340	1.1	12	302	27	2.7	0.8	1.5	388	0.2	132	550	<2	156	29
Samaria	GA6/3	42-54	1.8	350	1.8	16	300	26	2.5	0.8	1.6	364	0.2	130	580	4	220	32
Samaria	GA7/1	0-8	1.9	340	0.8	12	302	22	2.4	0.8	1.2	365	0.2	115	440	3	131	28
Samaria	GA7/2	8-40	1.9	320	0.8	12	329	23	2.4	0.8	1.3	358	0.2	124	370	2	118	26
Samaria	GA7/3	40-55	1.9	320	1.0	15	276	25	2.4	0.7	1.4	348	0.2	115	360	<2	136	28
Samaria	GA8/1	0-5	1.6	270	0.8	4	179	17	1.5	0.8	0.5	246	0.2	43	2210	3	112	35
Samaria	GA8/2	5-15	1.6	260	0.8	4	183	19	1.9	0.8	0.5	292	0.2	44	2360	7	109	38
Samaria	GA8/3	15-31	1.6	280	1.4	7	145	22	1.4	0.8	0.9	289	0.2	42	2750	3	183	60
Samaria	GA8/4	31-48	1.6	260	1.1	7	151	25	1.4	0.7	0.6	239	0.2	42	2210	<2	147	40
Samaria	GA8/5	48-60	1.6	260	0.8	4	200	20	1.9	0.8	0.5	274	0.2	44	1670	3	114	33
Samaria	GA9/1	0-20	1.7	260	0.5	5	196	17	1.7	0.8	0.6	245	0.2	66	450	6	84	24
Samaria	GA9/2	20-44	1.8	270	0.5	5	165	18	1.7	0.8	0.6	249	0.2	71	370	8	82	22
Samaria	GA9/3	44-54	1.7	260	0.5	8	165	20	1.9	0.7	0.7	245	0.2	75	330	7	74	20
Samaria	GA10/1	0-7	2.5	340	1.4	12	187	26	2.3	0.9	1.0	331	0.7	81	780	4	171	37
Samaria	GA10/2	7-15	2.3	290	0.7	9	257	23	2.2	0.9	0.8	325	0.4	89	500	7	107	30
Samaria	GA10/3	15-51	2.1	280	0.6	8	213	21	2.0	0.7	0.9	296	0.3	90	370	3	95	24
Samaria	GA10/4	51-55	2.1	300	0.6	10	202	22	2.1	0.8	1.0	318	0.3	100	360	3	106	25
Samaria	GA11/1	0-4	4.6	320	2.4	15	171	39	3.0	1.0	1.1	532	1.5	81	830	7	176	56
Samaria	GA11/2	4-19	3.6	310	0.5	12	188	29	2.8	1.0	0.8	436	0.4	80	480	10	90	39
Samaria	GA11/3	19-34	2.9	300	0.5	9	194	26	2.3	0.9	0.8	363	0.3	82	360	5	87	32
Leowke	LKC1/2	60-70	2.3	390	1.7	22	236	33	3.8	1.1	4.3	465	0.5	226	300	4	253	29
Leowke	LKC2/2	30-40	2.4	390	2.0	26	355	43	5.1	1.1	3.0	624	0.6	285	600	6	245	43
Leowke	LKC2/3	70-85	2.2	380	2.2	27	372	34	4.6	0.9	3.6	559	0.4	273	510	8	287	41
K2	K2/1.1	20-32	2.4	360	0.7	7	40	14	1.6	1.2	0.4	196	0.5	31	360	4	80	14
K2	K2/1.2	60-73	1.9	410	1.9	9	65	20	2.0	1.0	0.6	247	0.4	48	390	6	142	13
K2	K2/2.1	10-20	2.6	410	1.5	4	29	13	1.5	1.3	0.5	234	0.4	22	510	12	91	17
K2	K2/2.2	32-44	3.1	510	0.7	4	21	15	1.5	1.6	0.4	196	0.6	17	460	11	74	19
K2	K2/2.3	76-86	2.9	460	1.2	4	31	15	1.5	1.5	0.5	224	0.5	21	710	10	88	17

Table A11.2. Archaeological soil micromorphology description.

Area	Thin Section (imprint cm)	Unit	Description								Interpretation
			Structure	Porosity	Mineral components	c/f10µm -ratio	Organic components	Biogenic residues & inclusions	Groundmass	Pedofeatures	
Limpopo River	DS 1.1 (9.4x5)	30-40	Granular/ vughy (bioturbated)	10%: vesicles, vughs, channels	Quartz, feldspars, rare olivine (?)	50:50; moderately sorted silty fine sand	20%: amorphous, plant tissue residues, root fragments; charcoal, microcharcoal	Shell fragments; phytoliths (bulliform, saddle)	Close porphyric; brown (PPL; 10YR 3/2) undifferentiated with speckled domains	Strong organic staining; dusty clay coatings, iron- rich clay fragments, crust fragments of organic-rich clay; iron typic nodules	Buried, lower A silty fine sand, strong organic staining and bioturbation.
	DS 1.2 (12.4x5.7)	150-162	Granular/ vughy (bioturbated)	10-15%: packing pores, vesicles, vughs, channels	Quartz, feldspars, rare olivine (?)	40:60; moderately sorted very fine sand silty clay	15%: amorphous, plant tissue residues; charcoal, microcharcoal	Shell and (burnt) bone fragments; pollen, phytoliths (bulliform, saddle, trichome)	Close porphyric; dark brown (PPL; 10YR 3/3) undifferentiated to poro-striated	Dusty clay coatings; iron-rich clay coatings; crust fragments of organic-rich clay; calcite infillings and coatings (ash)	Buried Ah-B silty clay, moderate organic staining and bioturbation; porosity from seasonal waterlogging.
	LKC 1.2 (8.5x6)	60-70	Vughy (bioturbated)	5-10%: vughs, channels	Quartz, feldspars, rare olivine (?)	60:40; moderately sorted sandy silt	5-10%: amorphous, charcoal	Phytoliths (bulliform, elongate)	Close porphyric; reddish brown (PPL; 5YR 4/4) crystallitic to undifferentiated	Common sparitic calcite in the groundmass; iron-rich dusty clay coatings; limpid clay fragments; iron typic nodules	Buried Bt sandy silt, moderate to strong organics staining and bioturbation.
Mapungubwe	LKC 2.1 (11.6x5.6)	10-20	Complex (bioturbated)	10-15%: vughs, vesicles, channels	Quartz, feldspars, rare olivine (?)	80:20; poorly sorted silty fine sand	10%: amorphous, root fragments; charcoal, microcharcoal	Phytoliths (bulliform, bilobate, trichome, elongate)	Close porphyric; brown (PPL; 7.5YR 4/6) crystallitic to speckled	Common sparitic calcite in the groundmass; dusty clay coatings, iron-rich clay coatings and fragments; calcium carbonate infillings (ash); aggregates of coalesced (phosphatized) matter (dung)	Lower topsoil-Ah silty sand, moderate organic staining with common organic and ash.
	LKC 2.2 (11.2-5.7)	30-40	Subangular blocky	10%: vughs, channels	Quartz, feldspars, rare olivine (?)	80:20; poorly sorted clayey silt	10%: amorphous, iron-replaced root fragments; charcoal, microcharcoal	Shell fragments; sclerotia; phytoliths (trichome)	Close porphyric; brown (PPL; 7.5YR 5/3) crystallitic to speckled	Amorphous excremental matter and pellets (mites); limpid clay coatings; organic- limpid clay coatings and clay-rich fragments	Buried (Ah-)Bt clayey silt, moderate organic staining and bioturbation.
	K2 2.1 (9.5x5.8)	10-20	Crumb to subangular blocky	10%: vughs, channels	Quartz, feldspars, rare olivine (?)	70:30; moderately sorted silty very fine sand	5%: amorphous, punctuation; charcoal, microcharcoal	Bone fragments; sclerotia; fungal spores; phytoliths (elongate, trichome, bulliform)	Close porphyric; reddish brown (PPL; 5YR5/3); crystallitic to speckled	Dusty clay coatings; iron typic nodules; calcite infillings (ash)	Topsoil – organic- rich silty sand.
	K2 2.2 (12.4x6)	32-44	Vughy to subangular blocky	10%: complex packing pores, channels, vughs	Quartz, feldspars, rare olivine (?)	80:20; moderately sorted silty very fine sand	10%: amorphous; root fragments; charcoal	Burnt bone fragments; phytoliths (bulliform, trichome, spherical)	Close porphyric; reddish brown (PPL; 5YR 4/4) crystallitic	Dusty clay coatings; iron- rich clay coatings; iron typic nodules; calcite infillings (ash); aggregates of coalesced (phosphatized) matter (dung)	Buried (Ah-)B silty fine sand, moderate organic staining and bioturbation.
	K2 2.3 (12.5.7)	74-86	Subangular blocky	10%: channels, vughs	Quartz, feldspars, rare olivine (?)	80:20; moderately sorted silty very fine sand	Amorphous; iron- replaced plant tissue residues, root fragments; charcoal, microcharcoal	Burnt bone fragments; fungal spores; phytoliths (bulliform, trichome, elongate); potsherds	Close porphyric; pale, reddish brown (PPL; 5YR 6/3); grano- striated to crystallitic	Dusty clay coatings; amorphous excremental matter; calcite infillings (ash)	Buried B silty fine sand, weak organic staining and common anthropic inclusions

Inspired geoarchaeologies

Geoarchaeological research captures dimensions of the past at an unprecedented level of detail and multiple spatial and temporal scales. The record of the past held by soils and sediments is an archive for past environments, climate change, resource use, settlement lifeways, and societal development and resilience over time. When the McDonald Institute was established at Cambridge, geoarchaeology was one of the priority fields for a new research and teaching environment. An opportunity to develop the legacy of Charles McBurney was bestowed upon Charles French, whose 'geoarchaeology in action' approach has had an enormous impact in advancing knowledge, principles and practices across academic, teaching and professional sectors. Many journeys that began at Cambridge have since proliferated into dozens of inspired geoarchaeologies worldwide. This volume presents research and reflection from across the globe by colleagues in tribute to Charly, under whose leadership the Charles McBurney Laboratory became a beacon of geoarchaeology.

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