
Kom W and X Basin: expanding the landscape archaeology of the Fayum, Egypt

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Résumé

The results of new studies of the formational history and age of the Kom W deposit, along with new analyses of the stone artefacts, pottery, and fauna are related to the analysis of the surface deposits of artefacts that surround the site. Rather than a village as some have claimed, Kom W accumulated over a period of around 1000 years without evidence for occupation structures. Dates obtained from surface heat retainer hearths suggest that the dense artefact deposits that surround the site accumulated over a similar period. When placed within its landscape context, Kom W is not as unique as once imagined nor does it have the attributes of a permanently occupied village as some have suggested. Instead, Kom W is similar to other deflated deposits in X Basin all of which indicate a combination of storage and considerable mobility. These results suggest a settlement pattern and socio-economy in the Fayum different to that reconstructed for the Levant.

Mots-Clés: Fayum, Neolithic, Egypt, Geoarchaeology, chronology

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