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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Islamic Baydha Project: Investigating Settlement of the Islamic period in the Petra Region

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Abstract

The Islamic Baydha Project, launched in 2014, is a project of archaeological investigations, training and community engagement. The project's focus is on reconstructing the landscape of Islamic-period settlement in the area of Baydha, in the Petra hinterland. At the center of the project is the site of Islamic Baydha, where the most substantial evidence of Islamic-period settlement in the Petra region has been identified by archaeology, and where a village and two mosques have been discovered. It has been possible to propose a chronology for the mosques and village thanks to a combination of all available sources. The combined study of OSL and C14 analyses at both mosques, the study of artifacts, of the documentary sources, of the overall site stratigraphy and the surveys, all have allowed restricting the site's main chronology of occupation to between the 11th and the 14th century. Surveys were also carried out in the broader Baydha region, documenting that the Middle Islamic village of Baydha was only the most significant of a considerable number of sites present in this fertile area of the hinterland of Petra, where the Islamic period was much more extended at this time than it had been reconstructed by earlier surveys.

Keywords

Petra, Islamic Archaeology, Landscape Archaeology, Middle Islamic Period, Islamic villages

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