



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Tell Saq (al-Ula), NW Arabia: Site formation and stratigraphy between the Bronze Age and the World War I period

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## Abstract

Based on archaeological excavations at the site of Tell Saq in the oasis of al-Ula (Saudi Arabia) by the German Archaeological Institute and the Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU) between 2023 and 2025, this paper examines stratigraphic methods used for approaching site formation processes across diverse archaeological contexts. By integrating relative and absolute dating with sedimentary analysis, we trace sequences and assess depositional integrity within the archaeological remains at Tell Saq as well as in burial contexts in the adjacent wadi Saq.

Focusing on stratigraphic (dis)continuities and (in)homogenities covering a time range between the Middle Bronze Age and the World War I period, this contribution discusses the complex interplay between site formation dynamics including anthropogenic layers and natural events as well as post-depositional changes. Findings highlight the value of precise and multiproxy-based stratigraphy for reconstructing site usage patterns (and phases of abandonment) interpreting cultural and environmental transitions.

## Keywords

Stratigraphy, Site formation, Northwest Arabia, Tell Saq

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