



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Monumentality and connectivity on the arid margins of the Near East: a remote sensing perspective

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Abstract

This paper will present the results of systematic archaeological survey of satellite imagery covering the arid fringe of the Near East undertaken by the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA) project. This work covers parts of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq and Syria and provides an opportunity to interrogate the distribution of morphologically distinct prehistoric structures across a swathe of varied landscape types. While the survey methodology used creates a clear bias in terms of site types recorded, focusing on larger structures clearly visible on a satellite image such as mustatils, kites and cairn structures, there is still a potential to draw initial conclusions about connectivity across the arid zone and links to the Near Eastern heartlands of the Levant and Mesopotamia. This includes the increasing regional spread of monumental architectural types from the Neolithic through to the Bronze Age, and the subsequent disappearance of distinct monumental forms in subsequent periods.

Keywords

Archaeology, Survey, Remote sensing, monumentality, arid landscapes

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