

Proposed Process-based Terminology for Archaeological Interpretations. (S05-frey161242-Poster)

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Abstract:

Field soil descriptions integrate information about pedological features with the soil-forming processes. This is conveyed by the use of process-based pedological terms, that is, the master horizon designations followed by letters of subordinate distinction. A soil scientist can provide information to a variety of disciplines based on this nomenclature. In the growing field of geoarchaeology, pedologists interpret the soil resource to assist the archaeologist in understanding the anthropogenic features of the soil and their relation to the archaeological record. At the present time, there are few specific process-based pedological descriptors to indicate anthropogenic soil features such as middens, cache pits or house floors that may be found on archaeological sites. Process-based pedological terms that are specifically tailored to such anthropogenic features would facilitate communication between these two disciplines. Therefor suggested process-based pedological terms for anthropogenic features will be presented in this paper.

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