

Contents

Preface to the Second Edition xi	
Preface to the First Edition xiii	
I Theory and History 1	
The Scope of Geoarchaeology 1	
Archaeology and the Earth Sciences 4	
<i>Foundational Phase: Before 1900</i> 5	
<i>Collaborative Phase: 1900–1950</i> 10	
<i>Integrative Phase: After 1950</i> 16	
Changing the Guard 20	
2 Sediments, Soils, and Environmental Interpretations 25	
Sediments 25	
<i>Weathering</i> 26	
<i>Transportation</i> 27	
<i>Postdepositional Changes</i> 28	
<i>Archaeological Implications</i> 28	
Classification of Sedimentation Products 29	
<i>Clastic Deposits</i> 29	
<i>Gravel</i> 32	
<i>Sand</i> 33	
<i>Mud</i> 34	
<i>Chemical Deposition</i> 35	
<i>Calcareous Precipitates</i> 36	
<i>Noncalcareous Precipitates</i> 36	
<i>Organic Matter</i> 37	
Soils and Buried Soils 38	
<i>The Soil Profile</i> 39	
<i>Soil Types</i> 41	
<i>Entisols</i> 41	
<i>Vertisols</i> 41	
<i>Inceptisols</i> 41	
<i>Mollisols</i> 41	
<i>Alfisols</i> 42	
<i>Ultisols</i> 42	
<i>Spodosols</i> 42	
<i>Aridosols</i> 42	
<i>Histosols</i> 42	
<i>Paleosols and Buried Soils</i> 43	
Inferring Environments from Physical and Chemical Parameters 45	
<i>Color</i> 45	
<i>Cementation and Induration</i> 47	
<i>Texture</i> 47	
<i>Structure</i> 53	
<i>Composition</i> 54	
<i>Boundaries</i> 58	
Micromorphology 59	
3 Initial Context and Site Formation 60	
The Creation of the Archaeological Record 60	
Stages of Site Formation 62	
Initial Landscapes and Original Occupation 62	

Contents

Sedimentary Contexts 63

Desert Depositional Systems 64

The Effects of Wind 64

The Effects of Moisture 65

Desert System Site Formation 66

Alluvial Depositional Systems: Flowing Water 67

Depositional Contexts 68

Site Formation in Alluvial Settings 75

Lakes and Associated Basin Settings 78

Basin Deposits 78

Site Formation in Basin Settings 80

Cave and Rock Shelter Depositional Systems 81

Limestone Caves 81

Sandstone Caves and Rock Shelters 85

Igneous Rock Caves 85

Site Formation in Caves 85

The Glacial System 86

Coastal and Marine Depositional Settings 90

Coastal Processes and Site Formation 91

Coastal Landscape Context 95

Postdepositional Processes 98

Mass Wasting 99

Cryoturbation 99

Bioturbation 100

4 Methods of Discovery and Spatial Analyses 103

Maps 103

Landform Sediment Assemblages 109

Settlement Patterns 109

Remote Sensing 110

Geophysical Prospecting 111

Magnetometry and Magnetic Properties of Soils and Sediments 113

Electrical Resistivity 115

Electromagnetic Conductivity 116

Ground Penetrating Radar 116

Seismic Profiling 117

Magnetic Analysis 118

Aerial Photography 118

Satellite and Airborne Remote Sensing 120

Dowsing 121

Geochemical Prospecting and Analysis 122

Core Drilling 125

Locating Water Resources 129

Geographic Information Systems 129

The Complexities of Scale 130

5 Estimating Time 132

Climate Change and Time 133

Artifacts and Dating 134

Stratigraphy 135

Rhythmites (Varves) 136

Paleosols in Loess and Alluvium 139

Tephrochronology 142

Dating Using Animal and Plant Fossils 143

Paleontology 143

Dendrochronology 144

Radiometric Dating Methods 144

Potassium-Argon and Argon-Argon Dating 144

Uranium-Series Dating 146

Radiocarbon Dating 147

Other Dating Methods 153

Fission-Track Dating 153

Paleomagnetic and Archaeomagnetic Dating 153

Electron Spin Resonance and Luminescence Dating 156

Temperature-Affected Dating 160

Amino Acid Racemization and Epimerization 160

Hydration (Obsidian) 160

Dating Techniques Based on Chemical Accumulation 162	<i>Human Habitats and Geoecology 186</i>
<i>Chemical Analysis 162</i>	<i>Tectonics, Climates, Landscapes, and the Human Past 188</i>
Dating Exposed Surfaces 163	Microclimates 191
<i>Patination and Desert Varnish 163</i>	<i>Human Interaction with Environment and Its Effects on Climate 192</i>
<i>Cosmogenic Nuclides 163</i>	
6 Paleoenvironmental Reconstructions: Landscapes and the Human Past 165	7 Raw Materials and Resources 195
Environmental and Landscape Change 165	Definitions 195
Inferring Environmental Change 166	Minerals 196
Ecology and Landscape Change 167	<i>Chert and Chalcedony 196</i>
Terrestrial (Non-marine) Geoecologic Data from Lake Records 168	<i>Semiprecious Stones 197</i>
Plant (Botanical) Indicators 169	<i>Other Archaeologically Important Minerals 199</i>
<i>Microfossils 169</i>	Metals and Ores 202
<i>Pollen 169</i>	Rocks 207
<i>Phytoliths 172</i>	Shells 210
<i>Diatoms 174</i>	Clays 211
<i>Macrofossils 175</i>	Building Materials 213
Animal Indicators 176	<i>Building Stone 214</i>
<i>Invertebrates 176</i>	<i>Burnt Brick 215</i>
<i>Ostracods 176</i>	<i>Mortar 215</i>
<i>Mollusks 178</i>	Other Materials 216
<i>Insects 179</i>	<i>Pigments 217</i>
<i>Vertebrates 180</i>	<i>Abrasives 218</i>
<i>Mammal Fossil Remains 180</i>	Rock and Mineral Recovery 218
<i>Bird Fossil Remains 181</i>	Water 219
<i>Reptile and Amphibian Fossil Remains 182</i>	
<i>Fish Fossil Remains 182</i>	8 Sourcing (Provenance) 222
Other Ecologic Accumulations 183	Geologic Deposits 224
<i>Pack-Rat Middens 183</i>	Materials Used in Sourcing 225
<i>Peat 183</i>	<i>Obsidian 225</i>
Geochemical Indicators 183	<i>Sourcing Other Igneous and Metamorphic Rocks 226</i>
Environmental Change and Archaeological Explanations 186	<i>Chert 227</i>
	<i>Marble 228</i>

Contents

- Clay* 229
- Temper* 229
- Amber* 230
- Bitumen* 230
- Soft Stone, Other Rocks, and Semiprecious Minerals* 230
- Native Copper* 231
- Complex Copper Minerals* 232
- Tin* 232
- Lead, Silver, and Gold* 234
- Sourcing Methods 235
 - Trace-Element Analyses* 235
 - Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis* 236
 - X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry* 237
 - Isotope Analysis/Mass Spectrometry* 237
 - DNA* 238
 - Mineral Magnetism* 238
 - Other Analytical Methods* 238
 - Petrographic Analysis* 238
 - Statistics and Data Analysis* 242
- 9 Construction, Destruction, Archaeological Resource Preservation, and Conservation** 244
 - Geotechnology 244
 - Construction 245
 - Dams* 245
 - Canals* 246
 - Fields and Raised Fields* 247
 - Roads* 248
 - Excavation (Mines and Quarries) 248
 - Natural Burial and Site Formation 249
 - Rock Properties and Weathering 250
 - Destruction* 250
 - Weathering* 251
 - Pollution* 252
 - Water* 254
 - Erosion and Subsidence in Archaeology 256
 - Erosion* 256
 - Land Subsidence* 256
 - Geologic “Catastrophes” and the Human Past 257
 - Earthquakes and Seismic Disturbance* 257
 - Floods and Flood Legends* 262
 - Volcanoes* 263
 - Site Preservation 265
 - Site Preservation Problems* 265
 - Reservoirs* 267
 - Hilltops or Slopes* 268
 - Seismicity* 268
 - Site Stabilization* 268
 - Earth Burial* 269
 - Archaeological/Cultural Resource Management 270
 - Resource Management* 270
 - Conservation* 271
 - Materials Preservation* 271
 - Corrosion* 271
- 10 Epilogue** 273
 - The Future 273
 - The Future of Geoarchaeology within Archaeology 273
 - Notes 277
 - Glossary 287
 - Bibliography 291
 - Index 319