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INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEDIMENTS

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Infrared Spectroscopy of Archaeological Sediments

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Abstract: Infrared spectroscopy is the study of the interaction between infrared radiation and matter. Its application to the characterization of archaeological sedimentary contexts has produced invaluable insights into the archaeological record and past human activities. This Element aims at providing a practical guide to infrared spectroscopy of archaeological sediments and their contents taken as a dynamic system, in which the different components observed today are the result of multiple formation processes that took place over long timescales. After laying out the history and fundamentals of the discipline, the author proposes a step-by-step methodological framework, both in the field and the laboratory, and guides the reader in the interpretation of the infrared spectra of the main components of archaeological sediments with the aid of selected case studies. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Keywords: infrared spectroscopy, microarchaeology, geoarchaeology, archaeological science, sediment

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