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Methodological proposal for the inventory and assessment of geoarchaeosites: Application to the middle Eure valley (Paris Basin, France)

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1. Definition of geoarchaeosites

- Concept introduced by Fouache & Rasse (2009)
  - Geoarchaeological sites located on a geomorphosite
- We propose to use it in a larger sense as a contraction of geo+archaeological sites
  - Sites of particular relevance for the understanding of past human-environment interactions
  - Geomorphological and archaeological components have the same level of importance

2. Methodology for the inventory and assessment of geoarchaeosites

Two main stages in our proposed methodology:

1. Assessment of the scientific value

   Geomorphological value:
   - integrity
   - representativeness
   - rarity
   - paleogeographic interest

   Archaeological value:
   - integrity
   - representativeness
   - rarity
   - prehistoric/historic interest

2. Assessment of the conservation need

   Issues (scientific value):
   - Geomorphological value
   - Archaeological value

   Vulnerability:
   - sensitivity/fragility
   - natural threats
   - human-induced threats
   - protection status

3. Assessment of the potential use

   Scientific value:
   - Additional values:
     - ecological value
     - aesthetic value
     - cultural value
   - Visit conditions
     - accessibility
     - security
     - site context
     - tourism infrastructures
     - Education
     - Interpretative facilities
     - educational interest

3. Example of application to the middle Eure valley: first results

- A first selection of 20 “disconnected geoarchaeosites”
- With contrasted scientific values
- Which illustrate past human-environment interactions
- At various spatio-temporal scales

International value (4)
Site of Chaudon

National value (3)
Maintenon Aqueduc

Regional value (2)
Megaliths of Changé

Local value (1)
Mormoullin Watermill

Scientific value

Chronological connections
- Prehistory
- Protohistory
- Antiquity
- Medieval
- Modern