Intrasite spatial analysis : exemples from neolithic settlements in the Paris Basin

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Abstract

Few intrasite spatial analysis have been done on neolithic settlements in the Paris basin. Case studies have been done almost by means of cartographic layers, simple frequencies calculations by material category, but rarely with statistical multivariate analysis. Four different cases can be recognised among published studies :

- A model built for one feature type (Lbk house, late neolithic collective grave)
- A site with juxtaposition of elementary feature (enclosure, flint mine)
- Activity areas reconstitution within a settlement contemporaneous layer excavated extensively and registered by surface unit (early to late neolithic village)
- Comparison of domestic units content (Lbk village)

Two case studies have been recently analysed with the same methodology. They are both early neolithic settlements in the Seine valley, nearby Paris (Neauphle-le-Vieux and Poses). Both belong to the post Lbk culture in the Paris basin (Villeneuve-St-Germain), between 5000 and 4700 BC. The first one is a part of a small settlement with an occupation level and two pits. Distribution maps for each material category have allowed to identify three dump areas on the surface. A factor analysis points out differences within surface dumps and pits. Activity areas are then reconstructed and explained by means of tool functionnal evidences. The second one is a 10 house village with material content in refuse pits. Quantitative and qualitative seriations are proposed to test the two phase chronology proposed by the excavators and points out some house specificities and probable specializations.