

**GEOARCHÄOLOGISCHE UNTERSUCHUNGEN IN DER  
KEUPERLANDSCHAFT MITTELFRAKENS, ERGERSHEIM, LANDKREIS  
NEUSTADT A. D. AISCH-BAD WINDSHEIM**

**GEOARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE KEUPER LANDSCAPE  
OF MIDDLE FRANCONIA, ERGERSHEIM, DISTRICT NEUSTADT A. D.  
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**SUMMARY**

Soil geographical as well as archeological investigations reveal that a long lasting anthropogenic impact caused locally profound changes in the landscapes of Middle Franconia. Colonization and land-use activities led to significant modifications of relief and soils also in the Keuper landscapes.

Archeological sites at the margin of a small valley were investigated by an interdisciplinary approach north of the village of Ergersheim. The composition of the profiles shows a Vertisol-like soil in floodplain sediments on top of Keuper solifluction layers. A well-preserved paleosol is developed in Neolithic materials and covered by multiple anthropogenic colluvial layers. Reworked pedosediments incorporate anthropogenic introduced stonelines, however, ceramic and animal bone fragments, which originate from different time sections, are present as well. The Holocene sequence starts in the early Holocene according to palynological results, radiocarbon datings and reaches up to the early Iron Age. Due to the repeated periods of anthropogenic action, intensive soil erosion and sedimentation processes took place in the study area. The results show that humans caused a profound soil and landscape change since the early Neolithic - also beside the nearby loess landscapes.

**Keywords:** Geoarcheology, pedosediments, soil and landscape change, soil erosion, anthropogenic colluvial layers, reconstruction of paleolandscapes