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Indoor floors from Gien (8th - 10th c.)
building materials, use of space and formation processes

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1: Service des Patrimoines de la Loiret
2: CNRS - UMR 6298 - ARTeHIS
3: CNRS - UMR 7041 - ArScAn "Archéologies Environnementales"

Very often rebuilt floors

... Early Middle Ages buildings.

4 occupation sequences (Seq1, Seq2, Seq3, Seq4)

Sequence 1
- Floors > 10 mm thick
- Only plant building materials (except phytoliths)
- Refuse:
  - cooking and faeces (11 µcontexts)
  - building mat. (8 µcontexts)

Sequence 2
- Floors > 10 mm thick
- Only mixed building materials

Sequence 3
- Floors of irregular thickness (partially carbonated Dark Earth)
- Plant & mixed building materials

Sequence 4
- Floors of mixed thickness

Mineral building materials

- Silts from BT horizon
- Alluvial sand
- Carbonated clay (marl)
- Not carbonated clay

Plant building materials

- Many plant fragments
- Lot of fine charcoal

Occupation refuse

- Various domestic refuse
- Mixed refuse
- Building mat.
- Domestic refuse (burning, faeces)

Investigations

Phytoliths analysis of log 3

Sequence 1

- Only building materials
- Only reworked floor fragments

Sequence 2
- Only building materials

Sequence 3
- Only building materials
- Domestic refuse (burning, faeces)

Pit F.1035

- Only refuse: Laser gun
  - ash layers
  - reworked floor fragments
  - building mat.
  - domestic refuse (burning, faeces)

Dedicated areas (fireplace)

Multiplicty of activities in one space

Intense frequentation

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Very good preservation
Low degradation of OM
No bioturbation

Complexity of building processes: non local raw materials
Often rebuilt floors

Well maintained surfaces
Litters: smell ? sanitation ? recycling crop-processes refuses (wheat) ?