

# STRATIGRAPHY

- Stratigraphy:
  - process of recording and analysis
- Stratification:
  - the physical layering of deposits on a site

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Governed by 3 principles (for sedimentary deposits):

- Principle of Superposition
- Principle of Original Horizontality
- Principle of Original Continuity

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## Key Terms:

- **Deposit**

- the assembling and laying down of sediment and its inclusions

- **Contexts:**

- a layer as defined by the excavator
- May represent a single deposit, as we typically excavate
- May also be arbitrarily defined, e.g., 0.2' layers removed from homogenous feature fill

- In Roskams = “stratigraphic units”

- **Interface:**

- boundary between two or more deposits

- **Correlation:**

- the relationship between two non-contiguous contexts

- **Features:**

- non-portable artifacts

# TYPES OF STRATIGRAPHY

- Lithostratigraphy
  - defined through geological/pedological principles
- Biostratigraphy
  - defined through presence/absence of life forms
- Ethnostratigraphy
  - defined through evidence of cultural activities

# MAPPING ON SITE

- Goals
  - Show the natural and arbitrary boundaries of the excavation, and to differentiate between these two types of interfaces
  - Show physical relationships
    - The physical relationship between units of stratigraphy
      - i.e. overlies/underlies; cuts/is cut; abuts; is abutted
  - Show stratigraphic relationships
    - Chronological construction of the sequence
      - A record of the order in which depositions of successive units took place
- Plan Drawings:
  - Single level plan (Top Plan)
  - Phase plan
  - Single context plan
- Section Drawings

# DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

- What methods of stratigraphy do we use to describe and interpret the stratification at Site 30?
- Field focus on description
- Single context records (specific to each quadrat and deposit)
- Lithostratigraphy (A-horizon, B-horizon, sediment descriptions in general)
- Biostratigraphy (pollen and phytolith)
- Ethnostratigraphy (artifacts and features)
- Plan drawings
- Section/profile drawings
- Correlation of individual contexts into larger or site-wide deposits