

The Interdisciplinarity of a Historic Landscape Characterization Methodology: A Case study of the Eastern Coast of the Arabian

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Abstract:

Historic Landscape Characterization (HLC) is a transformative interdisciplinary methodology that integrates archaeology, geology, environmental science, and history to analyze human interactions with landscapes over time. Initially developed in the United Kingdom for cultural heritage preservation, HLC has evolved into a versatile tool applicable across diverse historical and geographical contexts. This study applies HLC to the ancient landscapes of Magan, Dilmun, and Sumer, focusing on the impact of marine transgression and mineral resource distribution on human settlement patterns. By employing geospatial analysis, historical cartography, and hyperspectral mineralogical mapping, the research reconstructs past landscapes and assesses their influence on anthropological movements in the 3rd and 2nd millennia BCE. The study highlights the methodological potential of HLC in identifying historical layers, cultural significance, and environmental changes, demonstrating how space acts as an agent shaping human adaptation. This interdisciplinary approach provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the dynamic interplay between societies and their landscapes.