

Rehydroxylation [RHX] dating of archaeological ceramics: Principles, status and prospects

***Christopher Hall**
The University of Edinburgh

RHX is a new method for dating archaeological ceramics, based on the slow progressive chemical recombination of fired-clay materials with environmental moisture. The dating principle arises because the kinetics of the RHX process follows a precise power law.

The method has attracted much attention because there is at present no established and straightforward dating method for archaeological pottery. This is a serious lack since pottery is found almost universally at archaeological sites, often in great abundance.

I shall review the scientific fundamentals of the RHX process, the status of RHX dating and open questions relating to its future prospects.

*Christopher Hall is Emeritus Professor of Materials and Senior Professorial Fellow at the University of Edinburgh.

Biographical information:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff-bulletin/christopher-hall-220510>

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