

FROM KHOR UMM GHIZLAN
TO SHEMKHIYA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
IN THE FOURTH CATARACT REGION
DECEMBER 2004

Marek Chłodnicki and Bogdan Żurawski

The salvage operation within the concession of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of Warsaw University was continued in December 2004, exactly one year after a brief reconnaissance had registered 25 sites in the area. The survey was undertaken by the Poznań Archaeological Museum in cooperation with the Polish Academy of Sciences (Poznań Branch).¹

The site gazetteer after the two forays lists altogether 74 archaeological sites in the region between Shemkhiya and Khor Umm Ghizlan (Fig. 1).²

The tumulus cemeteries at es-Sadda and Hagar el-Beida were mapped and sketch plans were made of the three Christian fortresses at Shemkhiya, El Ar, Hagar el-Beida (= El Kab el-Gharb). Also recorded were 10 Christian cemeteries of box graves, consisting of from a dozen to almost 900 graves (altogether over 2000) and 36 tumulus cemeteries, counting from a single mound to almost 80 (over 400 in all), of Kerma and Post-Meroitic date. Several settlements of Middle Paleolithic, Neolithic and later chronology were also discovered.

A survey on foot between Khor Umm Ghizlan and Khor Hussein revealed the presence of some Neolithic, Post-Meroitic and Christian cemeteries of box graves.

In view of the extensive number of sites discovered within the Polish concession as originally demarcated in 2003, the decision was made not to change the present status, thus leaving the area downstream of Khor Umm Ghizlan to other expeditions.

1 The team in 2004 was directed by Dr. Marek Chłodnicki and consisted of Dr. Bogdan Żurawski, Mr. Marek Lemiesz, Mr. Piotr Osypiński, Ms Marta Osypińska, Mr. Maciej Jórdeczka, archaeologists, and Mr. Paweł Wilkosz, geologist. The NCAM was represented by inspector Mr. Yassin Mohammed Saeed. The 2003 survey team directed by Prof. Dr. Lech Krzyżaniak comprised Prof. Dr. Michał Kobusiewicz, Dr. Marek Chłodnicki, Dr. Karla Kroeper, Mr. Maciej Jórdeczka and Mr. Przemysław Bobrowski.

2 The results of the 2003 survey were presented in L. Krzyżaniak, M. Chłodnicki, M. Jórdeczka & M. Lemiesz, "Archaeological reconnaissance between Shemkhiya and Khor um Ghizlan (left bank of the Nile) 2003", *GAMAR* 4 (2005), 39–43; the present gazetteer includes a verified list of those 25 sites. It should be noted that the present gazetteer gives a new numbering of the sites (the indications in parentheses below the site number in the tables below refer to the earlier numbering used in the *GAMAR* report).

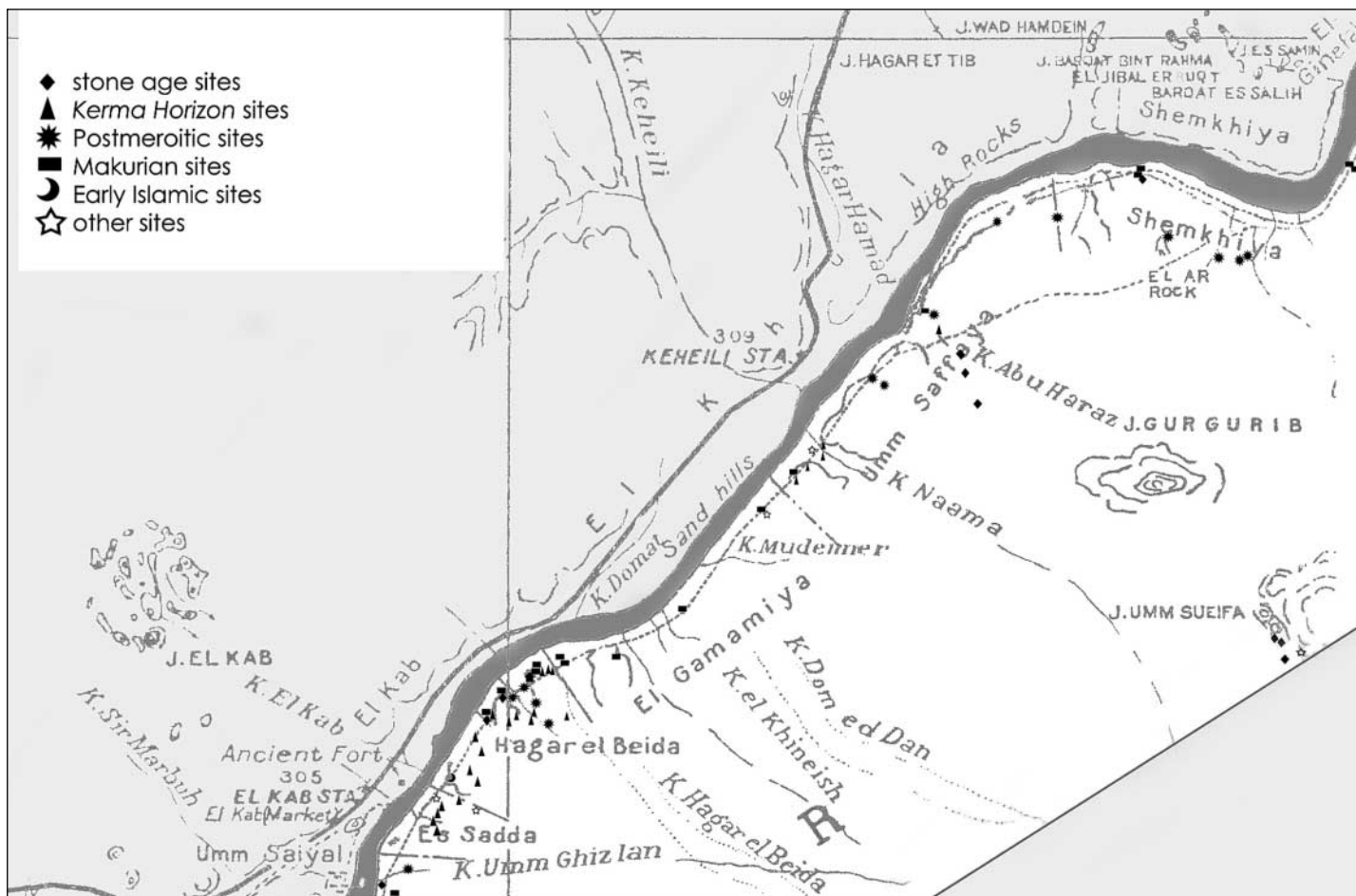


Fig. 1. Map of the region surveyed by PCMA with sites recorded in 2003 and 2004
(Drawing P. Osypiński, based on NCAM map)

ES-SADDA

SITE GAZETTEER

| SITE NO. | SITE TYPE | REMARKS | PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION | GPS COORDINATES |
|----------------------------|------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Es-Sadda 1 (23-24/2004) | tumulus cemetery | 74 tumuli, in clusters, on large plain [Fig.2] | Post-Meroitic | N19°16'40.6" E32°43'32.0" |
| Es-Sadda 2 (=22/2005) | settlement | kiln and slag remains | date unknown | N19°16'28.7" E32°43'10.4" |
| Es-Sadda 3 (=25/2004) | settlement | scattered flint debitage | Middle Paleolithic | N19°16'32.9" E32°43'03.8" |
| Es-Sadda 4 | tumulus cemetery | 3 tumuli | Kerma horizon | N19°17'22.5" E32°43'55.4" |
| Es-Sadda 5 | tumulus cemetery | 2 tumuli | Kerma horizon | N19°17'29.4" E32°43'55.2" |
| Es-Sadda 6 | tumulus cemetery | 2 tumuli | Kerma horizon | N19°17'34.6" E32°43'57.0" |
| Es-Sadda 7 | tumulus cemetery | 2 tumuli | Kerma horizon | N19°17'89.1" E32°44'02.7" |
| Es-Sadda 8 | settlement | drywall dam | Christian ? | N19°17'49.9" E32°43'57.6" |
| Es-Sadda 9 | cemetery (?) | 5 circular stone rings | date unknown | N19°17'39.9" E32°44'34.5" |
| Es-Sadda 10 | tumulus cemetery | 2 tumuli | Kerma horizon | N19°17'47.2" E32°44'16.4" |



Fig. 2. *Es-Sadda 1. Post-Meroitic tumulus cemetery*
(Photo M. Jórdeczka)

ES-SADDA 8

Drywall enclosure set among the quartzite rocks dominating the riverine cultivation belt [Fig. 3]. The structure is c. 10 m square with a kind of annex attached to its southern wall. The annex walls are higher than the rest and the southern, outer wall is doubled. The sherds collected were not diagnostic (Christian ?).

The place commands a splendid view of the Nile and the El Kab fortress on the opposite bank of the river. There is evidence

of intensive searching, possibly for gold, since the metamorphic (metavolcanic) rocks are auriferous. The enclosure could be connected with a dam that blocked the wadi outlet. The water from the reservoir was conducted to the fields down a channel that is still readily visible. Using water from the desert to irrigate fields lying in the immediate neighborhood of the Nile may seem bizarre, but it could be due to the fields being located too high for either a *shaduf* or *saqiya* installation.

HAGAR EL-BEIDA

SITE GAZETTEER

| SITE NO. | SITE TYPE PERIODIZATION | REMARKS COORDINATES | PRELIMINARY | GPS |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Hagar el-Beida 1 (=19/2003) | tumulus cemetery | 13 tumuli | Post-Meroitic | N19°19'31.0" E32°45'21.9" |
| Hagar el-Beida 2 (=16/2003) | tumulus cemetery | c. 100 tumuli, in clusters | Post Meroitic | N19°19'23.2" E 32°45'30.1" |
| Hagar el-Beida 3 (=18/2003) | camp tumulus cemetery | 4 tumuli | Middle Paleolithic Kerma Horizon? | N19°19'14.5" E32°45'45.8" |
| Hagar el-Beida 4 (=17/2003) | tumulus cemetery | 16 tumuli | Post-Meroitic | N19°19'15.3" E32°45'35.4" |
| Hagar el-Beida 5 | tumulus | single tumulus | Kerma horizon | N19°18'02.4" E32°44'30.0" |
| Hagar el-Beida 6 | tumulus cemetery | 3 tumuli | Kerma horizon | N19°18'11.2" E32°44'24.0" |
| Hagar el-Beida 7 | fortifications | curtain wall | Christian | N19°18'19.9" E32°44'10.8" |
| Hagar el-Beida 8 | tumulus cemetery | 4 tumuli | Kerma horizon | N19°18'30.6" E32°44'36.2" |
| Hagar el-Beida 9 | tumulus cemetery | 3 tumuli | Kerma horizon | N19°18'39.5" E32°44'30.7" |
| Hagar el-Beida 10 | tumulus | single tumulus | Kerma horizon | N19°19'04.4" E32°45'08.4" |
| Hagar el-Beida 11 | settlement tumulus cemetery | c. 50 tumuli | Early Neolithic Kerma horizon | N19°19'07.9" E32°45'13.2" |
| Hagar el-Beida 12 | settlement | scattered potsherds | Late Neolithic? Kerma horizon? | N19°19'19.5" E32°44'54.9" |



Fig. 3. Es-Sadda 8. Drywall constructions blocking a wadi
(Photo B. Żurawski)

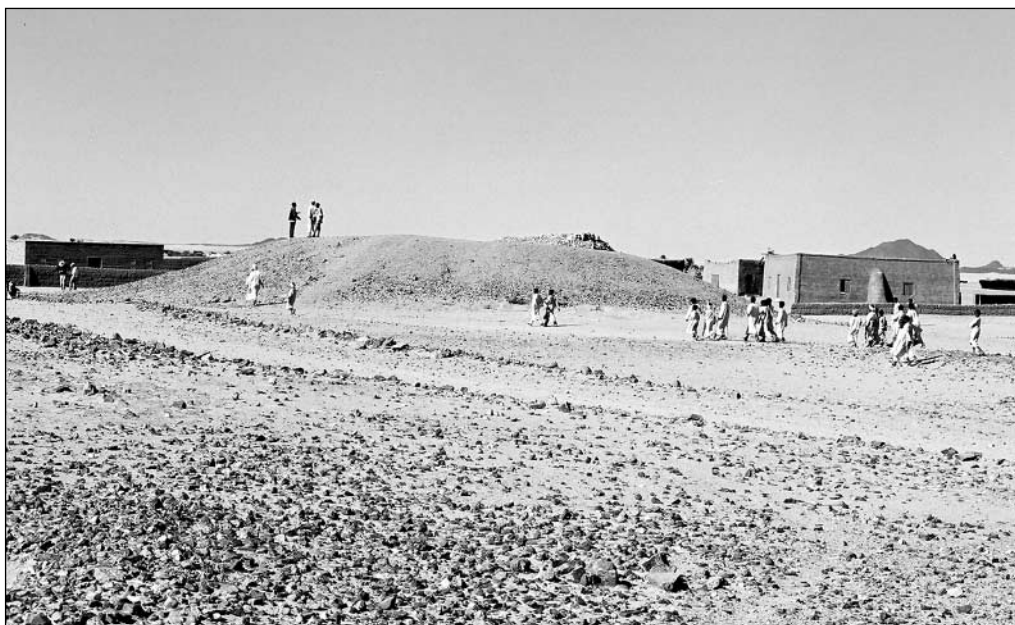


Fig. 4. Hagar el-Beida 1. "Royal tumulus"
(Photo M. Jórdeczka)

FOURTH CATARACT – SURVEY

SUDAN

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Hagar el-Beida 13 | cemetery | single tumulus | Kerma ? | N19°19'21.9" E32°44'56.1" |
| Hagar el-Beida 14 | box grave cemetery | about 50 graves | Christian | N19°19'19.9" E32°44'58.6" |
| Hagar el-Beida 15 | settlement | scattered potsherds | Neolithic Christian | N19°19'31.5" E32°45'04.0" |
| Hagar el-Beida 16 (=21/2003) | tumulus | on top of Jebel el-Beida | Kerma (?) | N19°19'30.3" E32°45'04.1" |
| Hagar el-Beida 17 | tumulus | single tumulus | Post Meroitic | N19°19'28.3" E32°45'08.4" |
| Hagar el-Beida 18 | tumulus | single tumulus | Kerma horizon | N19°19'07.7" E32°45'22.5" |
| Hagar el-Beida 19 | tumulus cemetery | 5 tumuli | Kerma horizon | N19°19'11.8" E32°45'23.1" |
| Hagar el-Beida 20 (=20/2003) | box grave cemetery | 80-100 graves | Christian | N19°19'41.1" E32°45'21.1" |
| Hagar el-Beida 21 | settlement | scattered potsherds | Christian? | N19°19'45.3" E32°45'21.6" |



Fig. 5. Hagar el-Beida 7. Lower rampart of El Kab el-Gharb fortress
(Photo B. Żurawski)

FOURTH CATARACT – SURVEY

SUDAN

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|-------------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Hagar el-Beida 22 | settlement | scattered potsherds | Kerma?/Neolithic? | N19°19'46.7" E32°45'30.2" |
| Hagar el-Beida 23 | settlement | scattered potsherds | Kerma horizon ? | N19°19'52.4" E32°45'40.5" |
| Hagar el-Beida 24 | settlement | scattered potsherds | Kerma?/Neolithic? | N19°19'50.7" E32°45'48.0" |

HAGAR EL-BEIDA 1

Among the 13 mounds located on the site there is one, which has been nicknamed the “royal tumulus” because of its size: diameter of about 28 m and height measuring 6 m [Fig. 4]. The other tumuli are 10-20 m in diameter with a height ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 m.

HAGAR EL-BEIDA 2

Most of the tumuli are heavily destroyed. Their diameter ranges from 5 to 8 m.

HAGAR EL-BEIDA 7

Fortifications vis-a-vis the El Kab fortress [Fig. 5]. The place is fortified with two curtain walls. The remains of the fortress have been virtually annihilated by the village built of spolia and still existing on

top of it. No pottery was in evidence on the surface.

HAGAR EL-BEIDA 20

This much destroyed cemetery of box graves sits at the outskirts of Hagar El-Beida village, in a pocket of the hills between the houses east of it and the cultivated fields. The rectangular drywall superstructures of the graves are all aligned E-W (the Nile is due north here). Two threshing floors surrounded by stones bordered the burial ground.

The level of the river as noted on December 9, 2004, was so low that the channel separating the island from the mainland was dry, enabling *seluka* cultivation of the bed. According to a local informant, this island that was thus incorporated into the west bank was called Umm Halfa.

GAMAMIYA

SITE GAZETTEER

| SITE NO. | SITE TYPE | REMARKS | PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION | GPS COORDINATES |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Gamamiya 1 (=14/2003) | settlement? | potsherds | Christian | N19°20'05.6" E32°46'03.4" |
| Gamamiya 2 (=15/2003) | box-grave cemetery | c. 100-150 graves | Christian | N19°19'58.8" E32°46'06.9" |
| Gamamiya 3 | box-grave cemetery | c. dozen graves | | N19°20'05.6" E32°46'51.6" |
| Gamamiya 4 | box-grave cemetery settlement? | c. 80-100 graves Neolithic | | N19°21'05.7" E32°48'14.7" |
| Gamamiya 5 | box-grave cemetery | 80-100 graves | Christian | N19°22'41.9" E32°49'30.7" |
| Gamamiya 6 | settlement | drywall dams? | | N19°22'39.7" E32°49'33.1" |

GAMAMIYA 3

A dozen or so of much dilapidated box graves with some undiagnostic potsherds scattered on the verge of the cultivation (near the place of the local suq). The local toponym of the place is Darderdaka. A partly dismantled tumulus lies nearby, to the south of the cemetery.

A nice copper alloy cross [Fig. 6], which was shown to the mission by a local driver, Mohammed Saleh, was said to come from one of the nearby cemeteries. The circumstances indicated that it came from the clandestine plundering of sepulchers, a notorious operation in which local inhabitants must be engaged on a major scale to judge by the huge numbers of robbed graves of all periods in the region.

GAMAMIYA 4

The place is called Rum, the village nearby is Rubab. Cultivation has encroached hea-



Fig. 6. *El Gamamiya cemetery ? Copper-alloy cross (Photo B. Żurawski)*

vily on the burial ground leaving the rectangular superstructures of the graves in sorry condition, mostly as amorphous piles of stone. Virtually no pottery was collected. Local eyewitnesses tell of the bones from the dilapidated graves being thrown into the nearby jebel by the basketful. A mysterious foreigner is also said to have been excavating in this cemetery a couple of years ago, according to local informers.

There is a Neolithic settlement on the other side of the road, towards the jebel; however, the Neolithic sherds are mixed with modern pottery.

GAMAMIYA 5

Part of the cemetery along the river has been taken over for cultivation; the stones from the grave superstructures have been piled up, the bones discarded among the graves in the other part of the cemetery. There were more than a 100 graves here for sure, but estimates are difficult in the present condition. The practice of reclaiming burial grounds for cultivation turns out to be quite recent, apparently triggered by generous government compensation paid out on the eve of the dam construction project.

The toponym Shahura does not mean anything; however the custom of naming old Christian cemeteries is significant in the region.

GAMAMIYA 6

System of drywall dams (?), located c. 100 m to the southeast of Shahura cemetery [Fig. 7]. The uppermost dam of the set appears to have blocked the wadi outflow. The purpose of two compartments with entrances leading into the wadi is unknown. They could not have been a permanent dwelling, since they are flooded during rainfall. The structures may be connected with the fields that are 100 m or so to the northwest.

UMM SAFFAYA

SITE GAZETTEER

| SITE NO. | SITE TYPE | REMARKS | PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION | GPS COORDINATES |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Umm Saffaya 1 | tumulus cemetery | 4 small tumuli | Post-Meroitic | N19°23'02.5" E 32°50'02.6" |
| Umm Saffaya 2 | box-grave cemetery | 150-200 box graves | Christian | N19°23'09.0" E32°49'59.3" |
| Umm Saffaya 3 | tumulus cemetery | 8 tumuli | Post-Meroitic | N19°23'16.2" E32°50'15.9" |
| | settlement settlement | | Early Christian Neolithic | |
| Umm Saffaya 4 | cemetery | 13 tumuli | Kerma horizon | N19°23'26.3" E32°50'31.1" |
| Umm Saffaya 5 | cemetery? settlement? | | Neolithic Christian Muslim | N19°23'30.5" E32°50'15.1" |
| Umm Saffaya 6 | tumulus cemetery | 4 tumuli | date unknown | N19°23'37.6" E32°50'31.1" |
| Umm Saffaya 7 (=9/2003) | tumulus cemetery | 6 tumuli | Post Meroitic? | N19°24'35.0" E32°51'20.6" |



Fig. 7. El Gamamiya 6. Drywall dam on the wadi in El-Gamamiya
(Photo B. Zurawski)

FOURTH CATARACT – SURVEY

SUDAN

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|------------------------------|--------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Umm Saffaya 8 | tumulus cemetery | 18 tumuli | Post-Meroitic | N19°24'30.5" E32°51'36.2" |
| Umm Saffaya 9 | settlement | flint tool scatter | Middle Paleolithic | N19°24'21.0" E32°53'05.2" |
| Umm Saffaya 10 (=13/2003) | settlement | flint and quartz tools scatter | Middle Paleolithic Neolithic | N19°24'48.6" E32°52'55.9" |
| Umm Saffaya 11 (=12/2003) | settlement | flint tool scatter | Neolithic | N19°25'02.7" E32°52'52.4" |
| Umm Saffaya 12 (=11/2003) | settlement | Flint tool scatter | Middle Paleolithic | N19°25'04.6" E32°52'49.5" |
| Umm Saffaya 13 (=10/2003) | tumulus cemetery | 1 tumulus | Kerma Horizon | N19°25'35.8" E32°52'32.4" |
| Umm Saffaya 14 | tumulus cemetery | 25 tumuli | Post-Meroitic (?) | N19°25'55.0" E32°52'29.0" |
| Umm Saffaya 15 | box-grave cemetery | at least 400 graves | Christian | N19°25'59.4" E32°52'17.3" |
| Umm Saffaya 16 (=8/2003) | tumulus cemetery | c.10 small plundered tumuli, at top of gravel hill | Kerma Horizon? | N19°27'20.7" E 32°53'42.7" |
| Umm Saffaya 17 (=7/2003) | tumulus cemetery | c.20 bigger tumuli situated in cultivated fields | Post Meroitic | N19°27'29.4" E 32°54'43.5" |
| Umm Saffaya 18 (= 6/2003) | settlement | flint tool scatter | Middle Paleolithic Neolithic? | N19°24'48.6" E 32°52'55.5" |

UMM SAFFAYA 1

Four small tumuli of a diameter ranging from 3 to 6 m, set on the jebel summit overlooking the Nile terrace and fields (just south of the Marjut cemetery, see below). Some Post-Meroitic R-W wheel-made sherds (two joining pieces of neck and rim) were collected among the graves.

UMM SAFFAYA 2

Place name Marjut, in the village of Dom En Naama. The cemetery lies between the fields and jebel along a motor road, with modern cultivation fast encroaching on the site. The grave superstructures are much dilapidated, but the outlines of some of the boxes are still recognizable. No pottery was collected from the surface.

There is a flat topped rock among the fields, Nilewards from the cemetery, that is

used for storing hay and *dura* stalks. Some undiagnostic potsherds were found there.

UMM SAFFAYA 3

Multicultural site with the main cultural component being eight tumuli of 2.50-4.00 m diameter, loosely clustered on a hilltop. Some diagnostic Early Christian pottery was found scattered among the mounds.

Some minute Neolithic sherds were collected downslope from the tumuli.

UMM SAFFAYA 4

A compact cluster of 13 tumuli, each 3-5 m in diameter, set in a line on a hilltop strewn with stones (eroded quartzite) on a qurba-like substratum of buff/orange color. A scatter of very good pottery (Kerma related?) collected among the graves.

UMM SAFFAYA 5

The place name is Rudjal El Jebel (Men of the Mountain). No walls of any kind, either dry of stone or mud-bonded, were noted, just a ceramic scatter – of Christian (rather Classic and Late) mixed with Fung/Modern sherds – on a flat rocky hilltop located close to the fields, overlooking the very narrow belt of the ground under cultivation here (the Nile is only about 100 m away).

Three cairns were observed, 1.50-2.50 m across (one is subrectangular, 2.50 m long, with Muslim grave orientation N-S) with a hollow depression in the top. There is plenty of modern ceramics around and a handful of fresh dates had been placed on a big modern sherd. The dates were apparently put there on Friday. In all three cases the dates were put on the southern side of the “grave”. They were recorded as graves despite local opinion claiming that no man was buried there.

UMM SAFFAYA 6

A loose cluster of four tumuli, 2.5-3.5 m in diameter. The biggest one, which is 5 m in diameter, has two smaller ones attached, one on the north and one on the south. No pottery in evidence.

UMM SAFFAYA 7

The placename is Umm Tulehat (Hadjali), the tumuli lying in the whereabouts of the suq of Kehela (Gharib) village. The six mounds measure 8-10 m in diameter.

UMM SAFFAYA 9

There is apparently no placename (curiously enough only the Christian cemeteries have toponyms of their own). The village closest to the mounds is Kehella.

The site was a cluster of 20 tumuli with a diameter of from 6 to 10 m, constructed

of pebbles and qurba earth. There was a kind of internal construction of boulders (exposed in some places). The road winds among the mounds. There is evidence of fresh plundering and the caldera-like cavity in the middle of each mound is indicative of robbery.

UMM SAFFAYA 13

The mound stands on the bed of the Khor Abu Haraz wadi. Large-scale ploughing with tractors was going on in December 2004. The tumulus has a diameter of c. 25 m, but the shape of the mound is irregular due to various (mostly anthropogenic) factors. The stone coating has survived in places.

UMM SAFFAYA 14

The placename is Dambu or Dambu Rum, south of the Khor Abu Haraz with the Nile flowing to the northwest of the site. The site is a cluster of 25 tumuli with a diameter of 6-11 m, all with cavities in the top, indicative of robbery. Two roads cut across the cemetery. New houses of Amarab village encroach on the cemetery, posing a threat to the mounds.

The Khor Abu Haraz estuary with its plenty of arable land seems to have been of economic importance, albeit, unfortunately, not marked by a fortress.

UMM SAFFAYA 15

Huge Christian cemetery of box graves (second to Shemkhiya only) on a Nile terrace near Amarab (Monasir) village. Part of the cemetery has been demolished and the ground taken under cultivation, the soil here being considered very good. The dismantled stones lie piled up in the fields.

At least 400 graves are visible today, but the actual number could be easily double that, the destroyed superstructures being difficult to assess.

SHEMKHIYA

SITE GAZETTEER

| SITE NO. | SITE TYPE | REMARKS | PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION | GPS COORDINATES |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Shemkhiya 1 (=4/2003) | stronghold | | Christian | N19°27'58.8" E32°56'15.1" |
| Shemkhiya 2 (=3/2003) | box grave cemetery | at least 800-900 graves | Christian | N19°27'48.9" E32°56'07.9" |
| Shemkhiya 3 (=5/2003) | settlement on small hill | flint and pottery | Neolithic | N19°27'43.7" E32°56'08.9" |
| Shemkhiya 4 | tumulus cemetery | 8 tumuli | Post-Meroitic | N19°26'48.4" E32°56'41.2" |
| Shemkhiya 5 | tumulus cemetery | 25 tumuli | Post-Meroitic | N19°26'29.3" E32°57'27.2" |
| Shemkhiya 6 | tumulus cemetery | 4 tumuli | Post-Meroitic | N19°26'28.2" E32°57'58.4" |
| Shemkhiya 7 | tumulus cemetery | 22 tumuli | Post-Meroitic | N19°26'34.6" E 32°58'10.2" |
| Shemkhiya 8 | stronghold | | Early Christian / Fung Modern | N19°27'57.5" E32°59'38.3" |
| Shemkhiya 9 | box-graves cemetery | 80-100 graves | Early Christian | N19°27'50.5" E32°59'45.5" |
| Shemkhiya 10 | tumulus cemetery | 4 tumuli (2 intact, 2 robbed) | | N19°27'50.8" E32°59'45.6" |
| Shemkhiya 11 | stone shelters on top of hill | | Christian? | N19°27'56.2" E32°59'48.7" |
| Shemkhiya 12 (=2/2003) | lithics scatter | around El Ar Rock | Paleolithic | N19°26'24.8" E32°56'31.0" |
| Shemkhiya 13 (=1/2003) | gold mine | numerous shafts | contemporary | N19°27'41.9" E33°00'18.2" |

SHEMKHIYA 1

Christian stronghold set in a palm groove on a flat alluvial terrace on the river bank. The outer facing of the exterior wall, c. 4 m thick and standing 3 m high, is still recognizable [Fig. 8], but the layout and interior structuring has been all but obliterated by continuous cultivation. The plan seems to be subrectangular (trapezoid), the

fortress being divided by a wall into apparently two unequal parts.

According to local testimony, the nearest village is called El Ar (pronounced El Al downriver), thus the name of the fortress should be Qala El Ar. However, it is referred to as *hillet* (village), hence it could be a fortified settlement rather than a stronghold.

SHEMKHIYA 2

Christian cemetery near El Ar stronghold, the biggest and the best preserved in the area, deserving to be protected as an archaeological zone [Fig. 9]. The upper parts of the drywall superstructures are filled with white pebbles, resembling in this modern Muslim custom. There is no evidence of plundering; only some of the superstructures have been leveled due to the enlargement of cultivated fields. A palm grove separates the cemetery from the Nile.

SHEMKHIYA 8

Early Christian/Fung Modern stronghold on top of a rocky elevation on the Nile riverbank [Fig. 10], commanding a splendid view of the Nile toward the El-Ar stronghold on one side and Abu Hamed on the other. The evidence of the pottery



Fig. 8. *Shemkhiya 1. Fragment of the girdle wall of El Ar stronghold (Photo B. Żurawski)*

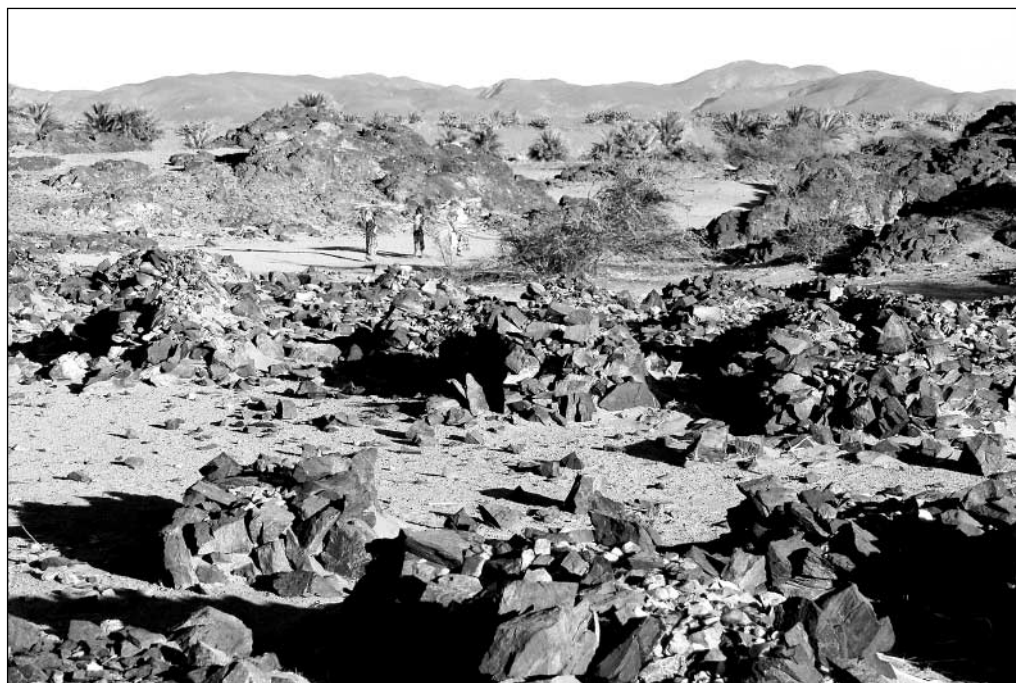


Fig. 9. *Shemkhiya 2. Christian box grave cemetery in El Ar (Photo B. Żurawski)*

indicates that the fort was constructed in the Early Dongola period and abandoned, then duly resettled. It was apparently greatly reduced in size and included some remodeling in the form of loopholes for firearms.

The original walls of mud brick faced with stones appear to have been overbuilt later with mud brickwork, some repairs being done to the original, lower sections. The walls are generally from 1.50 to 3.00 m thick, the oldest walls with mud-brick cores being among the thickest. There were no buildings inside the walls, except for a structure in the middle, which could be a mosque. There are some posterns (at least one, looking to the river, was clearly visible in December 2004).

SHEMKHIYA 9

The Early Christian cemetery borders a wadi, which has already undercut some of the graves. To the north of it there is the stronghold (Shemkhiya 8), to the east a lonely and apparently unplundered tumulus (with a very small auxiliary one attached). The cemetery is bisected by a local road.

Digging for gold has left the superstructures of the graves in a sorry state. There is also a huge hole dug in the middle of the site and while there is no knowledge of who dug it and why, there must have been something there to reward such a laborious attempt. The extensive plundering was apparently responsible for the substantial scatter of Early Christian pottery.



Fig. 10. The stronghold at Shemkhiya (site 8)
(Photo B. Żurawski)

JEBEL UMM SUEIFA

SITE GAZETTEER

| SITE NO. | SITE TYPE | REMARKS | PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION | GPS COORDINATES |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jebel Umm Sueifa 1 | settlement | | Middle Paleolithic | N19°20'31.3" E 32°58'11.3" |
| Jebel Umm Sueifa 2 | settlement settlement | | Middle Paleolithic Early Neolithic | N19°20'26.8" E32°58'20.7" |
| Jebel Umm Sueifa 3 | settlement | | Early Neolithic | N19°20'09.6" E32°58'23.2" |
| Jebel Umm Sueifa 4 | stone cairns? | | | N19°20'06.4" E32°58'53.5" |

JEBEL UMM SUEIFA 2

Multicultural settlement site in a saddle of a hilly ridge bordering the Khor Abu Haraz on the north. Well sheltered from northern winds, it commands an excellent view of the khor. Extensive sample of Neolithic pottery, as well as lithic objects.

JEBEL UMM SUEIFA 3

Neolithic pottery found scattered among the stone circles (together with flint

objects), in a sort of saddle near the edge of the rocky ridge.

JEBEL UMM SUEIFA 4

Stone circles (cairns) that could be graves were discovered. They were located on flat ground near the outlet of a wadi that extends straight through the mountains to the Khor Abu Haraz. The site was sampled extensively in search of ceramics and lithic objects.