

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF SUDANESE NUBIA, 1963–69

THE PHARAONIC SITES

edited by
David N. Edwards



SUDAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY
PUBLICATION NUMBER 23

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF SUDANESE NUBIA 1963–69

The Pharaonic sites

edited by

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ARCHAEOPRESS PUBLISHING LTD

Summertown Pavilion

18-24 Middle Way

Summertown

Oxford OX2 7LG

www.archaeopress.com

ISBN 978-1-78969-649-3

ISBN 978-1-78969-650-9 (e-Pdf)

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Front Cover: A view towards Kulb from Akasha West, 2013. (photo courtesy of Derek Welsby)

Back Cover (top): A view upriver towards Shelfak from near Diffinarti, October 1966 (photo ASSN F/333:1)

Back Cover (bottom): Inscription of Thutmose I, Akasha West, 2013. (photo courtesy of Derek Welsby)

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Printed in England

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In memory of W.B. Emery, who introduced me to Nubia,
of Nigm ed-Din Mohammed Sharif, who welcomed me to his homeland,
and of William Y. Adams, who offered me the Batn el-Hagar as a place to work

A.J. Mills

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1. Introduction

The Archaeological Survey of Sudanese Nubia (ASSN)

Of the Nubian Archaeological Campaigns (see Adams 1992) responding to the construction of the Aswan High Dam, the survey and excavations carried out within Sudanese Nubia represent the most substantial achievement of the larger enterprise. Many components of the larger project of the UNESCO – Sudan Antiquities Service Survey have been published, in addition to the reports of a number of other major projects assigned separate concessions within the region. However, the results of one major element, the *Archaeological Survey of Sudanese Nubia* (ASSN) between the Second Cataract and the Dal Cataract remain largely unpublished. This volume is the first of a series which aims to bring to publication the records of the ASSN. These records represent a major body of data relating to a region largely now lost to flooding. This is also a region of very considerable importance for understanding the archaeology and history of Nubia more generally, not least in relation to the still often poorly understood relationships between Lower Nubia to the north and the surviving areas of Middle and Upper Nubia, to the south.

The ASSN project fieldwork was undertaken over six years between 1963 and 1969, investigating c.130km of the river valley between Gemai, at the south end of the Second Cataract, and Dal. A first reconnaissance survey traversed the whole region in 1963–64, passing through the administrative villages of Gemai, Saras, Semna, Attiri, Duweishat, Ambikol, Melik en Nasr, Songi, Ukma, Akasha, Kulb, Dakki and Dal (figs 0.1–2). During that initial reconnaissance, the first archaeological investigation of any kind in many of those areas, c.240 sites were located and registered (Mills 1965). That work started on the 22nd December 1963 and reached the end of the concession at Dal on 14th April 1964.

Beginning 4th November 1964, the ASSN survey team began to survey and excavate areas and sites not otherwise assigned to other missions, starting at Gemai, the most imminently threatened area. During that season it completed the survey of areas south of Gemai as far as Saras, investigating 69 sites between November 1964 and April 1965. A preliminary report on that work was published soon afterwards (Mills and Nordström 1966; see also Robinson and Hewes 1966).

The third field season (October 1965–March 1966) covered the region between Saras and Semna, recording a further 101 sites; a report relating to this was published in the next volume (for 1967–68) of *Kush*, albeit delayed for some years (Mills 1973). Reports on the subsequent seasons were not however forthcoming following the lapse of the journal *Kush* (not revived until 1993), so even preliminary published reports have been lacking for the three later seasons. Of those the 1966–67 season focused mainly on excavations in the Semna-Attiri area, while the final seasons, in between November 1967 – April 1968 and October 1968 – April 1969 took the survey southwards to Dal.

The final stages of fieldwork were largely completed in April 1969 with the excavation of the large Kerma cemetery [21-H-4] at Ukma West, under the direction of André Vila (Vila 1987). The consolidation and removal of a painted altar from a medieval (monastic?) site [21-N-11] at Akasha West represented the final site-based work, completed in mid-May, after which the field team returned to Wadi Halfa, leaving for Khartoum on the 21st May 1969.

The fieldwork carried out between Gemai and Dal by the ASSN teams was complemented by the work of a number of other projects. An early and important contribution was made by the German Epigraphic Mission led by Professor Fritz Hintze (Hintze 1963, 1964, 1965; Hintze and Reineke 1989). They explored the whole area due to be flooded both north and south of the

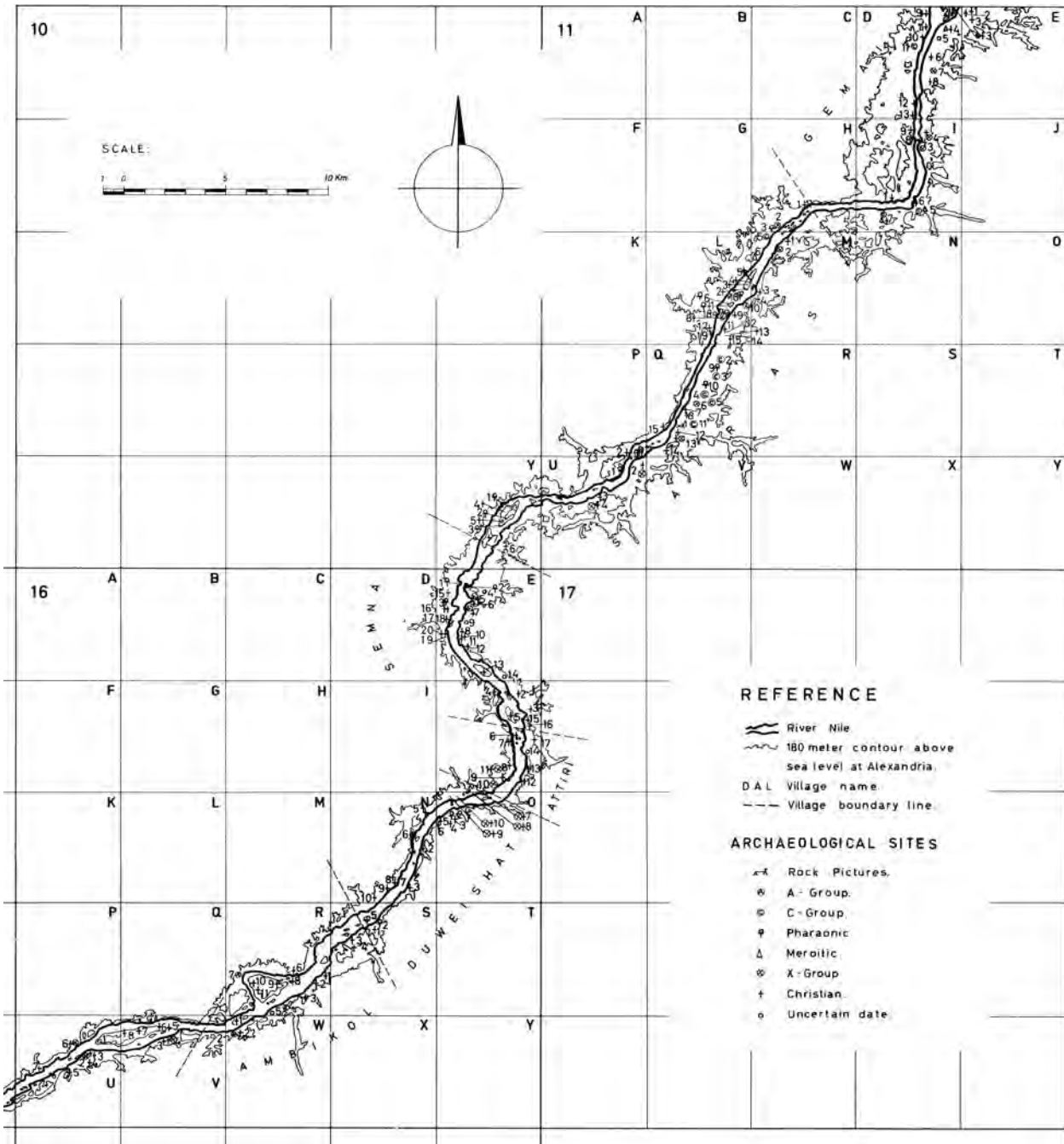


Figure 1.01 Northern end of ASSN Survey area, with sites identified during 1963–64 reconnaissance survey, between Gemai and Ambikol (based on Mills 1965, fig.1).

Second Cataract, with a brief to record the rock art and inscriptions (see below).¹ Parts of the east bank between Gemai and Firka were also investigated by a team from Columbia University² with a particular interest in the earlier prehistory and geology, in the field over the winter of 1961–62 (Solecki 1963). Further survey and site investigations of

a range of prehistoric sites of the west bank was later undertaken by a team from the University of Colorado Nubian Expedition over two fieldwork seasons in 1964–1965 and 1965–66 (Hewes 1966; Carlson and Sigstad 1973).

A number of more localized concessions were also allocated to other projects. Following the

1 Nubien-Expedition der Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin, DDR

2 In some records this is also identified as the New Mexico-Columbia Expedition (=NMC)

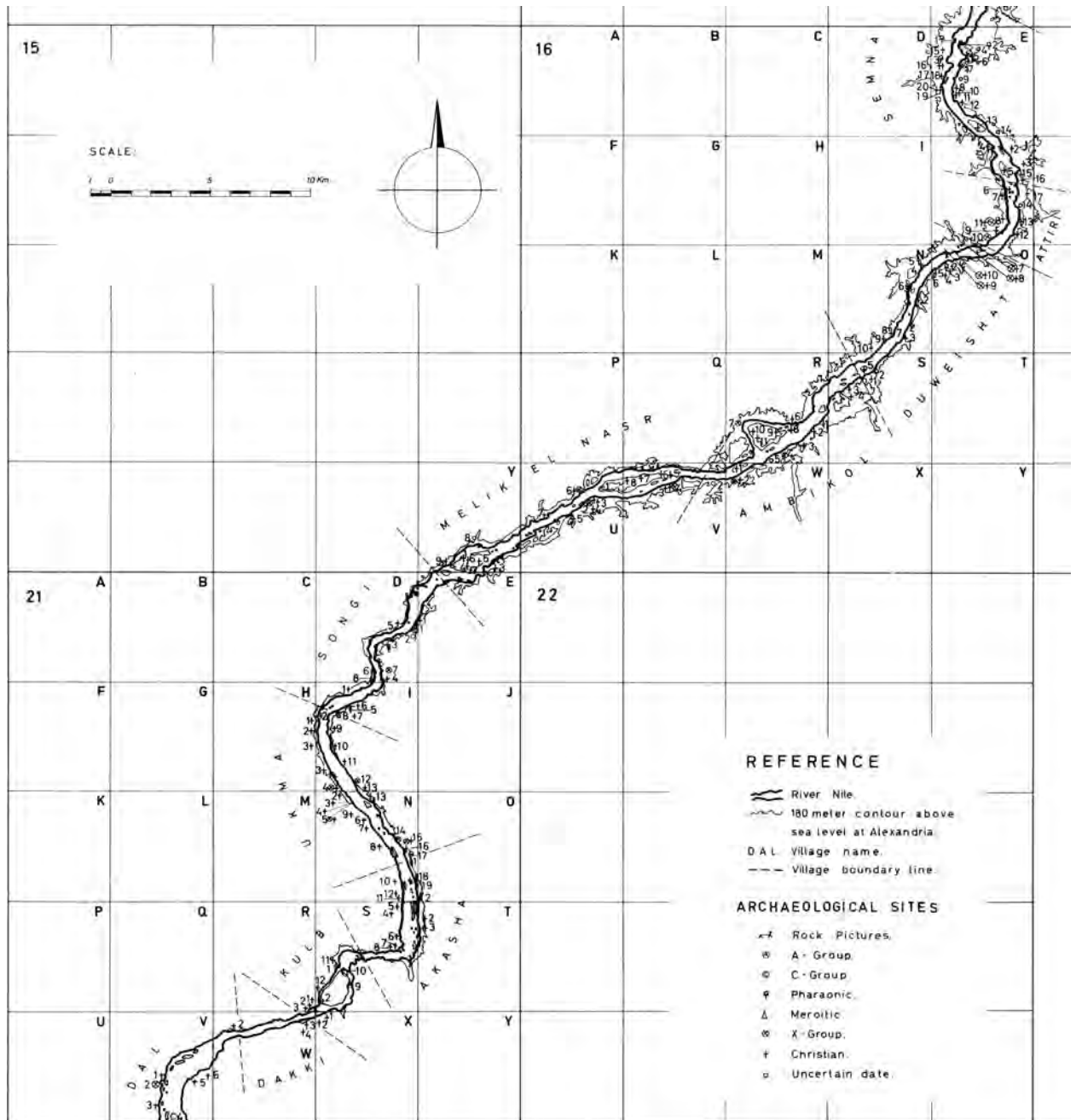


Figure 1.02 Southern end of ASSN Survey area, with sites identified during 1963–64 reconnaissance survey, between Semna and Dal (based on Mills 1965, fig.1).

initial reconnaissance survey of 1963–1964, 15km of the east bank from Gemai to Murshid was allocated for further investigation by the Finnish Nubian Expedition (FNE). The Finnish expedition conducted fieldwork between 21st December 1964 and 1st May 1965, their work including more extensive excavations on several sites identified by the ASSN reconnaissance. Its preliminary results were reported in the journal *Kush* (Donner 1973), and more fully in 1998 in a two-volume report (Donner 1998; see also Strouhal 1995). For the

sake of completeness, a summary of the results of the later work relevant to this volume is included here. The northernmost of the sites reported here (11-D-5 = FNE 15) lay c.1km south of the small groups of islands around Meili island, at the upstream end of the Second Cataract.

In the Saras area, the one major Middle Kingdom site which had not been investigated by Reisner’s expedition, at Askut, was excavated over two seasons in 1962–1964 by a team from the University of California at Los Angeles (Badawy

1964, 1966; S.T. Smith 1995). At a similar time, further epigraphic and architectural studies were also made of the New Kingdom temples at Semna West and East (Kumma) by a joint expedition of the Egypt Exploration Society and Brown University (Camino 1964, 1965, 1998a, 1998b). During 1966 an additional concession was allocated to the Oriental Institute Expedition to Sudanese Nubia (OINE) at Semna, in the central area of the region. This was focused on the Middle Kingdom fortified outpost at Semna South and an adjacent cemetery, and undertook two seasons of fieldwork in 1966–67 and 1967–68 (Žabkar and Žabkar 1982).

Further concessions were also allocated in the southern Batn al-Hajar, removing further areas from further ASSN investigations. On the west bank in the Songi (Sonki) area, an area of c.4km of the west bank was allocated to a team from the University of Rome (Donadoni 1970; Fanfoni 1979). A little upstream, a larger concession extending from Sonki East to Akasha (c.16km) on the east bank became the responsibility of a Swiss mission (Maystre 1970, 1975, 1980, 1996a, 1996b). In addition a group of medieval sites in the Melik en Nasr area (Sunnarti, Tangur and Turmukki) and at Kulb West were investigated by a German Archaeological Institute/University of Heidelberg team in 1967 and 1968 (Dinkler 1970, 1985; Rodziewicz 1972). As the ASSN Survey was drawing to a close, W. Y. Adams began new fieldwork on Kulubnarti in 1969, continued in 1970 and again in 1979, mainly concerned with investigating the post-medieval (Islamic) archaeology of the island but later also excavating two medieval cemeteries (Adams 1994, 4–9).

What was soon apparent from the fieldwork undertaken in this region was the great density of sites identified and recorded. By the mid-1960s the results of early fieldwork within Egyptian Nubia have been drawn together and assessed in Bruce Trigger's still important synthetic study: *History and Settlement in Lower Nubia* (Trigger 1965). Mainly sites recorded by the First and Second Archaeological Surveys of Nubia, these included c.151 sites recorded during 1907–11, a further 76 sites during 1929–34 (see Adams 1977, 72–76), and c.70 sites recorded by the Sondage Survey of the Egypt Exploration Society during early 1961 (Smith 1962, 3). Trigger's analysis also identified a range of factors likely to have contributed to both the uneven recovery as well as uneven preservation of sites of various types and periods within this

region (1965, 43–54).

The increasing intensity of fieldwork by the 1960s was soon reflected in its results. Within Sudanese Nubia in the area between the Egyptian-Sudanese frontier and the Second Cataract zone, the West Bank Survey subsequently recorded c.262 sites (Adams 2004, 1). The Scandinavian Joint Expedition (SJE) recorded c.490 sites over the corresponding area along c.60km of the east bank (Säve-Söderbergh 1992, 39), a total also including numerous rock drawing sites. As the SAS/UNESCO team had recognized during the later phases of their work (1961–62) within the Second Cataract zone, notwithstanding the rugged and inhospitable terrain south of Wadi Halfa this was not reflected in the number of sites encountered. As they recognized “the very barrenness ... has undoubtedly been responsible for the survival of minor remains which long since have disappeared had they been situated in more populous areas” (Adams and Nordström 1963, 11).

The subsequent work of the ASSN south of Gemai was to further demonstrate the often remarkable conditions of archaeological preservation at a more extensive regional scale. In this respect attention may also be drawn to experiences both of the Sudan Antiquities Service survey over c.64km of the Nile between Dal and Nilwatti which recorded more than 460 registered ‘sites’ (Vila 1979, 7–8) and the more than 700 sites identified in the often rugged Third Cataract region (Osman and Edwards 2012). More recently large numbers (still unquantified) of sites were identified in another sparsely inhabited cataract region during salvage work in advance of the Merowe Dam (Welsby 2003; Paner and Jakobielski 2005; Näser and Lange 2007; Wotzka 2012).

The ASSN Archive

The paper record produced by the project was extensive and built on the experience and practices of the earlier survey work downstream of Gemai and north of the Second Cataract (Adams 2004, 16–19). This included a handwritten field diary compiled by A. J. Mills, latterly archived as a typed document. Primary site records were compiled within a series of field notebooks, with details of individual sites recorded in one or more of these. These included 14 volumes compiled by A. J. Mills spanning the six field seasons from 1963 to 1969 (AJM II–XV), three by Bengt Schönback

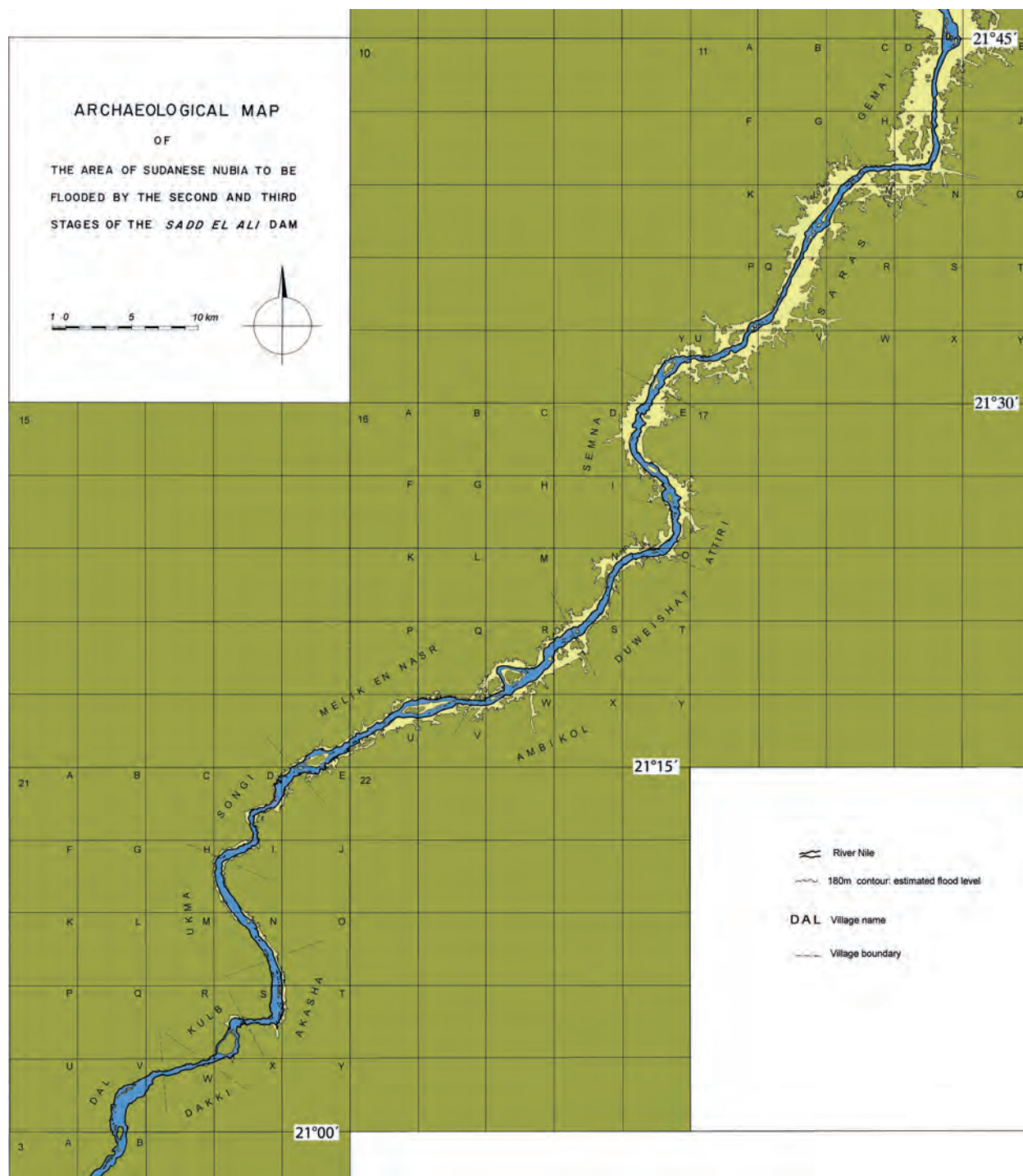


Figure 1.03 Survey area between Gemai and Dal. The 180m contour corresponded with the expected high water levels (based on Mills 1965, fig.1).

(BS I-III) for the 1967–6 season, four by J. E. Knudstad (JEK I-IV) and a further five for Lars Gezelius (Gez I-V) relating to sites examined during the seasons of 1967–68 and 1968–69. Some additional records were also made in one notebook of Nordström’s (Nordström VII) as well as a volume prepared by W. Y. Adams (WYA

XII). While the notebooks commonly included sketch plans and object drawings as well as written descriptions for sites, these were supplemented where necessary by additional paper site plans, of various sizes, but most commonly on c.A3 size squared sheets. In earlier seasons these made use of proforma record sheets originally devised for the

West Bank (Faras-Gemai) Survey. For excavated cemeteries these were commonly recorded as grave sheets for one or more burials with increasingly standardised formats. The quite standardized character and formatting of these records was developed to facilitate publication, and a quite similar format was later followed in the publications of the Dal-Nilwatti Survey. Examples of field notebook records and additional record sheets are illustrated in Appendix A.

The photographic archive relating to the ASSN Gemai-Dal Survey survey and excavations is substantial comprising more than 9000 images, as photographic negatives. These may be added to the c.3000 images in the archive of the West Bank Survey. Facilities for and practical experience in photographic work has already begun to be established in 1960 when the first fieldwork began in Sudanese Nubia and an associated documentation centre was established in Wadi Halfa. The development of the first phase of survey and excavation has been described elsewhere in the reports of the West Bank Survey (Adams 2004, 2005; Nordström 2014) and need not be repeated here. However, this early work was important in seeing the establishment of a photographic darkroom in Wadi Halfa as well as the acquisition of a series of field cameras, supplied by UNESCO, essential to the successful completion of the project. The museum assistant and photographer Arbab Hassan Hafiz also provided much valuable support for such work.

As described by Nordström, then as now, practical challenges of successful photographic work in the harsh Nubian environment were not inconsiderable. It is also evident from the archive how practical experience and expertise was accumulated over several years of fieldwork, producing an archive within which the generally high quality of the photographs is very evident. The very small number of poor quality images makes clear the care and attention taken in creating these records, care and attention perhaps less familiar in the age of almost limitless digital photography. The reasonably satisfactory condition of most of the photographic negatives some 50 years later may also be noted, although some physical deterioration is occasionally evident. Bearing this in mind, one early priority of this publication project has

been to ensure the creation of digital copies of the whole photographic archive.³

The care and skill evident in the photographic archive has ensured that a large proportion of images are significant and suitable for publication, and it is assumed that the majority were prepared with that in mind. That the continuous pressure of work did not always allow the best conditions to be established for photographic recording is sometimes apparent, seen for example in rather ad hoc attempts of providing shade for photograph in a desert environment of bright sunlight and often deep shadows. While the field photographic record remains generally closely focused on site recording, some more general content may also be found amongst this archive. On occasions interesting and valuable landscape views were recorded, all too rare perhaps for a landscape which has since disappeared or been radically transformed. On some other occasions fleeting glimpses of Nubian communities just prior to their removal may also be seen. Such records are also all too rare with the limited ethnographic record made of this region prior to its inundation, although we may be grateful to the more informal photographic record made by Herman Bell during his work in the region 1962–1964 (Bell 2009).

This part of the archive forms a continuation of the photographic records relating to the initial UNESCO-Sudan Antiquities Service West Bank Survey project (Nordström 2014, 3). Following on from that, there was one series of ‘field’ photographs (prefixed with an F/), and a second consecutive series of films used for objects/‘collections’ (prefixed with a C/). The majority of the former were medium-format (120) films, while the object photographs were largely 35mm. The sequence of site films for the ASSN Gemai-Dal Survey comprise eight 35mm films,⁴ and c.330 films of medium format (sequence F/293-F/618). The object/finds films comprise films C/049-C/180, continuing the sequence of films (C/001-C/048) of the West Bank Survey (Nordström 2014, 3). In total these represent a total of c.4,300 site photographs and c.4,700 object photographs, although to these may be added some photographs within the West Bank Survey archive relating to the first season’s work when both projects were underway.

³ The scanning of the photographic negative archive was assisted by a grant from the Sudan Archaeological Research Society in 2014, for which we are very grateful.

⁴ These include films F/197, 199, 200, 230–233, 260, 265; partly within the sequence used by the West Bank Survey.

A card index photographic record for Gemaidal Survey, begun for the West Bank Survey, is currently incomplete, but is being reconstructed as the publication programme develops, while also better integrating the paper and digital archives of both projects. A series of notebooks record on-site photography from 1964–1969. In addition the archive holds prints of c.850 aerial photographs (scale 1:15,000), most taken during late 1959, but with some earlier coverage (initiated by Jean Vercoutter) apparently dating to 1955–57 (Adams and Allen 1961).

Finds from sites were generally recorded in the field and those selected for retention were latterly photographed and registered into the Sudan National Museum (SNM) collections. These were recorded on standardized finds cards with descriptive information, generally including sketch drawings, record information and Sudan National Museum (SNM.xxx) registration number, as well as attached identification photograph. Identification numbers of small finds were allocated based on (AMS) site registration codes. An example finds card is also illustrated in Appendix A.

From Archive to Publication

Some further comments may here be offered concerning this publication programme and its objectives, and how it relates to the original fieldwork and its records. In the first instance it must be made clear that the primary objective remains to bring to publication, as far as possible, the existing archive in the form that it was originally created. Additional discussion and commentary is also added, in this volume mainly in section 7, but a priority remains to present the original data in a concise and accessible form. This follows a similar approach to the publications of the earlier West Bank Survey (Adams 2004 2005; Nordström 2014). In so doing, the publication has attempted to make the fullest use of the various elements of the original archive, using the original fieldnotes, drawings and site and object photographs. One more innovative feature of this work has however been to make better use of the extensive aerial photography archive to better visualise the archaeological sites within their landscape setting. This may be a first stage in rediscovering the landscapes of the Batn al-Hajar before their inundation. In so doing it has been felt desirable to make a full use of the aerial photographs the 1950s, in so doing

often being able to provide useful views of now lost landscapes.

In respecting the structure of the original site records, it has also been necessary to maintain the basic chronological scheme around which it was organized, in this case dealing only with sites identified as ‘Pharaonic’. That there are many potential problems with the original chronological scheme is recognized, not least with the division made between ‘Egyptian’ *Pharaonic* and potentially contemporary ‘Nubian’ sites (identified as *C-Group* and/or *Kerma*). As scholarship of more recent decades has made clear, both in Nubia and more widely, such distinctions may often be very problematic, not least where such boundaries may often have become very blurred in the long history of Egyptian/Nubian encounters, colonial or otherwise. Addressing such problems and the more general interpretative issues raised in exploring the encounters between Egyptians and Nubians must however await the completion of the basic publication of the data. Where the records relating to the C-Group/Kerma sites recorded by the ASSN are much more substantial than those relating to the ‘Pharaonic’ sites presented here, it was not felt possible to further delay the publication of this first element of the larger archive. That the complete study of the full archive is likely to throw new light on a number of sites presented here also seems very likely.

On occasions, where some sites are already identified as likely to be relevant to these ‘Pharaonic’ sites, they have however been noted in the text. This has been the case for example with what may be termed a ‘Late C-Group’ cemetery at Saras East [11-Q-57] which may be dated to early Dynasty 18, in exactly the period when Egyptian/Nubian identities are becoming blurred. The presence of what appears to be a ‘Kerma’ workshop site close to the area of New Kingdom gold-working at Duweishat is also noted. It should also be noted here that a number of sites initially registered as ‘Pharaonic’ (and on occasions identified as such in early publications), but which now may be interpreted otherwise, have also been included here, to avoid as far as possible the creation of further uncertainties in published accounts. One exception has been a number of rock drawing sites, mainly around Kulubnarti which while identified as possibly ‘Pharaonic’ (Adams 1994, Table 1.1, 288), cannot be easily dated. These sites have not been included here as this attribution requires further investigation. These are however recorded in the site listing in Appendix B.

It should also be noted that individual site records were generally compiled in a format looking forward to publication rather than a subsequent separate phase of post-excavation analysis and interpretation. As such there is limited scope for further re-interpretation of the site records, and as far as possible the degree of editing of the records has been kept to a minimum, so as to maintain as far as possible its original form. The one most common amendment to the original texts has been to change site descriptions phrased in the present tense to the past, reflecting their subsequent loss. That a number of sites (or at least their location), mainly in the southern Batn al-Hajar, have however survived above the Nile waters has been noted on a number of occasions, where known. Similarly, as much as possible of the original records are presented here, both in terms of site drawings and photographs. At this stage the original record photographs of objects are presented. That many researchers would wish to have new (and colour) photographs of objects is understood, but the major undertaking of relocating and re-recording objects in the Sudan National Museum collections is beyond the scope of this publication project, however desirable. The basic format for presenting the general site records as well as specific site components (e.g. grave descriptions) also closely follows the format devised by the ASSN team and used quite systematically within their field records.

As is often evident with some of the uncertainties concerning the date of some sites reported here, understandings of Pharaonic pottery at the time of the ASSN survey were often inadequate. That this material was recorded prior to the very important study by Holthoer (1977) of the pottery from the Scandinavian Joint Expedition concession to the north must be borne in mind. The general recording of pottery followed practices then current, such as the EES project at Buhen where A. J. Mills had been working (during the 1960–61, 1961–62 and 1962–63 seasons) prior to the ASSN Survey, which itself looked back to typological studies established much earlier in Nubian archaeology (Emery et al. 1979, 160). As such, particularly where dealing with fragmentary sherd material, much of the archaeological potential of the material recovered was never adequately exploited. Observations on the production technology of pottery sought only to distinguish ‘handmade’ and ‘wheelmade’ pottery, while observations of fabrics and wares remained at a rather

generalised level. Also following common practice of the time, record drawings of pottery were limited to more general formal records, mainly at a scale of 1:3. On occasions their scaled measurements also lack precision, although measurements were provided for most registered vessels on the finds registration cards. Where changes in width/height proportions of some Egyptian vessel forms have been recognized as chronologically significant (e.g. S. T. Smith 1995, 28–32) this ‘vessel index’ (VI) has been noted in the pottery records.

This lack of more detailed and nuanced recording can be especially frustrating where much progress has been made in the intervening years in developing more sophisticated understandings of Egyptian ceramic technology and its products. In view of this, the dating of pottery groups must often remain tentative, generally relying on the presence of more chronologically distinctive vessel forms. Where possible, likely dates for these have been noted, and we are very grateful for Lauriane Mielle [LM] for her work on reviewing this material. Pottery collections may be divided into two main bodies of material, those selected as individually registered finds and more general sherd collections, from within excavations and more general surface collections. Of the latter, the written records make clear that on occasions, some were examined by colleagues with more specialist expertise, notably W. Y. Adams in the case of Meroitic and a more recent pottery (‘Christian’ and ‘Islamic’), and H-Å. Nordström for prehistoric pottery. Their comments, with annotations relating to wares and fabrics are on occasions added to the field notebooks.

Site registration and the Archaeological Map of Sudan (AMS)

The ASSN continued the site registration system initiated north of the Second Cataract, a system later pursued by F. Hinkel with the Sudan Antiquities Service with the aim to develop a definitive *Archaeological Map of Sudan* (Hinkel 1977). All sites were assigned registration numbers within this system as the work progressed, and considerable progress was made in establishing a primary database, both at the time and in subsequent discussions between A. J. Mills and F. Hinkel (especially in 1990) and with D. N. Edwards. However, while Hinkel was able to make some progress in publishing a number of regional volumes of the

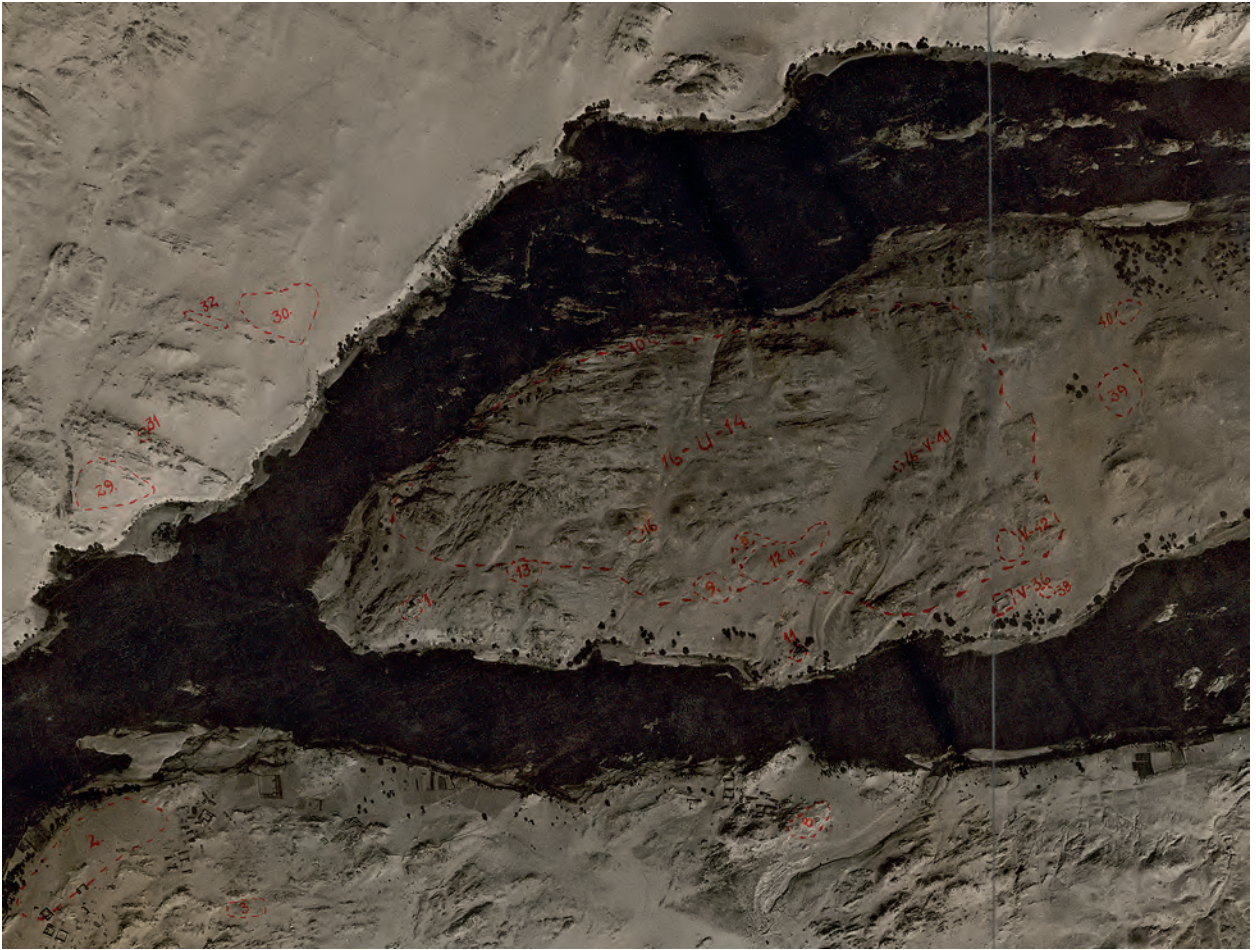


Figure 1.04 Detail of aerial photograph (AP328230) of area of Turmukki island (*Melik en Nasr*), with site locations marked.

Archaeological Map of Sudan, a definitive listing of sites in this region has yet to be completed. While it may be hoped that one outcome of the ASSN publication programme will be to complete that task (if no longer envisaged in the same form), this remains an ongoing project. The current work has for example identified a number of instances where sites have been mis-located and consequently assigned incorrect registration numbers.

A more substantial task remains the integration of site registers of other projects working in the region, most importantly those of the Epigraphic Expedition of the German Academy of Sciences (Nubien-Expedition 1961–1963 der Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin, DDR). As was recognized at the time there was some duplication of site registration numbers in the early stages of the ASSN. As reported in preliminary reports, it was initially

sought to avoid renumbering of sites where there has been duplication of ‘epigraphic’ site numbers and those assigned to archaeological sites (Mills 1965, 2; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 10–11; Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 13). However it was later recognized that this would be necessary and this process was begun, although not fully completed.⁵ At least one card index concordance was prepared by A. J. Mills, referring to 11 volumes of records prepared by the Rock Drawing survey registering 757 field files (*Feldakte*).⁶ Many of these had been assigned registration numbers which duplicated those of the main ASSN site register.

Integration of the large body of information collected by this team with the ASSN records was not completed at the time and presents a number of challenges. While the survey of rock drawings was published with an extended series of 46 maps,

5 The organising principles for site registration laid out by W.Y. Adams (1961) and later developed more fully by F. Hinkel (1977) in relation to the Archaeological Map of Sudan (A.M.S) clearly require a single unique reference for all sites

6 Note that Otto and Buschendorf-Otto indicate that 794 field files were created (1993, 13).

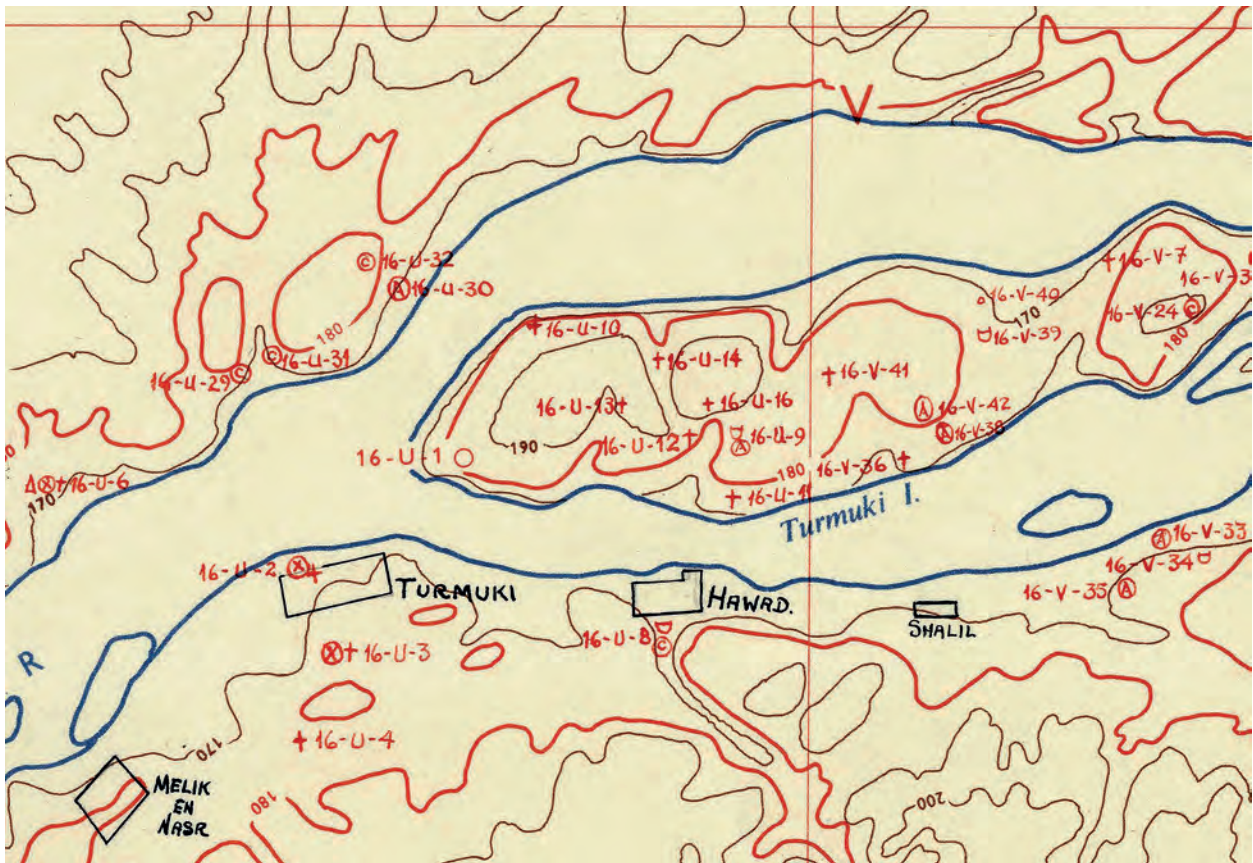


Figure 1.05 Detail of ASSN record map for Turmukki island area.

based on those also used by the ASSN, no such maps accompany the publication of the inscriptions (Hintze and Reineke 1989). This omission in itself creates practical problems for establishing basic documentation, and the exact location of some sites cannot always be established with confidence on the basis of the published records. More generally, however, the lack of topographical information also limits the possibilities for more detailed spatial analyses of such sites in within the landscape. On occasions, inscriptions and rock drawings were encountered together, some additional locational information may be extracted from the published records of the latter. Such shortcomings are of course by no means uncommon. Seidlmayer has recently drawn attention to similar issues encountered in older records of inscriptions in the Aswan area (2013, 206).

In relation to this volume only a small number of sites with Egyptian inscriptions/graffiti have been assigned new numbers (see also Appendix

B). Most of these were required by the duplication of registration numbers although, as noted above, occasional examples have been encountered where sites were allocated numbers within the incorrect grid squares, which are now renumbered. With the more general requirement for the renumbering of rock drawing stations which will need to be undertaken the preliminary concordance also suggests it may on occasions be necessary to assign additional numbers to large groups of drawings initially registered under a single number.⁷

The last key aspect of the registration of sites was their mapping on the series of ten 1:25,000 topographic maps prepared by W. Y. Adams during 1960–61 (Adams 1992, 13). While fieldworkers downstream of Gemai had access to an excellent series of 1:25,000 topographic maps prepared for the Survey Department of Egypt,⁸ the only existing map coverage further south was the Sudan Survey 1:250,000 series. Once printed by the Sudan Survey Department in 1962 the

7 e.g. with 11 groups of drawings (Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 275–278) originally registered at Semna East/Kumma as (16-E-5), their renumbering as six ‘sites’ (16-E-42* to 16-E-47*) was proposed.

8 These maps were prepared for the Survey Department by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1955, based on aerial photographs of 1953

new 1:25,000 maps provided functional base maps for plotting sites. These were also used as the base maps for the publication of the German Epigraphic Expedition. While useful for the compilation of general mapping, the primary locational data remained based on the aerial photography, on which sites could be located with some precision (Adams and Allen 1961, 14). In addition to the marking of individual sites on the standard imagery, a series of 35 larger prints at a scale of c. 1:8,333 were made on which sites were marked directly. An example (fig.1.04), may be compared with the more schematic registration map (fig.1.05).

Nubian toponyms

It may also be appropriate here to provide some background to the toponyms by which sites are recorded here, and how these may relate to our wider understanding of placenames within this part of Middle Nubia. At this time, Herman Bell's fundamental study of the placenames of the region (Bell 1970), based on fieldwork carried out

between 1962 and 1964 represents the most definitive record of the region's placenames, informed by his extensive knowledge of the Nubian (Nobiin) language. At the southern end of the survey around Dal some additional recording was undertaken by the SFDRA-Sudan Antiquities Service survey which continued the general survey upstream of the Dal cataract (Vila 1979, 63–64, fig.21). During the twentieth century various forms of toponyms are encountered in the archaeological records. In relation to the ASSN, the most common forms are those reproduced on the Sudan Survey 1:250,000 map series, which are supplemented by those which appear on the ASSN map coverage, elements of which are used in this report. As made clear by Bell in a number of studies (e.g. Bell 1970, 2018; Bell and Hashim 2002) a number of problems are commonly encountered in the way such toponyms have been represented. Here, while the most familiar forms of toponyms will continue to be used, additional information will also be provided on variants, including the more linguistically 'correct' forms. As an example, such well-known toponyms such as that of Gammai/Gemai may



Figure 1.06 ASSN staff of 1963–64 (reconnaissance survey) at Wadi Halfa. (left to right) Abdel Ghani Ali, Abdel Hadi Mohammed, ?, Mohammed Hamid, Said Beshir, Reis Ibrahim Mubarek, 'Satur'.



Figure 1.07 Reis Ibrahim Mubarek, Lesley Mills, Abdu Feriq, Arbab Hassan Hafiz, Yusuf Mohammed Yussuf, ?, Mohammed Hamid.

be compared with a more correct form of *Jemey* (Bell 1970, 47). While such modern placenames are only indirectly relevant to the ancient sites and landscapes described here, these may prove of greater relevance in subsequent volumes dealing with the medieval and more recent archaeology of the region.

Acknowledgements

A first and fundamental acknowledgment is due to all those who undertook the fieldwork, both the expatriate staff, especially H-Å. Nordström, B. Schönbeck, L. Gezelius, A. Vila and J. Knudstad and their Sudanese and Egyptian staff. As recorded elsewhere (Adams 2004, 2–3) the Sudanese staff of the Antiquities Service provided essential practical

support throughout, notably Thabit Hassan Thabit and Negm el-Din Mohammed Sherif then Inspector of Antiquities resident in Wadi Halfa, as well as Gamal Ahmed Hassan and Arbab Hassan Hafiz. Following current practice and drawing on links with the Egyptian Exploration Society, field staff included both Egyptian workers, recruited from Quft, as well as locally recruited Sudanese staff. These were led in the early years of the Survey between Faras and Gemai by Reis Hufni, Reis Beshir and Reis Ibrahim Mubarek and latterly Yusuf Mohammed Yussuf el-Khouli.⁹ While a comprehensive record of all the field staff does not survive in the ASSN archive the names of some may be recorded here: (1963–64) Abdel Ghani Ali Maharib Dungul (Quft), Abdel Hadi Mohammed Osman (Quft),¹⁰ Khalifa Hamed Abdullah (El Kab), Mohammed Juma

⁹ It may be noted that Reis Ibrahim Mubarek worked with a number of other foreign archaeological teams during this period, for example accompanying the Swiss team working at Tabo (Argo) in the northern Dongola Reach, and the Italian team at Sonki.

¹⁰ The ASSN field diary records that the survey work began at 6.00a.m. on 22nd December 1963, with two Quftis, Abdel Ghani and Abdel Hadi

and Hamuda Ali (Ambikol), Mohammed Hamid Mohammed Hamid (Soleb), Abdel Salam Ibrahim Salem (Kosha), logistic support of drivers, cooks, water supplies and boats, Mohammed Osman Mohammed Daud Aga Derwish Ramadan (Abri), Said Beshir Mohammed Saleh Abdel Karim (Halfa), Abdel Moneim Mohammed Fadl (Kumma), Abdel Rashid Abdu Ali (Saras), Abdel Aziz and Suleiman Salih Beshari (Semna), Ali Mohammed Musa (Attiri), Idris Mohammed Fareg, Saleh Hussein Berkieh, Salih Ghassim; (1964–65) Hamid Shegah Ahmed, Ibrahim Idris Ibrahim, Ali Mohammed Ali, Saleh Berkieh; (1965–1966) Ibrahim Mubarek, Yussuf Mohammed Yussuf el-Khouli, Abdel Hadi Mohammed Osman, Mutawalli Hassan Ali; (1966–1967) Ibrahim Mubarek, Yussuf Mohammed Yussuf el-Khouli, Abdel Hadi Mohammed Osman, Ali Mustafa Shahat [Abdel Ati], Hassan Mohammed Musa; (1967–68) Ibrahim Mubarek, Yussuf Mohammed Yussuf el-Khouli, Abdel Hadi Mohammed Osman, Kamal Faris, Tewfik Ali Shahat, Abdel Majid Hussein, Mubarek Mubarek, Mahmoud Mohammed Ali el Far, Ramadan Mohammed Osman, Hussein Ibrahim, Hamid Mohammed Aboud; (1968–69) Abdel Hadi Mohammed Osman, Ibrahim Mubarek, Mubarek Mubarek, Tewfik Ali Shahat, Ali Mustafa Shahat, Abdel Majid Hussein, Yussuf Mohammed Yussuf el-Khouli, Abdallah el-Kurdi.

Thanks are also due to the Sudan Archaeological Research Society for financial support for

beginning the digitizing the photographic archive. Further early support for the publication of the ASSN provided to A. J. Mills by the Fondation Michela Schiff Giorgini and the Haycock Trust should also be acknowledged. The editor (DNE) is also grateful for a period of academic study leave in 2018 provided by the University of Leicester which assisted in the completion of this volume. Additional special thanks are due to W. V. Davies for sharing information and insights concerning the Egyptian inscriptions, a number of which he has relocated in recent years as part of his more general research (see Davies 2014, 2016, 2017a, 2017b, 2018).

An acknowledgement is also due to Iain McLean for a number of interesting insights concerning the Saras gold workshops which emerged as part of a BA Dissertation project at the University of Leicester. Amongst many others who have contribution to the completion of this volume, Martin Sterry provided much valuable assistance with aerial photographs and their integration with modern satellite imagery, Margaret Finch and Mike Hawkes with preparation of drawings as well as Chantal Biemann, Michaela Senkova and Julia Nikolaus. Thanks are also due to Laurel Bestock, Julien Cooper, Vivian Davies, Maria Gatto, Christian Knoblauch, Claudia Näser, Pamela Rose, Stuart Tyson Smith and Derek Welsby for advice and information on various elements of this material. All errors of course remain our own. All photographs are from the ASSN archive.

2. Gemai – Murshid

The ASSN survey south of the Second Cataract continued the survey upstream from Gemai (*Jemey*). The first section of the survey extended through Gemai (*Jemey*) and Murshid, as far as the north end of Saras, a distance of c.15km along the river. This area formed the administrative unit of the omdiyah of Gemai (which extended northwards into the cataract zone, including Abka and the Kokki islands).¹ The southern boundary between Murshid and Saras lay at the upstream end of the Murshid bend, where the river turned to flow east, for c.5km before turning north for c.10km towards the southern end of the Second Cataract.

The beginning of the cataract zone lay at the extreme northern end of the survey concession where a series of small islands straddled the river: Diffinarti, Meili (*Meilinarti*) and 'Abznarti'.² There was medieval occupation on Diffinarti [11-D-2] and a small Meroitic settlement [5-X-46] was found, underlying a small church [5-X-44], on Meili island, excavated by W. Y. Adams in 1962 (Adams 2004, 39–42; 2009, 270–272). Downstream of the islands the river, while broad, posed some problems to navigation when river levels were low due to presence of many large seasonal islands and sandbanks (fig.2.01).

Previous survey work on the west bank directed by W. Y. Adams reached this area in 1962, while the east bank from the Sudanese-Egyptian frontier to this point had been surveyed by the Scandinavian Joint Expedition (SJE). The boundary between the concessions at Gemai was set at latitude 21°45'N. Following the registration procedures established at the start of the project, the northernmost sites of this part of the ASSN fell within grid squares 11-D- and 11-E-; the earlier work having covered grid squares 5-X- and 5-Y-.

On the east bank the northern end of the survey

area lay at the mouth of the prominent Khor Abu Dom in the area of the village of Diffinuk (*Diffinoog*). This khor extended 15–20km to the east, providing access to more open landscapes of the eastern deserts outside the Batn al-Hajar. As recorded by Bates and Dunham in the early twentieth century numerous gazelle still came down to the river by night from the eastern deserts, apparently a nuisance to the local farmers (1927, 4).

This area of Gemai East had seen much activity in the last decades of the nineteenth century during the Mahdiyya. During the 1884–1885 campaign the eastern bank had served as a dockyard and assembly point for riverborne forces passing through the Second Cataract. During the following years it was the site of a number of military outposts including a fort, and was again a key location during the preparations for the Anglo-Egyptian campaign of reconquest beginning in 1896. This level of modern disturbance of the landscape was unusual within the generally barren and inhospitable Batn al-Hajar; many traces of ancient settlement were often little disturbed by more recent occupation. However, the often intense military activity, including the construction of the military railways through this area clearly had quite a considerable impact on surface remains in this locality.

Under the Condominium government archaeological work had begun in the area at an early date. In 1915, the Harvard excavations directed by Oric Bates and Dows Dunham had explored much of the area just to the north of the ASSN survey concession at the southern end of the Second Cataract (Bates and Dunham 1927). This early fieldwork found some evidence of a 'Pharaonic' presence amongst several sites in the Gemai area. This included perhaps six New Kingdom graves

1 The last population survey recorded a total population of 2580 under the six sheikhs within the Omdiyah of Gemai (Dafalla 1975, 336).

2 A local etymology recorded by Bates and Dunham interpreted this as the island of 'Abu-zeyt' (1927, 3)



Figure 2.01 Northern end of ASSN Survey area at Gemai (Jemey). Detail from air photograph with site locations plotted.

in ‘Cemetery 500’ (Bates and Dunham 1927, 14–15),³ some other graves including Egyptian material, as well as a New Kingdom decorated architectural block (Bates and Dunham 1927, Pl.XII.1) incorporated in a post-Meroitic burial (U.4). It may be noted however that in the 1960s no further study of those sites or the surrounding area was undertaken. By that time a large part of the Gemai plain west of the old railway line had been brought under cultivation; the old railway embankment itself apparently being incorporated within an extensive irrigation project.

The initial survey work in this area began 22nd December 1963 and was completed on 13th January 1964 when the field team moved their

camp to the Saras Rest House. Some additional survey and excavation work was carried out on the west bank supervised by H-Å Nordström from 23rd December 1964 until 13th January 1965. At that time a license was granted to the Finnish Nubia Expedition (FNE) to conduct further work on the east bank between Gemai and the Sigaga plain, an area in which the ASSN had previously identified 14 sites. The FNE fieldwork began on 22nd December 1964 and continued along with post-excavation work into April 1965. Copies of the original ASSN reconnaissance survey field-notes had been passed to the FNE and these were subsequently included in the publication of that project (Donner 1973; Donner 1998, 290–303).

3 This site was registered by the SJE as site 164 = [5-X-22].



Figure 2.02 Composite aerial photograph of Gemai-Murshid area.

One further continuation to the study of this region related to recording of rock drawings and inscriptions. A few rock drawing sites were recorded in this area by the FNE (Donner 1998, 304–305). The area was however also investigated by the Epigraphic Survey who registered 33 sites. These were registered as sites [11-D-3–11-D-10] in Adurma, Affu and Tunkit, [11-I-1–11-I-24] and [11-N-1] in Sigaga, Kemala, Dorintawwo and Tillar and [11-H-1] in Angsi (Otto and Otto 1993, map 47). As noted above a provisional concordance was prepared where these duplicated registration numbers assigned by the ASSN. Their locations were also noted on the ASSN master map. One of these sites [11-I-23] also had a New Kingdom inscription, which is included at the end of this section, renumbered as [11-I-59*].

On the west bank, modern settlement was quite limited south of the cataract with little agricultural land available. Any settlements were also threatened in recent times by the encroachment of blown sand carried by the prevailing northerly winds (fig.2.02). In the early 1960s Gemai West had a resident population of only c.250 in some 35 dwellings, while there were only four small settlements of about 15 houses in Murshid West (Mills and Nordström 1966, 2–3). South of Gemai West (*Jemey*) were the hamlets at Qasrantaww

(*Kassantawwo*) and Gintil (*Gendelnirki*) with a few further dispersed houses/farmsteads extending c.2.km upriver from the islands. South of there was quite a prominent wadi running into the western hinterland. About 1km further south, at Karagan (*Karageen*), was the lower end of the ‘Wadi Karagan’ system of palaeochannels which left the modern Nile channel c.2–2.5km west of the lower Murshid bend (Robinson and Hewes 1966).

The southern end of the Gemai (*Jemey*) East plain was at Diffinuk (*Diffinoog*) around the mouth of the Khor Abu Dom, opposite Diffinarti. The Gemai ‘Rest House’ occupied one of the small late nineteenth century forts. Just to the southwest were the hamlets of Sayeddin (*Sayid*), Affu and Adurmai (*Adurma*). Within the northern part of Murshid East were settlements at Agir and Dorigintawwo and the small island of Ushinarti (*Osshinarti*). There were two small hamlets at Tillar and Kemala just below the river bend and the valley (*Silleffarki*) reached the river from the east at this point (fig.2.02). The settlement of Murshid was located on the south side of this khor. Upstream (to the west) the area of Sigaga (*Sijaaja*)⁴ was the most densely settled part of Murshid with quite large areas of fossil alluvium above the fields along the river bank, the location of several sites of various periods (Donner 1998, 14).

4 Sijaaja was ‘Sette Hadje, a cultivable patch of ground, enclosed by rocks, with some ancient brick buildings’ visited by Burckhardt in 1813 (Burckhardt 1819, 44).

11-D-5 (= FNE 15) Occupation**Gemai East (Affu)**

LOCATION: this site was located on a slight rise of gebel surrounded by drift sand and less than 100m from the road and c.250m north of the northern house of the second group of houses (the hamlet of *Affu*) south of the Gemai Rest House (fig.2.03).

DESCRIPTION: this was originally identified in 1963 as an (undated) cemetery consisting of about 10 graves of varying orientation, in an area measuring c.8m wide and c.35m long (north-south). There were no surface indications except slight depressions in the surface, and a few small boulder stones. Two graves were excavated. Grave 1 was a plundered north-south oriented side-niche grave, containing the disturbed remain of two adults. Grave 2 a shallow east-west oriented rectangular pit, filled with drift sand.

DOCUMENTATION: AJM II: 16–17; Air Photos: 623212, 624180, 327002. Investigated: 20/12/1963. No further excavation was recommended.

This site was re-examined by the Finnish Nubia Expedition to Sudanese Nubia (FNE) in January-February 1965, with further excavations supervised by R. Holthoer. This work confirmed the presence of seven (undated) graves in one area and a further four (undated) graves a little to the east (Donner 1998, Pl.63). A scatter of lithics and ‘Early Khartoum’ sherds was also recorded closeby.

In addition to the graves located in 1963 by Mills, an occupation area relating to perhaps four ‘huts’ with two associated pits were located to the east side of the site. Excavations recovered sherds of New Kingdom jars, plates and bowls (fig.2.04), but no intact structures or floors seem to have survived. It is possible that some of the burials were contemporary with this settlement/occupation; Grave 3 including a red-rimmed bowl perhaps of this period (fig.2.04: 15/3:1).

For further details see Donner 1998, 123–127, Pls 62–74, 166 (site FNE 15 = 31°11’20”/ 21°44’18”).

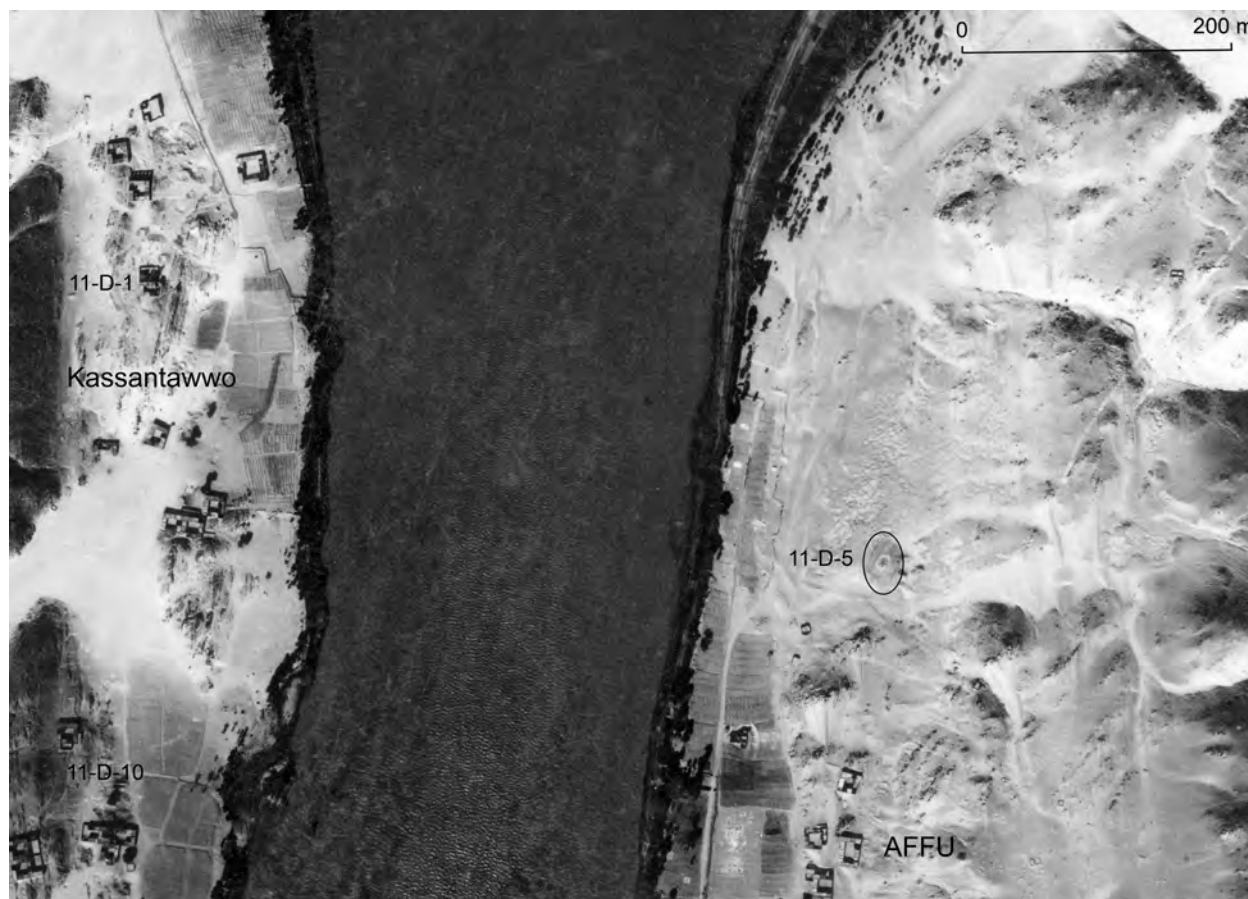


Figure 2.03 Location of [11-D-5] north of the hamlet of *Affu*, Gemai East.

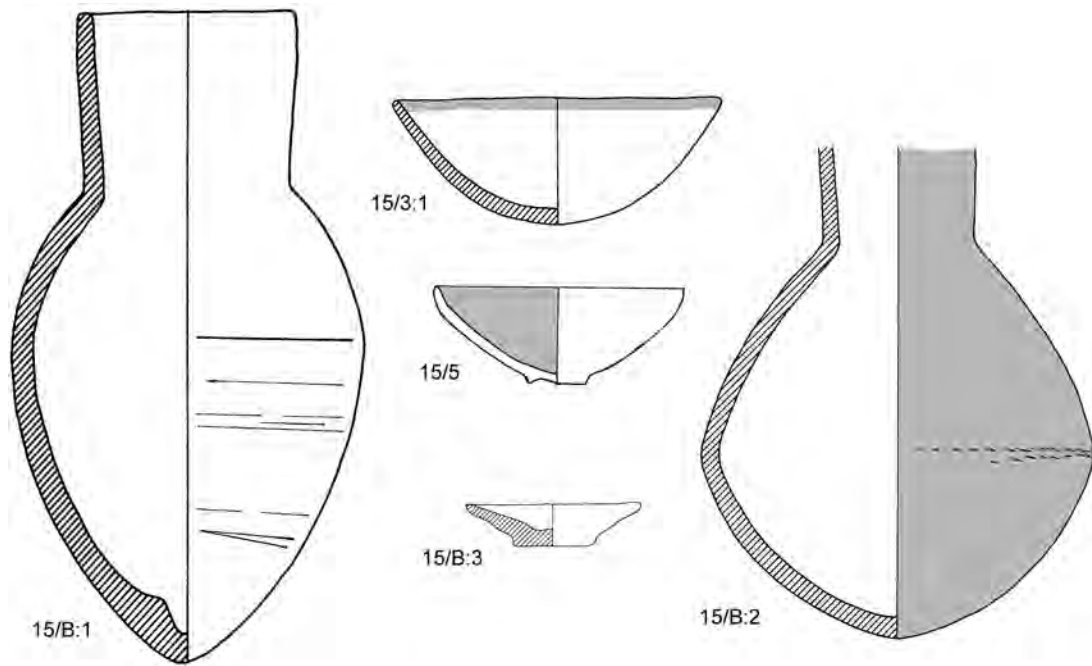


Figure 2.04 Examples of pottery recovered by FNE excavations in 1965.
(based on Donner 1998, Pl.166) (scale c.1:5).

11-D-36 Occupation

Gemai West (Gintil)



Figure 2.05 Location of [11-D-36] and [11-D-37] and adjoining sites in Gemai West.

LOCATION: located in the southern part of Gemai West village, at the south end of the hamlet of Gintil (*Gendel/Gendelnirki*), between river bank and rocky hillslopes. A small group of C-Group and other graves [11-D-11] lay c.200m to the north-west (fig.2.05).

DESCRIPTION: the site consisted of a 'refuse layer', c.30–80 cm thick, on the slope beneath the rocky outcrops. In search of structural remains, especially on the upper part of the slope, several trenches were dug in an east-west direction, as well as a smaller connecting trench running parallel to the slope. No structural remains were found. The refuse layer consisted of greyish sand and granite stones, slightly mixed with 'dark humus'. This contained a considerable quantity of sherds, as well as two broken vessels (figs 2.06-07). The latter were found in the unstratified refuse deposits

about 30cm beneath the surface. The top portion of the refuse was covered by a soft rain-washed mud layer, intermixed with smaller stones, and about 10cm thick, covered by a surface layer of loose stones. The sherds included were 'mainly of



Figure 2.06 Bowl (11-D-36/1).

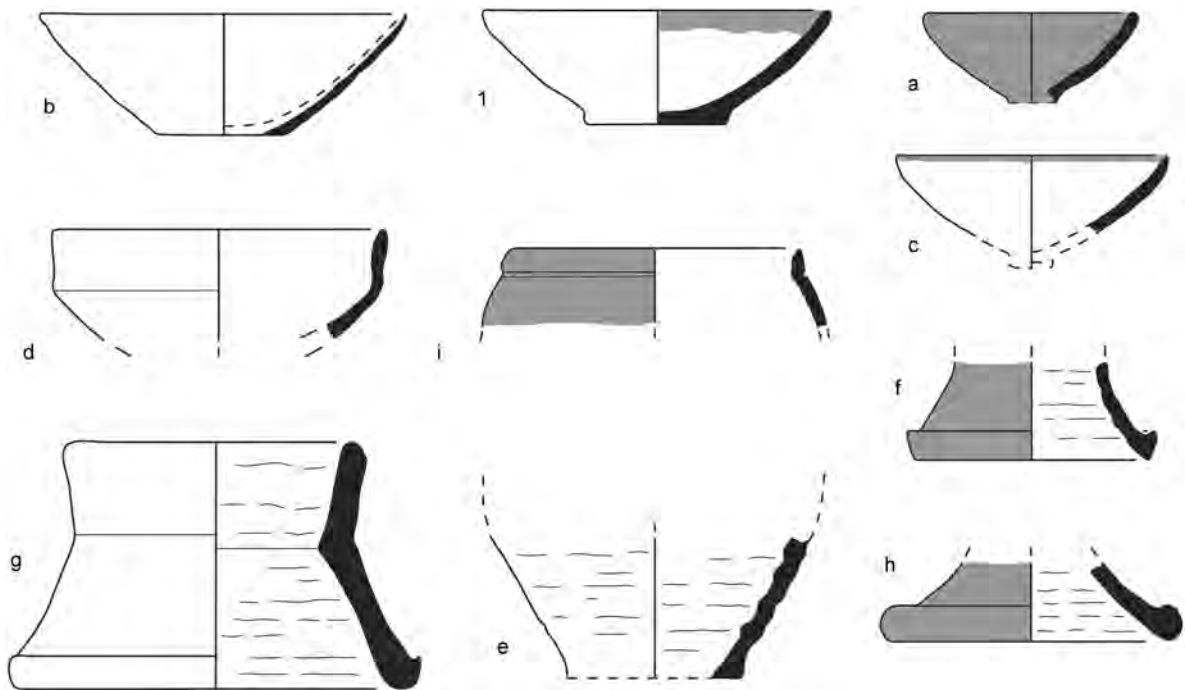


Figure 2.07 Pottery samples from [11-D-36] (scale c.1:4).

N.K. date', but also included medieval ('Christian') coarsewares. Initial suggestions of a Meroitic component were not subsequently confirmed (sherds re-examined in February 1970 by AJM). The origin of this material was not determined.

Pottery (fig.2.07):

11-D-36/1. Bowl with direct rim and flat base. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?), with matte red slip inside rim; in three pieces. D:185mm; H:62mm. (VI:298). Photo: C/084:32–33. SNM.19503. (fig.2.06)

11-D-36/a. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?), with matte red slipped surfaces. D: c.110mm; H:c.48mm. (VI:229).

11-D-36/b. Bowl with direct rim and flat base. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?); eroded. D: 192mm; H:64mm. (VI:300).

11-D-36/c. Bowl with direct rim and ring base. Wheelmade red ware; inside surface smoothed, red slipped rim. D:142mm; H:c.60mm.

11-D-36/d. Bowl with direct rim and carinated contour. Wheelmade red ware. Surfaces smoothed, slightly polished. Form of base uncertain. D:175mm.

11-D-36/e. Beer bottle with flat base, no hole. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt), rough surface uncoated. Cut-off base. Base D:c.93mm.

11-D-36/f. Potstand. Wheelmade red ware. Inside surface rough, outside surface red polished slip. D:124mm.

11-D-36/g. Tubular potstand. Wheelmade red ware. Interior surface white (salt?). D:208mm; H:132mm.

11-D-36/h. Potstand. Wheelmade red ware. Inside surface rough, outside surface red polished slip. D:c.148mm.



Figure 2.08 Grindstone (11-D-36/2).

11-D-36/i. Jar with modelled rim. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Red slipped surfaces, probably polished. D:152mm.

The ceramic types are commonly encountered in Dynasty 18 and 19 contexts; the jar form (i) is typical of mid-Dynasty 18. [LM]

Finds:

11-D-36/2. Small grindstone. Granitic stone (greenish-grey with small yellow inclusions similar to diorite?). L:123mm; W:80mm; Th:16mm. Photo: C/095:32. SNM:19801. (fig.2.08)

DOCUMENTATION: Nordström VII: 4–5; Air Photos: 624182, 623210, 327002. Investigated: 26–28/12/1964.

11-D-37 Campsite ?

Gemai West



Figure 2.09 Location of [11-D-37] south of Gemai West village.

LOCATION: site located c.150m south of the southernmost houses of Gemai West village, in sandy plain between river and lower rock outcrops (fig.2.09).

DESCRIPTION: there were several large areas of darker sand and refuse and scatters of ‘thick straw-tempered reddish-brown ware’ and ‘hard greyish ware with ribbed surface’, as well as some apparently New Kingdom ‘fine, gritty’ (marl?) ‘Ballas’ bowls (fig.2.10). No structural remains were found during testing but one ‘furnace’ structure (figs 2.11–2.12) in the centre of the site was excavated; its date was not determined. Measuring c.230 x 130 cm, it survived c.30–40cm high; entirely buried in sand.

The structure was built of irregular soft bricks and laid mud with a fine reddish-gray silt/sand fill discoloured by heat. Within structure a layer of mud sealed a lower layer of 10–20cm of ash. A few sherds were recovered in the ashy layer. Possibly two phases of structure suggested, but heavily eroded. The lower/original mudbrick structure seems to have been subrectangular, measuring c.120 x 180cm.

Pottery (fig.2.10):

11-D-37/a. Basin, with carinated contour and flat (?) base. Wheelmade, Ballas ware (Marl B). Fine gritty fabric with light ridging on interior surface; exterior surface grooved, heavier towards base. Form of base uncertain. Uncoated. D:324mm.

11-D-37/b. Basin, with modelled rim and simple contour. Wheelmade, Ballas ware (Marl B). Fine gritty fabric. Uncoated. D: 348mm.

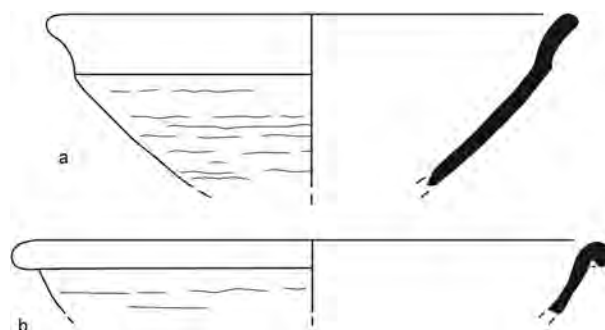


Figure 2.10 New Kingdom bowls from [11-D-37].



Figure 2.12 Excavated 'furnace' structure [11-D-37].



Figure 2.11 'Furnace' structure before excavation [11-D-37]. Large jar rim visible at right side.

These two types of basins appear during the reign of Thutmose III and continue in production until the end of the Dynasty 18. Such forms are also known in Lower Egypt during Dynasties 11 and 12 (but not in Nubia) but of smaller dimensions, as bowls. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: Nordström VII: 3–4; Photos: F/260: 1–2; F/261: 6–7. Air Photos: 624182, 623210, 327002. Investigated: 26–28/12/1964.

11-I-59* [11-I-23]**Murshid West**

LOCATION: on west bank east-facing boulder near the hamlet of Masraba (*Maaserabbe*); opposite hamlet of Gorkunkudee, north of Dorigintawwo. Location (fig.2.13) indicated on maps as rock drawing station 26; also plotted on aerial photographs by ASSN.

DESCRIPTION: single New Kingdom inscription on boulder with several other rock drawings (originally recorded as [11-I-23/1]).

DOCUMENTATION: Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 88, map 15; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 185; pl.271.

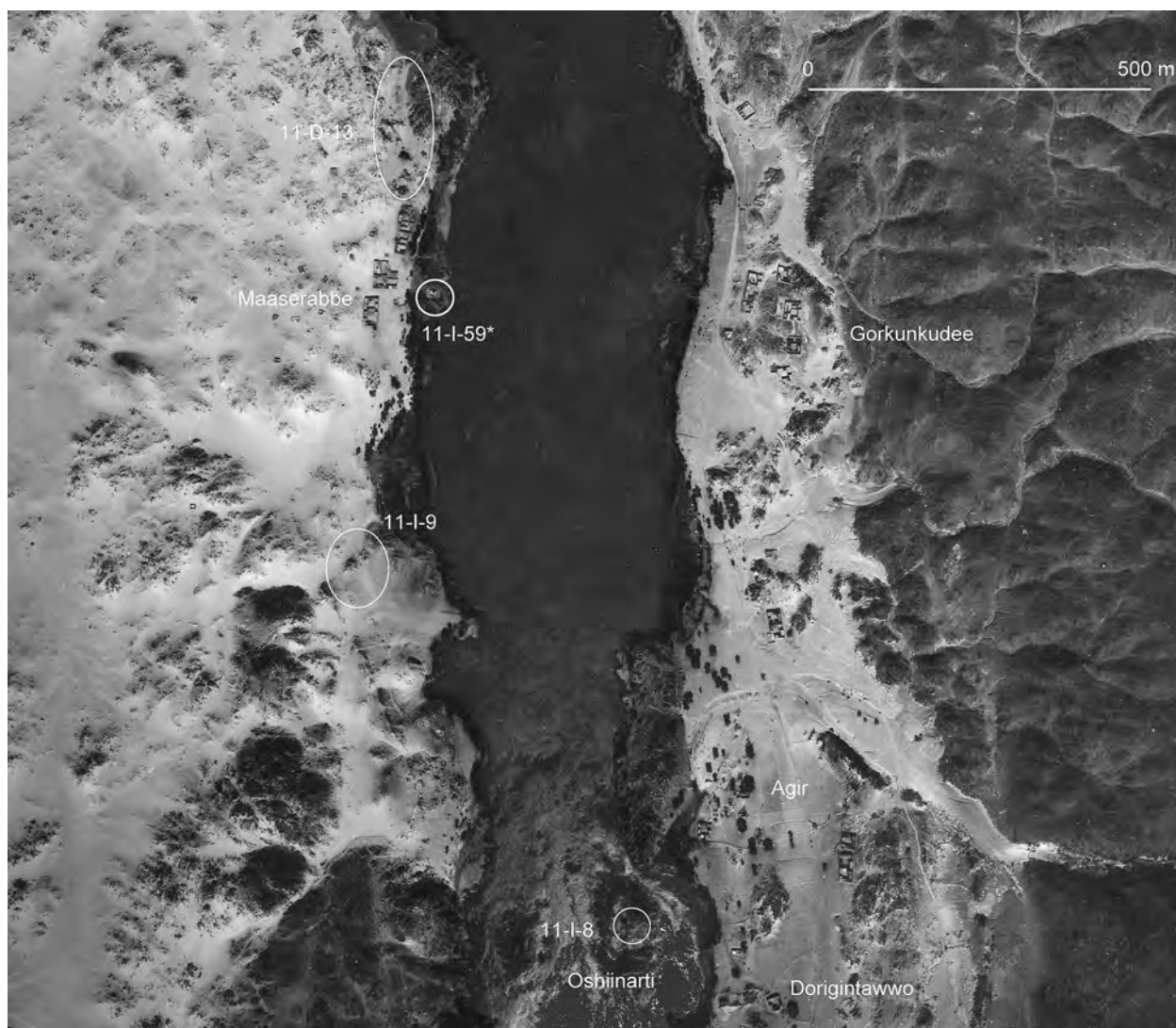


Figure 2.13 Location of New Kingdom inscription [11-I-59*] at rock drawing station on west bank, Murshid West.

11-I-5 (= FNE 32) Cemetery**Murshid East (Kermala)**

LOCATION: located just south of the Murshid hamlet of Kermala (*Kemela*), on the north side of Khor Sila (*Süleffarki*), c.200m from the river bank; overlooking the major river bend where the river turns to flow north (fig.2.14).

DESCRIPTION: A cemetery dug in alluvial gebel. Not apparently a large one. The surface was fairly flat alluvial gebel with some wind-blown sand and some boulder stones. Graves indicated, generally, by slight depressions, but not all depressions indicated graves. There were very few surface sherds. Estimated as no more than 50 graves in area of c.100m x 50m. Site heavily plundered and surface appears much deflated. In 1964 four graves were excavated, of which one was of Kerma date and two Meroitic. Due to the heavily disturbed nature of site, it was assessed as not a priority for further excavation.

DOCUMENTATION: AJM II: 28–29; Air Photos: 759007, 328266. Investigated: 5–6/1/1964. Donner 1998, 97–99, 298–302 (FNE 32 = 31°10'44" /21°39'34").

Initial testing and subsequent excavations suggested that the graves dated to the Kerma and Meroitic periods (Donner 1998, 97). This site was latterly registered by the ASSN as ‘New Kingdom/ Kerma’.

The FNE returned to excavate the site in February and April 1965, confirming the presence of a total of 20 burials, mainly ‘Kerma’, if potentially including Nubian-style burials dating to the period of Dynasty 18 (fig.2.15). Most were rectangular graves with contracted burials, some on beds.

The New Kingdom ceramics from these burials are typical of the beginning-middle of Dynasty 18. [LM]



Figure 2.14 Location of [11-I-5] near the end of Khor Sila at the Murshid bend; with an early medieval ('Early Christian') settlement site [11-I-6] c.200m to northwest.

11-I-7 (= FNE 39) Cemetery

Murshid East (Sigaga)

LOCATION: this lay in the first village upstream of Murshid, south of the first house of Sigaga (*Sijaaja*), just to east of the modern cemetery near the road (which follows the line of the nineteenth century military railway), and c.500m from the river (fig.2.17).

DESCRIPTION: this was a badly plundered and much disturbed cemetery, both by sebbak digging,

and perhaps the railway construction, as well as some modern burials in area. It was an area of undulating alluvium, with some surface sherds of RP-BT handmade pottery, bones small boulder stones and small mounds of upcast from diggings. During initial testing estimated that up to 200 graves in an area of c.100–150 x 75m. In 1964, the ASSN excavated three graves during testing, at least two of which were probably Meroitic.

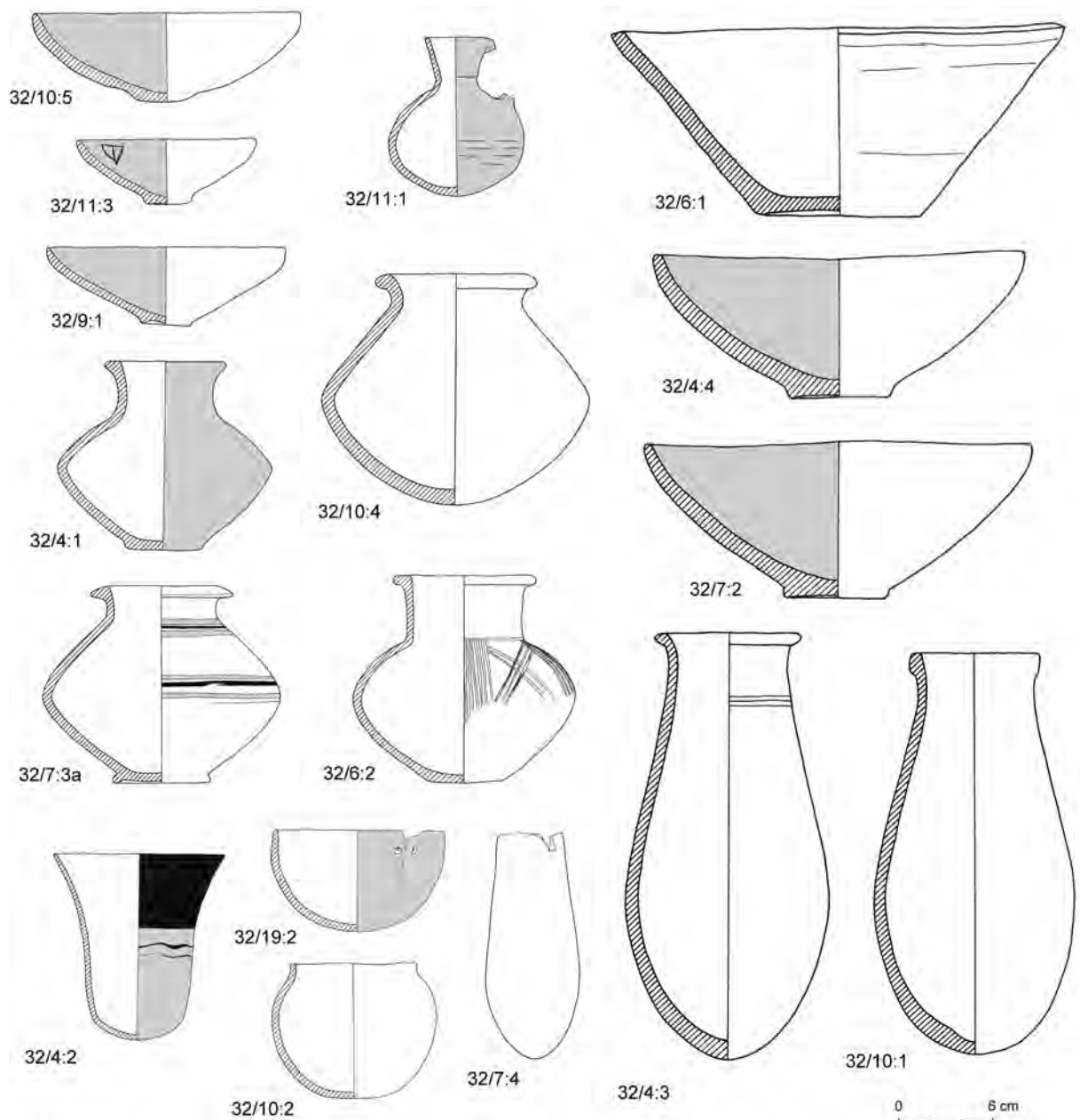


Figure 2.15 Pottery from 'Kerma' burials [11-I-5] (based on Donner 1998, pls 174–175).

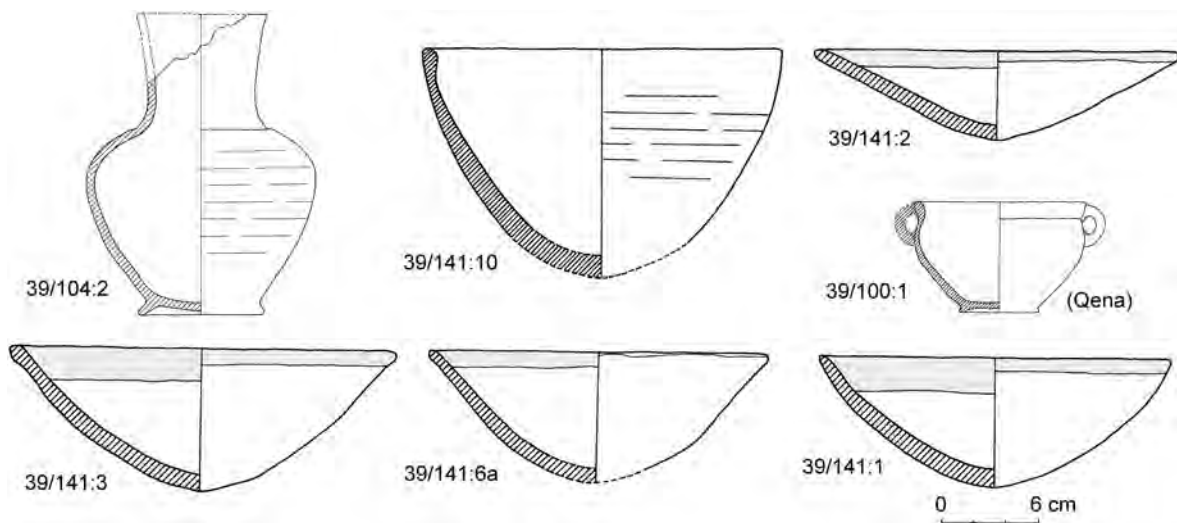


Figure 2.16 Pottery from [11-I-7] identified as potentially of New Kingdom or ‘pre-Meroitic’ date (redrawn from Donner 1998, pls 176, 179).

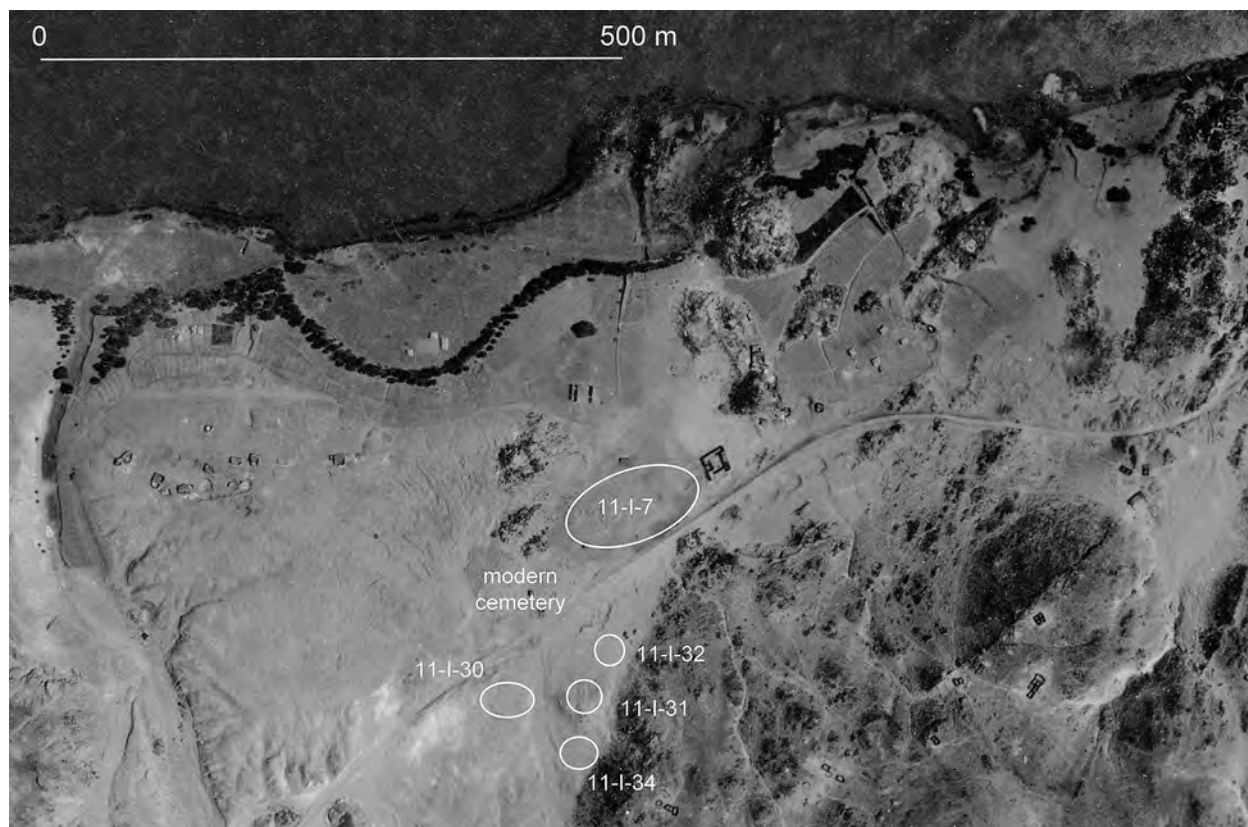


Figure 2.17 Location of [11-I-7 = FNE 39], [11-I-32 = FNE 41] and [11-I-34 = FNE 44] and nearby sites in Sigaga plain, west of Murshid.

The cemetery was thought to contain Kerma, Meroitic and medieval (Christian) burials, orientated on river, here flowing west-east. Due to its badly disturbed condition further excavation was not considered a priority.

DOCUMENTATION: AJM II: 32–33; Air Photo: 759008; 328266. Investigated: 1/1/1964. Donner 1998, 139–163, pls 125, 129–139, 176–179. (FNE 39 = 31°09'50"/21°39'26").

The FNE returned to the site in March-April 1964 and totally excavated the site. This work confirmed

it extended over an area of c.100m x 70m. A total of 156 graves were identified of which 135 were Meroitic and at least 10 were thought likely to be of New Kingdom date. The Meroitic pottery included some unusual handmade 'early Meroitic' material and an assessment by W.Y. Adams drew attention to possible similarities with material from Gezira Dabarosa [6-G-9], downstream of the Second Cataract (see also Lister 1967, 61–64; Adams 2004, 27–34). The extent of any New Kingdom presence at this site remains difficult to determine with little diagnostic pottery (fig.2.16) and only a few other finds (e.g. a carnelian earring – SNM.18633).

1-I-32 (= FNE 41) Cemetery

Murshid East (Sigaga)

LOCATION: cluster of burials in Sigaga plain near other cemeteries (fig.2.17), c.400m from river, c.50m south of [11-I-7] (=FNE 39) and c.125m northeast of Kerma cemetery [11-I-31] (=FNE40).

siltware plates with red-slipped rims and jars (cf. Steindorf 1937, Tf.11b) and some 'Qena ware' (Donner 1998, 127–9). Graves appear to have been oriented on the river, here flowing west – east.

DESCRIPTION: A small cemetery of eight graves; seven small side-niche graves and one with an end chamber. This held six burials, four (adult?) disturbed burials in shaft, one disturbed (adult?) in chamber and largely intact (adult) burial in wooden coffin. Fragmentary sherd material of

DOCUMENTATION: Not identified by ASSN survey. Air Photo: 328266. Investigated: 25/4 – 1/5/1965. Donner 1998, 127–129; pls 146–7, 150. Registered finds: 16 green glazed faience pendant disks (SNM.18646). (site FNE 41 = 31°09'49"/21°39'20").

11-I-34 (= FNE 44) Cemetery

Murshid East (Sigaga)

LOCATION: cluster of burials in Sigaga plain close to several other cemeteries (fig.2.17), c.400m from river, c.100m from C-Group cemetery [11-I-30] (=FNE 38) and c.100m from Kerma cemetery [11-I-31] (=FNE 40).

DESCRIPTION: A small group of four graves within an area of c.10m x 10m; identified as 'Transitional C-Group'. No superstructures and graves masked

by c.30cm of aeolian sand. Oval shafts, some with stone slabs lining them. Contracted burials head east; all part disturbed (Donner 1998, 95–96).

DOCUMENTATION: Not identified by ASSN survey. Air Photo: 328266. Investigated: 24–25/4/1965. Donner 1998, 95–96; pl. 197. Registered finds: green glazed faience pendant fish (SNM.18636). (site FNE 44 = 31°09'43"/21°39'15").



Figure 2.18 View south across river (from site [11-I-21]) to Sigaga area.

11-H-11 (= FNE 46) Rock Drawings

Murshid East (Sigaga)

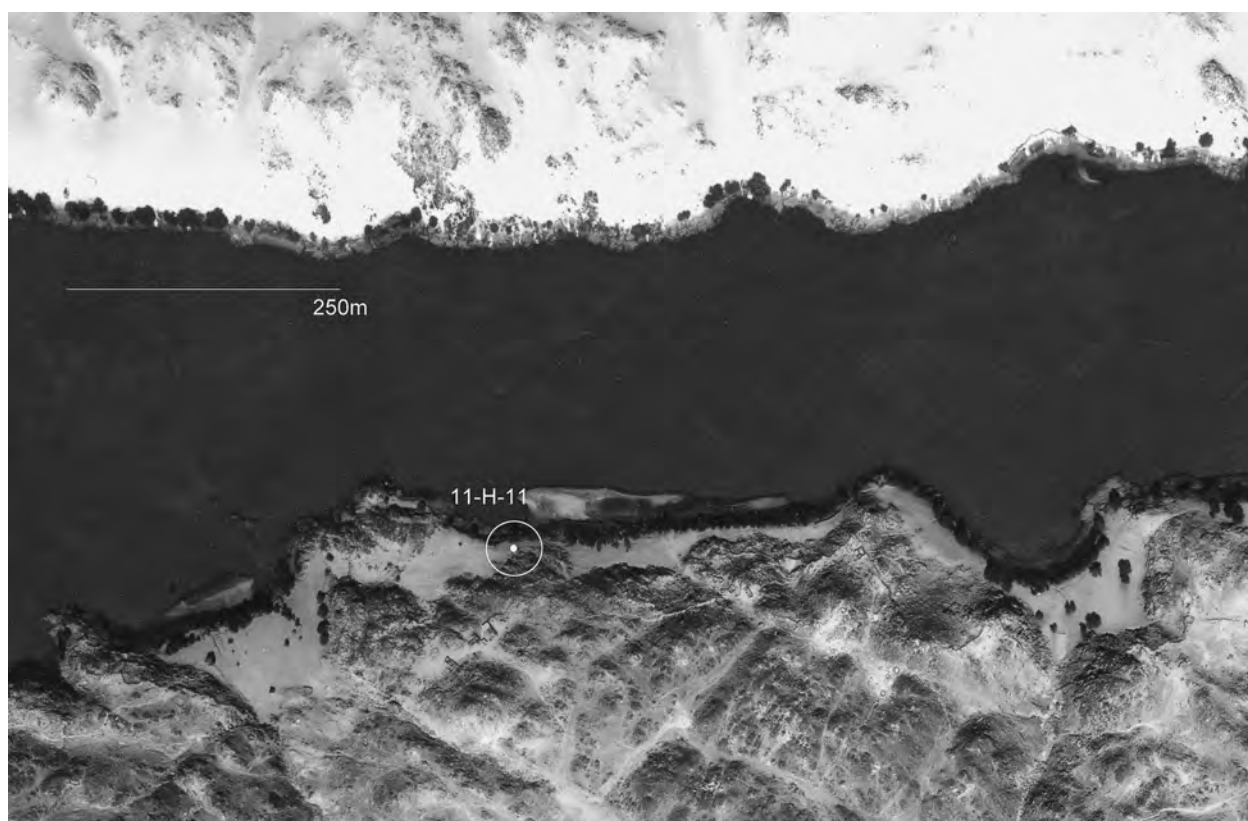


Figure 2.19 Location of rock drawings [11-H-11 = FNE 46] west of Sigaga village, Murshid East.

LOCATION: on rock face c.25m from river bank in hills c.1.5km west of the hamlet of Sigaga (*Sijaaja*), and a similar distance east of the river bend at the north end of Saras. These barren hills show little sign of occupation in recent centuries, although aerial photographs show the presence of small structures and walls in the area. The generally steep and rocky river banks which provide no riverside track through this area would be consistent with this site relating to river traffic.

DESCRIPTION: a cluster of three drawings of three boats with steering oars, at least two with masts (fig.2.20). Donner noted similarities with other boat drawings near Mowrada in the Second Cataract region recorded by the SJE (Hellström 1970, 136–7; Corpus V23 160s 2).

DOCUMENTATION: this site was not recorded by the ASSN, but was located and recorded in April 1965 by Donner. It was subsequently registered, and a ‘Pharaonic’ date suggested; and is included here on that basis. Air Photo: 328264. Donner

1998, 304; pl.216,1; 218,4. (for site FNE 46, the coordinates provided appear incorrect).

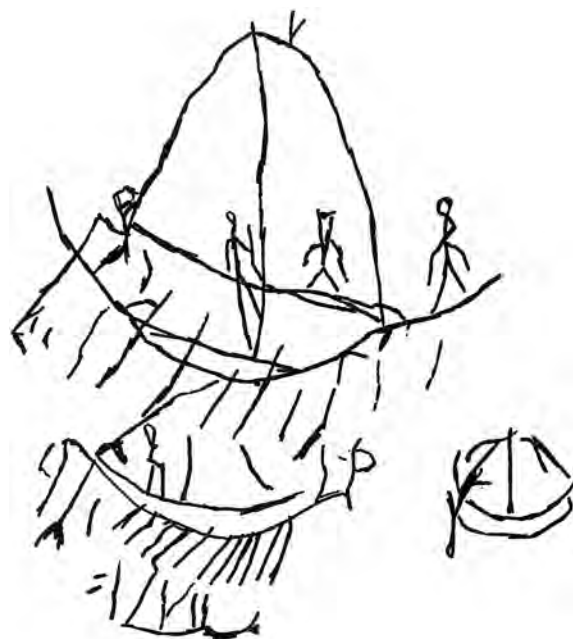


Figure 2.20 Rock drawings [11-H-11 = FNE 46]. (after Donner 1998, pl.216,1). No scale.

3. Saras

Saras extended over c.22km of the river, its northern end situated on the river bend towards Murshid, its southern end located at a large khor which reached the river opposite the south end of Uronarti (*Urunarti*). At its north end on the west bank was an isolated rocky hill overlooking the river bend; on its south (lee) side some quite deep deposits of blown sand had accumulated. As described in Mills and Nordström's preliminary report, from the northern end of Saras the west bank held a narrow but significant band of alluvium up to 500m wide and c.2km long. This, as the rest of the west bank, was masked by a light covering of wind-blown sand, becoming heavier towards the south (Mills and Nordström 1966, 3–4). It sustained two small hamlets of just six houses in the mid-twentieth century, exploiting seluka land on the west bank as well as some irrigated land on Farkeit island (*Farkeednarti*). Further south, the only significant areas of alluvium lay on the east bank, where they formed the 'Saras Plain' in the north part of the district. In the northern part of Saras there were four main islands Mugufil (*Muguffilnarti*), Farkeit (*Farkeednarti*), Askut (*Askutte*) and Kagnarti (*Kajinarti*), the latter two being joined at low Nile.

The northernmost settlement (fig.3.01) was the hamlet of Anksi (*Angsi*) located on the river bank at the point where the trackway (and later road and railway) from Sigaga-Murshid rejoined the river, c.1km above the major bend in the river where it turned east. Opposite Anksi several small rocky islands created several channels, the widest c.130m wide, narrowing at low Nile where alluvial islands emerged around these. In modern times the next settlement was located c.2.5km upstream at Mugufil and on the adjoining island. Just to the south there was a small hamlet at Debba, opposite Farkeit island (*Farkeednarti*), Urwan opposite Askut and Sorbal (*Sorbar*) southeast of Kagnarti. The wider river channels passed west of Kagnarti and Askut and then turned to run down the east side of Farkeit and Mugufil, narrowing in places to

less than 150m wide at high Nile. At low Nile the channel west of Mugufil seems likely to have been impassable and other channels may have also narrowed considerably.

The 'Saras Plain' then continued for c.4.5km upriver towards the next area with a number of 'Pharaonic' sites, c.1km north of the mouth of the Khor Ahmed Sherif, a large valley system which ran through the hills reaching more open landscapes c.10km to the east (fig.3.02). This valley seems likely to have provided a number of routes linking the river valley with its eastern hinterlands. South of Kagnarti there were several settlements on the east bank. Amtukai (*Amtukke*), Kajifarai (*Kajiffarre*) and Awlaiko (*Awleeko*) and Ushiargi (*Osshinarge*) in the centre of Saras district, just to the north of the prominent ridge on which the late nineteenth century fort stood. To the south of the fort were two adjoining hamlets of Agri (*Agree*) and Maishu (*Maasho*), and Alifenti.

This alluvial area narrowed south of the Khor Ahmed Sherif towards the area of the island of Diffinarti (divided in two at high Nile) and the narrows overlooked, on the west bank, by Shelfak fort [11-U-1], as the river is running from the southwest. The hamlet of Gortintai (*Gurtinte*) lay at the mouth of the Khor Ahmed Sherif. To the southwest was Irwai (*Eruwe*), and two small settlements of Mishra just below and the island(s) of Diffinarti, and Kadda (*Kada*) and Maila (*Meele*) a little upriver, also facing Shelfak on the west bank (fig.3.02).

Upstream of there the rocky hills close in on the east bank. The west bank was even more forbidding, with relatively small areas of alluvium, masked by deep deposits of blown sand. As noted by Mills, relatively few sites were identified along the west bank, and most were 'post-Pharaonic' (Mills 1973, 200–1). Close examination of the aerial photographs for this area suggests that further sites may have existed but have remained unrecognised, but most seem likely to have been

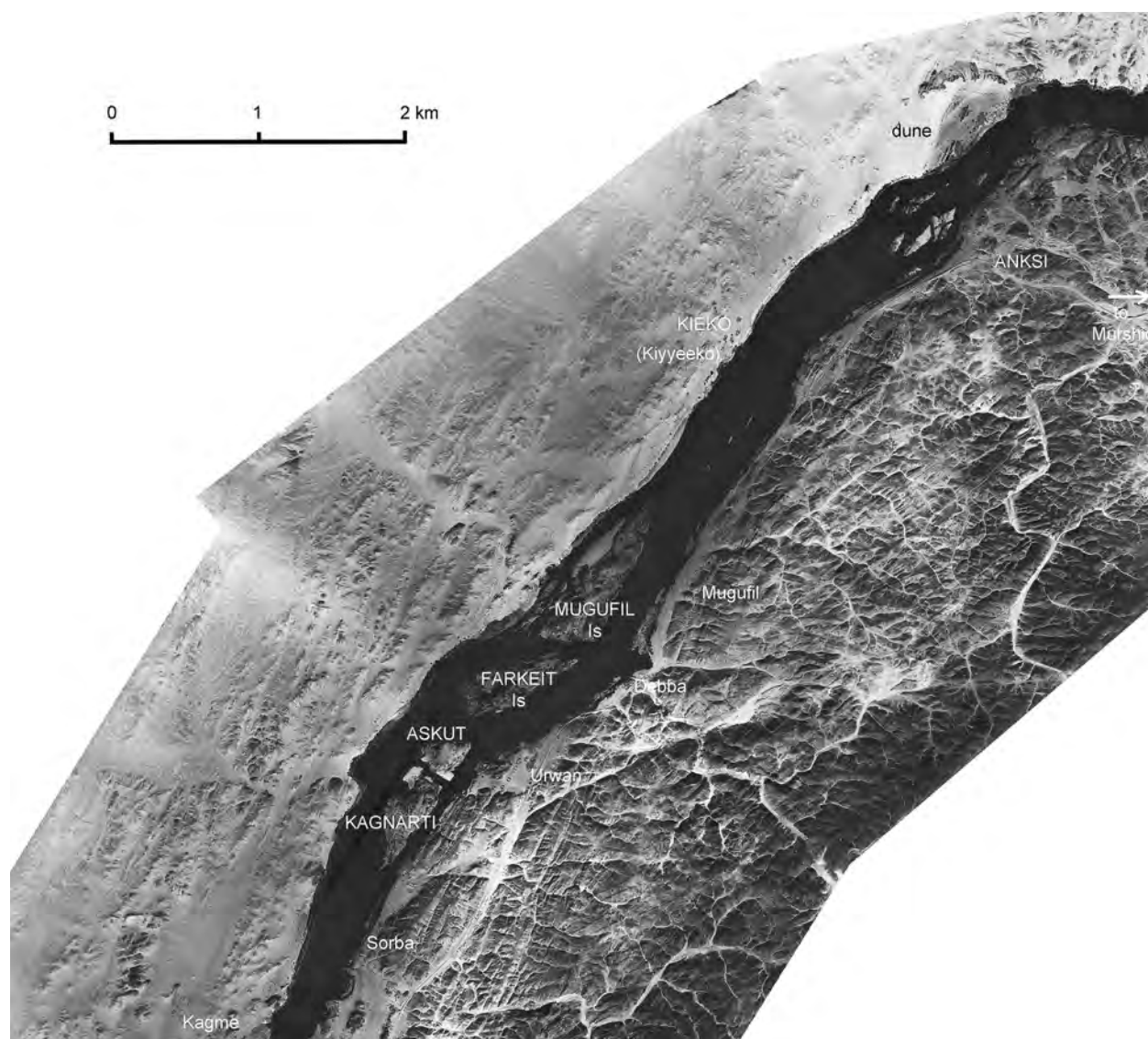


Figure 3.01 Aerial photograph composite of northern Saras area.

quite small. There was only one small settlement in this part of the west bank, at Dordora and others at Arusa (*Aruuse*), Nam (*Naam*), Daifarri (*Dayiffarre*) and Gowal (*Jowwal*) on the east (here south) bank. At the west end of this stretch of the river the hamlet of Kargel (*Korojeel*) faced the north end of Uronarti (fig.3.08). In the early 1960s the registered population of Saras totalled 1318 (Dafalla 1975, 337).

The initial reconnaissance survey reached Saras in mid-January 1964, working from the Saras Rest House. Most sites fall within grid square [11-], the southwestern end of the district extending into [10-Y-] (near Uronarti). Survey of the east bank began on 14th January and was completed on the 27th January. The teams began work on the

west bank on 28th January, also exploring islands, including Farkeit (*Farkeed*) and Diffinarti (figs 3.05–7). Survey on the west bank was completed on 6th February 1964. In the following season fieldwork resumed 14th January 1965, working south, completing the survey of grid [11-L-]. Fieldwork concluded in late April 1965. The subsequent field season (October 1965 – March 1966) saw the completion of survey work in both Saras and Semna.

The known ‘Pharaonic’ sites in this area included the Middle Kingdom forts of Askut [11-L-1] excavated by the University of California and Shelfak [11-U-1] excavated by the Boston-Harvard Expedition in early 1931. No further fieldwork was carried out by the ASSN at the

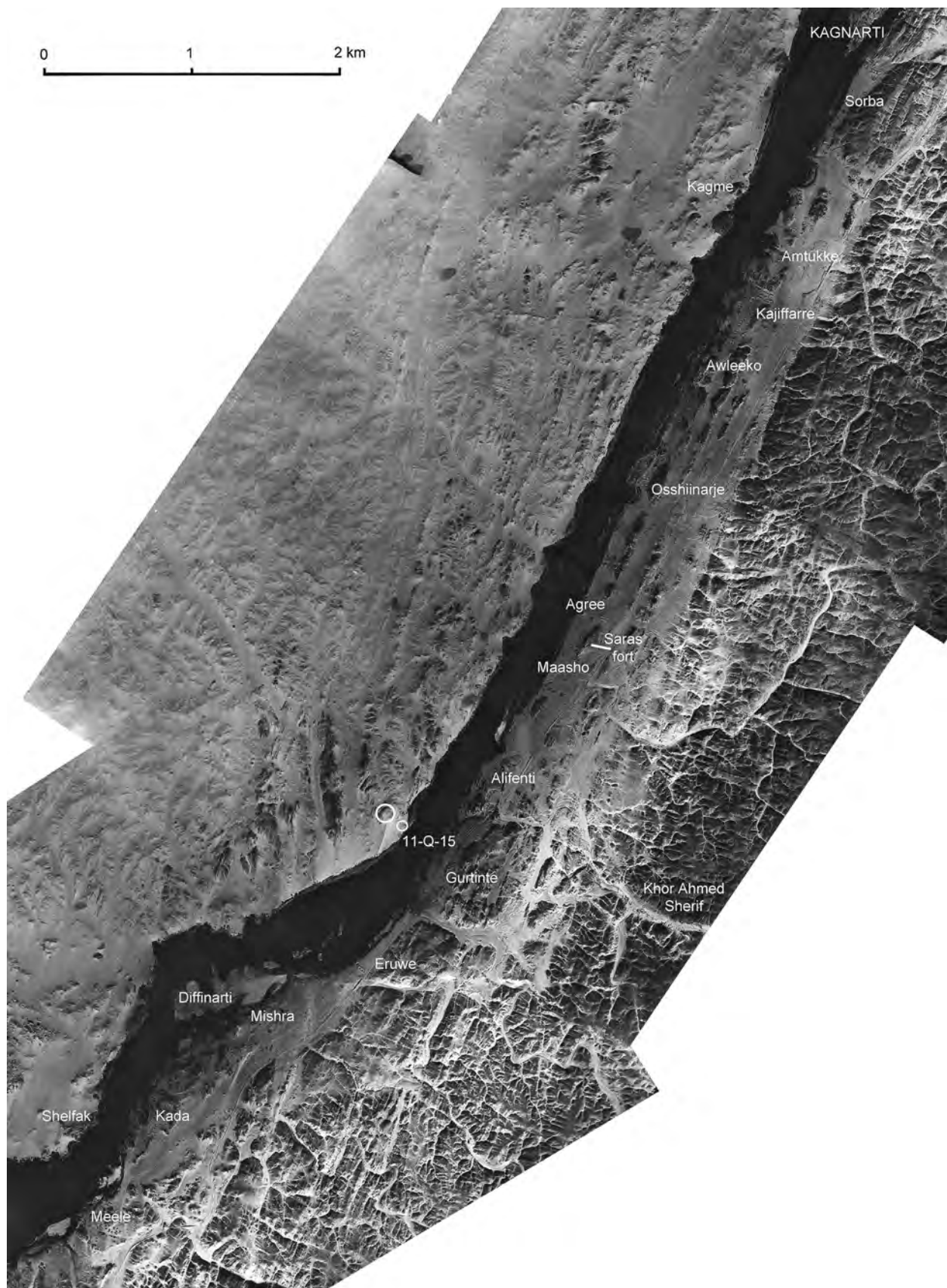


Figure 3.02 Aerial photograph composite of south-central areas of Saras and Shelfak. Location of west bank hilltop above [11-Q-15] indicated, from which both Askut and Shelfak could be seen.



Figure 3.03 View towards ridge at river bend at north end of Saras West (site [11-H-5] in foreground).



Figure 3.04 View south from northern end of Saras West with houses of Kieko/Kiyyeeko visible, and hills of east bank beyond.



Figure 3.05 View north from Diffinarti [11-P-1] showing sand accumulations along west bank of Saras West.



Figure 3.06 View towards Shelfak [11-U-1] and west bank from upstream of Diffinarti [11-P-1].



Figure 3.07 View downriver from near Shelfak [11-U-1] towards Diffnarti [11-P-1] when river levels quite low; with main river channel passing west of Diffnarti.

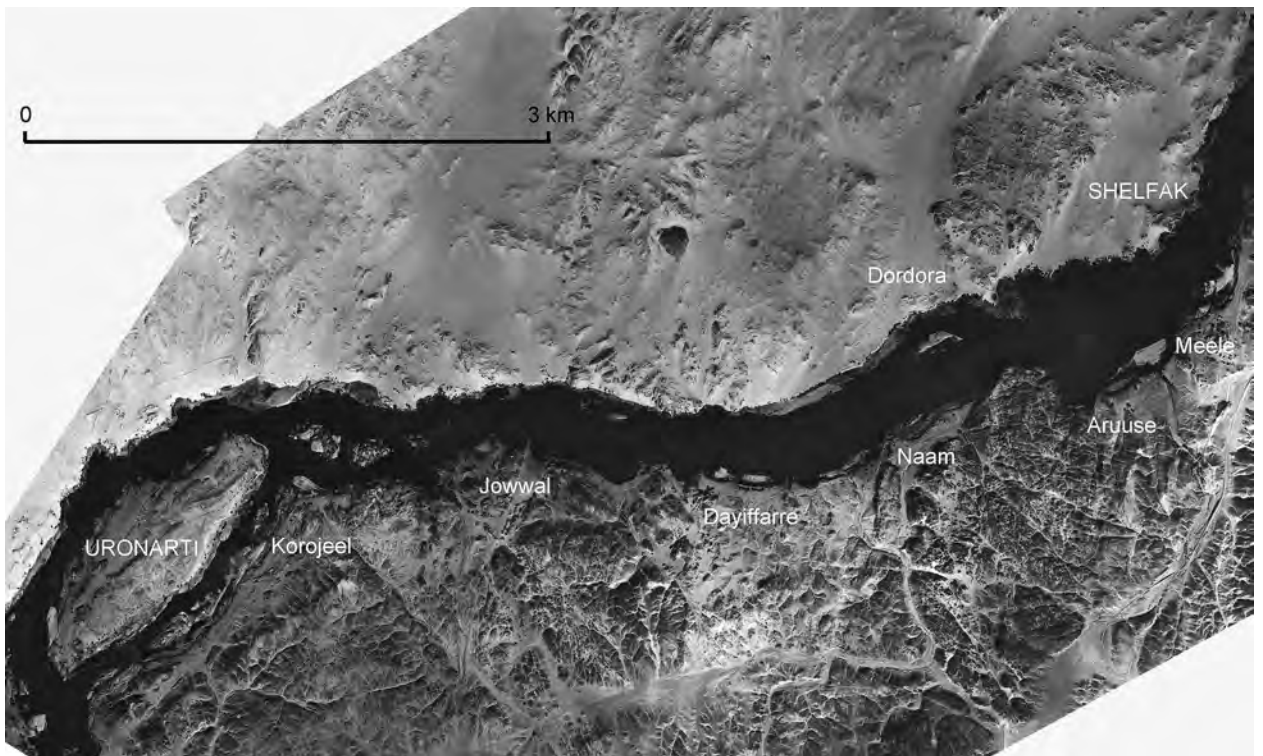


Figure 3.08 Aerial photograph composite of area upstream of Saras between Shelfak and Uronarti.

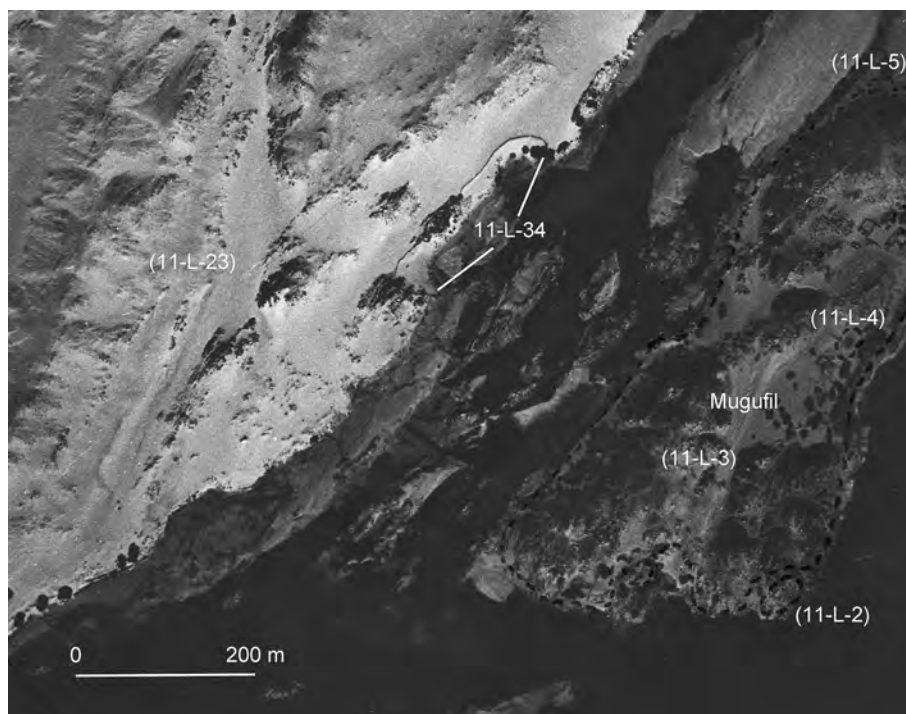


Figure 3.09 Enclosure [11-L-34*], of unknown date in northern part of Saras, facing Mugufil.

Middle Kingdom fort of Shelfak [11-U-1]: ‘the forts and the graves in the area have been taken as excavated’ (ASSN FD 1963–64, 13).

In addition to the registered sites listed below some additional observations were noted in the field diaries relevant to the ‘Pharaonic’ presence in this region. In the diary for the 3rd of February, for example, it was recorded that the survey team had reached as far south as Diffinarti. There, a hilltop overlooking a small medieval settlement [11-Q-15] was examined: “it is from this same gebel that both Askut and Shelfak forts can be seen. It is the only point between them where both are visible, but no trace of any Egyptian lookout or signal post was found” (ASSN FD 1963–64, 12). The same location (fig.3.02) was revisited in December 1965 but, while a few medieval sherds were found amongst some small stone structures here, again no evidence was found for any Pharaonic use of this location (ASSN FD 1965–66, 53).

Some Field Diary entries also draw attention to a number of enigmatic linear structures/enclosures in this area. These would seem to include examples of what seem likely to be (late prehistoric?) hunting-related features, as well as some enclosures likely to be associated with occupation. One such example was noted in the field diary

entry for the 5th February 1964, on the west bank near the south end of the district: “Opposite Uronarti fort there is a definite enclosure some 550 metres N-S by 175 E-W, bounded on the east side by the river bank. No sherds or any other trace of occupation was found within this, but it may possibly be connected with the fort as there is another such enclosure connected with Askut fort ... perhaps a sort of caravanserai under observation for trading caravans from the south” (ASSN FD 1963–64, 13). Neither of these sites were registered at the time. In the Askut area the aerial photographs show the presence of a number of linear features, often masked by blown sand, which seem likely to be further examples of the late prehistoric ‘game-drive walls’, running parallel to the river. There was also a quite well-defined small enclosure (fig.3.09) on the west bank a little downstream of Askut (facing Mugufil island), which seems likely to be the site referred to by Mills in the Field Diary. The aerial photographs also hint at the presence of a few stone structures adjoining the main enclosure wall which was c.225m long. This has now been assigned a registration number [11-L-34*] as has the southernmost of these (fig.3.10) opposite Uronarti [10-Y-24*]. In the absence of any other dating evidence the proximity to these sites to these Pharaonic Egyptian outposts does not

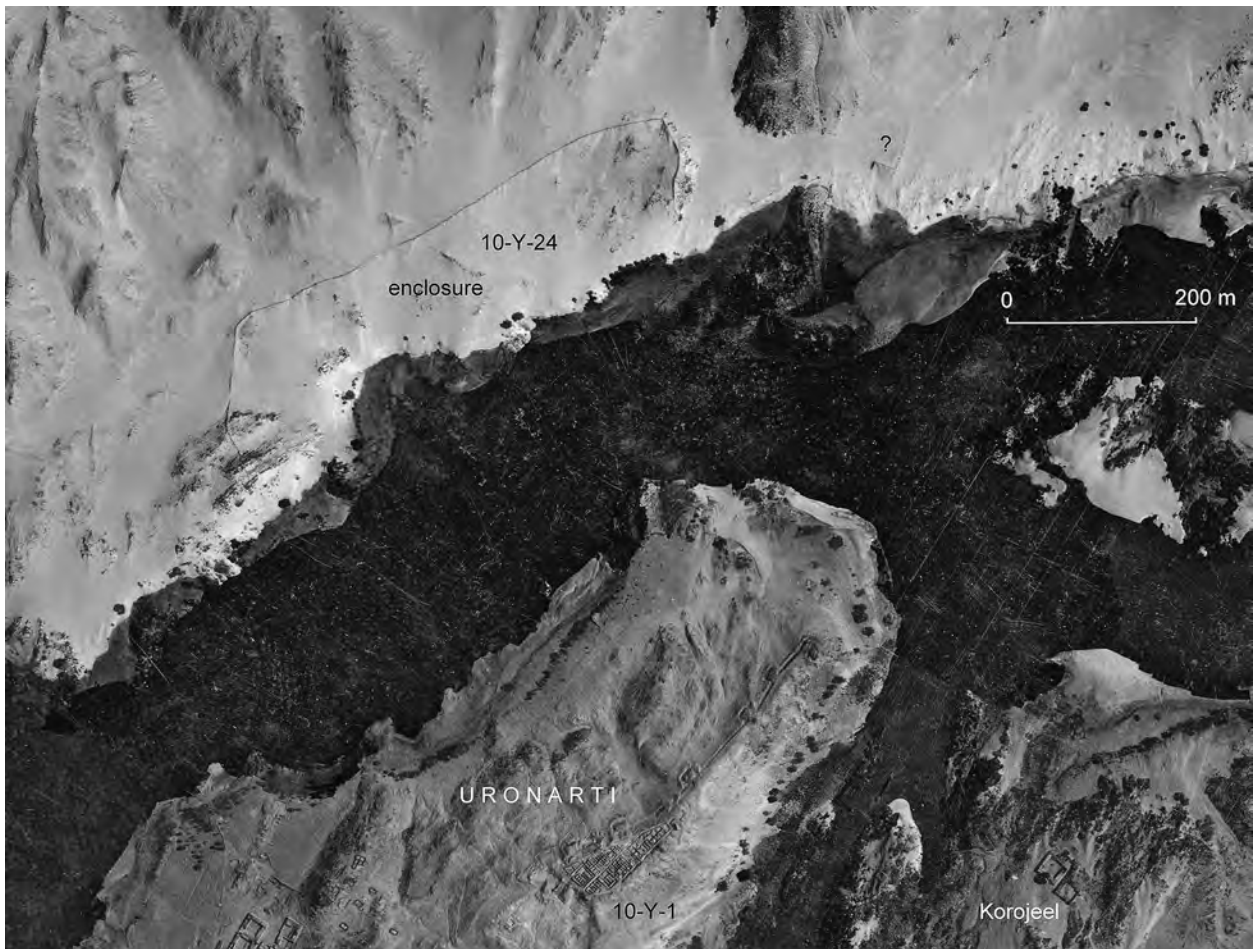


Figure 3.10 Enclosure [10-Y-24], of unknown date, opposite Uronarti.

allow us to suggest a direct association. The latter site was noted by Welsby in his study of possible Roman military sites in Nubia (Welsby 1998, 171, fig.7.2). Another potentially quite similar enclosure

in Saras West [11-Q-18], of similar dimensions to [10-Y-24], seems to have been of early Meroitic date (Mills and Nordström 1966, 12–13).

11-H-7 Habitation

Saras West

LOCATION: site located on the high ridge overlooking the bend of the river at the very north end of Saras, on the west bank. This site was located toward the southern end of the hill (fig.3.1.1), with good views along the river in both directions (figs 3.1.3–4).

DESCRIPTION: site consisted of two adjoining, stone-built rooms (fig.3.1.2), with interior surface of blown sand. The walls stood, at highest, c.1m high, built directly on natural rock. Interior fills to a maximum of 0.60m over single surface of natural rock. Excavation of Room 1, better-built and better preserved, produced a number of sherds close to floor level, a few animal bones and the broken shell of an egg ('about the size of a small chicken egg'). One bowl (11-H-7/1) found on floor in central position beside area of ash (fig.3.1.6). Room 2, its walls built of much larger rocks, produced only a couple of sherds. A second bowl (11-H-7/2), almost complete, was restored from sherds.

An additional note (dated 2/2/1970) records that W.Y. Adams collected some sherds of heavy 'Kena' ware vessel in 1964, and fragments of one

of more pot stands (11-H-7/B & C.) and a large bowl (11-H-7/A) were also recorded.

Finds (fig.3.1.10):

11-H-7/1. Crude handmade brown bowl (black interior). D:158mm, H:72mm. Broken with crumbling rim. Photo: C/081:15. SNM.16955. (fig.3.1.8)

11-H-7/2. Crude handmade brown bowl (black rim and interior). D:144mm, H:78mm. Broken but almost complete. Photo: C/082:1. SNM.16956. (fig.3.1.9)

11-H-7/A. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silts?). Matte red slip on interior, possibly polished. D:248mm.

11-H-7/B. Potstand. Wheelmade, soft brown ware, with red polished slip on outside surface. D:135mm.

11-H-7/C. Tall potstand. Wheelmade, soft brown ware, with red polished slip on outside surface.

Although the site commands a large horizon (figs 3.1.3–5), it is impossible to see as far as Shelfak although Askut was easily visible. Whether Mirgissa was visible could not be confirmed, but it was thought unlikely. Only limited areas of the

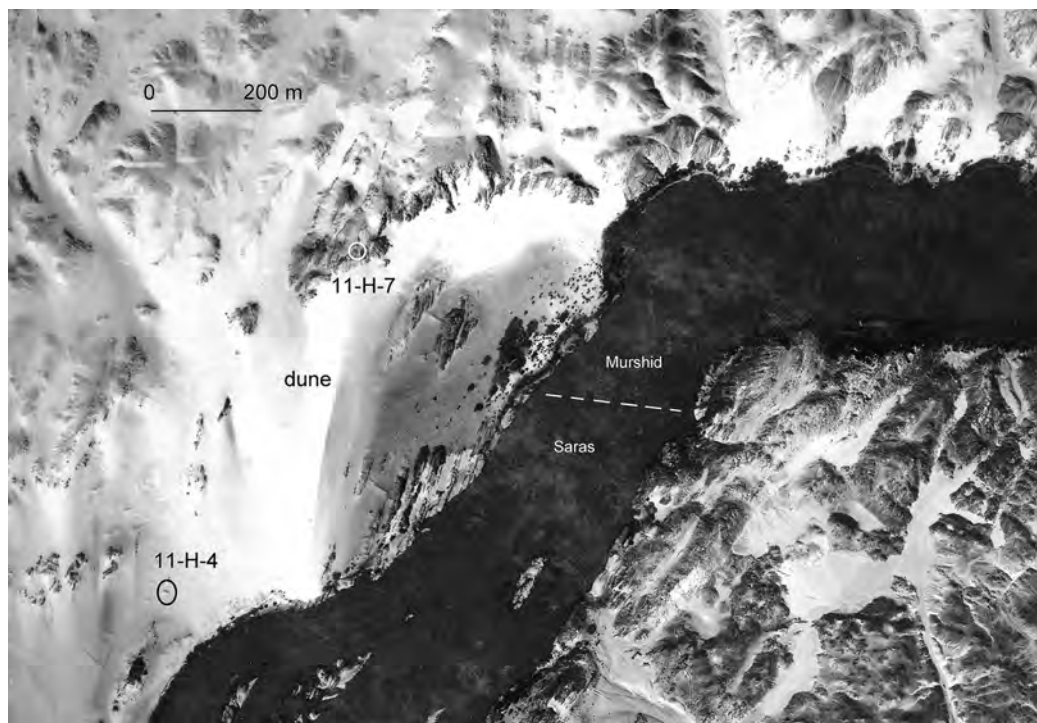


Figure 3.1.1 Location of [11-H-7] on ridge overlooking river bend close to boundary between Saras and Murshid.

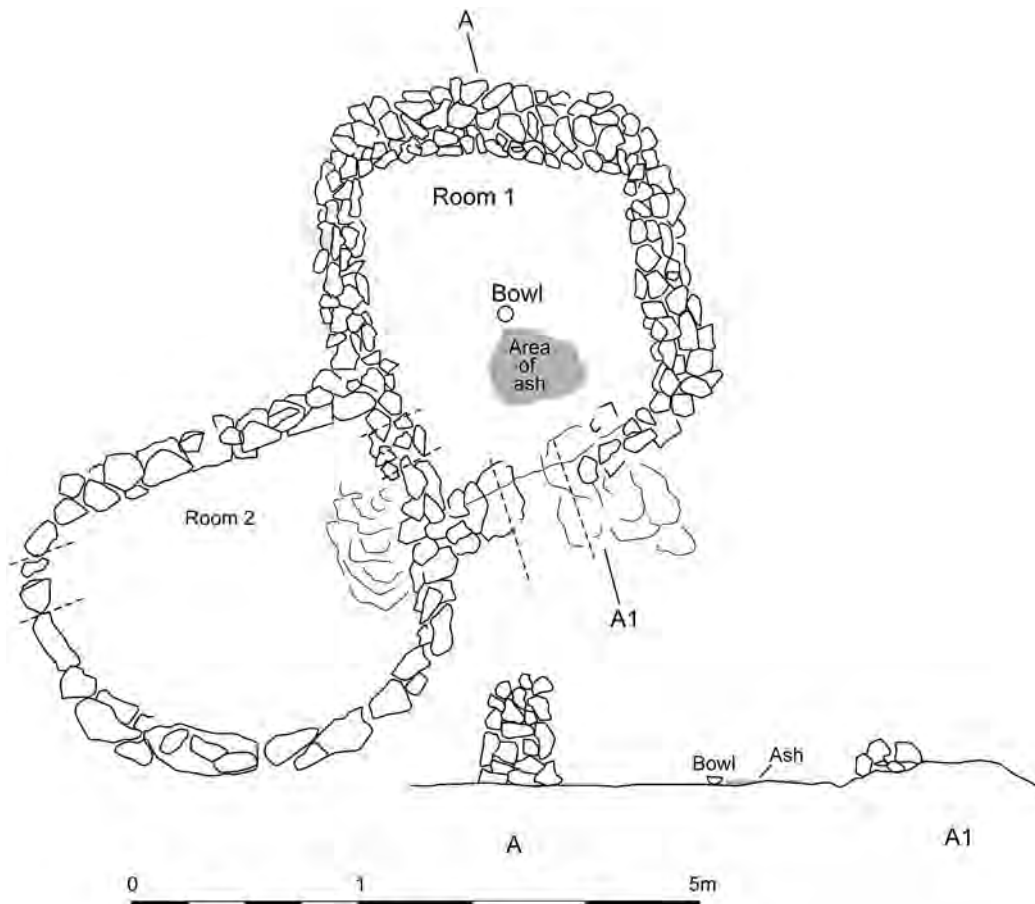


Figure 3.1.2 Plan of stone huts [11-H-7].



Figure 3.1.3 View upstream (south) from [11-H-7].



Figure 3.1.4 View downstream (east) from [11-H-7].
Note young dom palms close to river.



Figure 3.1.5 View north across desert from [11-H-7].



Figure 3.1.7 Room 1 with bowl (1) in centre of room, [11-H-7].



Figure 3.1.6 View across Room 1 towards Room 2, [11-H-7].



Figure 3.1.8 Coarse handmade bowl (11-H-7/1).



Figure 3.1.9 Coarse handmade bowl (11-H-7/2).

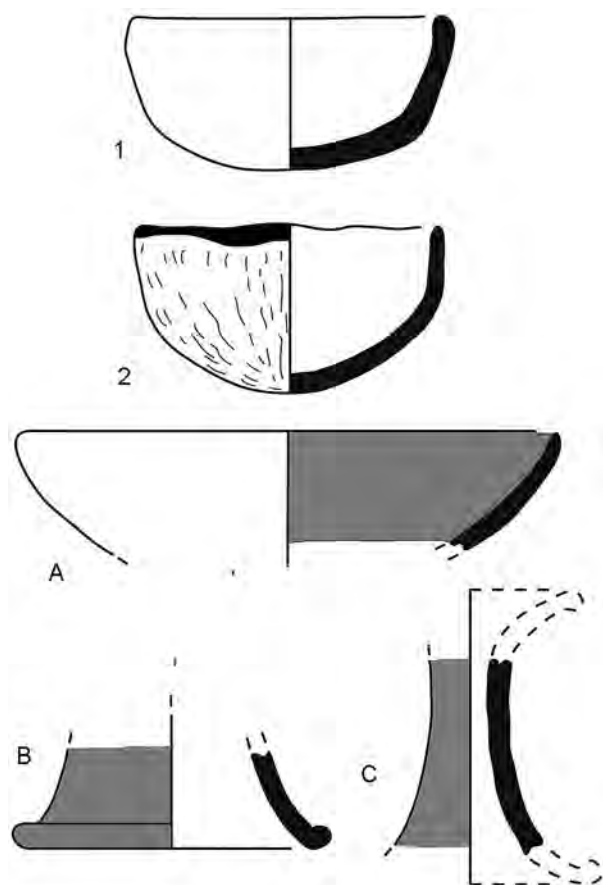


Figure 3.1.10 Pottery from (11-H-7) (scale 1:4).

east bank hills can be seen but this location has commanding views of the river from Askut, to the south, and to Khor Sila, to the east, as well as a large area of desert on both banks.

Considered ‘more probably a lookout than a signalling post’ this location was identified as a likely Middle Kingdom outpost in the 1930s (e.g. Wheeler 1932, 256). The site was revisited by the University of Colorado Expedition during the winter of 1965–1966 when they identified a Palaeolithic site [11-H-9] at the east end of the ridge (Carlson 2015). Their report in *Kush* includes a useful view of the hill from the east bank, showing the deep accumulations of blown sand in its lee (Carlson and Sigstad 1973, Pl.Ia). They re-examined the spoil heaps of the previous excavations noting “a number of stone artifacts and sherds indicative of C-Group or slightly younger affiliations” (op.cit, 55).

This small quantity of pottery recorded includes types known during the Middle Kingdom until the middle of Dynasty 18; the tall potstand being a typical form of this period. The coarse handmade bowls may also be of this period. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: AJM VI: 107–110; Air Photo: 624191. Site Photos: F/279: 9–12; F/280: 1–6. Investigated: 20/3/1965. [This site remains above water level (31°07’19.54”E/21°39’37.39”N)].

11-H-4 Campsite ?

Saras West

LOCATION: situated on west bank opposite Anksi (Angsi), c.100m from river bank. It lay on a sandy, stone-covered plain of fossil alluvium, about half

way between the south end of the long sand dune below [11-H-7] and the first rocky outcrops to its south (fig.3.1.11).

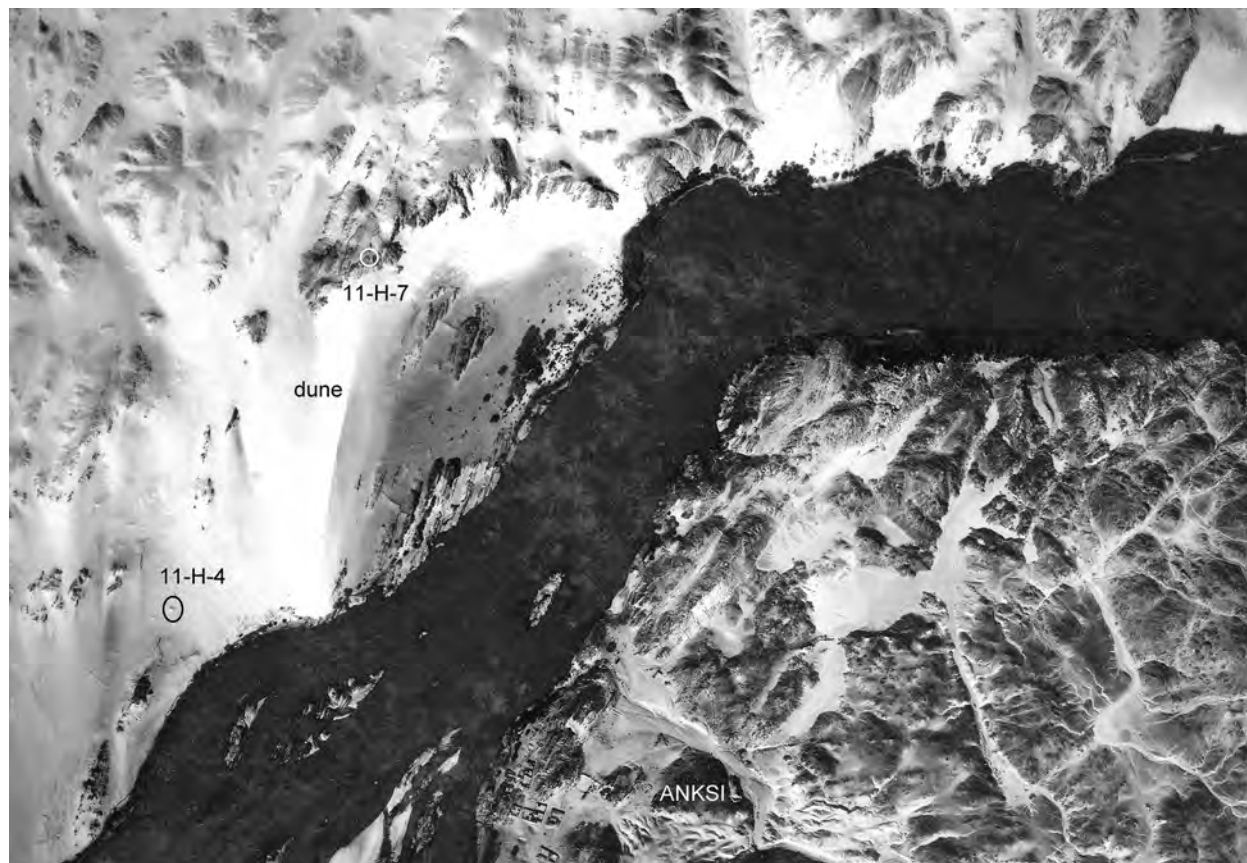


Figure 3.1.11. Location of [11-H-4] on west bank at the north end of Saras, opposite Anksi (Angsi) village.

DESCRIPTION: the site consisted of a sherd scatter (two baskets full in all) with some bones, principally fish bones and small animal, as well as human. The site lay on a small alluvial kom, c.50cm high and c.20m in diameter. It was covered with a layer of sand c.15cm deep, and many small stones. One fragment of wood found in a hole 15cm wide suggests the presence of wooden structures but no other structural remains were found. Four pottery weights (fig.3.1.13) and fish bones suggest a fishing camp. The pottery did not appear to extend beyond the edge of the kom. The material was fragmentary but was principally soft brown thin wares with red-slipped rims; cups and small vessels. There were a few sherds of Qena wares and some heavier red and brown vessels (fig.3.1.12).

11-H-4/1: Pottery weights (4 examples). Made of heavy red/brown wares sherds. c.50 x 32 x 15mm; Th:30mm. Photo C/159:25. SNM.22377. (fig.3.1.13)

11-H-4/2: Spindle whorl/weight (?) fragment. Made from heavy brown/red ware sherd. D:48mm; Th:18mm.

11-H-4/a. Globular necked jar. Wheelmade, Ballas ware (Marl B). Uncoated. Rim D:276mm.

11-H-4/b. Jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, red ware. Uncoated.

11-H-4/c. Tall ovoid jar, wall-sherd. Wheelmade, soft crude red ware. uncoated.

11-H-4/d. Bowl with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. D:124mm; H:c.62mm.

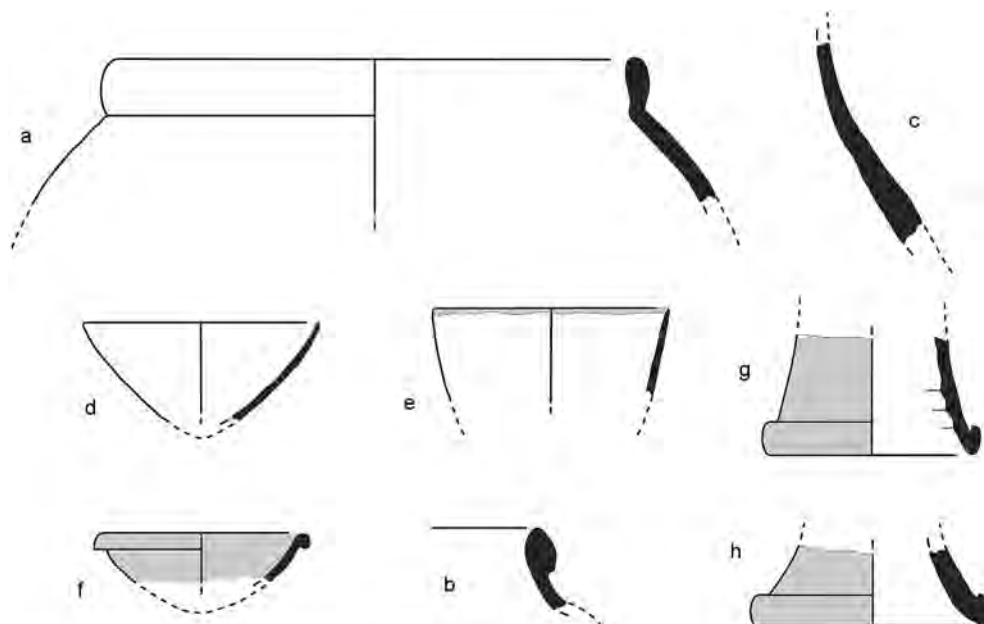


Figure 3.1.12 Pottery sample from [11-H-4] (scale 1:4).

11-H-4/e. Beaker/bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped rim. D:124mm.

11-H-4/f. Plate with folded rim and round (?) base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip. D:108mm.

11-H-4/g. Potstand. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Inside surface ribbed. Traces of a matte red slip on outside surface. D:108mm.

11-H-4/h. Potstand. Wheelmade, coarse red ware. Matte red slip on outside surface. D:120mm.



Figure 3.1.13 Pottery 'weights' (11-H-4/1).

The ceramic collection is very fragmentary and includes a range of common New Kingdom types, particularly in Dynasties 18 and 19. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: No previous record. AJM VI: 57–58; Almost completely excavated. Air Photos: 623201, 624191. No site photos. Investigated: 16/1/1965.

11-H-3 Tomb

Saras West

LOCATION: a (New Kingdom) tomb cut into sandstone bedrock c.150m from the river bank and c.150m from the northernmost house of Kieko (*Kiyyeeko*), the northernmost hamlet of Saras West. It was located on the first rise of gebel west of the sand-covered plain that, in this area, extended to the river bank (fig.3.1.14).

DESCRIPTION: the tomb shaft was cut into the rock to a depth of c.2.65m, with a door cut on the (local) west side, leading into a chamber c.3m long and 1.30m wide (fig.3.1.15). The shaft had been blocked at the surface with large stone slabs. There were traces of mud brick above the remaining blocking stones, presumably the remains of a superstructure. When found in 1964 the tomb appeared to have been excavated/robbed fairly recently. There was no significant fill within it, and around the top of the shaft there was a large mound of rubble and excavated fill. There were a few bones in this mound and several sherds of 'typical New Kingdom pottery', wheelmade brown ware cups and dishes, unslipped, with red-slipped rims. No pottery was collected. No other similar tombs were located in the area.

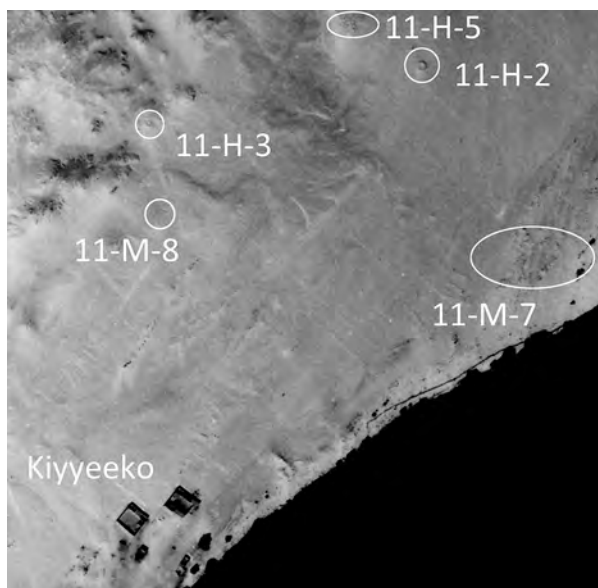


Figure 3.1.14 Location of tomb [11-H-3] in north section of Saras West.

DOCUMENTATION: No previous record. AJM II: 104-5; Air Photo: 328262, 624192. Investigated: 29/1/1964

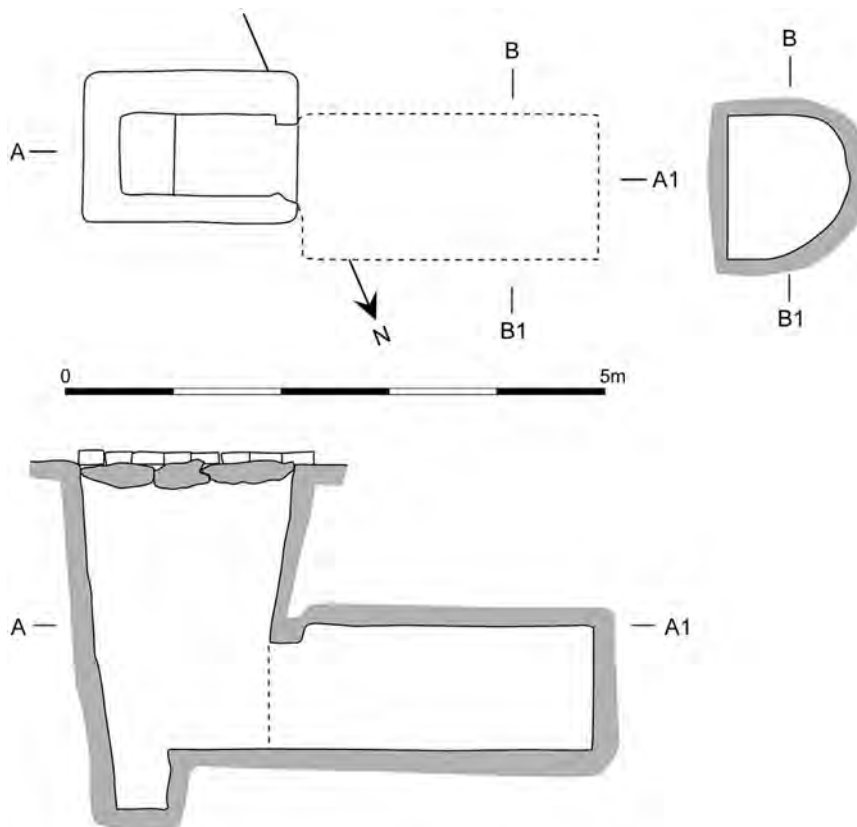


Figure 3.1.15 Plan and section of tomb [11-H-3].

11-M-11 Occupation**Saras West (Kieko)**

LOCATION: this site was located at the top of the river bank (fig.3.1.16) a few metres south of the southernmost of the three houses of the hamlet of Kieko (*Kiyyeeko*).

DESCRIPTION: there were no structural remains in this site. It consisted of a concentration of potsherds on the surface and to a depth of c.10cm. There was no other occupation debris except a few fish bones, a bivalve, some ostrich eggshell and a granite hammerstone. The surface layer of sand was c.10–15cm thick, overlying soft alluvial silt, which was of considerable depth. The total area of the sherd concentration was small, c.30 metres square. A large area of the surface was cleared and all sherds examined, with two additional exploratory test trenches.

The fieldnotes indicate that a selection of sherds were drawn but the drawings have not been located within the archive. A brief verbal description suggests this may have been of Napatan date: *'wheel-made, red and brown ware vessels of a utilitarian nature'*. It was noted that many vessels had "folded" rims and jar forms had grooved rims [a sketch suggests a common Napatan jar rim form]. *'Only one or two of the typical soft brown ware bowls with matte red rim slip. A fair number of sherds are of thin to medium walled ribbed vessels and include Ballas and Kena wares as well as a couple of red ware. ... This is not the typical Pharaonic assembly of the area, and the site obviously is of a different date'*.

DOCUMENTATION: No previous record. AJM VI: 87–88; Air Photo: 623199. Investigated 8/3/1965.

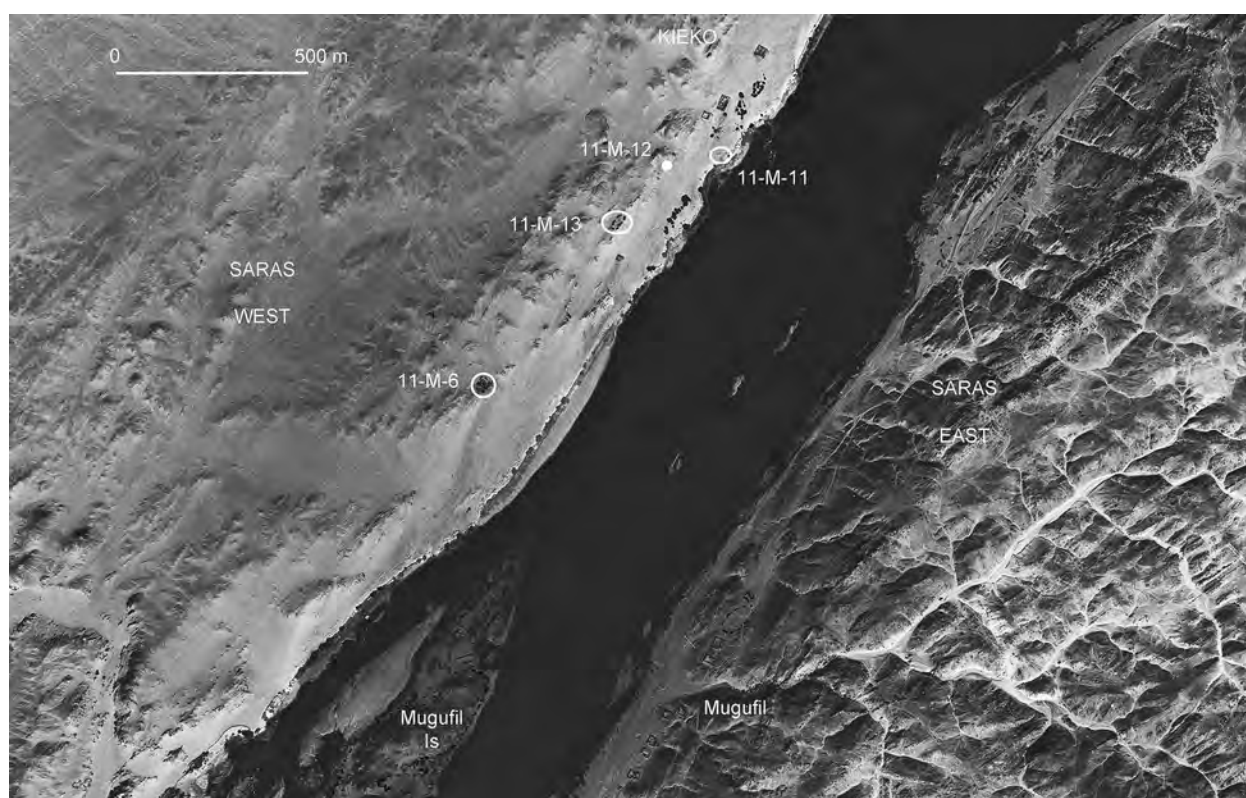


Figure 3.1.16 Location of [11-M-11] and nearby sites on west bank south of Kieko (*Kiyyeeko*).

11-M-12 Cache**Saras West (Kieko)**

LOCATION: half-way up the side of a hill, c.100m from the river bank and c.200m south of the hamlet of Kieko (*Kiyyeeko*).

DESCRIPTION: in an area of sand with no other evidence of structures of other occupation (fig.3.1.16). There are no signs of occupation. The two cups (1–2) and two grindstones (3–4) were found close to the surface in a cluster. No evidence to suggest their source.

Finds (figs 3.1.17–19):

11-M-12/1. Cup with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade hard red ware, uncoated. D:114mm; H:78mm. (VI:146). Photo: C/082:26. SNM.16505.

11-M-12/2. Bowl with modelled rim and flat base. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?), uncoated. D:102mm; H:53mm. (VI:192). Not registered.

11-M-12/3. Grindstone, grey granite. Roughly trimmed to oval shape; well-used. 420mm x 155mm x 55mm. Photo: C/113:14. SNM.20130.

11-M-12/4. Grindstone, grey granite. Roughly trimmed; approx. half of original stone used. 320mm x 235mm x 100mm. Photo: C/113:13. SNM.20131.

The pottery cannot be closely dated [LM].

DOCUMENTATION: No previous record. AJM VI: 83–84. Air Photo: 623199. No site photographs. Investigated: 8/3/1965.



Figure 3.1.17 Wheelmade cup (11-M-12/1).



Figure 3.1.18 Grindstones from [11-M-12]; (4) – top; (3) –bottom.

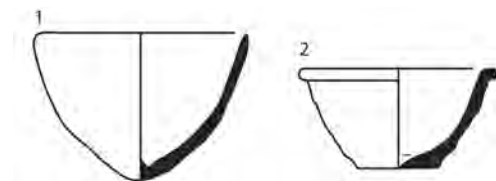


Figure 3.1.19 Wheelmade cup and bowl from cache (scale 1:4).

11-M-13 Settlement

Saras West (Kieko)

LOCATION: this site was located on top of a rocky outcrop, c.125m west of the high river bank and c.90m north of the southernmost house of the hamlet of Kieko (*Kiyyeeko*). It was on top of the first rise of rock and lay c.35m above water level (fig.3.1.20). This was c.2.8km downstream from Askut.

DESCRIPTION: this was a small settlement consisting of seven or eight small rooms in an area of c.20m x c.12m. It lay between two ridges of a hard black rocky outcrop and rested on softer, rather crumbly whitish bedrock. The northern and southern ends of the site sloped off into banks of blown sand.

The walls of the rooms were built of rough boulder stones, some of them fairly large, others quite small. The walls are generally curvilinear, preserved to a maximum height of 50cm. They rested directly on the softish loose gebel. Within Rooms 1 and 3 there are the remains of thin floors of packed mud about 7 and 12cm above the gebel

surface. No evidence was found in other rooms of laid flooring. The gebel surface itself was slightly packed and flattened and smoothed but this could be the result simply of the action of rainwater. This had been used as surface as some of the sherds were found resting on it.

The fill in all rooms was blown sand and a few stones. The pre-excavation surface was blown sand with a few stones on it and traces of some of the walls showing through it. There were a few sherds on the surface and quite a number of fish bones and a few animal bones were found in the fill. Only one hearth area was found on the site, in a corner of Room 4 (fig.3.1.21) marked by a deposit of fine ash and some traces of burning on the stones of the adjacent wall.

The pottery from this site was noted as having some unusual features. This included sherds of the soft brown, wheel-made vessels with red slipped rims as well as fine hard red, wheel-made vessels with folded rims. However there were also what were described as 'crude, hand-made, brown/

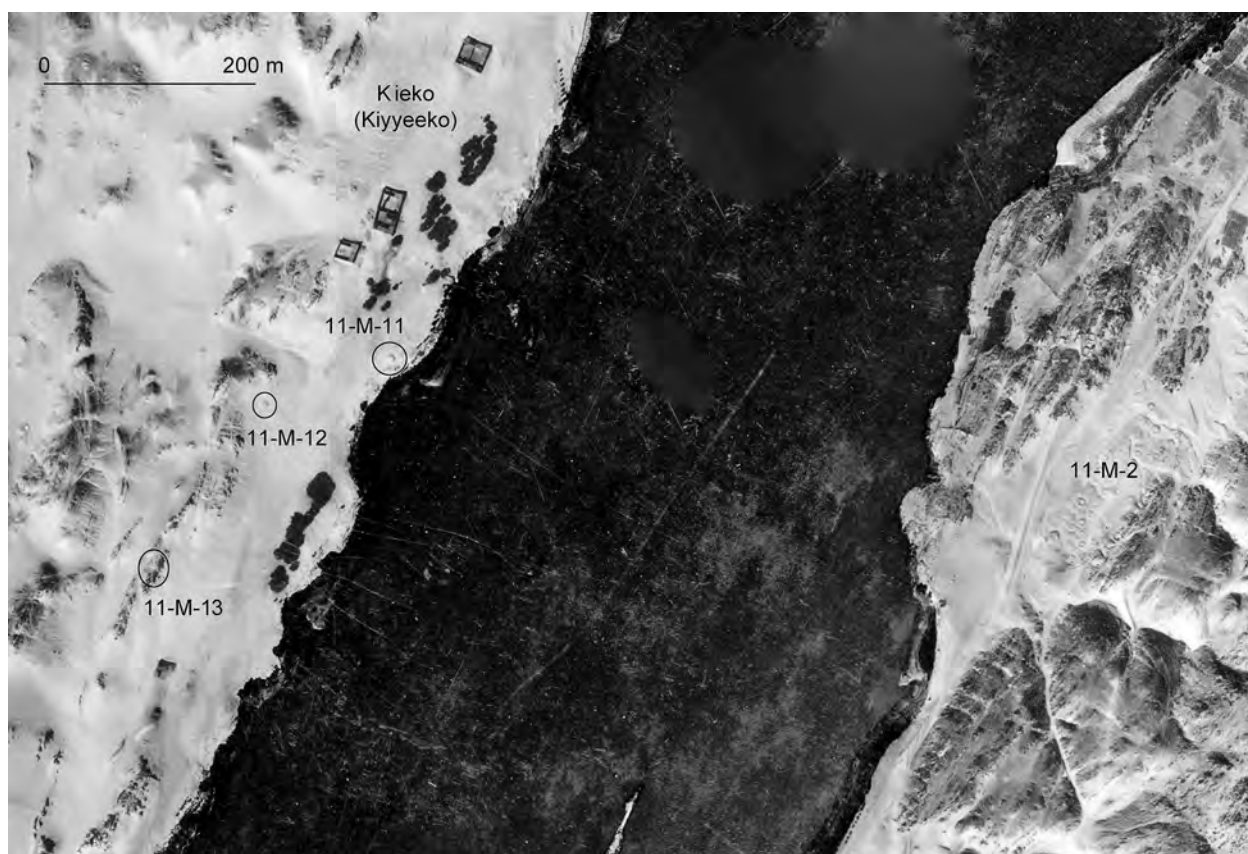


Figure 3.1.20 Location of [11-M-13] and nearby sites, south of Kieko (*Kiyyeeko*).

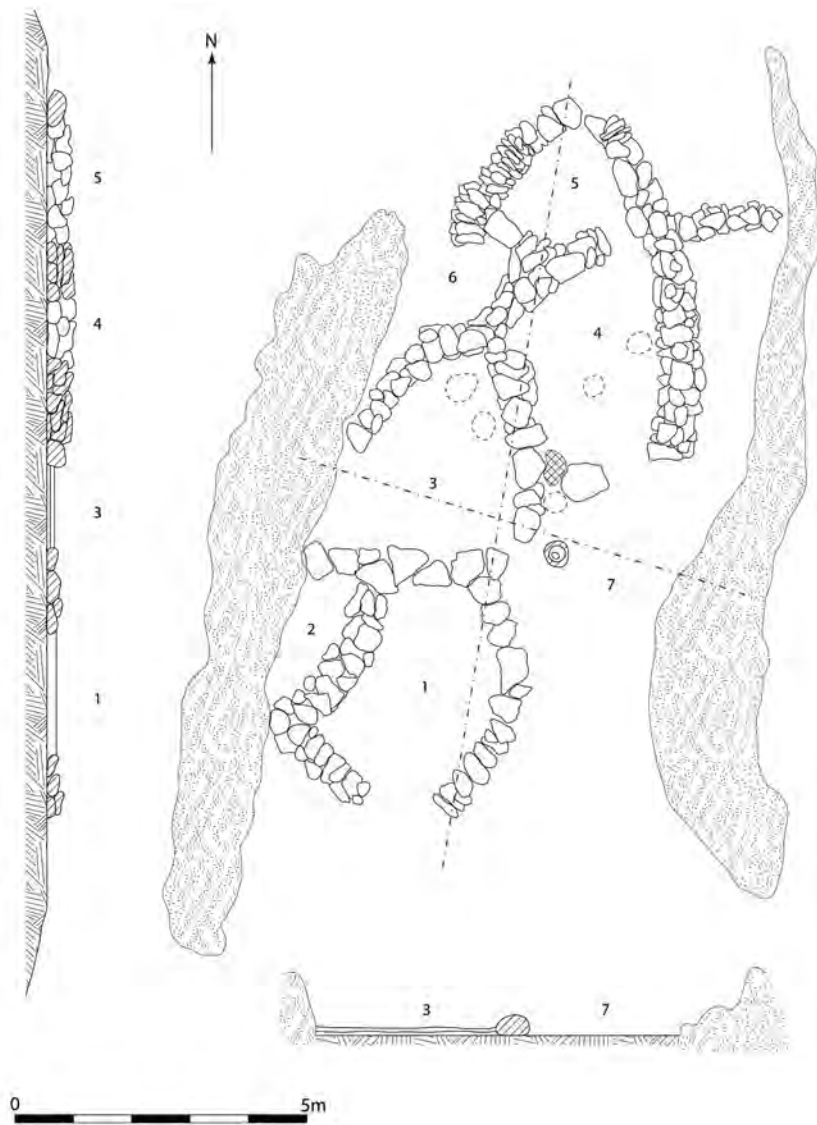


Figure 3.1.21 Plan of [11-M-13].



Figure 3.1.22 View across [11-M-13] to northeast. Hilltop location of [11-H-7] in distance.



Figure 3.1.23 View across [11-M-13] to southwest.



Figure 3.1.24 View north across [11-M-13].



Figure 3.1.25 Jar (1) outside Room 4 [11-M-13].



Figure 3.1.26 View east across Room 3 [11-M-13] with pits in floor.

black pots'. The bulk of the pottery was thought to be of New Kingdom date, while including such 'un-Egyptian' material. A number of large, crude pottery 'weights' (3) came from the fill as well as one steatite weight (2). No grindstones were found at the site. Into the floors of rooms 3, 4 and 7 were dug roughly circular pits (fig.3.1.21). In one of these in Room 3 were found some sherds of a crude brown pot and in one of Room 7 was set a large, wheel-made red-ware jar (fig.3.1.25).

Finds:

11-M-13/2. Steatite net-sinker/weight. Roughly finished. L:55mm; W:15mm. Photo: C/092:26. SNM.19753. (fig.3.1.27)

11-M-13/3. Weights (?). Baked mud. Pierced. 23 complete and 5 fragments; varied sizes. L:30–60mm; D:14–23mm. Photo: C/123:23. SNM.20472. (fig.3.1.28)



Figure 3.1.27 Steatite net-sinker/weight (11-M-13/2). (SNM.19753).



Figure 3.1.28 Examples of mud weights (?) (11-M-13/2). (SNM.20472).

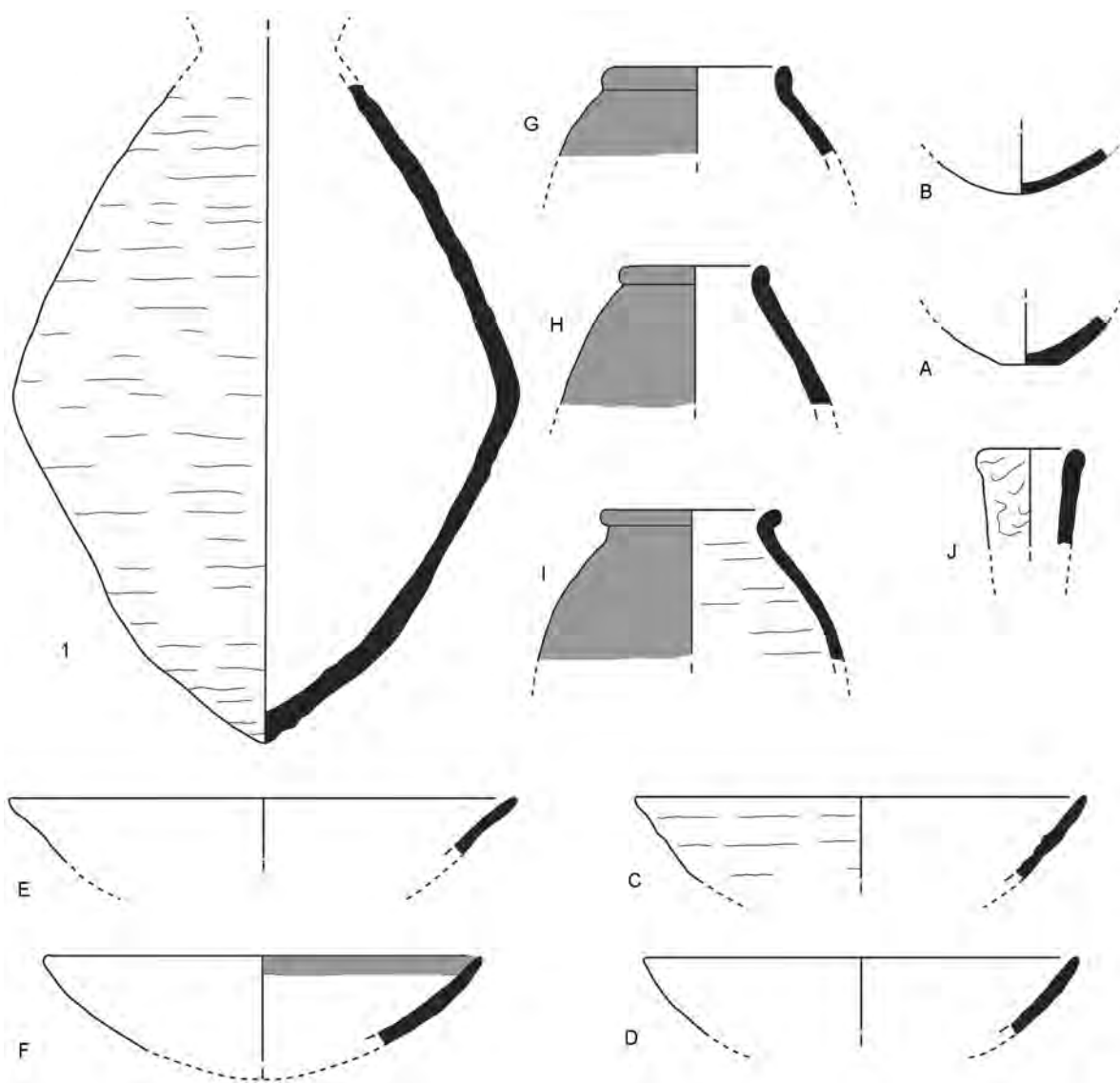


Figure 3.1.29 Pottery from [11-M-13] (scale 1:4).



Figure 3.1.30 Tall necked jar (11-M-13/1).
(SNM.16506).

Pottery (fig.3.1.29):

11-M-13/1. Tall necked jar. Wheelmade redware. Uncoated with pronounced wheelmarks. Hole in bottom. Max D:276mm; H: ≥ 366mm. Photo:C/084:25. SNM.16506. (fig.3.1.30)

11-M-13/A. Bowl, flat base. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?) Uncoated. Base D:30mm

11-M-13/B. Bowl, round base. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?) Uncoated.

11-M-13/C. Bowl. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Outside surface gently ribbed. Rim D:248mm.

11-M-13/D. Bowl. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?) Uncoated. Rim D:240mm.

11-M-13/E. Bowl. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Inside surface smoothed. Uncoated. Rim D:278mm.

11-M-13/F. Plate, round base. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Inside surface smoothed. Matte red slip on interior rim. Rim D:240mm.

11-M-13/G. Ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on smoothed exterior surface. Wheelmarks on interior. Rim D:96mm.

11-M-13/H. Ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on smoothed exterior surface. Wheelmarks on interior. Rim D:96mm.

11-M-13/I. Ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on smoothed exterior surface. Wheelmarks on interior. Rim D:75mm.

11-M-13/J. Bread mould. Handmade brown ware, crude (Nile silt). Uncoated. Rim D:50mm.

All the vessels are common through the New Kingdom, except the large jar (1) and the bread-mould (J). The former indicates a Dynasty 18 date, the latter may also be compared with moulds from Amarna. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: AJM VI: 91–93. Site Photos: F/276: 10–12; F/277: 1–5. Air Photo: 623199. Investigated: 9/3/1965.

11-M-6 Graves

Saras West

LOCATION: this site was located on the flat top of the first rock gebel west of the river. It was at a point c.400m downstream of the northern end of Mugufil Island, c.150m from the river bank (fig.3.1.16).

DESCRIPTION: three graves were found, cut into the gebel, which was rather crumbly. Stones had been used for shoring up the sides and there was a jumble of stones at each grave. The surface was gebel covered with small stones and pebbles and some wind-blown sand. The graves were in a line and about 4m apart. One grave excavated in 1964 and a second in 1965.

Grave 11-M-6/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit aligned near east-west, sides shored up with stones, c.136cm x 60cm, c.68cm deep (fig.3.1.31). Blocking of boulder stones, fill of loose rubble and drift sand.

BURIAL: grave reused. Only scattered fragments of original burial survive. Undisturbed second burial with body of adult (?) lying on right side, head west, slightly flexed.

CONTENTS: wheelmade bowl and fragments of other vessels (figs 3.1.32), and two beads. Locations not recorded

11-M-6/1/1: Bowl with carinated contour and flat base; wheelmade ‘Ballas’ ware with cream slip; slightly warped form. D:201mm; H:75mm. Photo: C/088:2. SNM.19611.

11-M-6/1/A. Jar. Fragments of wheelmade, pink ware jar with cream slip. Rim D:96mm.

L-M-6/1/B. Fragments of wheelmade, pink ware ribbed jar with cream slip on exterior. Very thin. Not drawn.

11-M-6/1/C. 2 blue, opaque, glass beads.

11-M-6/1/D. Fragments of a hand made red polished bowl (red/black/red fracture). Apparently a wide, open bowl, but uncertain. Considerable straw inclusions in fabric. Not drawn.

Grave 11-M-6/2:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: traces of mudbrick noted surrounding the mouth of the grave; too worn to confirm original size.

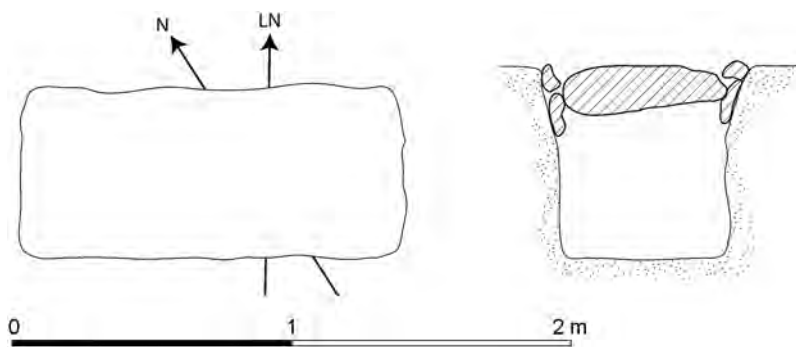


Figure 3.1.31 Grave 1, [11-M-6].

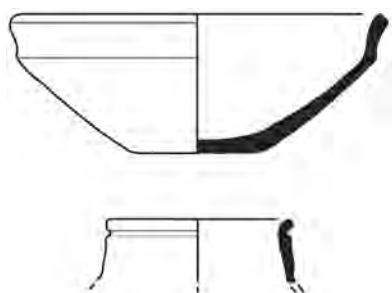


Figure 3.1.32 Bowl (1) and jar neck (A) from grave 1 [11-M-6] (scale 1:4).



Figure 3.1.33 Carinated bowl, (11-M-6/1/1).

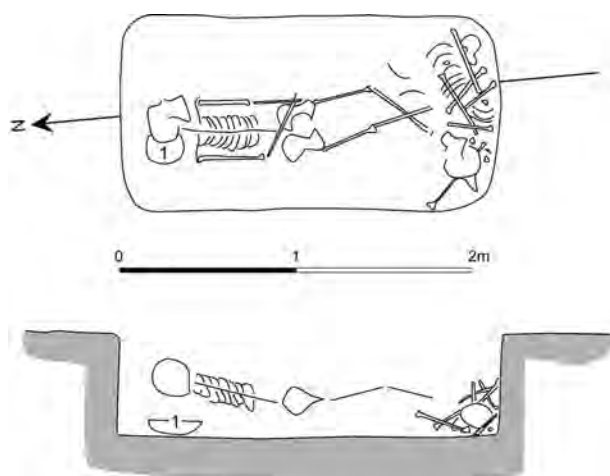


Figure 3.1.34 Grave 2, [11-M-6]. Original burials cleared to south end of grave during reuse.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit with slightly rounded ends, 215cm x 115cm, cut in to crumbling rock to a depth of c.60cm (fig.3.1.34). The fill was a mixture of blown sand, rubble and a lots of stones. The only evidence of blocking was the presence of a few largish stone slabs, although too small to cover shaft.

BURIAL: grave reused. Original burial cleared and bones piled at the south end of the grave. Undisturbed second burial, slightly flexed, dorsally extended, head north, facing east. Right arm over pelvis.

CONTENTS: handmade red-polished bowl (1) c.8cm beneath the head of the second burial; likely to relate to the original (displaced) burial. Broken wheelmade bowl (restored) from fill (2). Further sherds of wheelmade bowl (A), wheelmade jars (B,C) and large handmade bowl (D) from fill. Pottery may all relate to original burial.

Pottery (fig.3.1.35):

11-M-6/2/1: Bowl. Handmade (?) with red burnished (?) exterior and red slipped upper interior surface. D:244mm, H:112mm. Photo: C/082:24-5. SNM.16503. (figs 3.1.36-37)

11-M-6/2/2. Handled bowl. Wheelmade redware, restored from fragments. W:183mm, H:96mm. Photo: C/084:18. SNM.16504. (fig.3.1.38)

11-M-6/2/A. Bowl. Wheelmade redware. Fragmentary. Very worn and abraded but traces of matte red slip on interior surface. D:192mm, H:c.87mm.

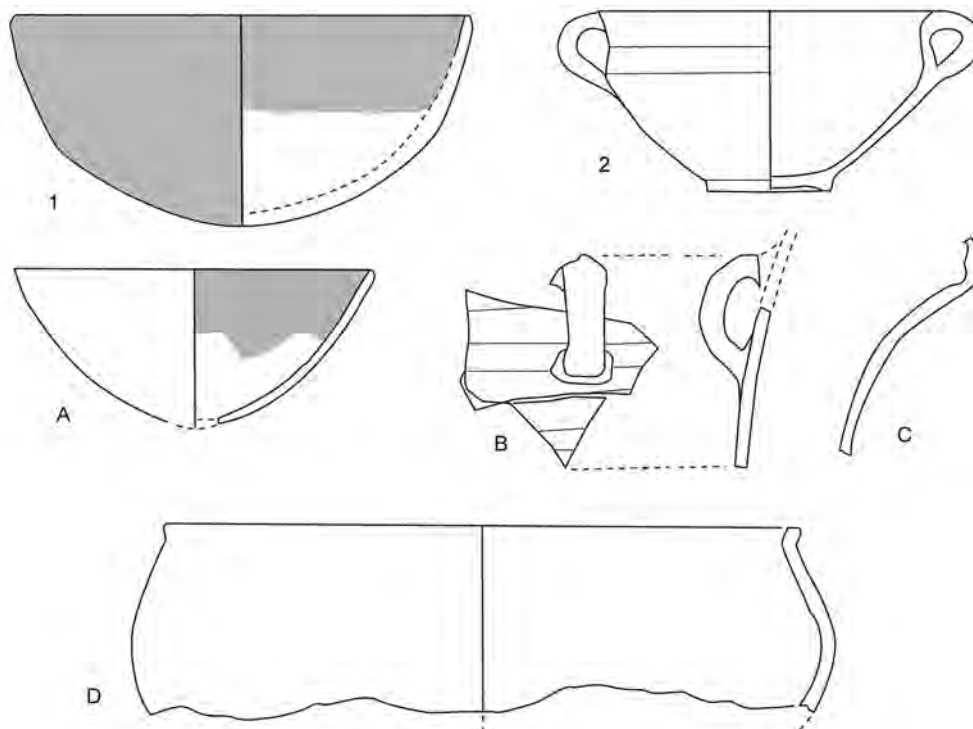


Figure 3.1.35 Pottery from Grave 2, [11-M-6] (scale 1:4).



Figure 3.1.36 Bowl (11-M-6/2/1) with red slipped upper interior surface. Surface suggests much organic temper in fabric.



Figure 3.1.37 Bowl (11-M-6/2/1) with red burnished exterior.



Figure 3.1.38 Handled bowl (11-M-6/2/2).

11-M-6/2/B. Handled jar, fragment. Wheelmade, hard thin pink ware with corrugated exterior.

11-M-6/2/C. Jar, fragments, rim lost. Wheelmade, hard pink ware, slightly corrugated exterior. Rim D: uncertain.

11-M-6/2/D. Bowl, handmade siltware. Very eroded. Rim D: uncertain.

The majority of this pottery seems likely to be of Dynasty 25/Napatan date although such carinated vessels have some parallels in Ramesside contexts in Nubia, also at Hillat el-Arab. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: AJM II: 108–9. No known previous record of this site. One grave excavated 1964 and a second in March 1965. Air Photo: 624194, 328262. No site photographs. Investigated: 30/1/1964, 22/3/1965.

11-L-1 Fortification**Saras - Askut**

LOCATION: a small island with an area of no more than 5ha, joined to Kajnarti at low Nile. The main river channel was c.180m wide to the west of the island, with a narrower channel to the east (<100m opposite Askut and narrowing to no more than 50m wide along the east side of Kajnarti).

DESCRIPTION: site of a small but massively walled fortress constructed in Dynasty 12 (by Senwosret III), with a phase of New Kingdom re-occupation

as well as some later use (fig.3.2.1). Excavated by UCLA project from 1962, and not investigated by ASSN.

DOCUMENTATION: Badawy 1964, 1965, 1966; Smith, S.T. 1991, 1995. Air Photos: 623196, 633195, 328261. No other photographs.

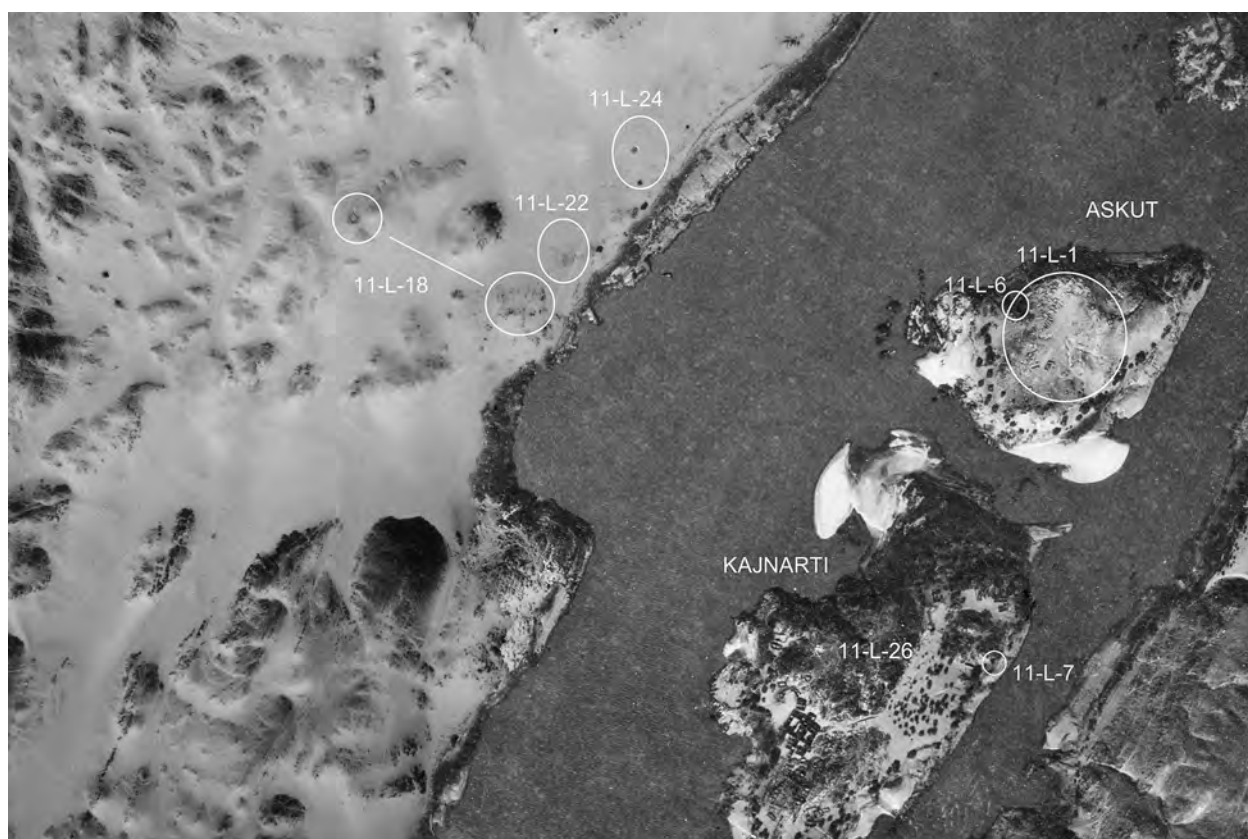


Figure 3.2.1 Sites on Askut-Kajnarti and west bank.

11-L-6 Inscription**Saras - Askut**

LOCATION: on Askut island apparently south and southwest of fortress, No record of exact locations known.

DESCRIPTION: a number of rock inscriptions have been reported from the island, including a water level record attributed to Year 3 of Amenemhet V.

DOCUMENTATION: W.Y. Adams field notes for 1961; Badawy 1965, 52–53; Vercoutter 1966, 139–40; Smith, S.T. 1995, 27. Air Photos: 623195–6, 328261. Site Photos: F/056:5–6.

11-L-7 Inscription**Saras - Kajnarti**

LOCATION: on the east bank of the small (c.10ha) rocky island of Kajnarti, a prominent rocky hill, along with many rock drawings a group of inscriptions lay on its southeast face (facing the eastern river channel).

DESCRIPTION: a group of probably five Middle Kingdom inscriptions, noted by W.Y. Adams in 1962; recorded by the German Epigraphic

Expedition during their second season of field work January-April 1963.

DOCUMENTATION: W.Y. Adams field notes 1961; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 88–89; Taf. 117–119. Air Photos: 623195–6, 328261. No other photographs.

11-L-24 Building

Saras West

LOCATION: site was located on the west bank of the river opposite Askut Island. It was situated in a sandy wadi about 50m from the river bank and within reach of a very high Nile; c.150m northeast from cemetery [11-L-22] (fig.3.2.1).

DESCRIPTION: a small site, with a surface of blown sand with a few sherds and small stones on it. No structures were apparent on the surface. Just beneath the surface, however, were some small, poorly-built, mudbrick structures of a domestic nature. Two of these were exposed and cleaned and no indications of others were found. The surface area of the site, based on the spread of surface sherds, was estimated as no more than c.30m x 50m (north-south).

One fragmentary sub-rectangular structure measured c.2.50m x 3.20m, but it proved impossible to plan due to the collapse and erosion of walls caused by river flooding. However it was determined that the structure had two distinct mud floors separated by a layer of blown sand c.10cm thick. During excavation a large area between these floors showed evidence of much burning.

The sherds (fig.3.2.2) were predominantly 'soft brown ware bowls with the thin red-painted rim', of New Kingdom date, but also 'a few sherds of Nubian manufacture'. The size of bricks was quite variable, in the range of c.20–35cm x 12–18cm x 5–8cm. The remains of one mud bin was found outside a wall, in which there had been a fire. Traces of another wall butting on to the north side of the structure suggested that further rooms might have existed but had been lost to river erosion. The fill of the structure was principally blown sand and some fallen brick rubble. A second small circular structure (D: c.1.15m) lay c.10m to the south. Standing one brick high this was built on sand.

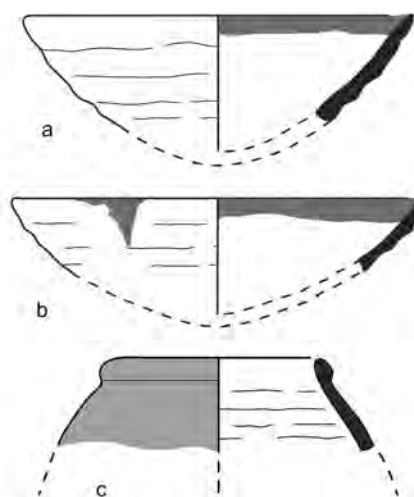


Figure 3.2.2 Pottery from [11-L-24] (scale 1:4).

Pottery (fig.3.2.2):

11-L-24/a. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on inside rim. Exterior surface undulating. Rim D:205mm.

11-L-24/b. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on inside rim, and on parts of exterior. Rim D:216mm.

11-L-24/c. Globular jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on smooth exterior surface. Interior surface ridged. Rim D:108mm.

These pottery types are common in Dynasty 18 and 19. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: AJM VI: 137–38. No site photographs. Air Photos: 328260, 624196. Investigated: 14/3/1965.

11-L-22 Cemetery

Saras West

LOCATION: this site was opposite the south end of Askut Island on a sandy slope fairly close to the high river bank, c.100m to the northeast of some further burials registered as [11-L-18] (fig.3.2.1).

DESCRIPTION: this was an extremely badly preserved, but apparently largely unlooted cemetery. The surface before excavation was blown yellow sand that had a liberal scattering of small rocks on it. There were some fragments of bone on the sand and a few sherds. This sand was c.15cm deep at the east or bottom end of the cemetery increasing to almost 50 cm deep at the west. It covered soft alluvium which was also rising east to west, into which the graves were dug. They were largely destroyed by erosion by both wind and rain action. There were perhaps a dozen graves originally, nine were recorded (fig.3.2.3). The cemetery may have been larger, but there is too much sand on the upper part of the slope to remove. The locations of other graves were indicated by only a few fragments of bone. The graves were all narrow, rectangular pits just large

enough, or slightly larger, to take an extended body. They are all east-west orientated, head west. The cemetery was thought likely to relate to the New Kingdom use of Askut fort.

Grave 11-L-22/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit dug into fossil alluvium, 190cm x 60cm, with rounded ends, 40cm deep. Grave largely eroded and apparently washed over by rain. Fill of quite hard packed (by water action?) silt. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: undisturbed body of adult male, dorsally extended head west; head turned to face south. Right hand by side, left hand on pelvis. Bones very brittle.

CONTENTS: orange ware jar by head. The fragile remains of a thin 'coffin' survived; suggested to have been made of tree bark. This could not be recovered due to its fragility. This was preserved over the lower part of body and presumed to have completely covered the body.

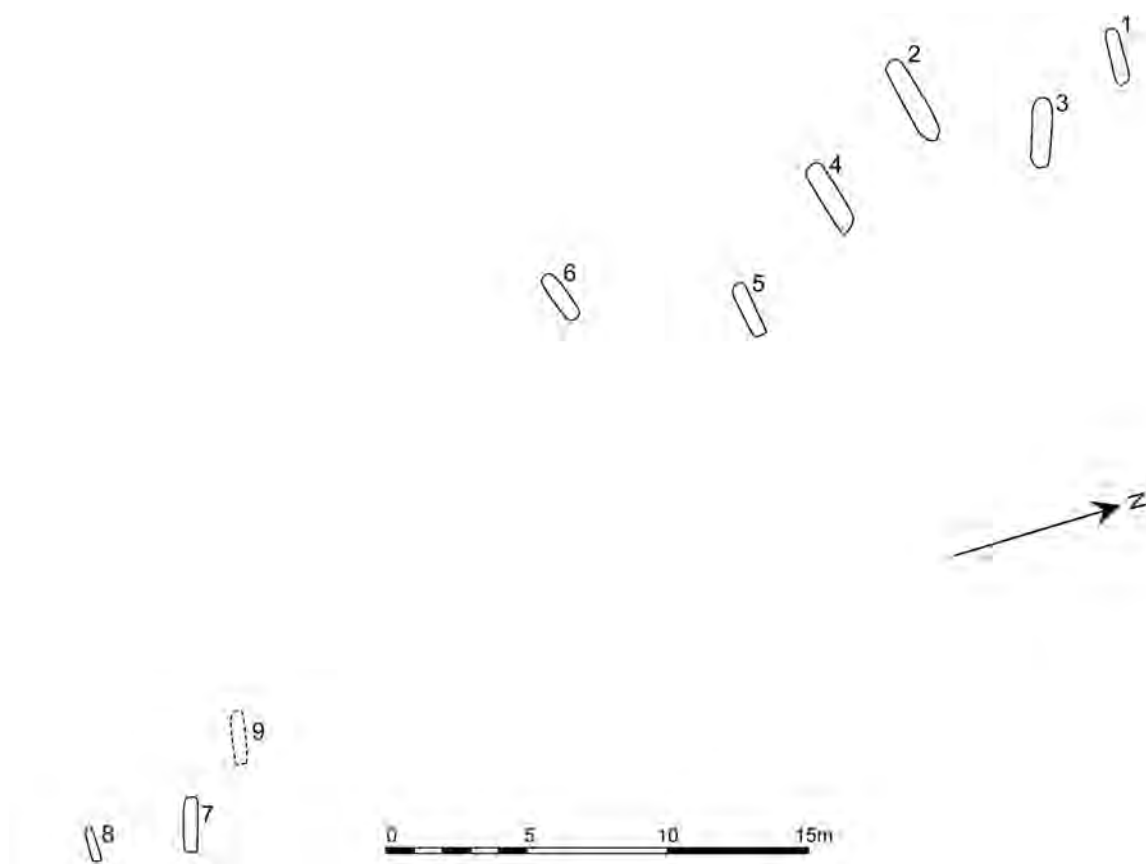


Figure 3.2.3 Plan of cemetery [11-L-22].

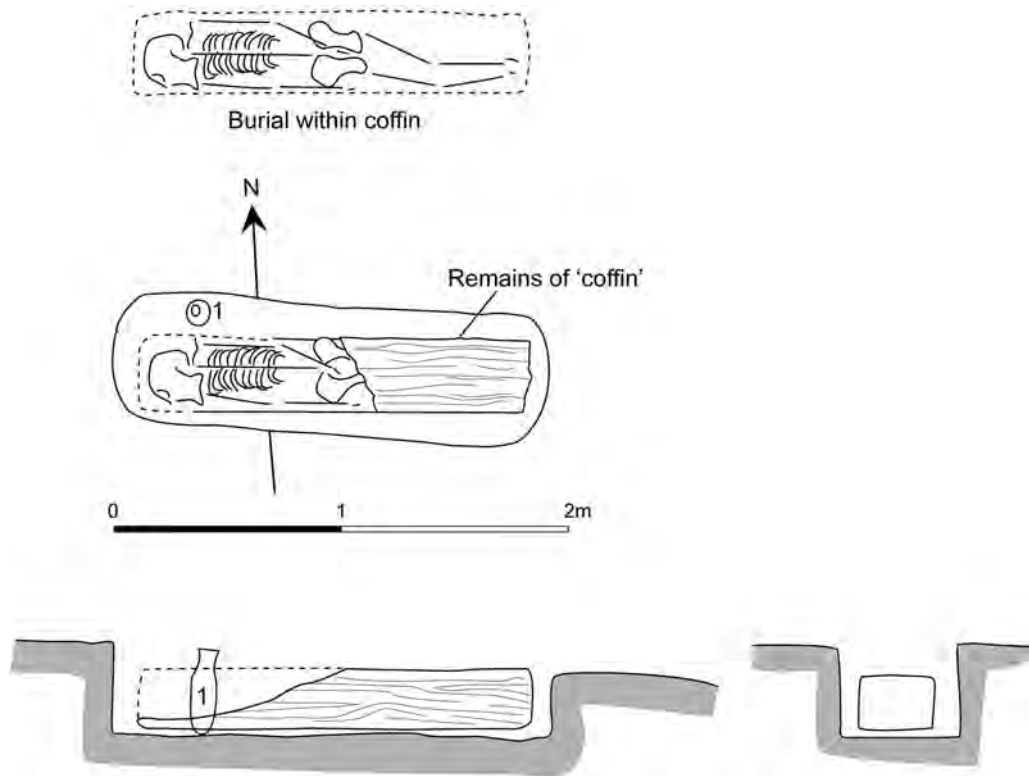


Figure 3.2.4 Plan and sections Grave 1, [11-L-22].

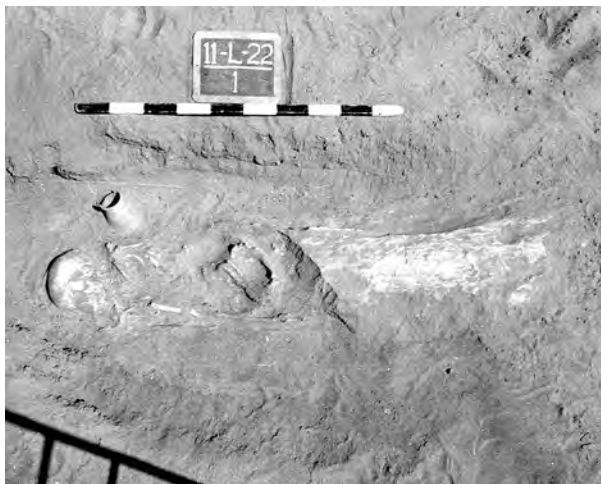


Figure 3.2.5 Grave 1, [11-L-22].

11-L-22/1/1. Tall ovoid jar with a folded rim and incised neck. Wheelmade, orange ware. Uncoated. H:271.5mm; max. W:138mm. Neck broken. SNM.16986.

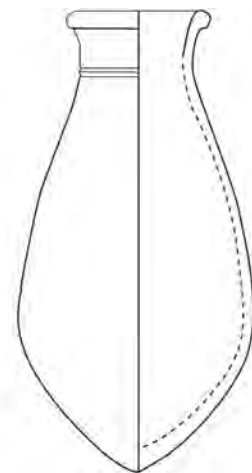


Figure 3.2.6 Jar (11-L-22/1/1) (scale 1:4).

Grave 11-L-22/2:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit dug into fossil alluvium, 178cm x 50cm, 50cm deep. Fill of quite hard packed (by water action?) silt. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: adult female, originally laid dorsally extended head west. Apparently disturbed with legs raised at east end of grave; probably pulled to east during robbing (while still articulated?).

CONTENTS: none.

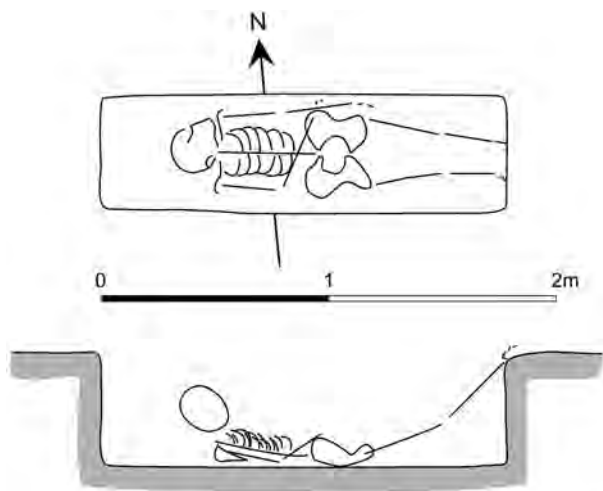


Figure 3.2.7 Plan and sections Grave 2, [11-L-22].



Figure 3.2.10 Grave 3, [11-L-22].



Figure 3.2.8 Grave 2, [11-L-22].

Grave 11-L-22/3:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.
 GRAVE: a rectangular pit dug into fossil alluvium, 225cm x 060cm, 25cm deep; largely eroded away.

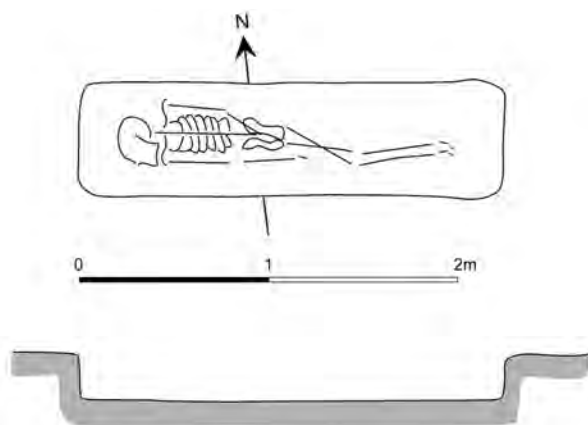


Figure 3.2.9 Plan and sections Grave 3, [11-L-22].

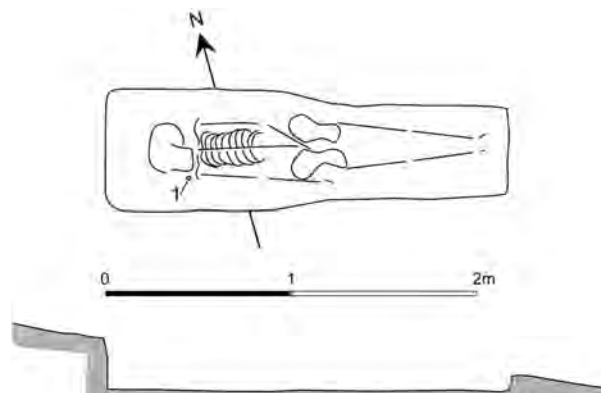


Figure 3.2.11 Plan and sections Grave 4, [11-L-22].

Fill of quite hard packed (by water action?) silt. No trace of blocking.
 BURIAL: undisturbed (?) body of an adult female, extended on the back-right side, head west, facing south; right hand by side, left on pelvis; legs crossed.
 CONTENTS: none.

Grave 11-L-22/4:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.
 GRAVE: a rectangular pit dug into fossil alluvium, 215cm x 50–65cm wide; largely eroded away. Fill of quite hard packed (by water action?) silt. No trace of blocking.
 BURIAL: undisturbed body of adult male, dorsally extended, head west facing south. Right hand by side, left on pelvis. Bones very brittle.
 CONTENTS: steatite scarab, from front of neck (fig.3.2.13).



Figure 3.2.12 Grave 4, [11-L-22].

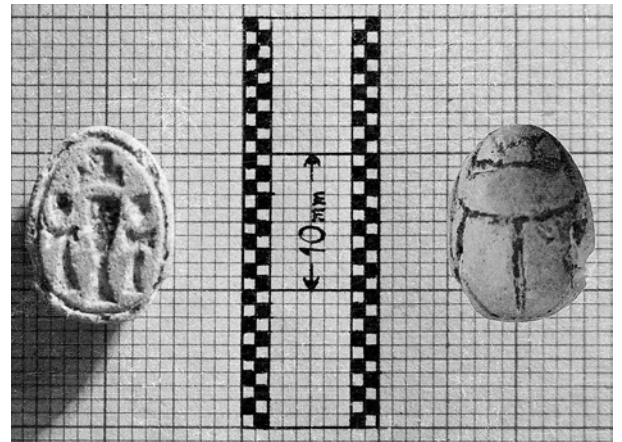


Figure 3.2.15 Scarab (11-L-22/4/1).



Figure 3.2.13 Grave 4, [11-L-22]. Detail, with scarab (11-L-22/4/1) below neck.

Grave 11-L-22/5:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit dug into fossil alluvium, 195cm x 045cm and 25cm deep; largely eroded away. Fill of quite hard packed (by water action?) silt. No trace of blocking.

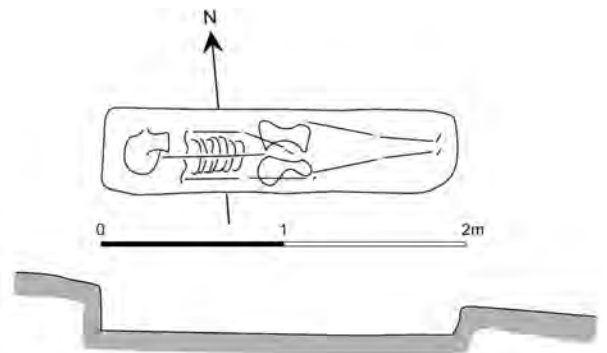


Figure 3.2.16 Plan and sections Grave 5, [11-L-22].



Figure 3.2.14 Scarab (11-L-22/4/1) (scale 1:1).

11-L-22/4/1. Steatite scarab. Faint traces of green glaze remaining. The scarab seems to have suffered some even and extended decay. L:14mm; W:9.5mm; Th:7.5mm. Photo: C/082: 4-5. SNM.16987. (fig.3.2.14-15)



Figure 3.2.17 Grave 5, [11-L-22].

BURIAL: undisturbed body of adult, dorsally extended, head west facing north. Right hand by side, left on pelvis. Bones too brittle to clean to allow further study.

CONTENTS: none

Grave 11-L-22/6:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit with rounded ends dug into fossil alluvium, 175cm x 68cm and 25cm deep; largely eroded away. Fill of quite hard packed (by water action?) silt, (deposited by wind and rain action?) as well as blown sand.

BURIAL: undisturbed but partly destroyed body of young adult/youth, extended on back right side,

head west facing south. Right hand by side, left on pelvis.

CONTENTS: wheelmade bowl on top of head (in situ?); copper-alloy tweezers on head (in situ?) and a fragment of a pot-stand in the area of lower body (fig.3.2.21).

11-L-22/6/1. Bowl with flat direct rim and base. Wheelmade, red ware. Uncoated. D: 177mm; H:55.5mm. The effect of a red painted rim has

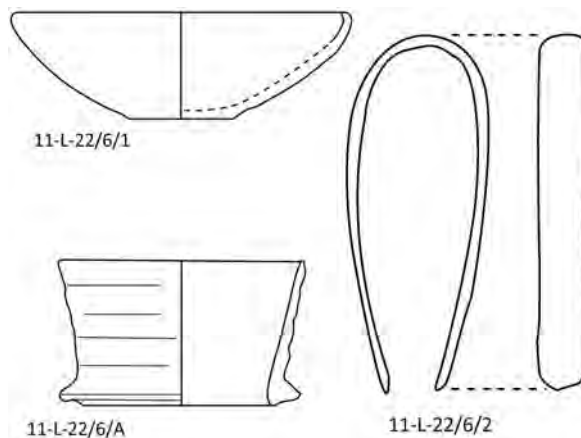


Figure 3.2.21 Bowl, pot-stand (scale 1:4) and copper alloy tweezers (scale 1:1) from Grave 6, [11-L-22].

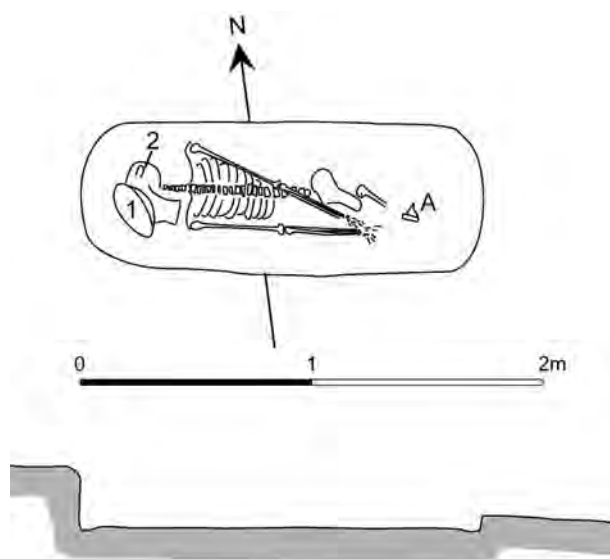


Figure 3.2.18 Plan and sections Grave 6, [11-L-22].

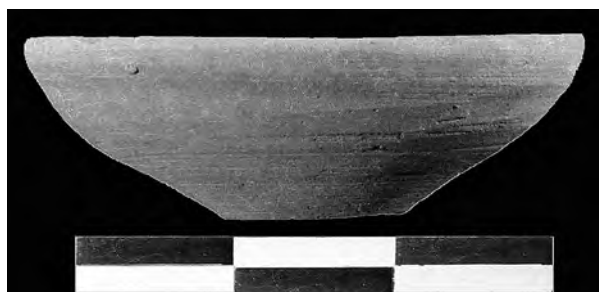


Figure 3.2.22 Bowl (11-L-22/6/1).



Figure 3.2.19 Grave 6, [11-L-22].

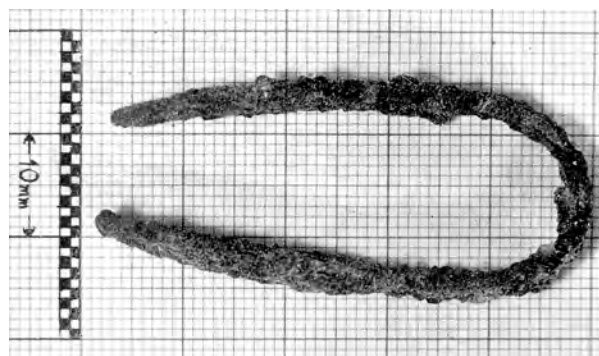


Figure 3.2.23 Copper alloy tweezers (11-L-22/6/2).

probably been the result of firing accident. Rim chipped. Photo: C/082:19. SNM.16463. (fig.3.2.22)

11-L-22/6/2. Copper alloy tweezers. L:47mm; W:6.5mm; 1mm thick. Corroded [latterly broken in half]. Photo: C/082:6. SNM.16989. (fig.3.2.23)

11-L-22/6/A. Potstand. Wheelmade, red ware. uncoated. D:130mm; H:75mm.

Grave 11-L-22/7:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: mostly destroyed. Probably originally a rectangular pit cut into alluvium, 190cm x c.50cm. No evidence of blocking.

BURIAL: undisturbed (?) body of an adult female, lying extended on the left side-stomach; head west, facing south.

CONTENTS: none.

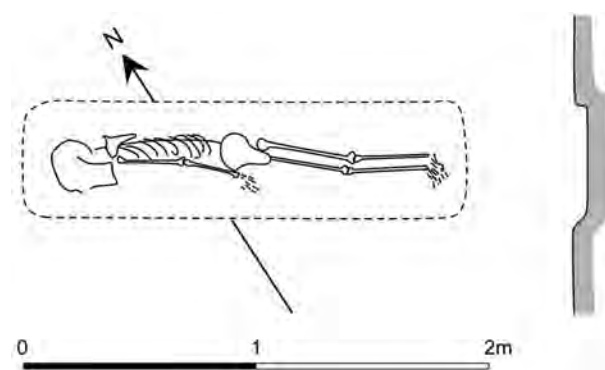


Figure 3.2.24 Plan and section Grave 7, [11-L-22].

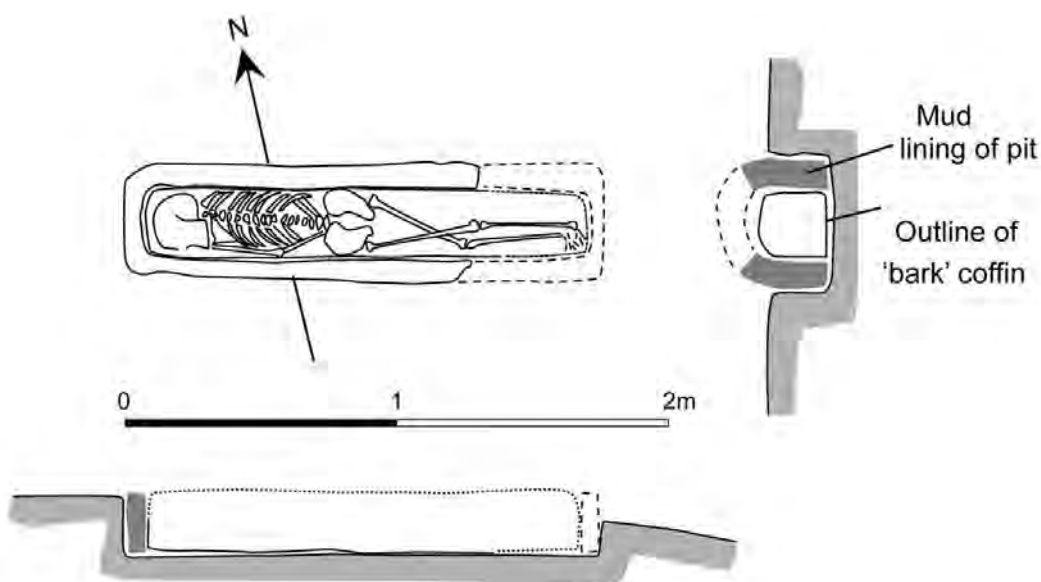


Figure 3.2.25 Plan and sections Grave 8, [11-L-22].

Grave 11-L-22/8:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: rectangular pit, eroded at east end, cut into quite soft alluvium. Probably originally c.175cm x 40cm. Shaft sides lined with mud, in turn lined with a 'bark coffin'. Fill of silt. No evidence of blocking apart from mud lining of pit.

BURIAL: undisturbed body of a young person, lying extended on the stomach; head west facing south.

CONTENTS: none.



Figure 3.2.26 Grave 8, [11-L-22].

Grave 11-L-22/9:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: destroyed by erosion.

BURIAL: the upper part of a possibly undisturbed adult body lying dorsally extended, head west, facing south. The east half of the body has been destroyed by erosion and the upper part mostly destroyed.

CONTENTS: none.

The small quantity of pottery is likely to be of Dynasty 18 date. Parallels for the potstand can be found from the fortress of Sai island and the cemetery at Qubban (Site 110) and may be more closely dated to the reign of Hatshepsut-Thutmose III. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: AJM VI: 120; Site Photos: F/278: 2-12; F/281: 1-2. Air Photos: 328260. Investigated: 15/3/1965.

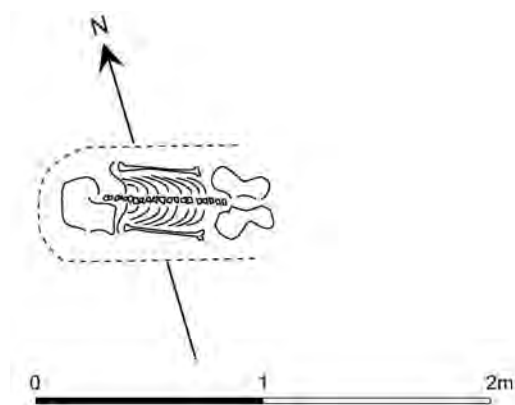


Figure 3.2.27 Plan of Grave 9, [11-L-22].



Figure 3.2.28 Location of graves [11-L-22] and adjoining sites on west bank opposite Askut and Kajnarti.

LOCATION: this group of burials lay on the west bank opposite the north end of Kagnarti/Kajnarti Island (fig.3.2.28). The tombs were located in two areas, the first (graves 2–6) on a flat-topped rocky outcrop just to the north of a larger sandy wadi coming down to the river at an angle from the southwest. These lay c.150m from the river bank; and the others (graves 1, 7, 8) lay the other side of a sandy depression c.200m to the northwest (fig.3.2.29). Some further burials at site [11-L-22] lay only c.100m to the northeast.

DESCRIPTION: this site consisted of eight tombs and one further pit, perhaps an unfinished grave, near grave 8. A single grave (1) was excavated 2nd February 1964. The site was revisited 24–25th March 1965 when the other graves were investigated. The tombs consisted of vertical shafts, generally rather shallow, and subterranean

chambers entered from the shaft, with variable orientations. They were cut into rather poor crumbling rock that has a mica-like flat fracture which was of a lightish colour. There had been no attempt at carefully finishing the tombs, presumably because of the nature of the rock. The tombs were quite small, more or less large enough to take an extended body with very little else. The graves had all been plundered and the fills were almost entirely blown sand. Generally only a few bones were recovered, but in some (graves 3, 5) there were a number of bodies. Two graves (6, 8) contained small fragments of gypsum plaster with painted decoration. These were thought too thick to have come from a coffin, but there is absolutely no trace of plaster on the tomb-chamber walls. Field notes record pottery as ‘almost entirely sherds of soft, brown ware bowls with red painted rims’, identified at ‘Dynasty XVIII’.

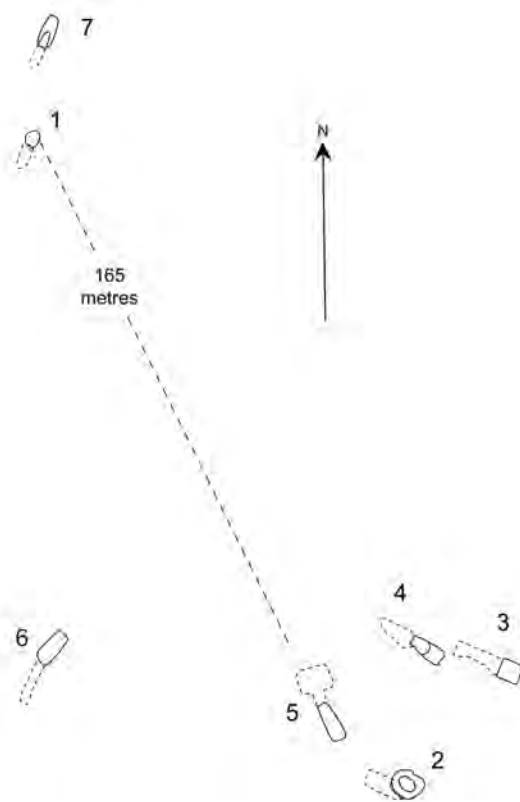


Figure 3.2.29 Sketch location plan of two groups of tombs [11-L-18].

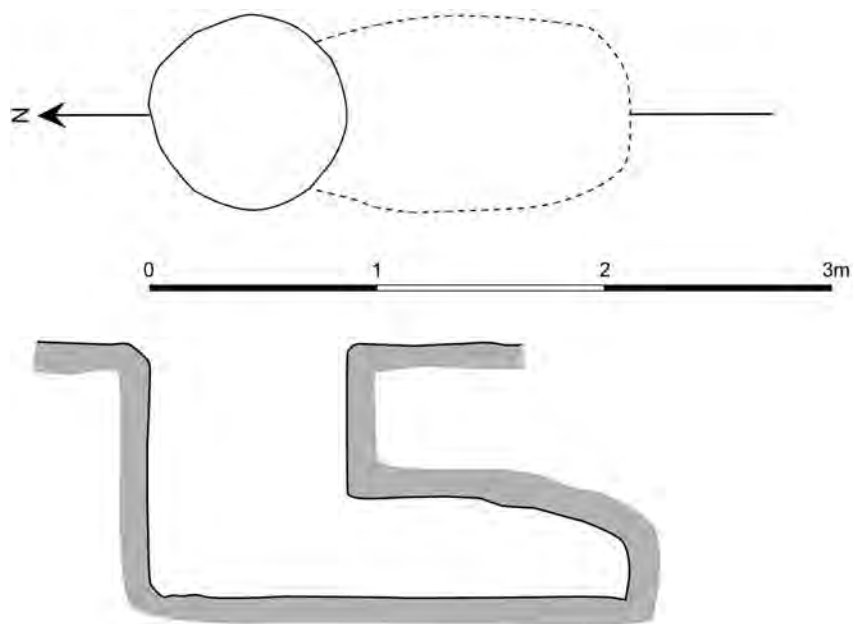


Figure 3.2.30 Plan and section of Grave 1, [11-L-18].

Grave 11-L-18/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: small rock-cut chamber on south side, entered from subcircular shaft, D:90cm, c.112cm deep. Chamber c.215cm long x 87cm wide. All cut into crumbling rock. Probably blocked only at surface although no evidence remains. Fill of blown sand

BURIAL: one adult leg bone.

CONTENTS: none.

Grave 11-L-18/2:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: rock-cut chamber on east side of irregular shaft, D:c.100cm and 190cm deep, including 30cm of surface sand. Chamber 215cm x 80cm x 115cm high, entered through entrance, 75cm wide, 87cm high. All cut into poor crumbling rock and poorly finished. Fill mainly blown sand with some stones. No remains of blocking and grave perhaps blocked at surface and not at chamber entrance.

BURIAL: a few scattered bones of 'a young person'.

CONTENTS: sherds of two wheelmade bowls, both incomplete (fig.3.2.31). Not registered.

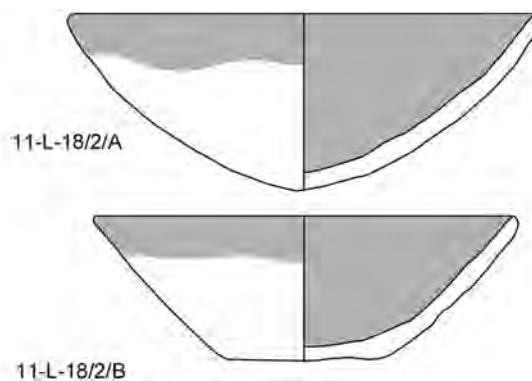


Figure 3.2.31 Incomplete bowls from (11-L-18/2) (scale 1:4).

11-L-18/2/A. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?); red-slipped interior and external rim. D:245mm; H:93mm.

11-L-18/2/B. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?); red-slipped interior and external rim. D:225mm; H:75mm.

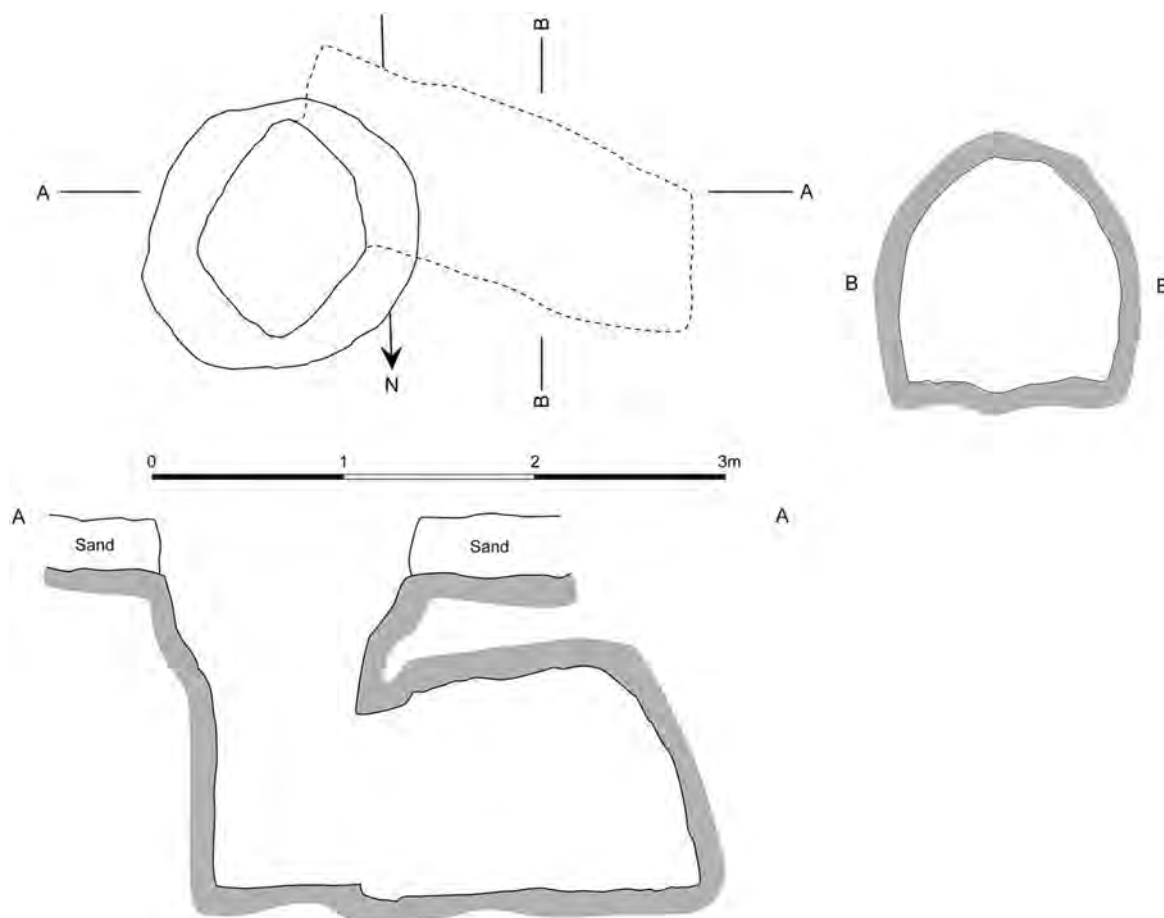


Figure 3.2.32 Plan and section of Grave 2, [11-L-18].

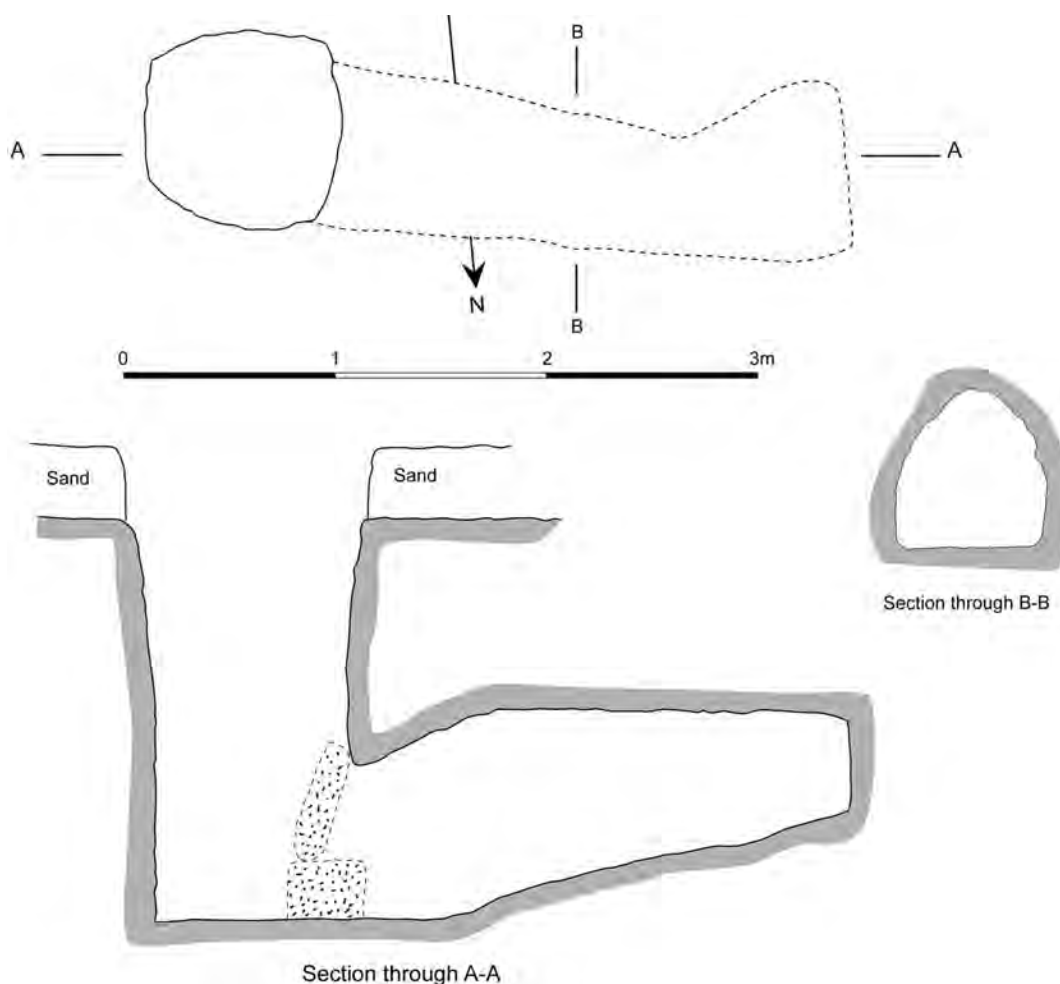


Figure 3.2.33 Plan and section of Grave 3, [11-L-18].

Grave 11-L-18/3:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: rock-cut chamber on west side of sub-circular shaft, D:c.100cm, and c.225cm deep, including 35cm of surface sand. Chamber c.250cm long x 68cm wide, with sloping floor (rising 55cm over 2m); H:40cm at west end. All cut into crumbling rock with no finishing of surfaces. Fill of drift sand including a little stone rubble. Chamber blocking of mudbricks (38 x 18 x 7cm) and stones; one large stone and 4-5 bricks found at base of shaft.

BURIAL: scattered bones of at least five adult burials.

CONTENTS: unquantified number of sherds from fill, 'principally soft brown ware' and three vessels reconstructed (fig.3.2.34).

11-L-18/3/1. Bowl, restored from fragments. Wheelmade, Soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped interior and external rim. D:222mm; H:102mm. Photo: C/084:23. SNM.16982. (fig.3.2.35)

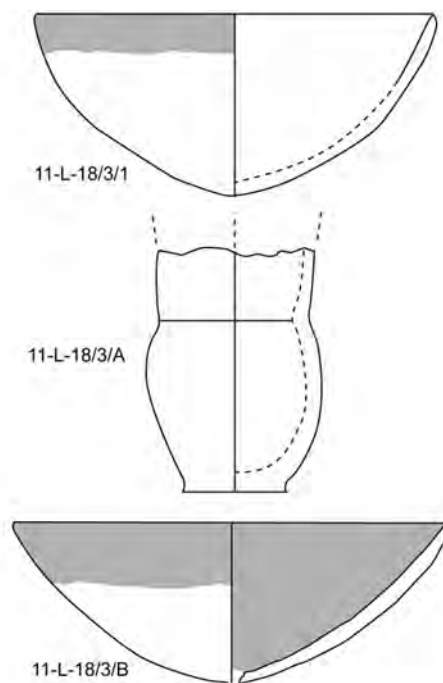


Figure 3.2.34 Bowls and jar from (11-L-18/3) (scale 1:4).



Figure 3.2.35 Bowl (11-L-18/3/1).



Figure 3.2.36 Jar (11-L-18/3/A).

11-L-18/3/A. Necked ovoid jar with flat base, part only. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. D:9.8mm; H:>135mm. Photo: C/084:28. SNM.19506. (fig.3.2.36)

11-L-18/3/B. Bowl, part only. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped interior and external rim. D:240mm; H:90mm. Not registered.

Grave 11-L-18/4:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: rock-cut chamber on east side of subrectangular vertical shaft, c.170cm x 100cm; the shaft is stepped down to a maximum depth of 170cm, below 30cm of surface sand. Chamber 175cm long x 85cm wide at entrance; 75cm high at entrance,

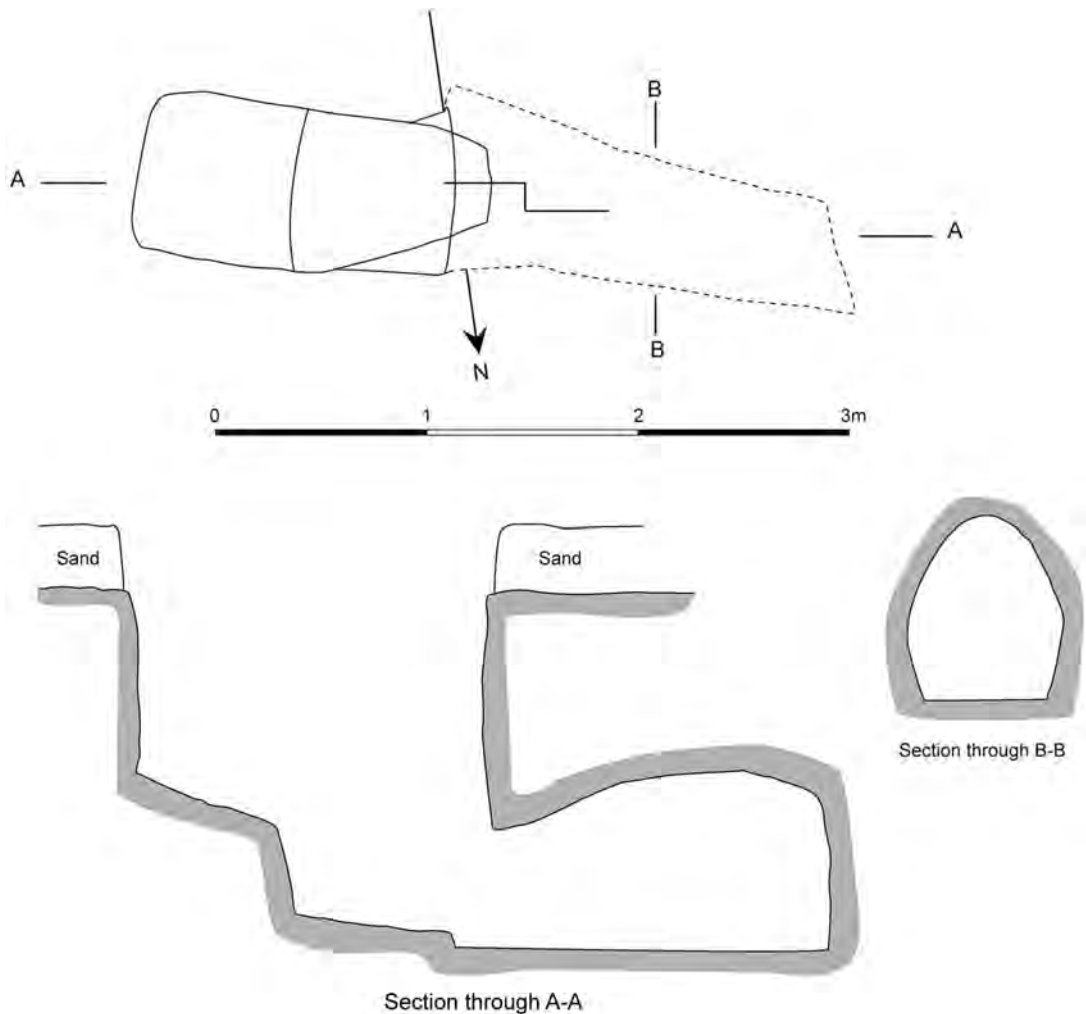


Figure 3.2.37 Plan and section of Grave 4, [11-L-18].

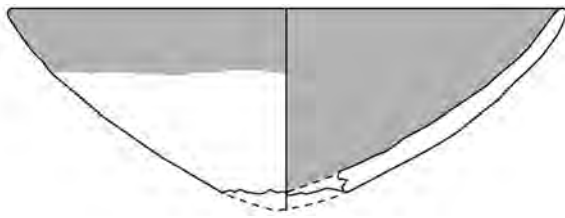


Figure 3.2.38 Bowl (11-L-18/4/A) (scale 1:4).

increasing to 90cm at west end. All cut into poor crumbling rock with no finishing of surfaces. Fill of drift sand including a little stone debris. No trace of chamber blocking.

BURIAL: a few scattered bones only.

CONTENTS: sherds of two wheelmade soft brown wares bowls, one tall vessel, and one 'Ballas ware' jar. Only one bowl drawn (fig.3.2.38).

11-L-18/4/A. Bowl, part only. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?); red-slipped interior and external rim. D:c.264mm; H:c.96mm. Not registered.

Grave 11-L-18/5:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: rock-cut chamber on south east side of subrectangular vertical shaft, 200cm x 65cm, and 205cm deep. Rectangular chamber c.1.75m long x 125cm wide, and c.65cm high. Chamber entrance 75cm wide and 60cm deep, and 60cm high. Irregular floor surface. Fill of tomb was blown sand, some rock debris and a few bricks. Blocking probably mudbricks at the chamber entrance (bricks probably 38 x 18 x 7cm, although no complete examples preserved). Some traces of mud plaster around entrance.

BURIAL: fragments only including two adult long bones.

CONTENTS: sherds of at least three vessels (fig.3.2.40).

11-L-18/5/A. Bowl with inflected contour, incomplete. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?); red-slipped interior rim only. D:240mm; H:c.75mm. Not registered.

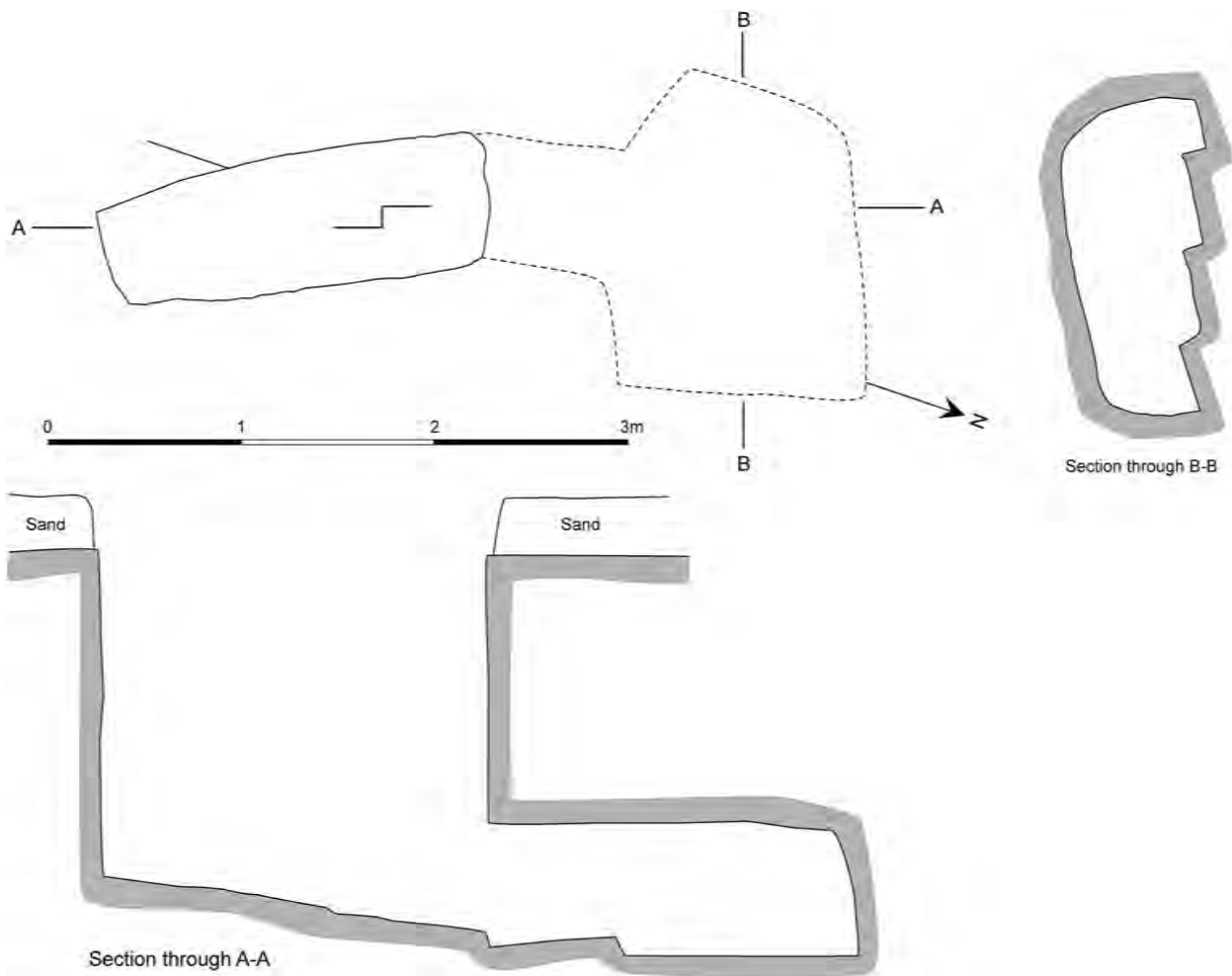


Figure 3.2.39 Plan and section of Grave 5, [11-L-18].

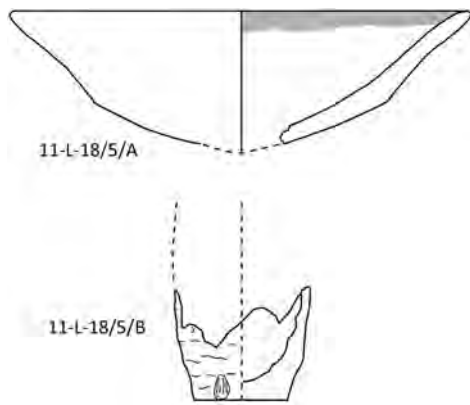


Figure 3.2.40 Bowl and bottle from (11-L-18/5)
(scale 1:4).

11-L-18/5/B. Beer bottle with flat base, no hole; base only. Wheelmade. soft brown ware (Nile silt); Uncoated; roughly finished and ribbed; cut off wheel, thumb marks at base. D:c.50mm. Not registered.

11-L-18/5/C. Sherd of a large wheelmade vessel. Red ware with polished yellow/white slip on exterior. Not registered or drawn.

Grave 11-L-18/6:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: rock-cut chamber on north side of rectangular vertical shaft with sloping base, 190cm x 85cm and max. depth 195cm. Rectangular chamber 225cm x 50cm; 50cm high at south end, max.85cm (fig.3.2.41). Fill of blown sand, with some rock debris. Traces of mudbrick blocking in form of mud plaster/mortar on outside of chamber entrance.

BURIAL: a few bones of an adult.

CONTENTS: few sherds only, abraded. Included large wheelmade red ware vessel, wheelmade red ware (soft brown ware (?)) bowl (?) and wheelmade red ware vessel with black interior (intrusive?).

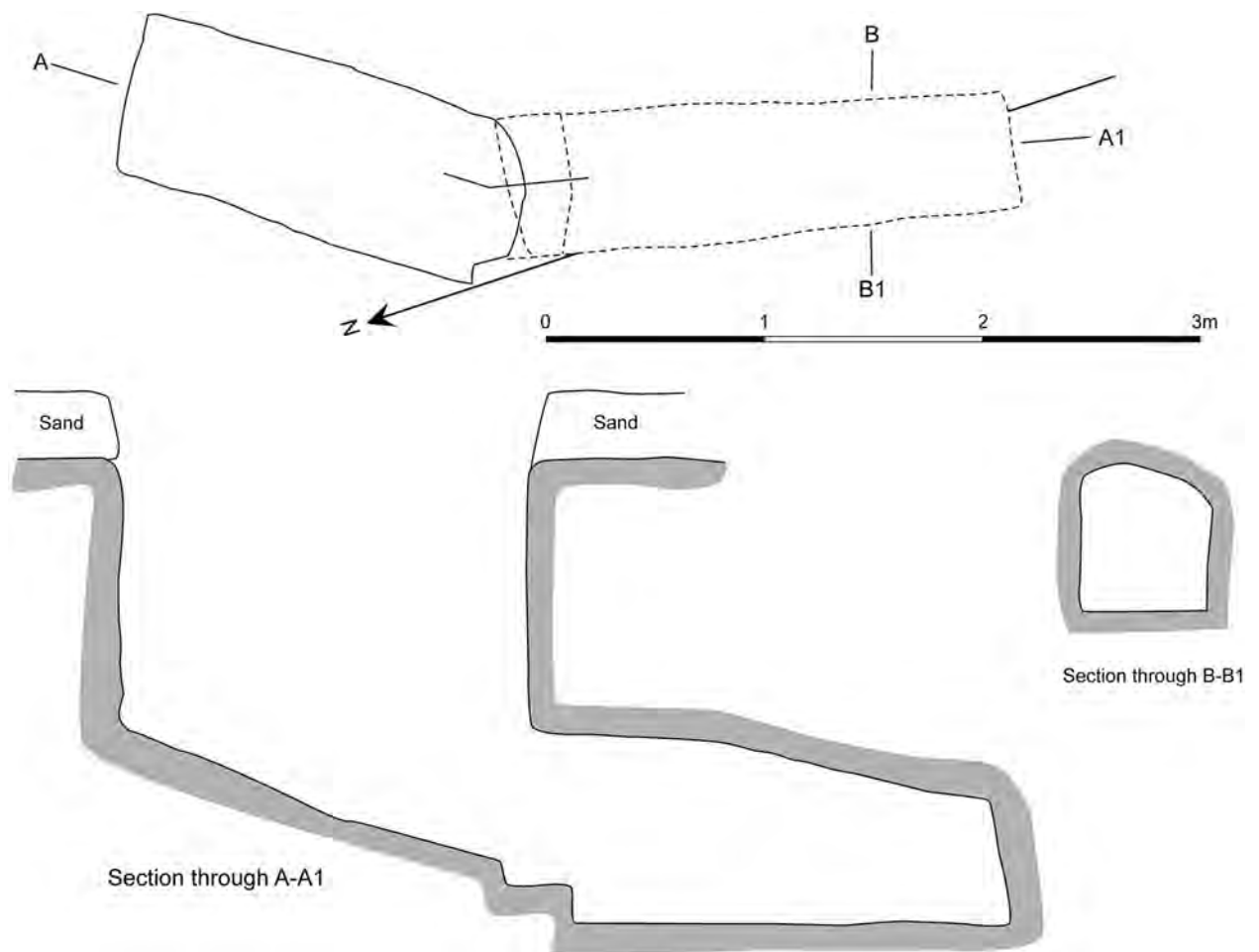


Figure 3.2.41 Plan and section of Grave 6, [11-L-18].

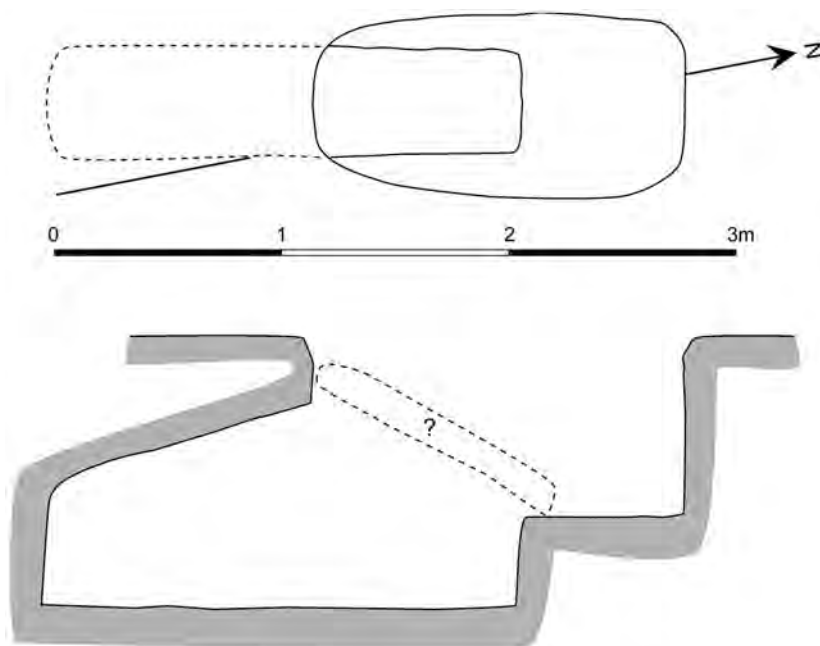


Figure 3.2.42 Plan and section of Grave 7, [11-L-18].

Grave 11-L-18/7:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: rectangular rock-cut chamber at north end of short, vertical shaft, 163cm x 85cm and 78cm cut into rather loose crumbling rock with no finishing of surfaces. Chamber 200cm x 63cm, with only 112cm beyond shaft, with step down of 40cm into chamber. Fill of blown sand, with some stone chips and pieces of mud. Blocking thought likely to be of stones plastered with mud.

BURIAL: some scattered bones of two adults.

CONTENTS: sherds in fill, mainly ‘soft brown ware’ (fig.3.2.43).

11-L-18/7/1. Bowl, restored from fragments. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red-slipped interior and external rim. D:242mm; H:915mm. Photo: C/082:2. SNM.16460. (fig.3.2.44)

11-L-18/7/A. Bowl, incomplete. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red-slipped interior and external rim. D:240mm; H:90mm. Not registered.

11-L-18/7/B [fill]. Bowl, fragment only. Wheelmade. Very soft brown ware; Matte red-slipped interior rim and external rim. D:228mm. Not registered.

Eroded sherd wheelmade redware ribbed vessel (intrusive?).

Eroded sherd wheelmade polished red bowl (intrusive?).

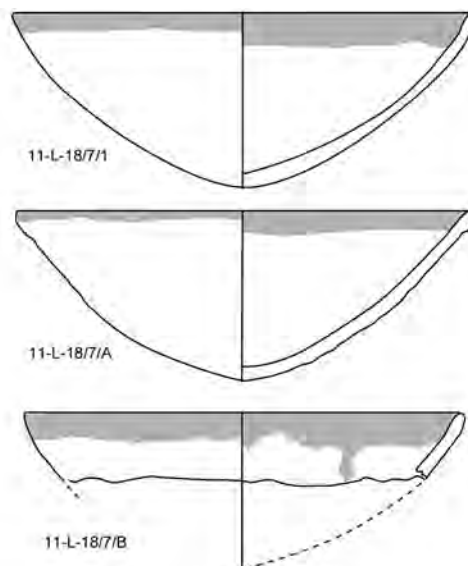


Figure 3.2.43 Bowls from Grave 7, [11-L-18] (scale1:4).



Figure 3.2.44 Bowl (11-L-18/7/1).

Grave 11-L-18/8:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence. Two fairly large stone slabs remain at the mouth of the shaft with traces of mud plastering; elements of the original shaft blocking.

GRAVE: subrectangular rock-cut chamber at west end of short, vertical shaft, 210cm x 65cm. Chamber 235cm x 90cm, 100cm high at entrance, sloping towards west end where 55cm high; step down into chamber. Fill of blown sand, with small amount of stone debris. Traces of mud plaster at entrance to chamber; probably blocked with mudbricks.

BURIAL: scattered bones of at least six adults.

CONTENTS (fig.3.2.46):

11-L-18/8/1. Ring. Polished carnelian hair ring with milled edge. D:18mm; W:6mm. Photo: C/082:3. SNM.16984. (fig.3.2.47)

11-L-18/8/2. Bowl, broken and incomplete.

Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped inside rim. D:264mm; H:99mm. Photo: C/094:14. SNM.16985. (fig.3.2.48)

11-L-18/8/8. Two large and several small fragments of an almost opaque, dark green material (maybe glass?). Surfaces uneven. Form not reconstructable; possibly an inlay? Photo: C/084:1. SNM.19507. (fig.3.2.49)

Further sherds were recovered from surface spoil left by earlier disturbance of tomb (fig.3.2.46).

1-L-18/8/A. Bowl, incomplete. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped interior and exterior rim. D:210mm. Not registered. (Sherds of possibly three similar vessels)

11-L-18/8/B. Jar. Rim sherd of red ware jar; heavily abraded and hardened by exposure to sun. Rim D:69mm. Not registered.

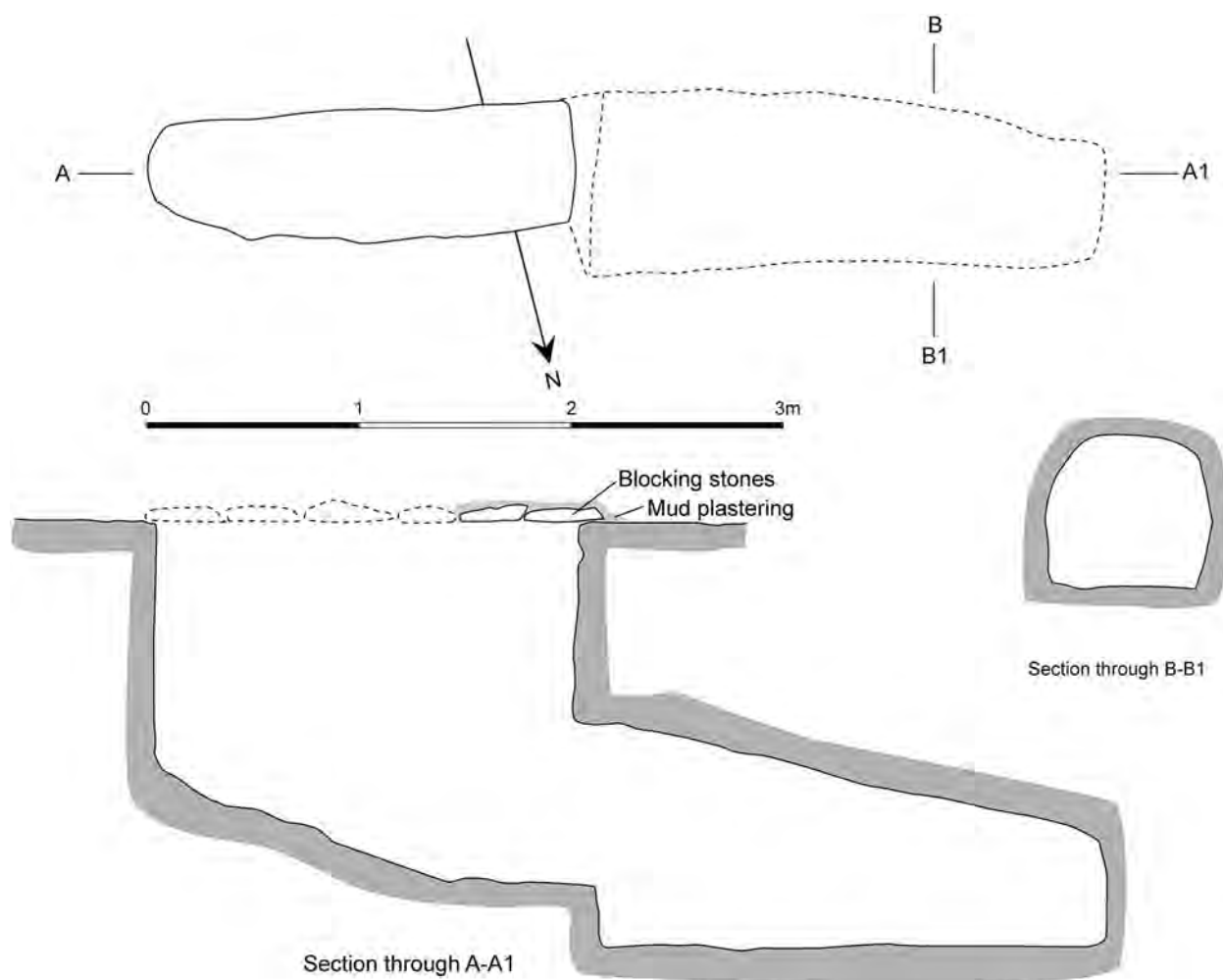


Figure 3.2.45 Plan and section of Grave 8, [11-L-18].

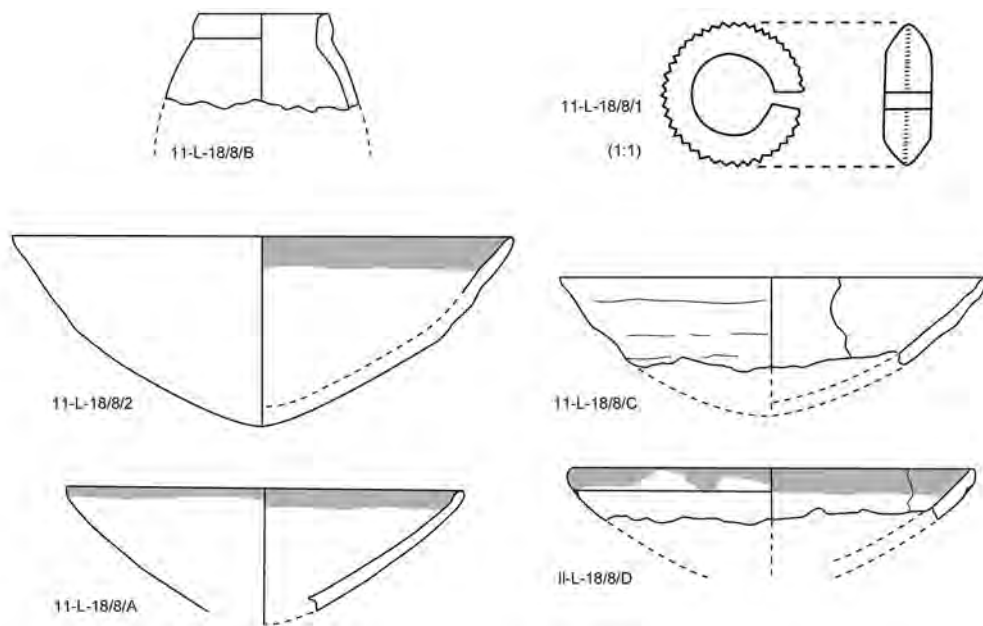


Figure 3.2.46 Pottery (scale 1:4) and carnelian ring (11-L-18/8/1) (scale 1:1).

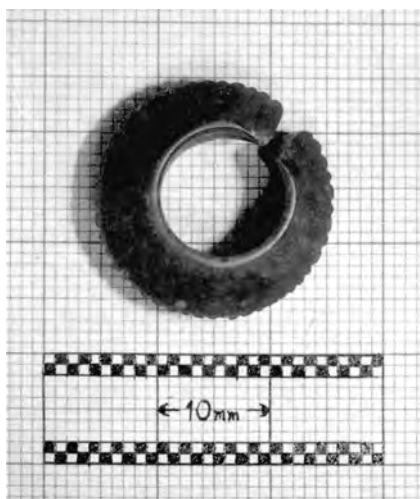


Figure 3.2.47 Carnelian ring (11-L-18/8/1).

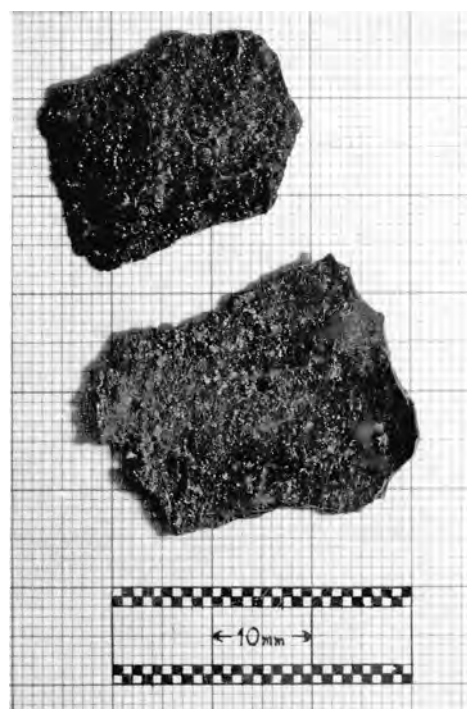


Figure 3.2.49 Fragments of 'glass' (?) (11-L-18/8/8).

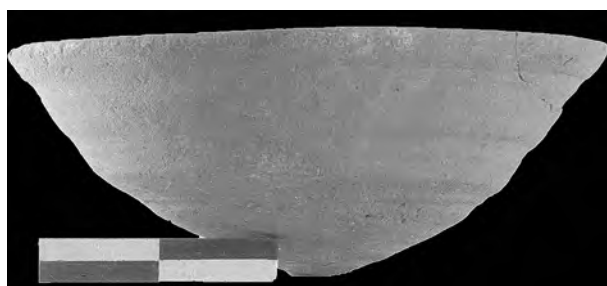


Figure 3.2.48 Bowl (11-L-18/8/2).

11-L-18/8/C. Bowl, broken and incomplete. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. D:225mm. Not registered.

11-L-18/8/D. Bowl with folded rim, broken and incomplete. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?); Matte red slipped interior and exterior red-painted rim. D:213mm. Not registered.

Further sherds from one or two more soft brown ware bowls and sherds from three large vessels ('red wheelmade'), possibly medieval?

Some sherds were recovered from a large pit found near Grave 8; this would seem to be the feature described in the field notes as an 'unfinished tomb'. The sherds were all of handmade vessels and thought likely to be of A-Group (?) date (fig.3.2.50). In addition to the sherds which were drawn, fragments of 4 or 5 other coarse handmade vessels were found with similar fabric and surface treatment to vessels G and H. They are included here to complete the site record.

11-L-18/E. Large bowl. Handmade with red-polished (?) exterior surfaces and black polished interior (with small area of black on rim). Fabric: 'many

straw-marks, a few sand grains in red/black/black fracture'. D:c.288mm. Not registered.

11-L-18/F. Spindle whorl? Made from sherd of heavy handmade red/black vessel with smoothed (not polished) exterior. Surface heavily pitted with 'straw' temper. D:c.108mm. Not registered.

11-L-18/G. Bowl. Coarse handmade red ware. (Fairly hard due to exposure?); 'many straw marks' in fabric. D:c.180mm. Not registered.

11-L-18/H. Bowl, incomplete. Coarse handmade red/brown ware. Blackened patches on exterior; fracture red/black/red, with 'many straw marks'. D:c.288mm. Not registered.

The majority of the vessels are common forms through the Dynasties 18 and 19. However the necked ovoid jar (11-L-18/3/A) is a more closely dateable Dynasty 18 form. [LM]. This may allow dating of at least the southeastern group of tombs (2-5).

DOCUMENTATION: AJM II: 114-15; AJM VI: 121-22; No site photographs. Air Photos: 624196-7, 328261. Investigated: 21/3/1965.

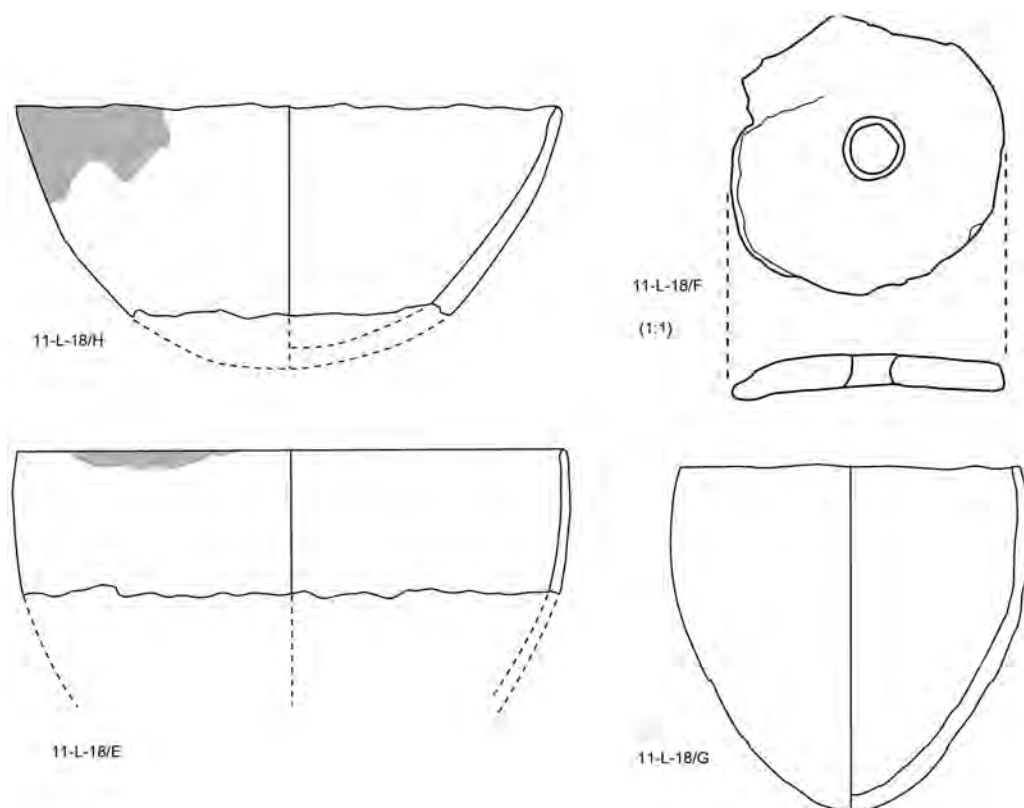


Figure 3.2.50 Sherds of (A-Group?) vessels (scale 1:4) recovered from large pit near Grave 8, [11-L-18].

11-L-26 Cemetery**Saras - Kagnarti Island**

LOCATION: Kagnarti (*Kajnarti*) is the southernmost of the group of four large islands towards the north end of Saras. The island had a number of rocky outcrops; this site was located on the large outcrop on the north-west part of the island (fig.3.2.51).

DESCRIPTION: the pre-excavation surface was bare outcrops of rock in-between which are areas of blown silt covered by a great number of stones and boulders. There are a few fragments of bone and some sherds, both Pharaonic and medieval ('Christian').

This site was large, estimated to comprise 200 or more graves. The bulk of them lay on the large rocky outcrop at the north end of the island. Here there were an estimated 75–100 graves on the outcrop with perhaps as many as 50 additional graves on the long slope to the west and 40–50 more on the other three slopes. There is another, smaller outcrop to the east of the main hilltop (i.e. above [11-L-7]), on which there may have been a

further 20 graves. Just about every natural crevice seemed to have been used for a burial.

The graves were all similar in type: long,



Figure 3.2.51 Kagnarti island. General view towards main area of burials [11-L-26] on rocky outcrop to north of recently abandoned village.



Figure 3.2.52 Kagnarti island. View across narrow seasonal channel to Askut island.

rectangular pits, large enough to hold an extended burial and little else (i.e. c.200cm x 50cm). They were quite shallow, seldom more than 50cm deep. The orientation of the graves was often north-south, but there were several oriented east-west; their orientation seemed generally to be determined by the direction of the fracture of the rock. Many of the graves were partly built up with stones and generally also roofed/closed with stones. There was some evidence for the occasional use of mud brick to even up the sides of the graves. Some stones were plastered with mud. Grave fills were generally blown silt, sometimes mixed with a few stone chips. Field assessment of the beads, scarabs and pottery suggested that they were all of New Kingdom date. Several of the graves dug (23 in all) had undisturbed burials, but were thought likely to have been plundered in ancient times. A number of graves were also re-used, also probably in Pharaonic times. The cemetery were assumed to relate to the New Kingdom use of Askut. It was noted that the two islands may anciently have been one; the channel between them normally disappearing each year at low Nile (fig.3.2.52).

Field records note that planning the whole site would have been extremely time consuming and not particularly informative. As time and resources were limited only a sample of the site was examined in more detail, in an area located at the southern end of the top of the larger outcrop. There an area of c.28m x 16m was cleaned of surface stone, the



Figure 3.2.53 Excavated area [11-L-26], view across site to east. Note east bank hills overlooking island.

graves outlined, a sample excavated and the area planned (fig.3.2.56). Ten graves (3, 7, 10, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21) were excavated in this area. In all 23 graves were excavated and planned, including 13 examples from outside the sample area.

11-L-26/0/1. Scarab, glazed steatite. L:16mm; W:12mm; Th:7mm. Photo: C/082:7-8. SNM.16991.



Figure 3.2.54 Excavated area [11-L-26], view across site to south (upriver). Grave 10 marked in centre of image.

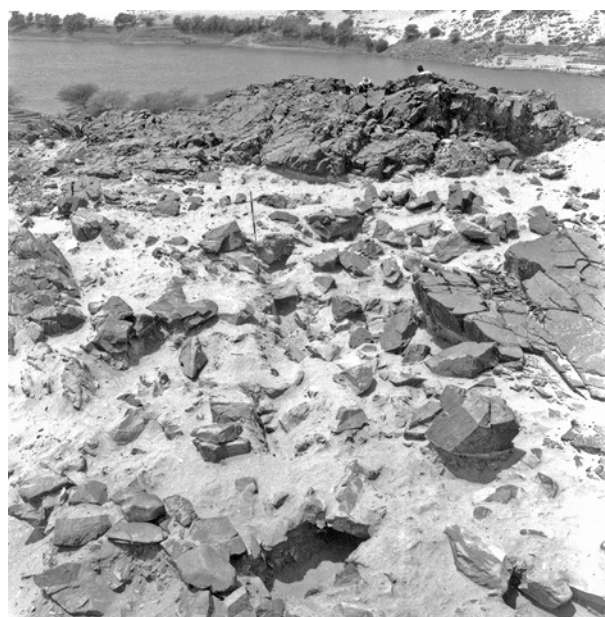


Figure 3.2.55 Excavated area [11-L-26], view towards west side of site.

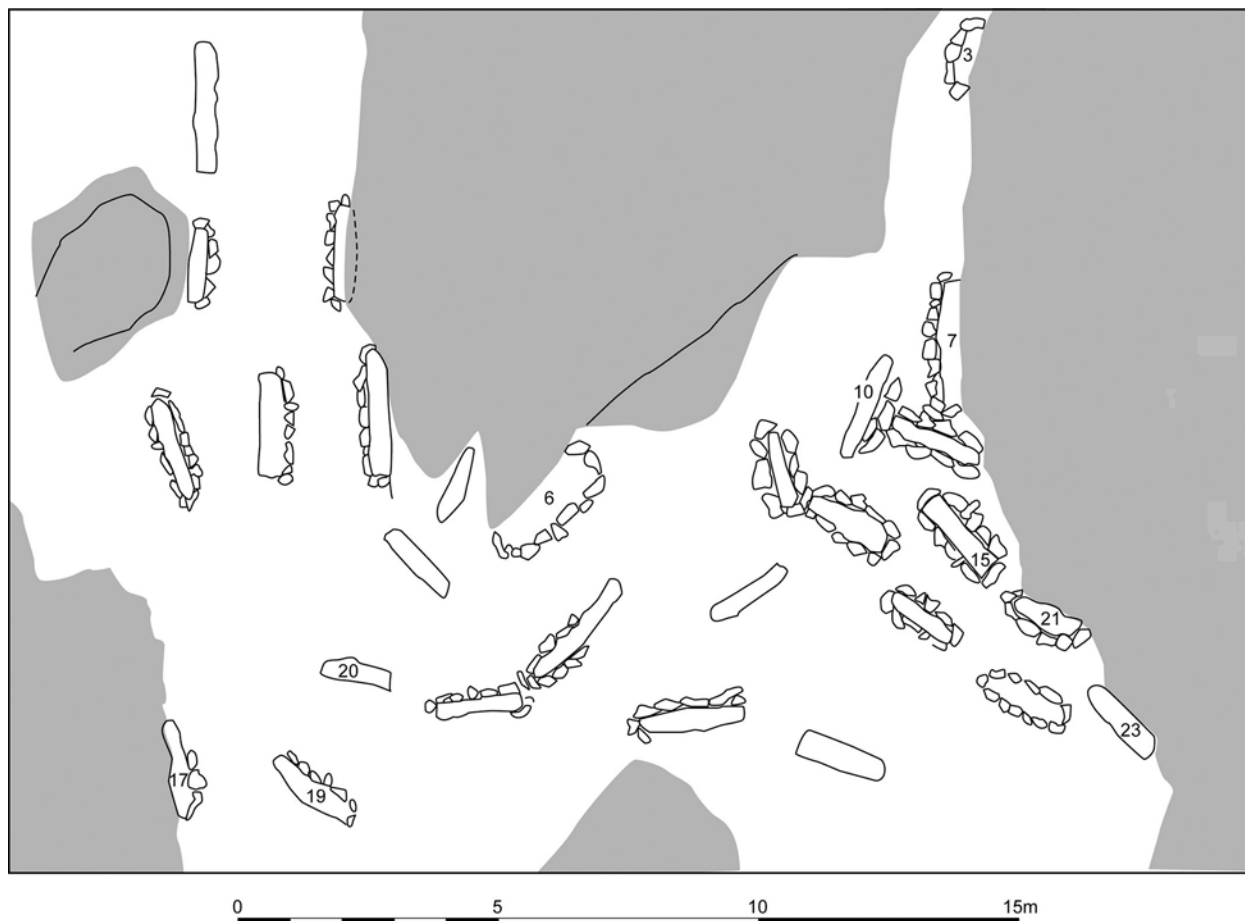


Figure 3.2.56 Plan of sampled area on south side of hilltop on Kajarti [11-L-26]. Main rock outcrops shaded.

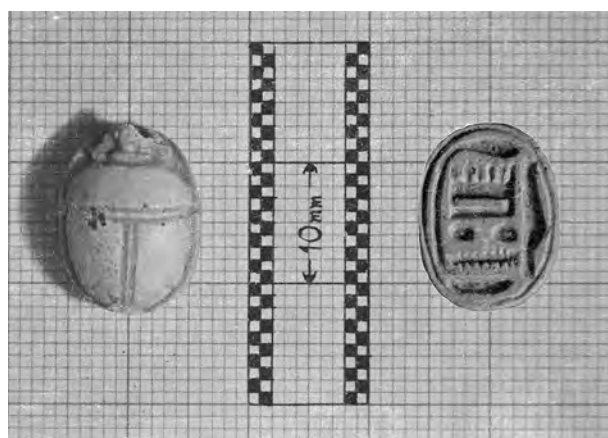


Figure 3.2.57 Scarab – surface find in sample excavation area (11-L-26/0/1).

Grave 11-L-26/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit cut into rather loose crumbly rock, 190cm x 40cm x 55cm deep. The west end is built up with stones. Fill of blown silt

mixed with some rocks and stone chips. Blocking of large flattish stones.



Figure 3.2.58 Grave 1, [11-L-26], from west.

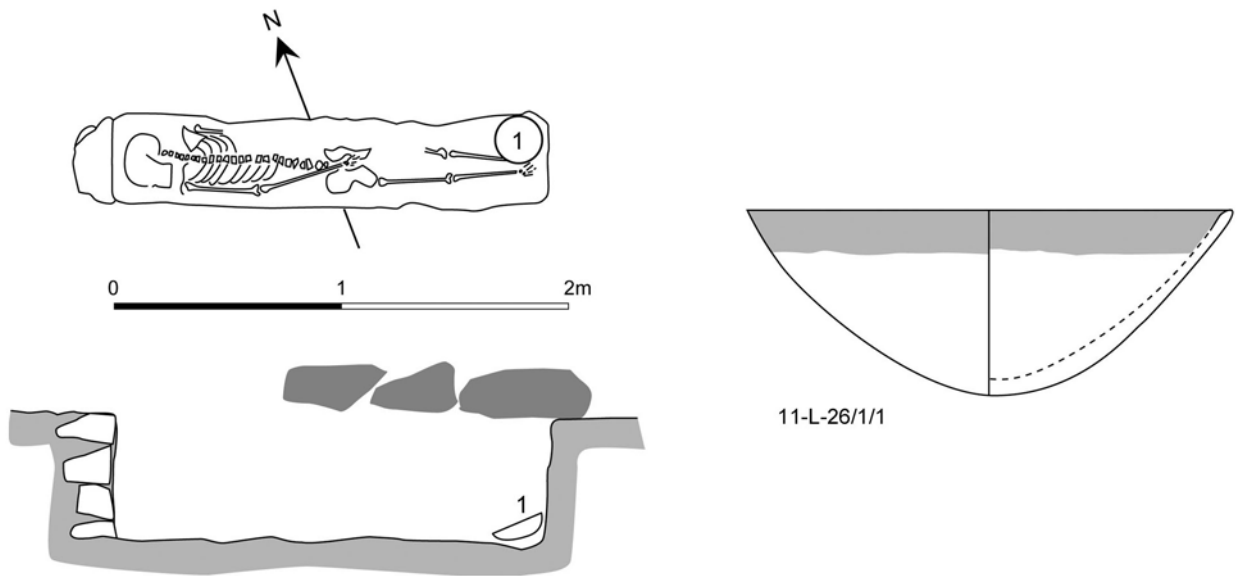


Figure 3.2.59 Grave 1. Plan and section. Bowl (11-L-26/1/1) (scale 1:4).

BURIAL: undisturbed (?) body of an adult (?) male, lying dorsally extended, head west facing south, right hand on pelvis. The left forearm, thigh, some ribs and part of pelvis have gone, possibly crushed by rock?

CONTENTS: a bowl at foot of body.

11-L-26/1/1. Bowl with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped interior and exterior rim. D:255mm; H:99mm. (VI: 235). Photo: C/084:24. SNM.16992. (fig.3.2.60)

Grave 11-L-26/2:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit crudely cut into rock, 190cm x 45cm x 60cm deep. The northern half of the east side is built up with stones to complete

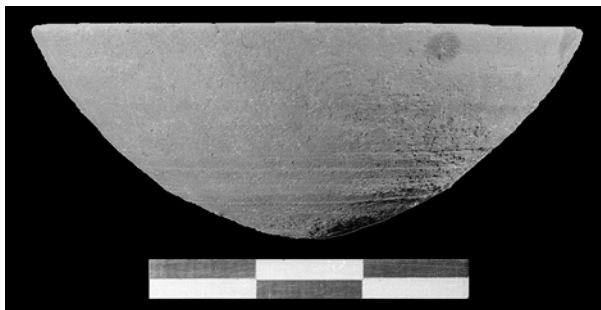


Figure 3.2.60 Bowl (11-L-26/1/1).

chamber. Fill of blown silt mixed with some rocks and stone chips. Blocking probably of stones, since removed.

BURIAL: undisturbed body of an adult, lying dorsally extended, head south facing west. The feet and hands were destroyed and the bones too brittle to permit proper cleaning.

CONTENTS: bowl, by head. Carnelian ring near



Figure 3.2.61 Grave 2, [11-L-26], from north.

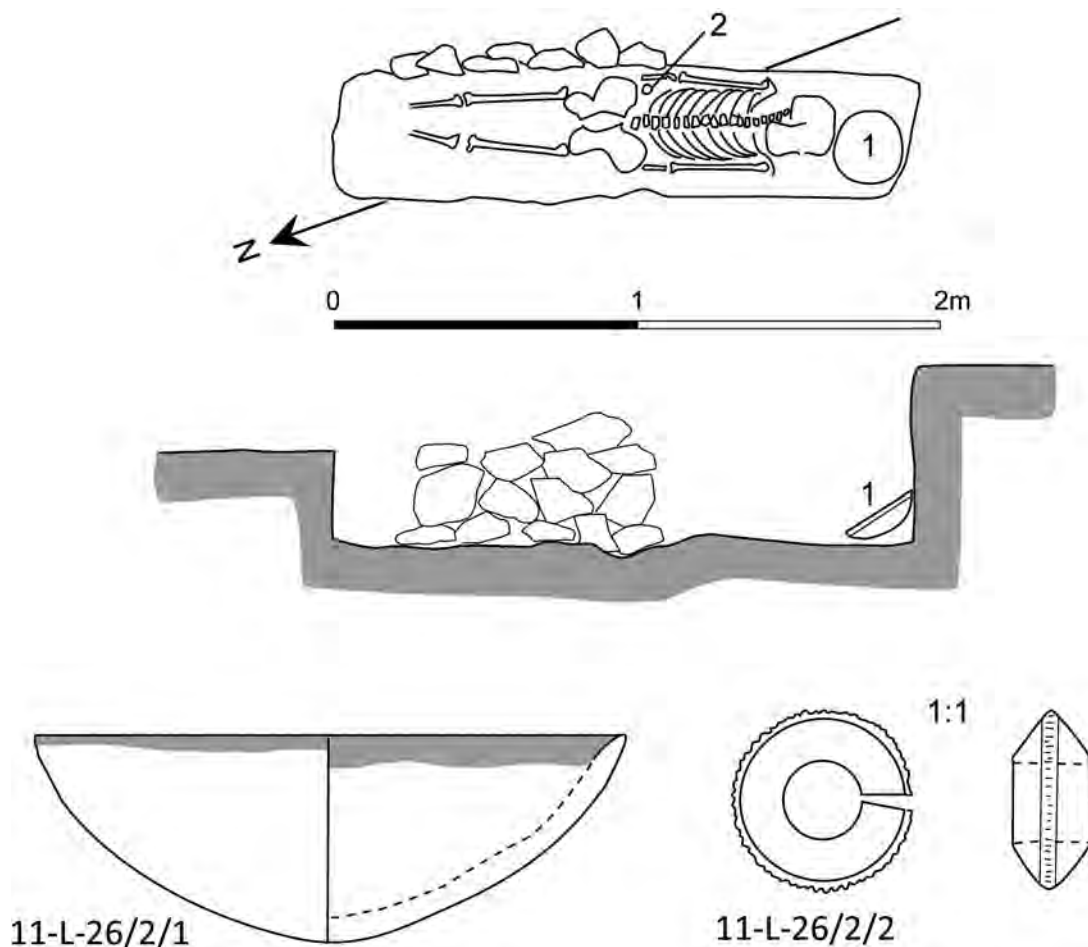


Figure 3.2.62 Grave 2, [11-L-26] plan and section. Bowl (scale 1:4) and carnelian ring (scale 1:1).

right forearm.

11-L-26/2/1. Bowl with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte res slipped interior and exterior rim. Broken in situ;

restored. D:231mm; H:81mm. (VI: 285). SNM.16993.

11-L-26/2/2. Carnelian hair ring. D:24mm; Th:10mm Photo C/082:9. SNM.16994. (fig.3.2.63)

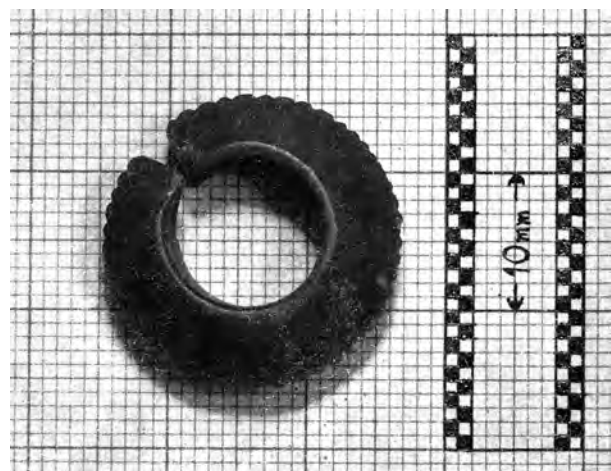


Figure 3.2.63 Carnelian ring (11-L-26/2/2).

Grave 11-L-26/3:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: subrectangular pit c.160cm x 30cm dug against rocky outcrop, c.50cm deep; with large rocks placed at the side. Fill of blown silt. No blocking stones.

BURIAL: disturbed body of an adult; dorsally extended, head south. Most bones missing apart from leg bones.

CONTENTS: small copper alloy cup in area of head. Beads and ring in fill (fig.3.2.65).

11-L-26/3/1. Small copper alloy 'cup' with flat base. Patinated but well-preserved. D:30mm, H:31.5mm. Photo: C/082:22-23. SNM.16995. (fig.3.2.66)

11-L-26/3/2. Beads (c.630). (a) Blue faience barrel, disc and tubular beads and groups of 5, 4 and 3

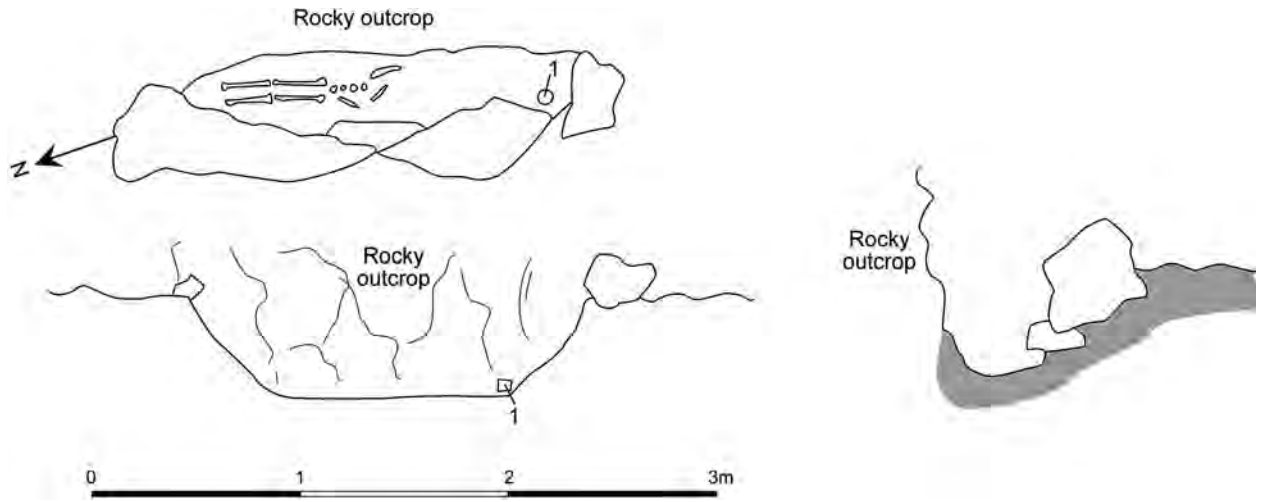


Figure 3.2.64 Grave 3, [11-L-26] plan and section.

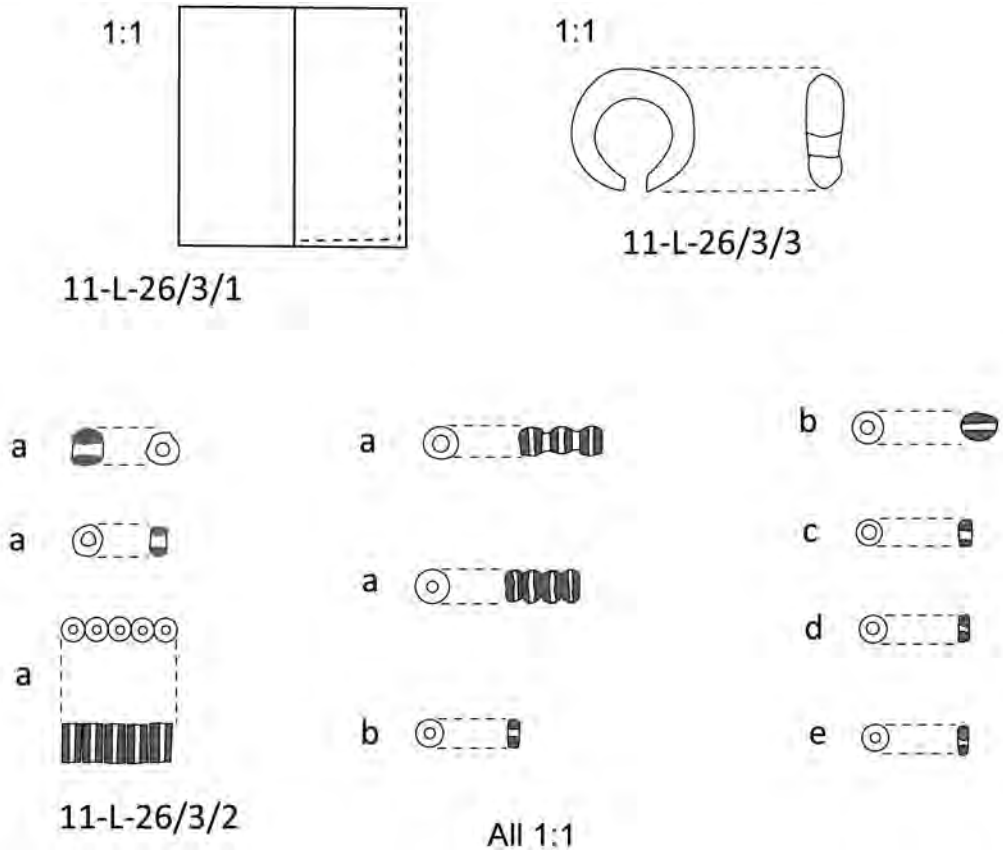


Figure 3.2.65 Grave finds (11-L-26/3): Copper alloy 'cup' (11-L-26/3/1), beads (11-L-26/3/2) and ring (11-L-26/3/3) (scale 1:1).

joined. (b) Opaque red glass disc and barrel beads. Opaque (c) white and (d) yellow glass disc beads. (e) Green faience disc beads. Photo: C/123:14-15. SNM.16996. (fig.3.2.67)

11-L-26/3/3. Ivory split ring. D:16mm, W:5mm. Photo: C/082:10. SNM.16997. (fig.3.2.68)

Grave 11-L-26/4:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a roughly constructed and cut

subrectangular pit, 162cm x c.55cm. Partly excavated into the bedrock with the upper part constructed with rough stone.

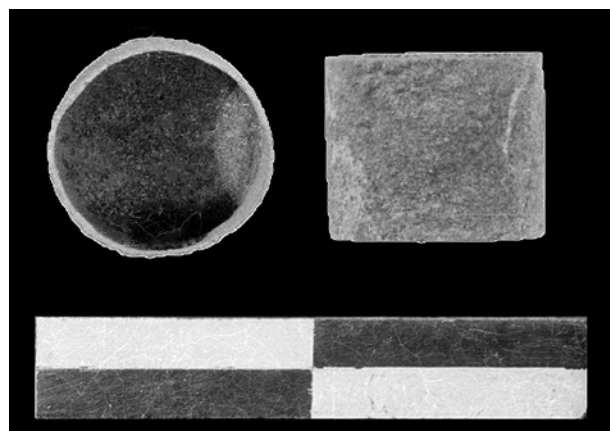


Figure 3.2.66 Copper alloy 'cup' (11-L-26/3/1).



Figure 3.2.69 Grave 4, [11-L-26].

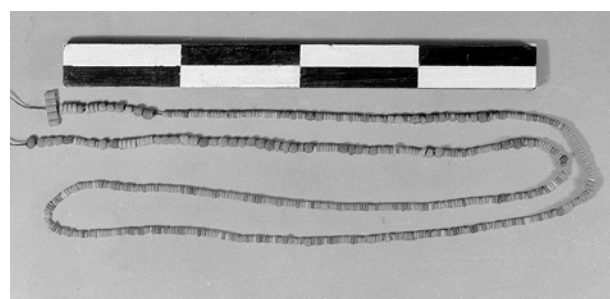


Figure 3.2.67 Faience and glass beads (11-L-26/3/2).

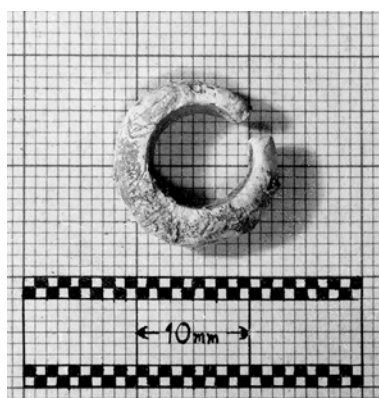


Figure 3.2.68 Ivory ring (11-L-26/3/3).

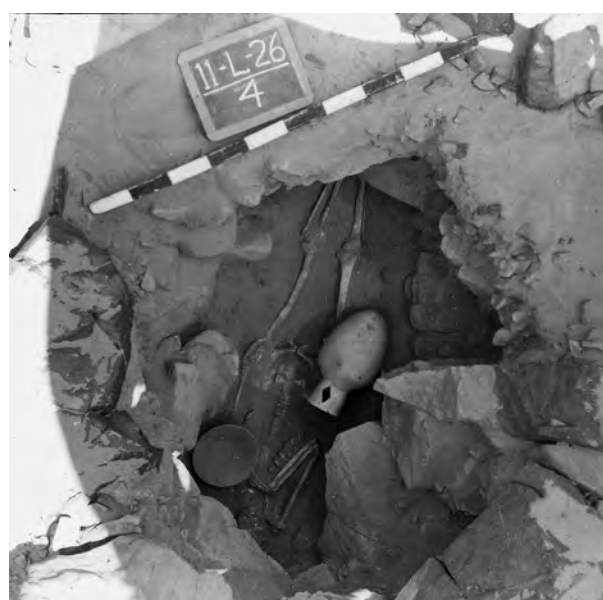


Figure 3.2.70 Grave 4, [11-L-26].

BURIAL: two burials. Upper burial at depth of c.35cm, Undisturbed body of an adult male, dorsally extended, head south facing east. Right hand on pelvis, left arm by side. Lower burial represented by piled up bones of an adult, beneath undisturbed burial.

CONTENTS: upper burial associated with handled amphora by right leg and bowl by left upper arm.

Incomplete broken bowl by right leg. Sherds of upper part of two further vessels in fill, perhaps from original burial; both incomplete. Not registered. (fig.3.2.72)

11-L-26/4/1. Ovoid amphora with funnel neck and folded rim. Wheelmade, grey-pink ware (marl clay). Matte and polished light green slip on outside surface

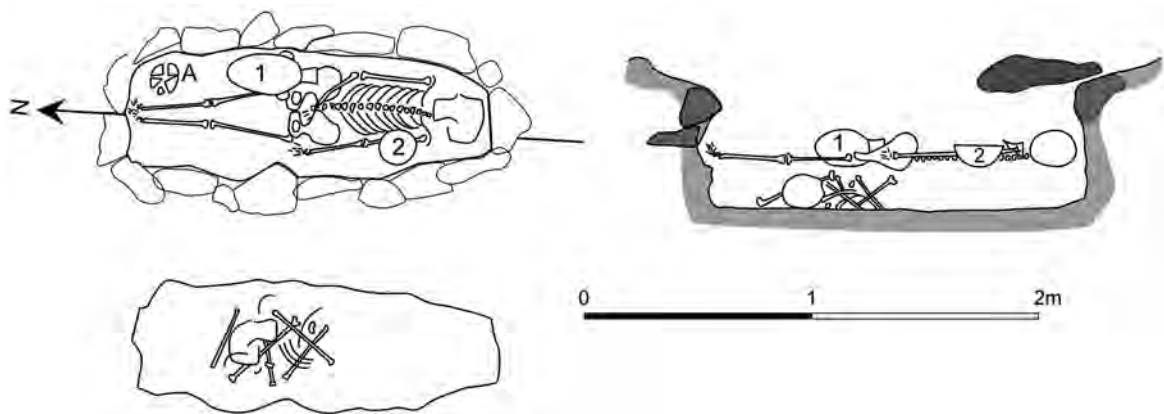


Figure 3.2.71 Grave 4, [11-L-26] plan and section, intact upper burial and remains of earlier burial at chamber base.

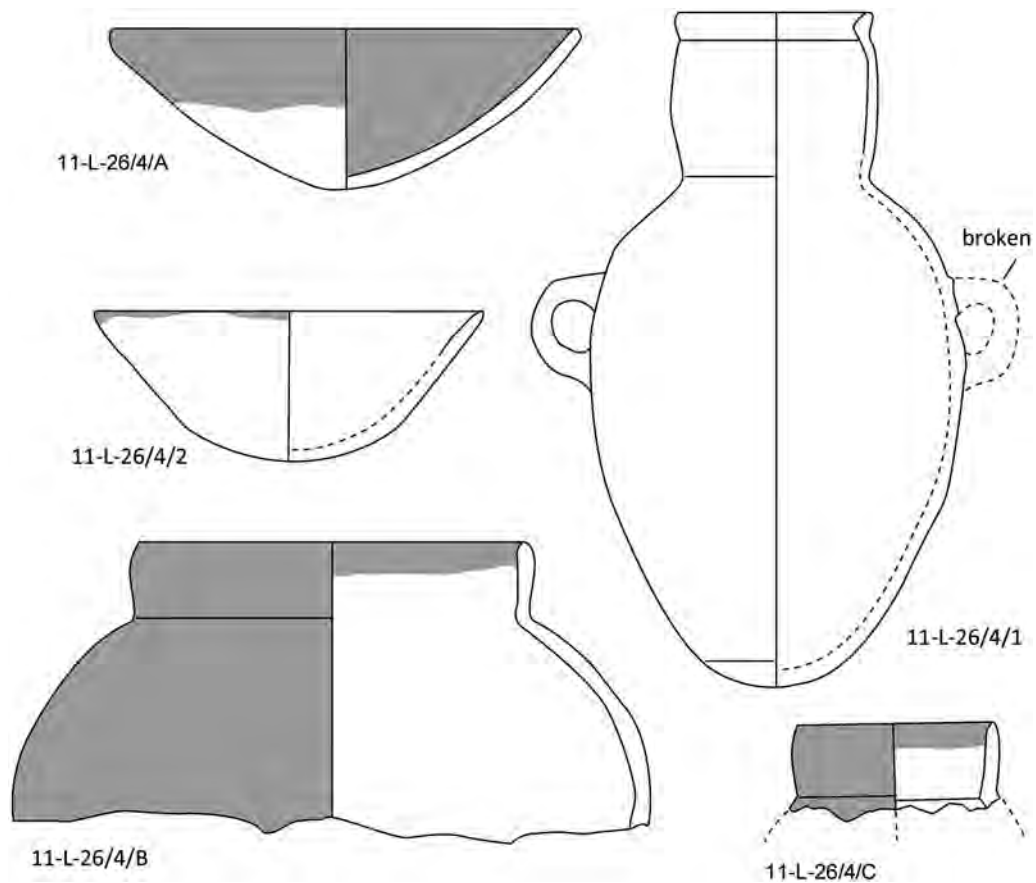


Figure 3.2.72 Pottery from Grave 4 (scale 1:4).



Figure 3.2.73 Amphora (11-L-26/4/1). Handle broken.



Figure 3.2.74 Bowl (11-L-26/4/2).



Figure 3.2.75 Bowl (11-L-26/4/A), part restored.

and inside neck. One handle missing, broken before burial and neck chipped and broken. D:198mm; H:357mm. Photo C/084:31. SNM.16998. (fig.3.2.73)

11-L-26/4/2. Bowl with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red on exterior rim. Rim chipped; surface loose. D:204mm; H:79.5mm. (VI:258). Photo: C/082:21. SNM.16999. (fig.3.2.74)

11-L-26/4/A. Bowl with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped interior surface and exterior rim. Incomplete. D:249mm; H:87mm. (VI:286). Photo: C/082:20. SNM.17000. (fig.3.2.75)

11-L-26/4/B. Globular necked jar with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on exterior surface and inside rim. Rim D:204mm. Not registered.

11-L-26/4/C. Necked jar with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on exterior surface and inside rim. Rim D:105mm. Not registered.

Grave 11-L-26/5:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit, c.185cm x c.50cm, roughly cut into crumbling rock to a depth of 60cm. Fill mainly blown silt mixed with a few

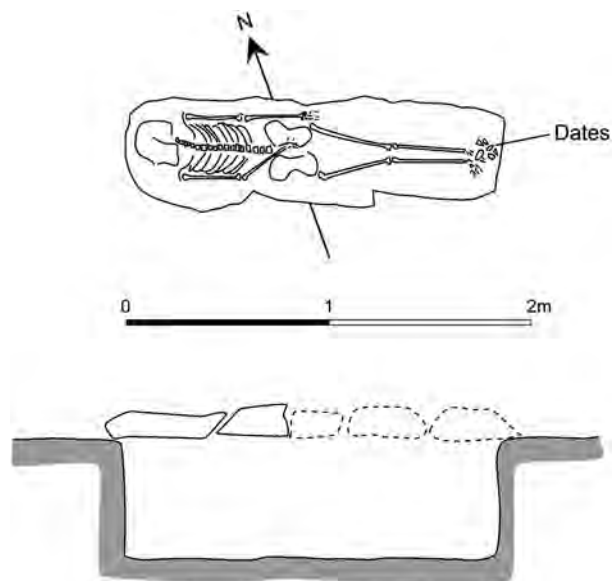


Figure 3.2.76 Grave 5, [11-L-26], plan and section.

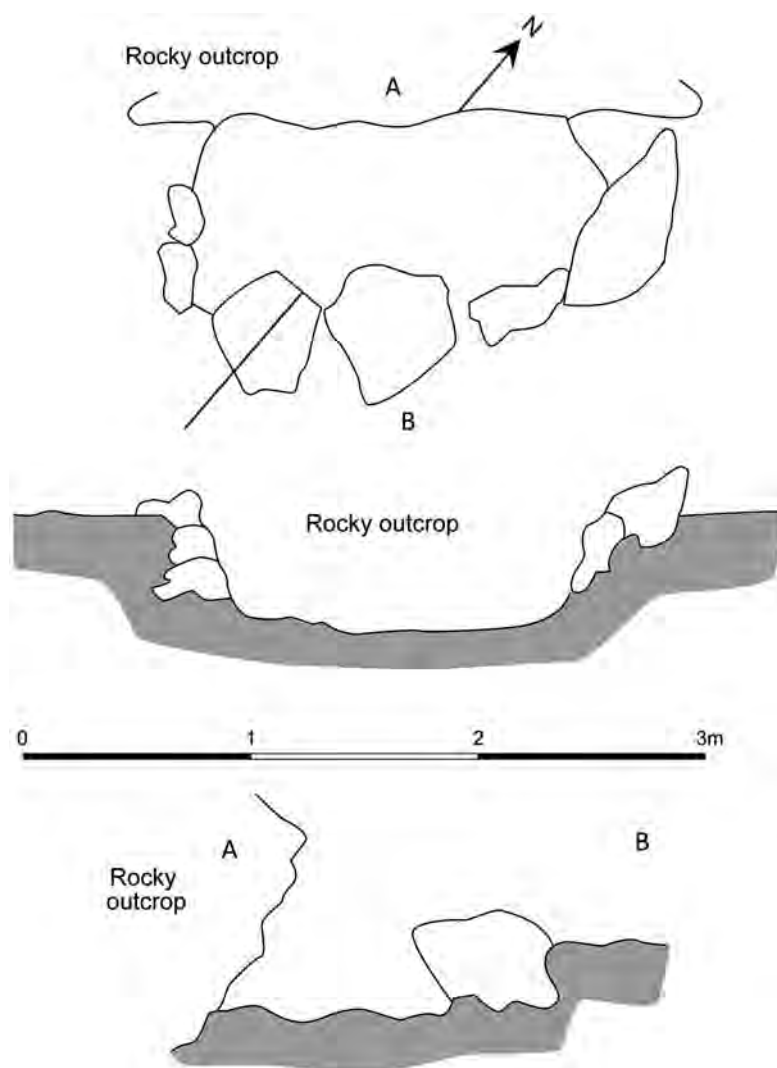


Figure 3.2.77 Grave 6, [11-L-26] plan and section.

chips of rock. Blocking, partially preserved, of large flattish stones.

BURIAL: undisturbed body of an adult, dorsally extended, head west facing south. Right hand on pelvis, left arm by side. Bones too brittle to adequately clean to allow further study.

CONTENTS: cluster of dates deposited at feet (8 dates and many 'seeds').

Grave 11-L-26/6:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit, 180cm x 95cm, dug next to a rocky outcrop, with large rocks placed at the side. Dug to a depth of 50cm. Fill of blown silt and stones. No blocking.

BURIAL: few scattered bones of an adult in fill.

CONTENTS: sherds in fill, some Pharaonic and some intrusive (fig.3.2.78).

11-L-26/6/A. Beer bottle, with flat base. Wheelmade, red brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Hole in base. Base D:51mm. Not registered.

11-L-26/6/B. Necked beer bottle. Wheelmade, red brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Rim D:111mm. Not registered.

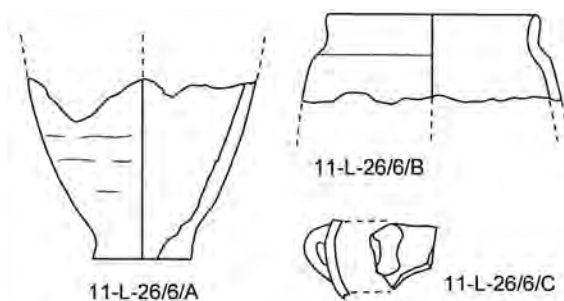


Figure 3.2.78 Vessel fragments from Grave 6, [11-L-26] (scale 1:4).

11-L-26/6/C. Amphora (?) handle. 'Ballas ware' (Marl B). Not registered.

Further sherds of soft brown ware bowls with red wash. Sherds of two heavy coarse handmade vessels, a qadus knob and a sherd of a large vessel, of a hard pink ware with polished red-slipped exterior (probably medieval)

Grave 11-L-26/7:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit, 190cm x 60cm, dug by the side of a rocky outcrop, with large rocks placed around the edge. Dug to a depth of 55cm. Fill of blown silt and stones. No evidence of blocking.

BURIAL: double burial, one superimposed on the other. Little of upper burial (1) survived.

(1) few fragments of skull survive. Thought likely to be extended burial, with bowl at feet and perhaps carnelian ring associated with it.



Figure 3.2.79 Grave 7, [11-L-26]. Intact lower burial and bowl (11-L-26/7/1) from upper burial over head.

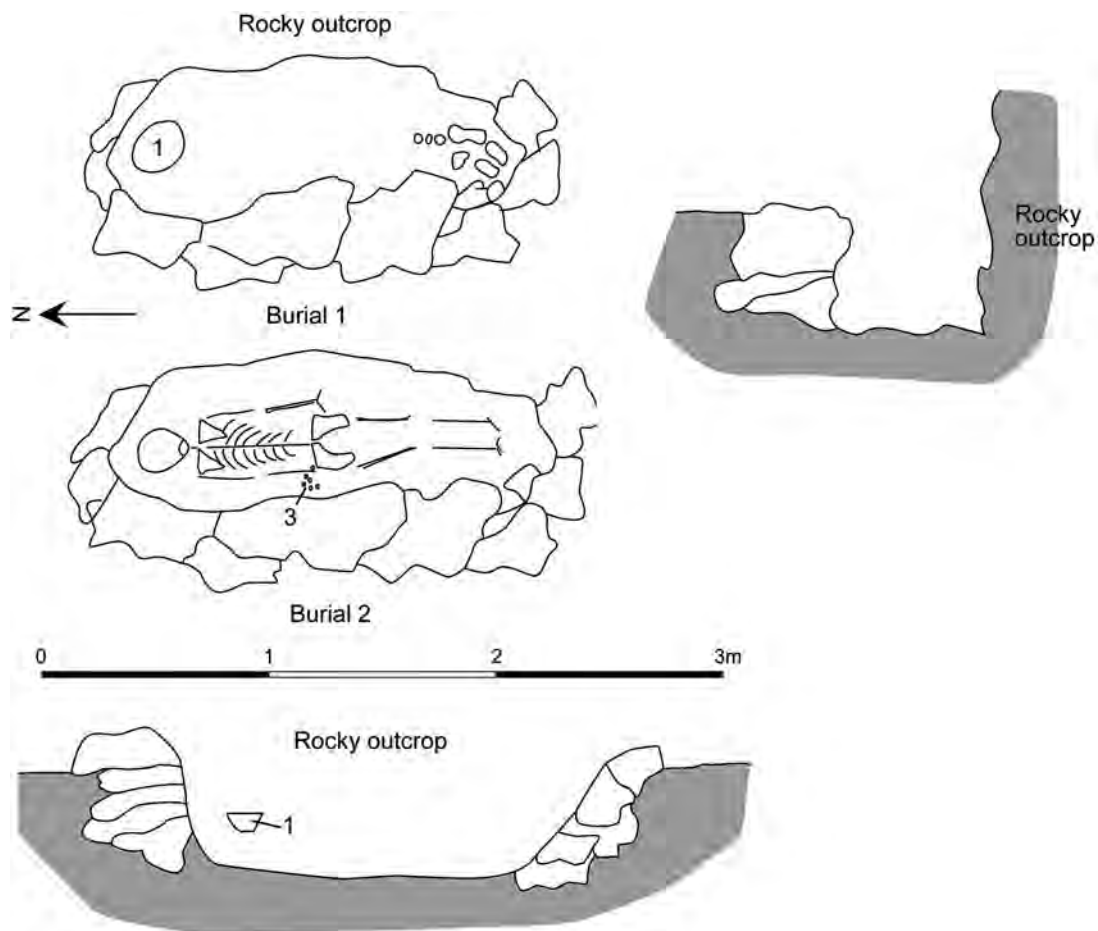


Figure 3.2.80 Grave 7, [11-L-26] plan and section.

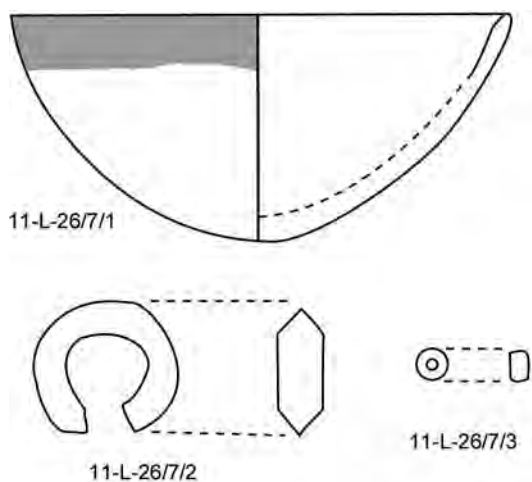


Figure 3.2.81 Bowl (1:4) and earring and bead (scale 1:1) from Grave 7.



Figure 3.2.82 Bowl (11-L-26/7/1).

CONTENTS:

11-L-26/7/1. Bowl with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade, red brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Matte red slip on exterior rim. D:198mm; H:90mm. (VI:220). Photo: C/084:19. SNM.17001. (fig.3.2.82)

11-L-26/7/2. Carnelian ring, broken in three pieces but almost complete. Polished. D:19mm; Th: 6mm. Photo: C/082:11. SNM.17002. (fig.3.2.84)

(2) undisturbed body of an adult male, lying extended on front, head north. Both hands at side. Bead bracelet on left wrist. Charcoal fragments under head.

CONTENTS:

11-L-26/7/3. Bracelet. Single strand of c.100 blue faience disc beads. Photo C/082:12. SNM.17003. (fig.3.2.83)

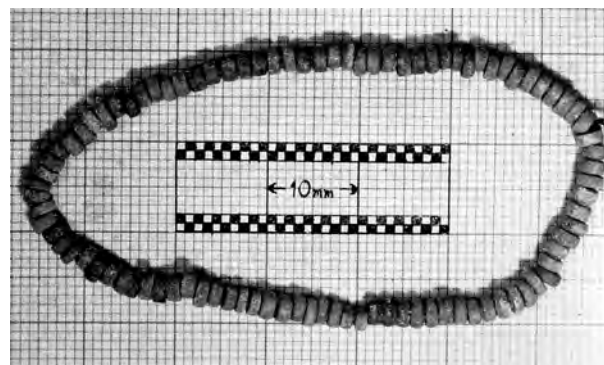


Figure 3.2.83 Blue faience disc bead bracelet (11-L-26/7/3), restrung.

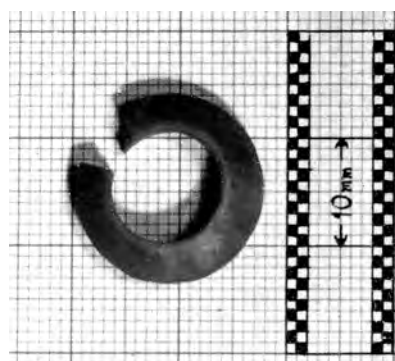


Figure 3.2.84 Carnelian ring (11-L-26/7/2).

Grave 11-L-26/8:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit, 195cm x 32–42cm wide, cut in to bedrock, 38cm deep. The grave follows the natural fracture of the rock. Fill of blown silt mixed with a few rocks and stone chips. Blocking [displaced] of flattish stones.

BURIAL: a few bones of an adult.

CONTENTS: none.

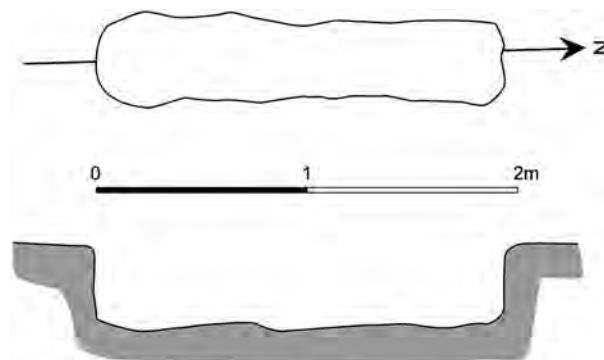


Figure 3.2.85 Grave 8, [11-L-26] plan and section.

Grave 11-L-26/9:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit, 200cm x 30cm wide, cut into crumbly bedrock, 55cm deep. Fill of blown silt mixed with a few rocks and stone chips. Blocking of flattish stones.

BURIAL: few scattered bones of an adult in fill.

CONTENTS: a few (medieval or later?) sherds and a few pieces of painted and inscribed plaster in fill

(fig.3.2.86). Fragments as thick as 22m x 57mm, and as thin as 1–2mm.

11-L-26/9/A. Bowl, incomplete. Handmade, red polished ware (Ware H5?). D:222mm. (fig.3.2.87)

Intrusive medieval sherds include ‘Late Christian’ decorated fineware (Adams Style N.VII?), and qadus.

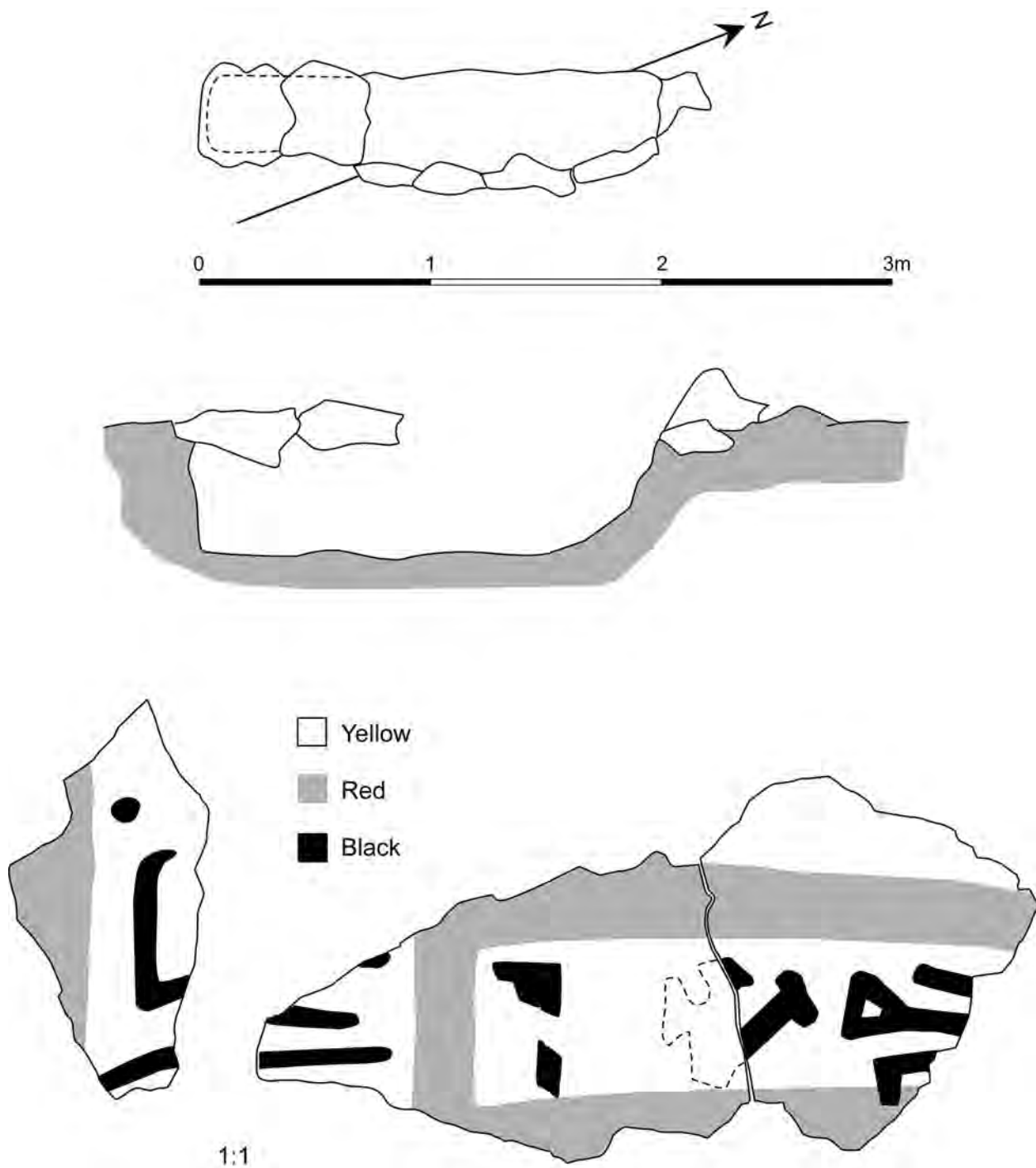


Figure 3.2.86 Grave 9, [11-L-26] plan and section. Painted plaster fragments from cartonnage.

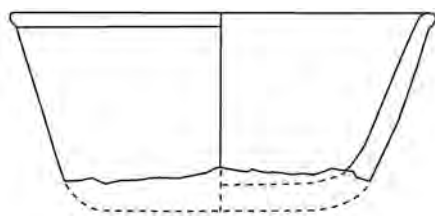


Figure 3.2.87 Handmade bowl (11-L-26/9/A), incomplete (intrusive).

Grave 11-L-26/10:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit, 160cm x 50cm, cut in to crumbly rock to a depth of 40cm. Fill of blown silt and stone chips. Elements of stone blocking at north end.

BURIAL: a few scattered bones of an adult in fill. Head probably at south end of pit.

CONTENTS: sherds of several vessels in fill (Kerma, Pharaonic and medieval). (fig.3.2.88)

11-L-26/10/A. Beaker, incomplete (Kerma). D:153 mm. Not registered.

11-L-26/10/B. Bowl, incomplete. Fragment of crude brown/black/brown handmade vessel, with smooth interior. D:165mm. H:60mm. Not registered.

11-L-26/10/C. Bowl with direct rim, probably round base. Wheelmade, red brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. D:186cm. Not registered.

Further 10 rim sherds of soft brown ware bowls, some with red slip and many body sherds of soft brown ware vessels; also four sherds of Kerma black-topped vessels (possibly three vessels?) and body sherds of a heavy wheelmade red ware, large vessel with ribbing (medieval?).

Grave 11-L-26/11:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: No evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit, 140cm x 40cm, partly cut into rock. The upper part of the grave is built up with rocks, plastered with mud. The whole was 53cm deep. Fill of blown silt and a few stone chips. No blocking remains.

BURIAL: none.

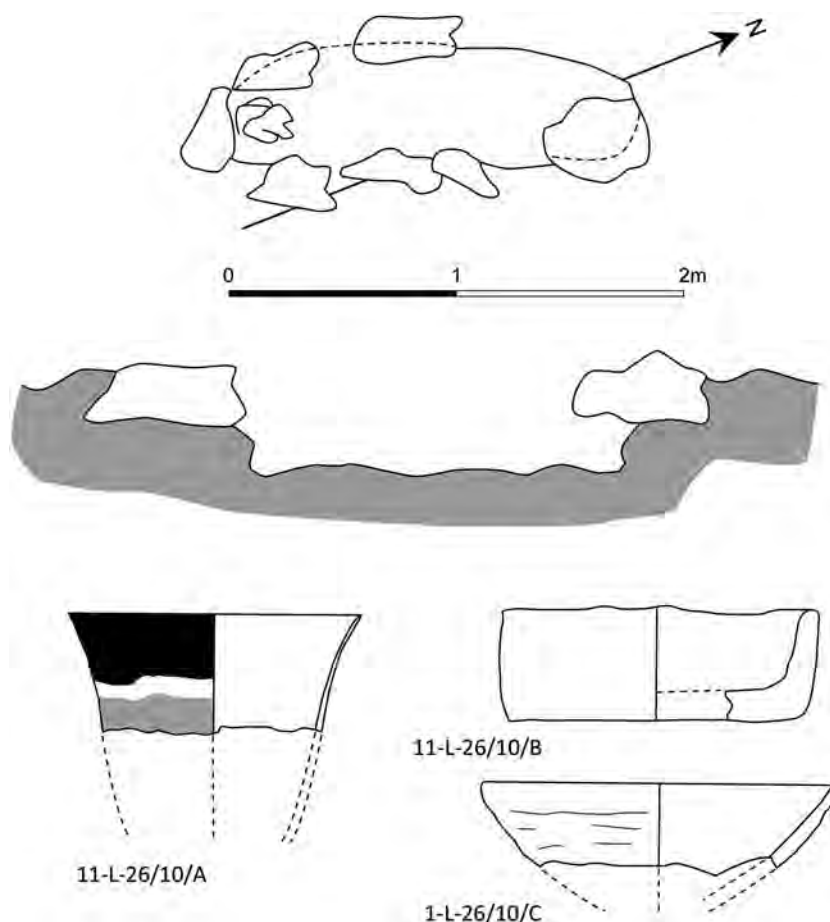


Figure 3.2.88 Grave 10, [11-L-26] plan and section. Pot fragments from fill (scale 1:4).

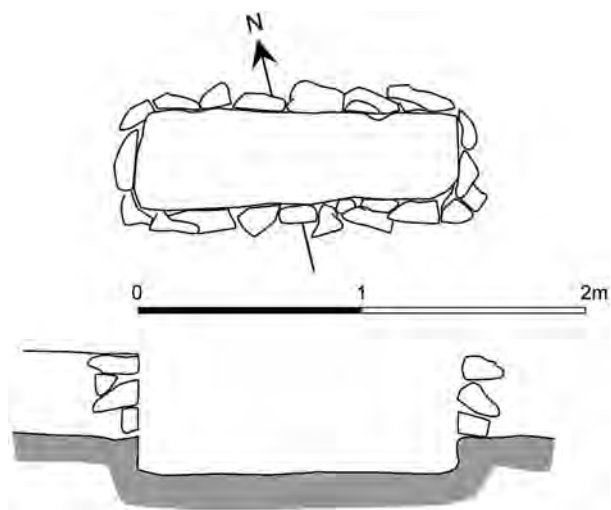


Figure 3.2.89 Grave 11, [11-L-26] plan and section.

CONTENTS: c.20 sherds of several vessels in fill, most probably medieval. One fragment of possible 'Ballas ware' (?) jar, six sherds wheelmade pink (Aswani?) ribbed vessel with dark red slipped exterior; six fragments coarse handmade soft brown/black vessel; two sherds handmade heavy

brown vessel, interior black, exterior red slip; 3 sherds heavy ribbed wheelmade vessel. None drawn or registered.

Grave 11-L-26/12:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit, 140cm x 50cm, cut into bedrock to a depth of 35cm. The sides of the grave simply follow the fracture of the rock. Fill of blown silt and a few stone chips. The blocking, part of which survived, was flattish stones plastered over with mud.

BURIAL: a few scattered bones of an adult.

CONTENTS: sherds of a bowl and three carnelian rings in fill.

11-L-26/12/1. Three carnelian rings with milled edges. (1) D:21.5mm; Th:10.5mm; (2) D:21.5mm; Th:10.5mm; (3) D:21mm; Th:9.5mm. Photo: C/082:13. SNM.17004. (fig.3.2.92)

11-L-26/12/A. Bowl with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade, red brown ware (Nile silt?). Incomplete; part restored from sherds. D:228; H:96mm. (VI: 238). Photo: C/081:13. SNM.17005. (fig.3.2.91)

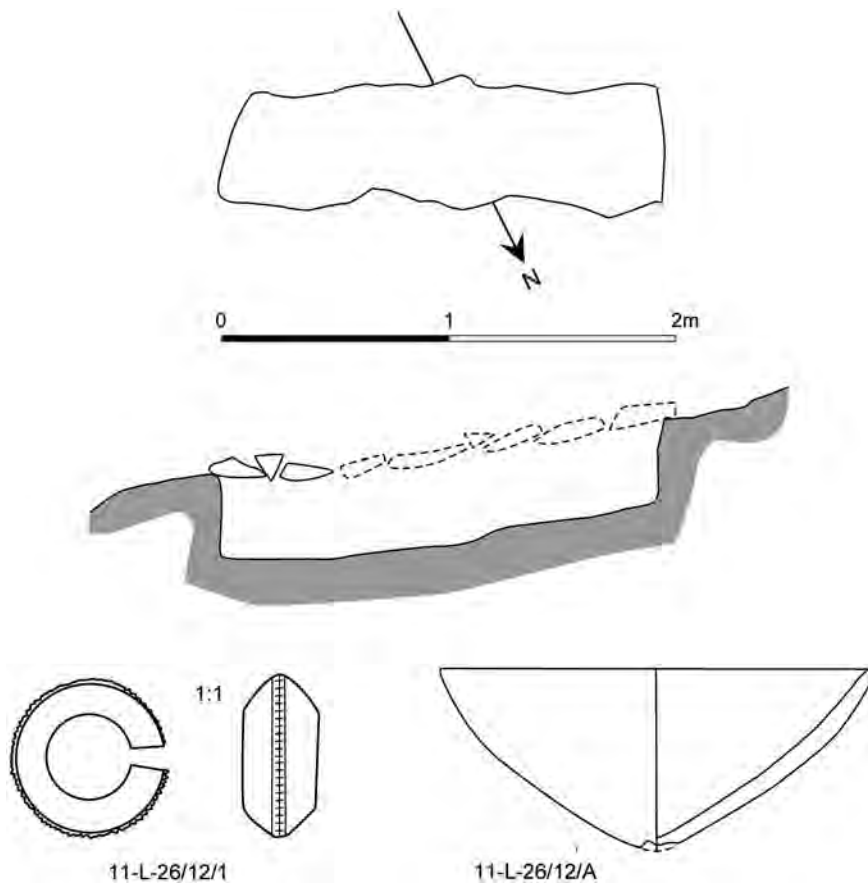


Figure 3.2.90 Grave 12, [11-L-26] plan and section. Carnelian ring (11-L-26/12/1) (1:1) and reconstructed bowl (11-L-26/12/A) (scale 1:4).



Figure 3.2.91 Bowl (11-L-26/12/A).



Figure 3.2.92 Carnelian rings (11-L-26/12/1).

Grave 11-L-26/13:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit, partly cut into bedrock and partly built up with stones, 175cm x 48cm x 38cm deep. Fill of blown silt and the blocking, part of which survived, was rough stones. Beneath build up of c.50cm of blown silt and stones.

BURIAL: disturbed body of an adult, dorsally extended, head east facing south. Legs pulled up, the rest of the body probably intact. Bones extremely brittle.

CONTENTS: bowl on north side of legs, probably in situ.

11-L-26/13/1. Bowl, with direct rim and rounded base. Wheelmade, red brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped interior rim. D:204mm; H:82.5mm. (VI: 247). Photo: C/081:10. SNM.17006. (fig.3.2.94)

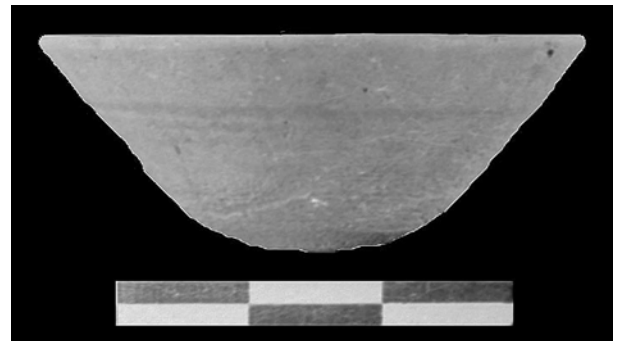


Figure 3.2.94 Bowl (11-L-26/13/1).

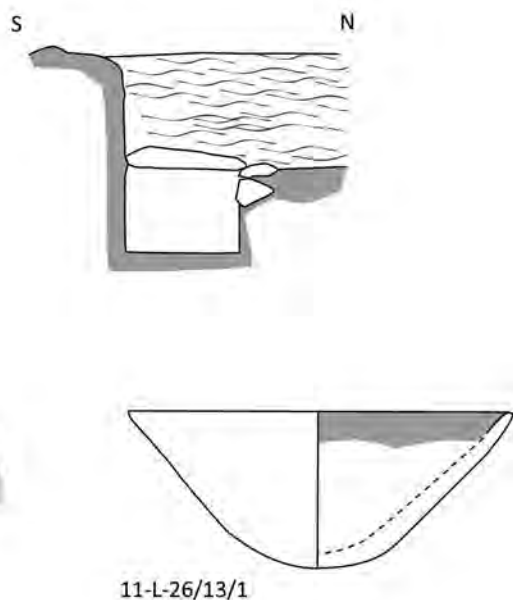
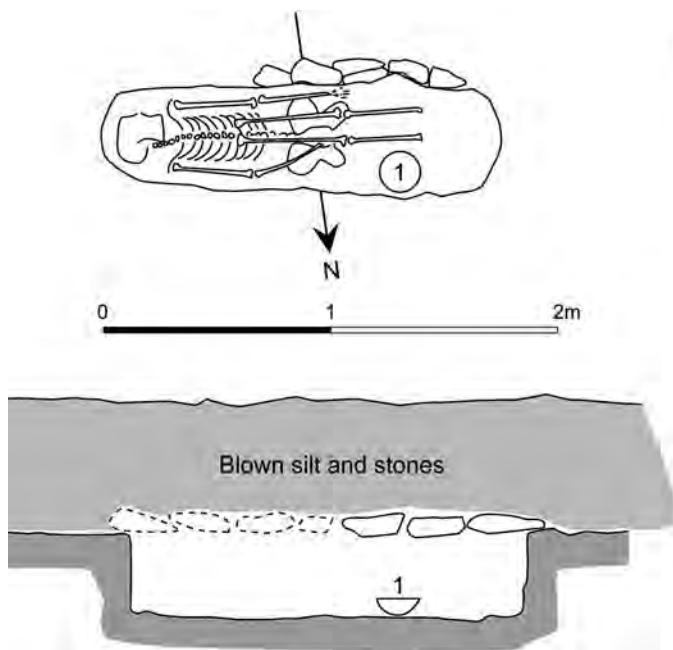


Figure 3.2.93 Grave 13, [11-L-26] plan and section; Bowl (11-L-26/13/1) (scale 1:4).

Grave 11-L-26/14:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: this grave appears to be mainly a natural cleft in the rocks, aligned near north-south. Pit enlarged at its east side, c.215cm x 40cm (base) and 80cm wide at surface, 65cm deep at north end. Fill of blown silt and a few stone chips. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: undisturbed body of an adult male dorsally extended, head north, left arm by side, right hand on pelvis.

CONTENTS: none.



Figure 3.2.95 Grave 14, [11-L-26].

Grave 11-L-26/15:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit cut in to crumbly rock, 190cm x 60cm x 45cm deep. Large rocks placed around edges. Fill of blown silt and a stone chips. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: double burial; upper burial largely removed/eroded.

(1) little of upper burial survives apart from leg bones, indicating probably dorsally extended, head to south.

(2) undisturbed body of an adult female, dorsally extended, head north, facing west. Both hands resting on pelvis.

CONTENTS: a few sherds and scattered bones in upper fill, probably relating to upper burial (1). A few fragments of wood beside and below burial (2), probably from a coffin, and a single sherd.

Sherds include Pharaonic and intrusive medieval material: sherds (2) of a soft brown ware jar (see 11-L-26/6/A) and soft brown ware bowl. Medieval (or later) sherds include rim and body sherds of a qadus, sherds (2) from a coarse handmade red/brown ware vessel, and a sherd of a handmade red polished bowl. None drawn or registered.

Grave 11-L-26/16:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a cleft in the rocks, 185cm x 32cm, and 22cm deep below the blocking stones. Fill of blown

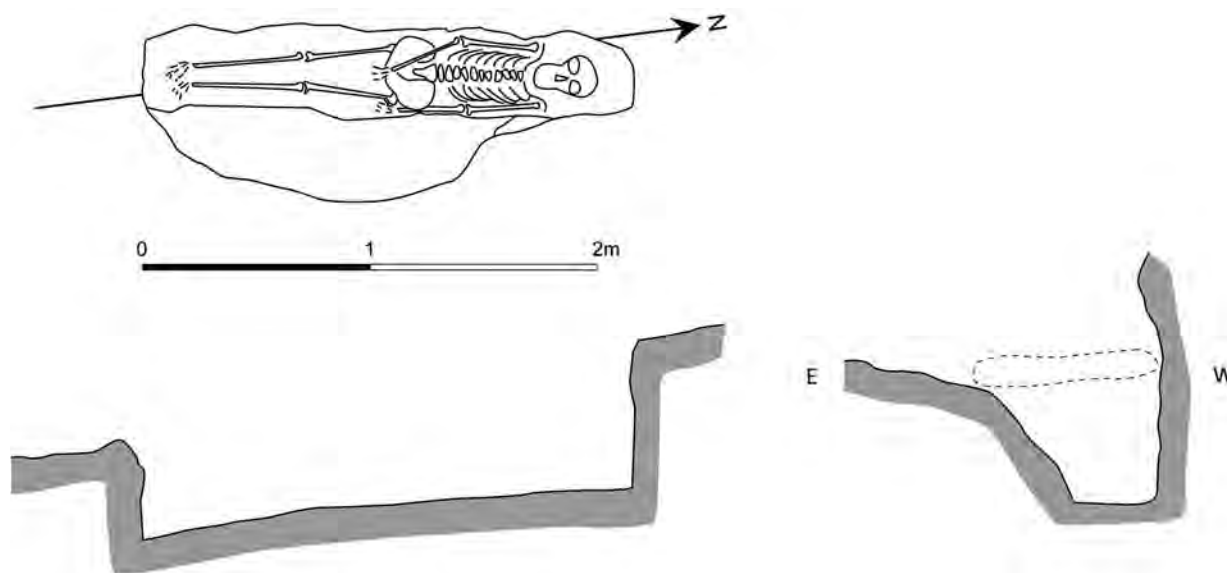


Figure 3.2.96 Grave 14, [11-L-26] plan and section.

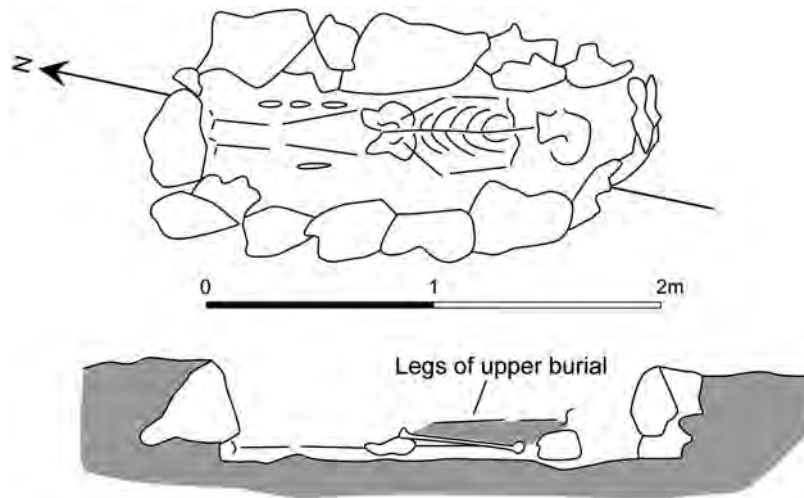


Figure 3.2.97 Grave 15, [11-L-26] plan and section.

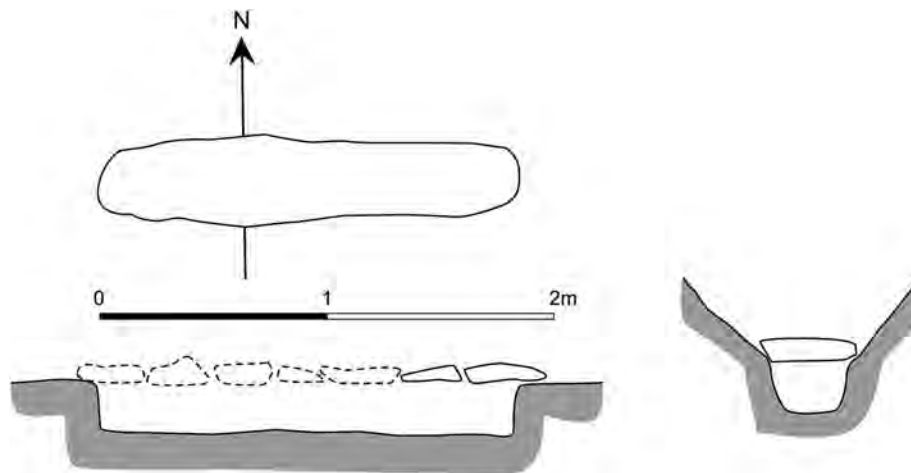


Figure 3.2.98 Grave 16, [11-L-26] plan and section.

silt and a few stone chips. Blocking originally stone slabs.

BURIAL: a few scattered bones only.

CONTENTS: none.

Grave 11-L-26/17:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence. [but originally visible as upstanding stone structure?]

GRAVE: a shallow chamber, aligned near north-south, built against the side of rock outcrop with stones, 183cm x 32cm and 30cm deep. Fill of blown silt and a few stone chips. No blocking stones remain.

BURIAL: a few scattered bones only.

CONTENTS: none.

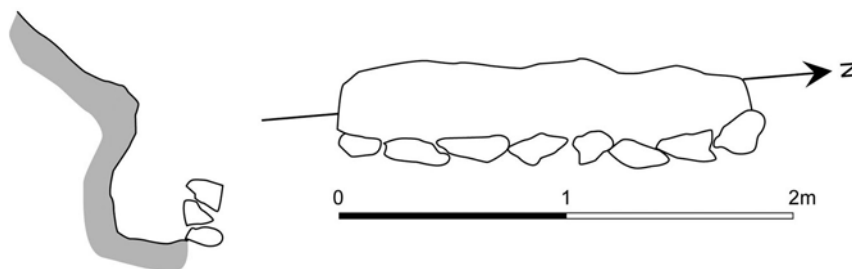


Figure 3.2.99 Grave 17, [11-L-26] plan and section.

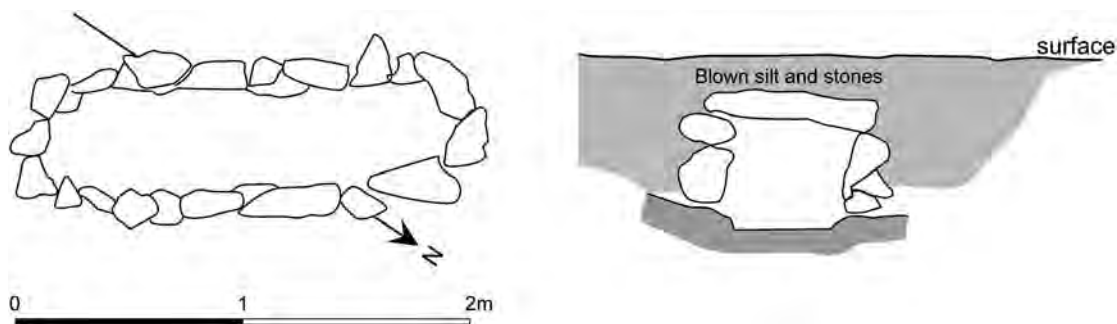


Figure 3.2.100 Grave 19, [11-L-26], plan and section.

Grave 11-L-26/19:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence. [but originally visible as upstanding stone structure?]
GRAVE: a chamber built onto the bedrock with largish stones, 175cm x 43cm and 40–50cm deep beneath blocking. Blocking of boulder stones. Fill of blown silt and a few stone chips; modern accumulations covering blocking slabs.
BURIAL: a few long bones only.
CONTENTS: none.

Grave 11-L-26/20:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence (although grave covering would probably have been visible as an upstanding stone structure?).
GRAVE: a rectangular pit aligned near east-west, 140cm x 45cm, partly cut in to bedrock and partly built up with stones to a depth of 75cm. Fill of blown silt and a few stone chips. Blocking of boulder stones.
BURIAL: none. Small size of chamber suggests child burial?
CONTENTS: none.

Grave 11-L-26/21:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.
GRAVE: a rectangular pit, excavated at the side of a rocky outcrop, with large rocks placed around the side, 180cm x 50cm, excavated to a depth of 70cm. Fill of blown silt. Evidence for blocking with large flattish rocks at north end.
BURIAL: undisturbed body of an adult male, dorsally extended, head north. Both hands lying on pelvis.
CONTENTS: several sherds (Pharaonic and medieval) in fill (fig.3.2.102).

11-L-26/21/A. Tall (?) incense burner with direct rim. Wheelmade, red brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on interior and exterior rim. Unusual form. D:150mm.

11-L-26/21/B. Bowl, incomplete. Wheelmade hard redbrown ware with semi-polished exterior slip. D: 132mm. [medieval?]

11-L-26/21/C. Bowl, incomplete. Wheelmade red ware, 'straw' temper in red-black-red fracture. D: 210mm. [medieval?]. Sherds of another similar, but smaller vessel also recovered.

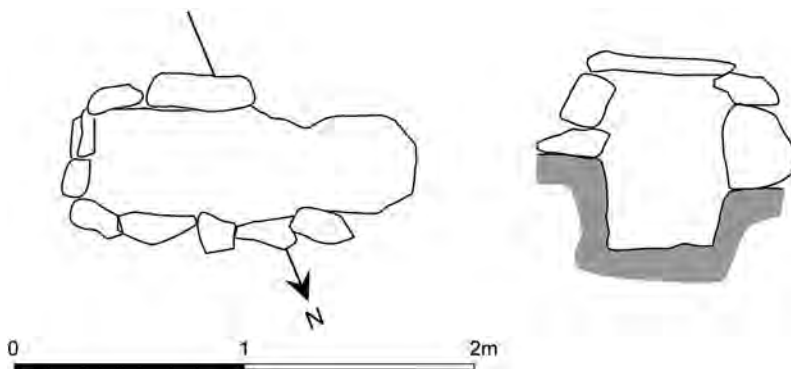


Figure 3.2.101 Grave 20 [11-L-26], plan and section.

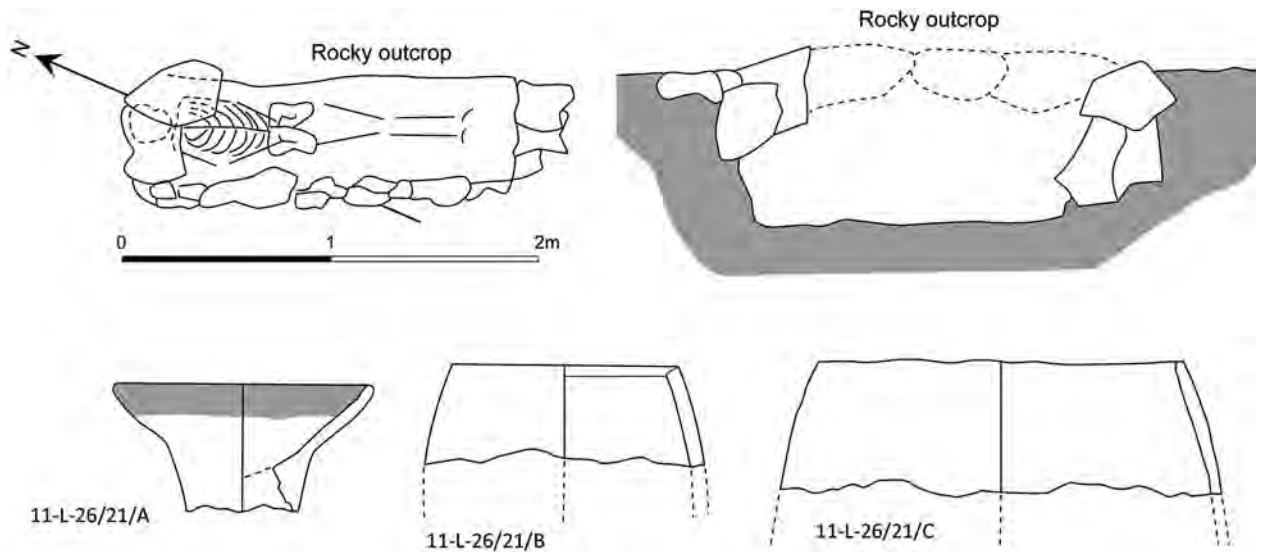


Figure 3.2.102 Grave 21, [11-L-26] plan and section, and pottery.

Other sherd material included rim and body sherds of soft brown ware bowl(s) with red-slipped rim, several body sherds of thin 'Ballas ware', two fragments of coarse heavy handmade vessels. Not drawn or registered.

Grave 11-L-26/22:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.
GRAVE: a rectangular pit, 250cm x 40cm; cut in to crumbly rock to a depth of 40cm. Large rocks have been placed around the edges. Fill of blown silt, small stones and chips. Evidence for blocking with large flat rock at east end.
BURIAL: a few scattered bones in fill.
CONTENTS: blue faience scarab and several sherds (Pharaonic and one possible medieval) in fill.

11-L-26/22/1. Scarab, blue faience. L:19mm; W:10mm. Photo: C/082:14-15. SNM.17007. (fig.3.2.104)

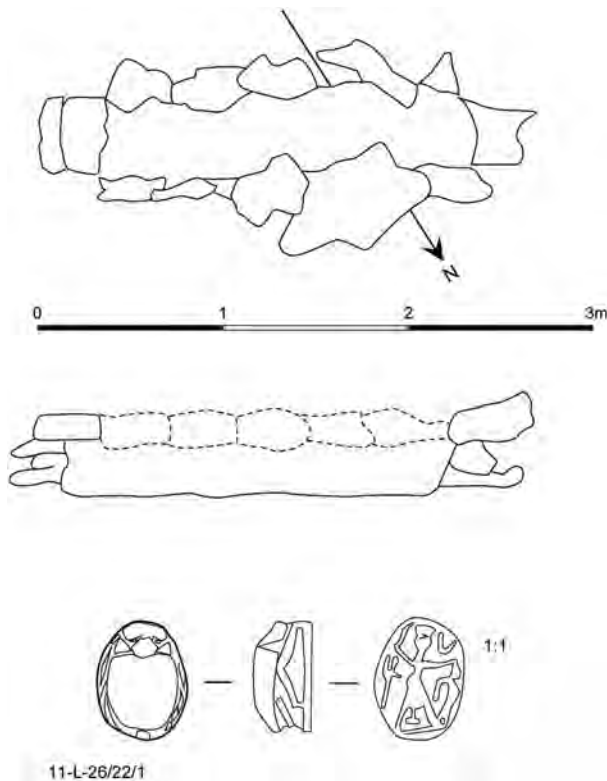


Figure 3.2.103 Grave 22, [11-L-26] plan and section; scarab (11-L-26/22/1) from fill, (scale 1:1).

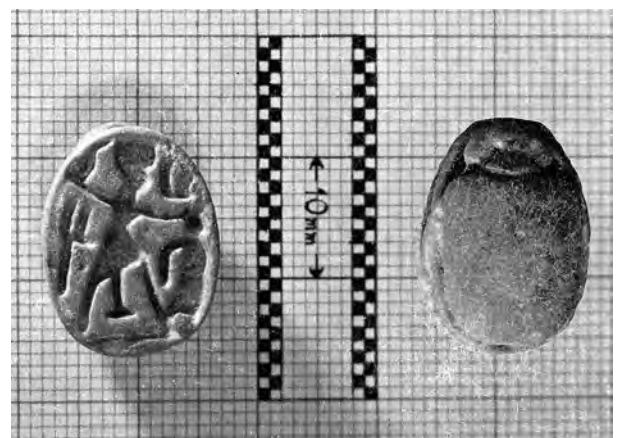


Figure 3.2.104 Scarab (11-L-26/22/1).

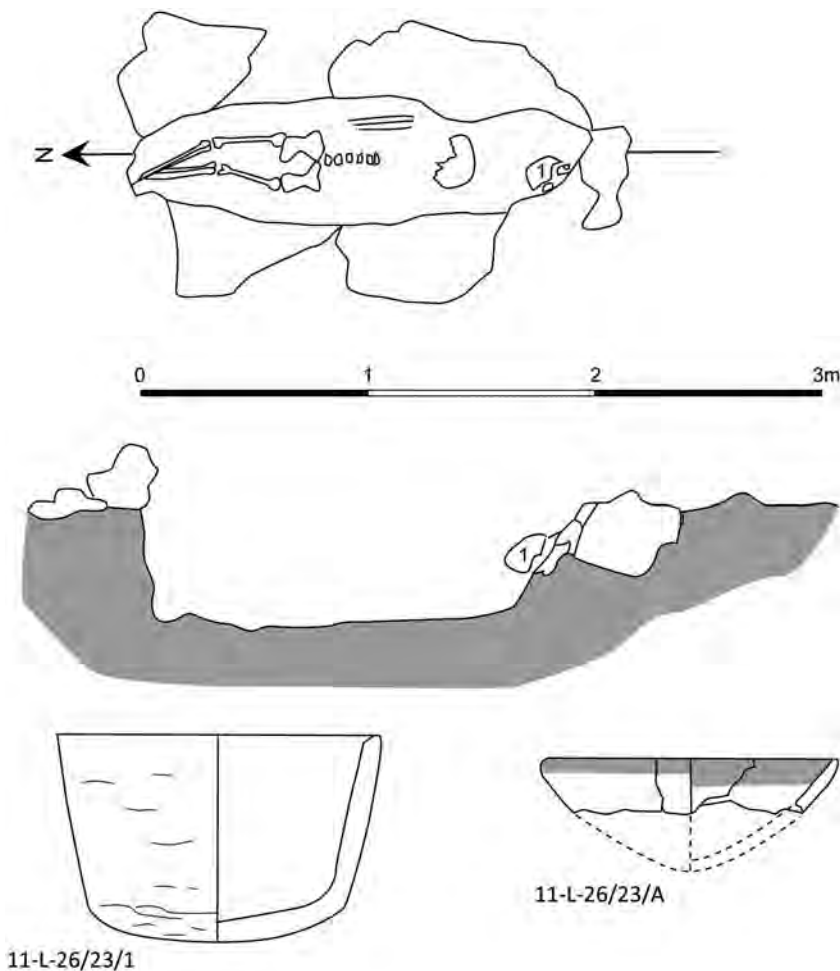


Figure 3.2.105 Grave 23, [11-L-26] plan and section. Pottery finds.

red ware body sherd (medieval?). Not drawn or registered.

Grave 11-L-26/23:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.
GRAVE: a rectangular pit, 195cm x 55cm; cut in to crumbly rock to a depth of 50cm. Large rocks have been placed around the edges. Fill of blown silt and stone chips. No blocking remains.
BURIAL: partly disturbed body of an adult, dorsally extended, head south facing east.
CONTENTS: bowl (restored from fragments) and several sherds (some medieval?) in fill.

11-L-26/23/1. Bowl. Heavy wheelmade (?) orange ware. Restored from fragments. D:171mm; H:109.5mm. Photo: C/082:27. SNM.17008. (fig.3.2.106)

11-L-26/23/A. Bowl, with direct rim. Wheelmade, red brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped interior and exterior rims. D: c.156mm. Not registered.

Sherd material included body sherds of soft red ware bowl, ‘Ballas ware’, a coarse heavy handmade brown ware and several small wheelmade red ware (some medieval).



Figure 3.2.106 Heavy bowl (intrusive?) (11-L-26/23/1).

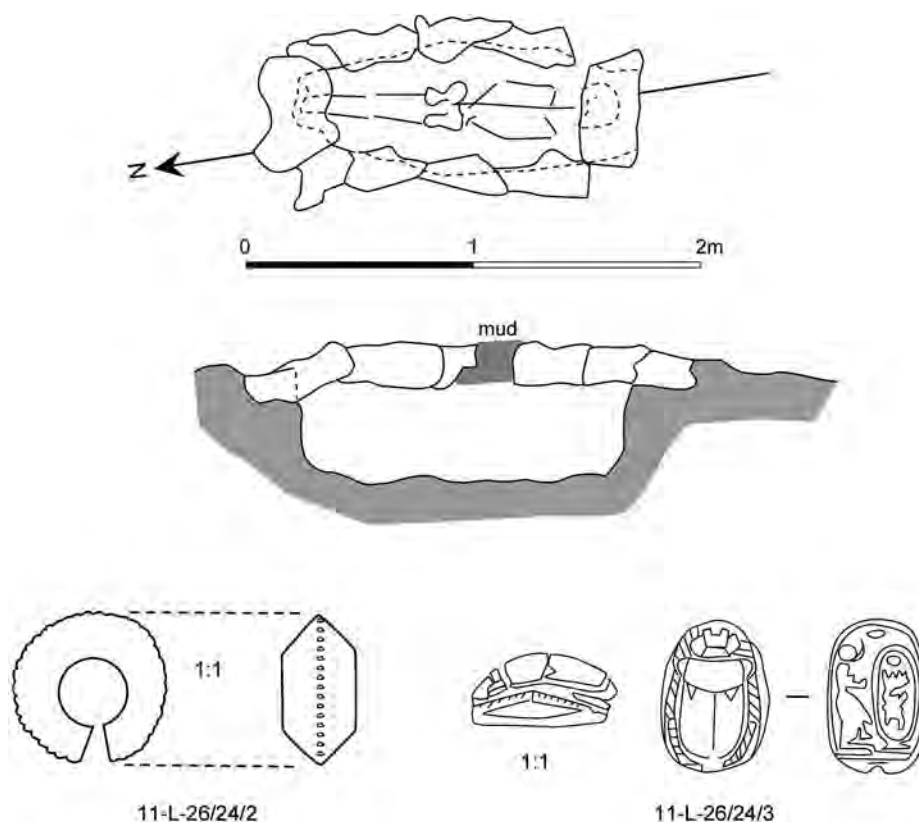


Figure 3.2.107 Grave 24, [11-L-26] plan and section; carnelian ring and scarab.

Grave 11-L-26/24:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit, aligned near north-south, 150cm x 60cm; cut in to crumbly rock to a depth of 50cm. Rocks have been placed around the edges. Fill of blown silt. Grave blocked with large flattish rocks.

BURIAL: undisturbed body of a 'young adult', dorsally extended, head south facing west. Body partly crushed by fallen rocks.

CONTENTS: wood beside and under body, from a coffin. Two carnelian rings and scarab in fill beneath body.

11-L-26/24/2. Rings. Two polished carnelian hair rings with (worn?) milled edge. Both D:20.5mm, W:8.5mm. Photo: C/082:16. SNM.17009. (fig.3.2.108)

11-L-26/24/3. Scarab. Blue-green glazed steatite. L:20mm; W:14.5mm; H:9mm. Photo: C/082:17-18. SNM.17010. (fig.3.2.109)

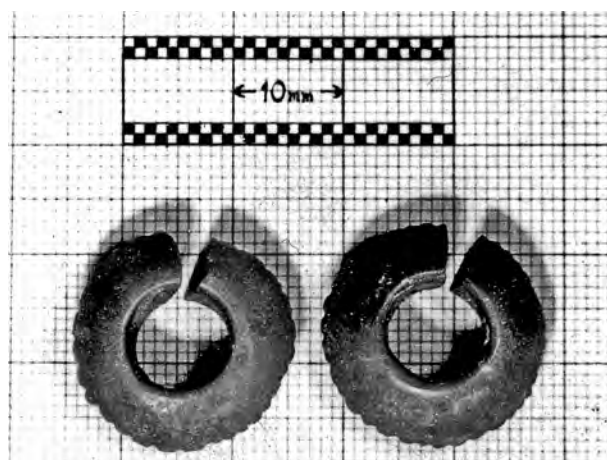


Figure 3.2.108 Pair of carnelian rings (11-L-26/24/2).

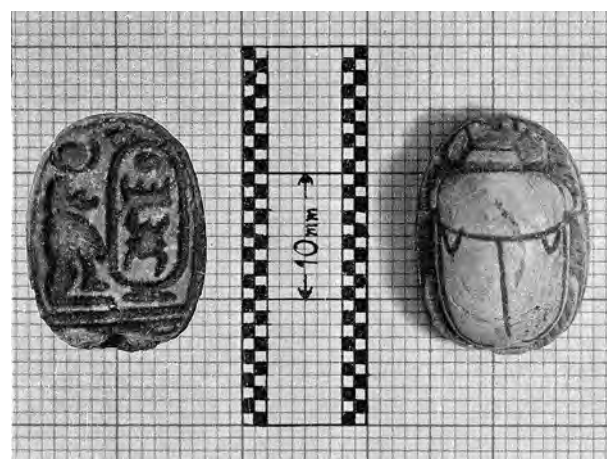


Figure 3.2.109 Scarab (11-L-26/24/3).

The pottery is generally not closely datable including common forms of the New Kingdom. The amphora in Grave 4 is however a form produced between the reign of Ramesses II and the end of Dynasty 20. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: AJM VI: 123–126; Site Photos: F/285: 1–10; F/286: 4–10; F/289: 12. Air Photos: 624196–7, 328261. Investigated: 25–31/3/1965.

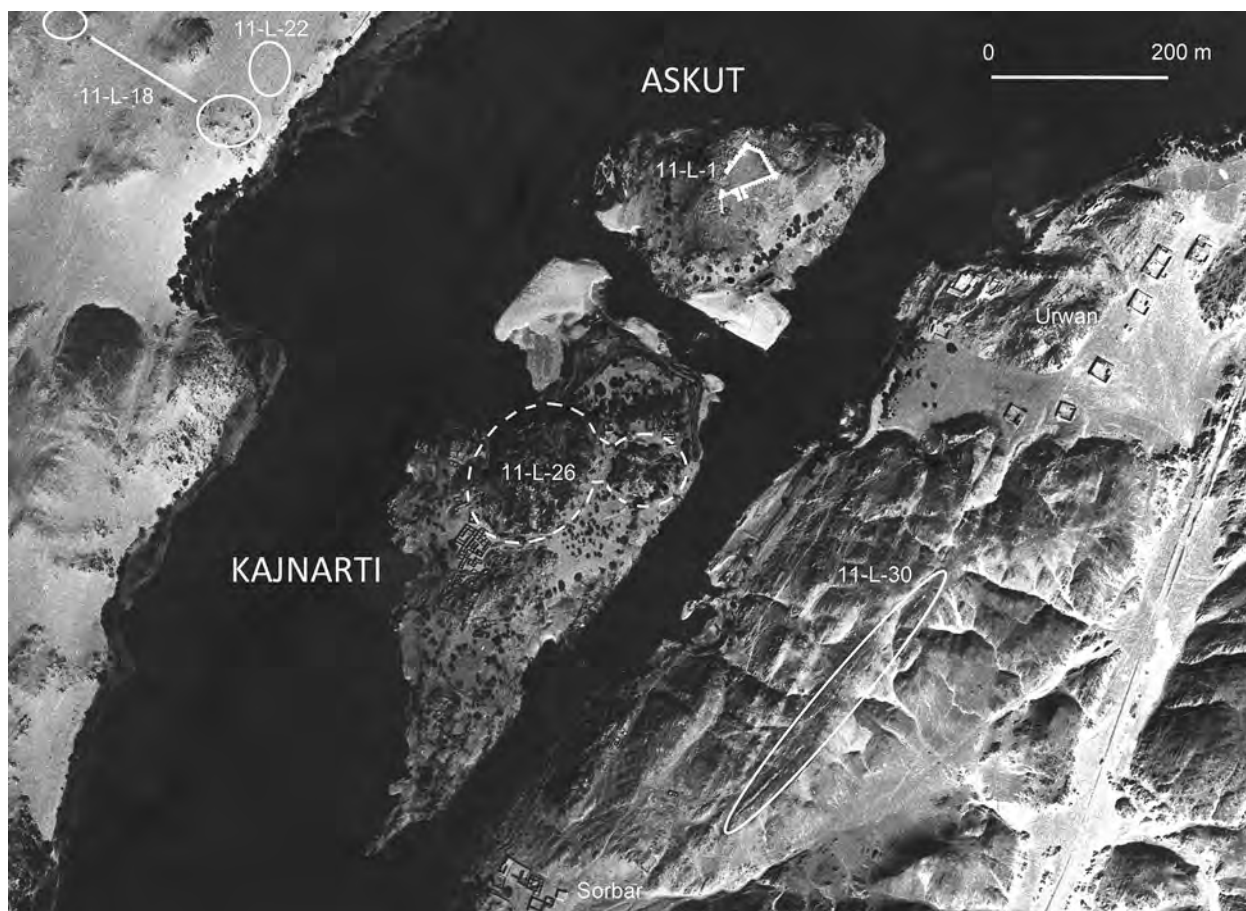


Figure 3.2.110 Air photograph of linear excavations [11-L-30] in hills overlooking Kajnarti.

LOCATION: on top of high rocks, c.200–250m from the river bank, overlooking the island of Kagnarti, between the hamlets of Urwan and Sorbal (fig.3.2.110).

DESCRIPTION: the site consisted of several linear excavations extending over c.400m, cut into the laminated mica-schist; the longest found was c.20m in length and c.60–70cm wide. Where examined it was noted that the whole rock was laminated vertically, probably with inclusions of quartz veins, judging from the opaque quartz (white quartz with impurities –green and yellow/red) fragments visible on the surface. The longest crevice or fissure excavated was assumed to mark the location of a large vein of quartz possibly containing gold (or copper?). Some of the small irregular stones on surface (mica-schist) had remains of quartz inclusions. In the fill of the longest excavation were

found a small number of sherds, all ‘Pharaonic’, with a soft brown fabric, with some red slipped surfaces with polishing/burnishing marks.

Pottery (fig.3.2.111):

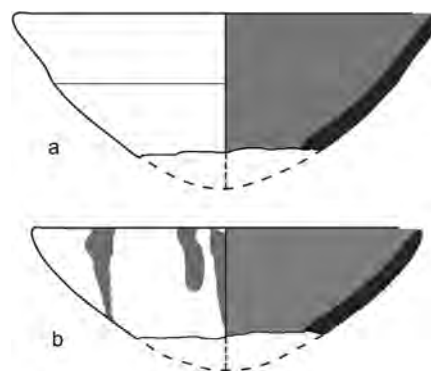


Figure 3.2.111 Bowls from [11-L-30] (scale 1:4).

11-L-30/a. Bowl with direct rim and probably round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on interior surface with some irregular burnishing marks. Rim D: 234mm; H:c.75mm.

11-L-30/b. Bowl with direct rim and probably round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on interior surface with some drips on exterior. Rim D: 222mm; H:c.92mm.

These two bowls are common during the New Kingdom; the second (b) has splashes/trails of slip on exterior as is frequently found in pottery of the reign of Thutmose III-Amenophis II. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: Nordström VII: 35; No site photographs; Air Photos: 623195; 328260. Investigated: 29/3/1965.

In 2017 satellite imagery suggests a few sections of these excavations (c.31°05'36.98"E/21°36'43.65"N) may still survive on what is now a small narrow island c.400m long. There is modern mining activity c.1.75km to the southeast of here.

11-Q-9 Settlement

Saras East (Kajifarai)

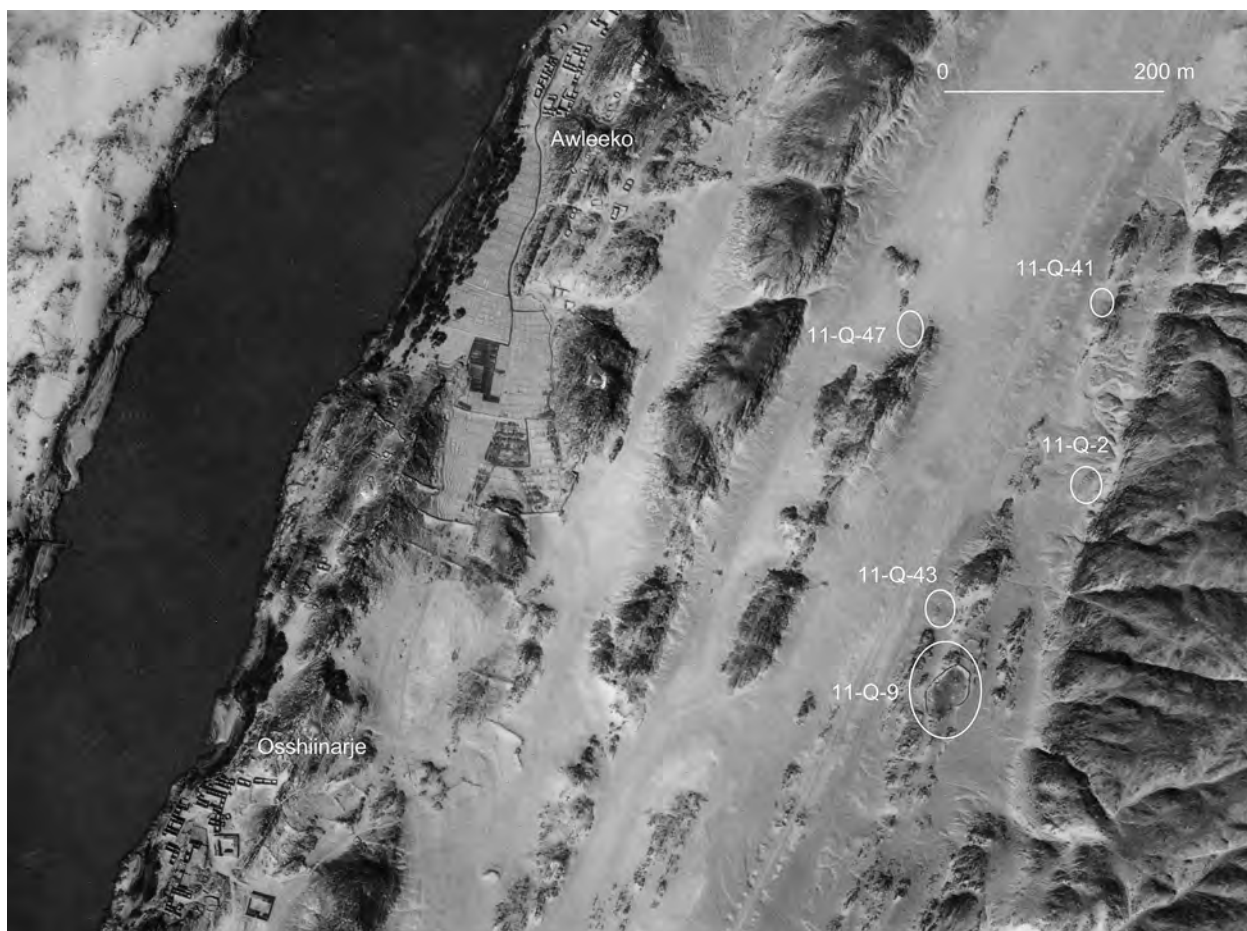


Figure 3.3.1 Location of stone enclosure [11-Q-9] and nearby C-Group/Kerma sites, Saras East.

LOCATION: this site is east of the road on a low rise of rocky gebel some 40m x 50m. It lay c.600m from the river bank (fig.3.3.1), southeast of the hamlets of Awlaiko (*Awleeko*) and Kajifarai (*Kajiffarre*).

DESCRIPTION: this site was marked by a drystone enclosure (extending over a total of c.120m) with a wall c.1m thick that stood in places to over a metre, but was generally only a course or two high. The surface within the enclosure was bare rock covered with many stones, while windblown sand was banked up against the walls. The site was first noted due to the presence of the enclosure associated with a few sherds, if mainly found outside the enclosure. It was initially (when first recorded in 1964) tentatively identified as of Middle Kingdom date due to the presence of sherds of heavy red ware (Middle Kingdom?) pot-stands and pots, as

well as some possible 'Kerma' sherds in the area of the enclosure. Revisited in 1965 it was concluded that the enclosure was probably of much more recent (nineteenth century?) date, notwithstanding the presence of Middle Kingdom (possibly New Kingdom?), as well as medieval and more recent ('late Arab') sherds. A near complete bowl (fig.3.3.2) was found in a drift of blown silty-sand beside the enclosure wall.

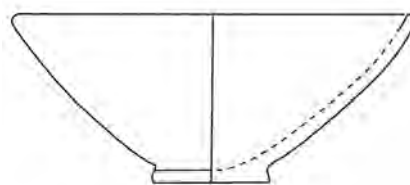


Figure 3.3.2 Bowl (11-Q-9/1) (scale 1:4).

Note that later work identified a Kerma period cemetery [11-Q-43] no more than 100m to the north, as well as other Kerma [11-Q-2] and C-Group sites, [11-Q-47] and [11-Q-41], within 750m (fig.3.3.1).

11-Q-9/1. Bowl with direct rim and ring base.
Wheelmade redware with polished interior. D:210mm;
H:90mm. Photo: C/052:26. SNM.18417. (fig.3.3.3)

DOCUMENTATION: AJM II: 88–89; AJM VII:
11–12. No known previous record of this site. No
site photographs. Air Photos: 623193, 328258.
Investigated: 19/1/1964, 25/1/1964; 25/10/1965.



Figure 3.3.3 Bowl (11-Q-9/1).

11-Q-3 Cemetery

Saras East (Oshiargi)

LOCATION: located on slowly rising alluvial mound, c.75m to east of the road (just north of km50 post), at the foot of rocky hills, c.600m from river and the hamlet of Oshiargi (*Osshiiarje*). A small Kerma cemetery [11-Q-44] lay c.150m to the southwest and there were several other C-Group and Kerma sites in the locality (fig.3.3.4).

DESCRIPTION: a small cemetery comprising a row of 10 graves (fig.3.3.5) dug into a low mound of fossil alluvium. The graves were all rectangular, all plundered (except grave 2). The surface was clean except for occasional boulder stones, with no sherds or bone fragments. It was originally (1964) identified as a possible Kerma-period site but on further investigation (1965) thought more likely to be 'Pharaonic' (New Kingdom?). Dating however remained uncertain and was based only on the

grave forms. One grave excavated in 1964 and two more (graves 2–3) in 1965.

Grave 11-Q-3/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: rhomboidal shaft 195cm x 130cm, cut into fossil alluvium to depth of 85cm. Small lateral niche on north side, 37cm wide and 45cm deep. Blocking of large thin stone slabs. Fill of blown sand and loose rubble.

BURIAL: disturbed body of adult male, head probably to west.

CONTENTS: several fragments of wood including parts of a large board, possibly from a bier or coffin. No finds.



Figure 3.3.4 Location of possible New Kingdom cemetery [11-Q-3] and nearby C-Group and Kerma sites in central Saras plain.

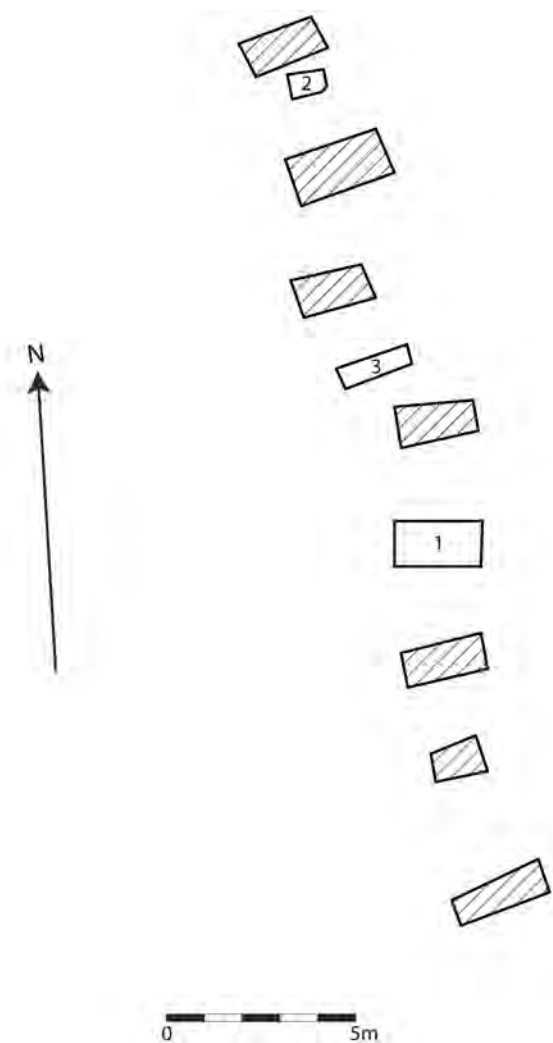


Figure 3.3.5 Plan of cemetery [11-Q-3].

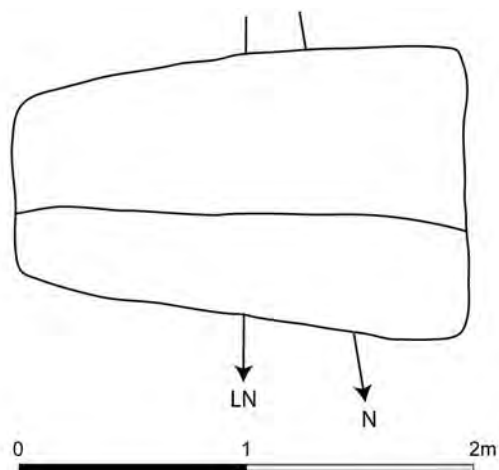


Figure 3.3.6 Plan and section Grave 1, [11-Q-3].

Grave 11-Q-3/2:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: small rectangular shaft with lateral niche on north side. Pit 135cm x 70cm x 65cm deep, narrowing to 75cm x 50cm with grave niche 85cm x 40cm x 17cm deep. Blocking (intact) of stone slabs with some mud plastering. Shaft fill of loose alluvial rubble.

BURIAL: undisturbed body of an infant within a small wooden coffin; extended position on left side, head west facing north.

CONTENTS: powdery remains of a wooden coffin c.70cm x 30cm x 20cm. No finds.

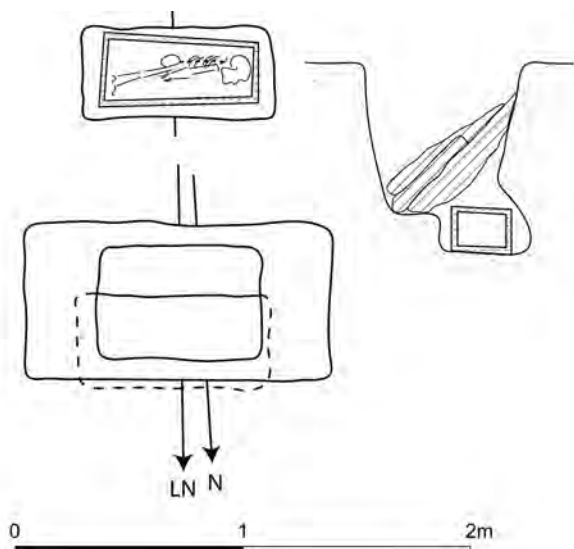


Figure 3.3.7 Plan and section Grave 2, [11-Q-3].



Figure 3.3.8 Intact stone blocking within Grave 2, [11-Q-3].



Figure 3.3.9 Decayed wooden coffin of child burial within Grave 2, [11-Q-3].

Grave 11-Q-3/3:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: rectangular shaft 225cm x 75cm x 70cm deep, stepping down into burial pit 225cm x 70-50cm x 45cm deep. Blocking probably of stone slabs over burial pit. Shaft fill of loose blown sand/silt.

BURIAL: a few bones of an adult (head probably to west, at wider end of pit).

CONTENTS: powdery fragments of wood, perhaps coffin, in grave fill. No finds.

DOCUMENTATION: AJM II: 76-77; AJM VII: 15-16. Air Photos: 623192; 328259. Site Photos F/292: 6-7. Investigated: 20/1/1964, 26/10/1965.

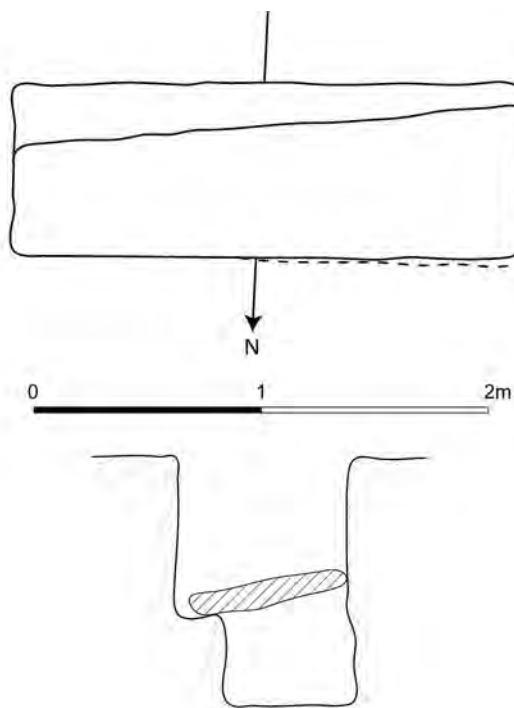


Figure 3.3.10 Plan and section Grave 3, [11-Q-3].

11-Q-10 Settlement**Saras East (Oshiargi)**

LOCATION: this site lay c.300m east of the river. It was situated on a rise of alluvial gebel that changes to rocky gebel at its higher points on its south side (fig.3.3.4).

DESCRIPTION: this site covered an area of approximately 30m (east-west) by 40m (north-south). The surface was littered with what were identified as Middle Kingdom, New Kingdom and a few C-Group sherds. The surface was 'alluvial gebel' with rocky outcrops and was covered with many stones, most of them pebble size. There is no depth to the site, as trenching and test pitting revealed. The horizontal extent was determined

by surface pottery distribution. The site may anciently have covered a rather larger area, but only occasional sherds were found below the rise on which sherds are abundant. Several test pits were excavated to see if the site has any depth. Due to its superficial character, no further excavation was recommended here. While originally identified as possibly 'Pharaonic', the site was later mapped as a Kerma site.

DOCUMENTATION: No known previous record of this site. No other records or documentation. Air Photo: 623192, 328259. Investigated: 25/1/1964.

11-Q-65 Graves

Saras East

LOCATION: a widely dispersed scatter of four graves registered as a single 'site'. Grave 1 was located on a knoll of loose crumbly rock c.650m from the river and c.650m from the hamlet of Alifenti. Grave 2 lay c.125m to the south of this on a rocky plateau; a third grave c.25m northeast of Grave 2. Grave 4 was c.200m east of Grave 1. These were all on the rocky terraces bounding the east side of the 'Saras Plain', to the east of a series of workshop sites (fig.3.3.11).

DESCRIPTION: this 'site' comprised a scatter of graves and does not represent a formal cemetery. The grave forms vary considerably, the most substantial (Grave 1) being a two-chamber shaft tomb. Grave 2 was a long, narrow pit cut in rock, probably following the line of the natural fracture, with a near north-south orientation; Grave 3 was similar, if smaller, but oriented east-west. That grave was notable for the quantities of quartz rock (similar to that extracted from the mines) around it. Grave 4 was a simple, shallow rectangular

pit, cut into the rock; a few sherds suggest also 'Pharaonic'.

Grave 11-Q-65/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence of any built superstructure but the shaft entrance was surrounded by a large flat-topped mound of stone rubble c.7.5m in diameter and 0.4m high.

GRAVE: vertical shaft leading to two small subterranean chambers, crudely excavated in to quite loose and crumbly bedrock. The shaft was 82cm x 86cm and 180cm deep; accessing sloping and stepped entrance passage 110cm long x 76cm wide and 80cm high; the door was 70cm high. The larger of the two chambers (probably the original burial chamber) was 270cm long, 140–100cm wide and 128–60cm high. The smaller chamber, at its south-east corner, measured 150cm x 140cm x 105cm (thought likely to be a magazine for funerary articles). The blocking of the mouth of the shaft was of large boulder stones (figs 3.3.14–5). The fill, in shaft and entrance passage on, was blown silt.



Figure 3.3.11 Location of graves [11-Q-65] on higher ground to east of workshop sites, Saras East.

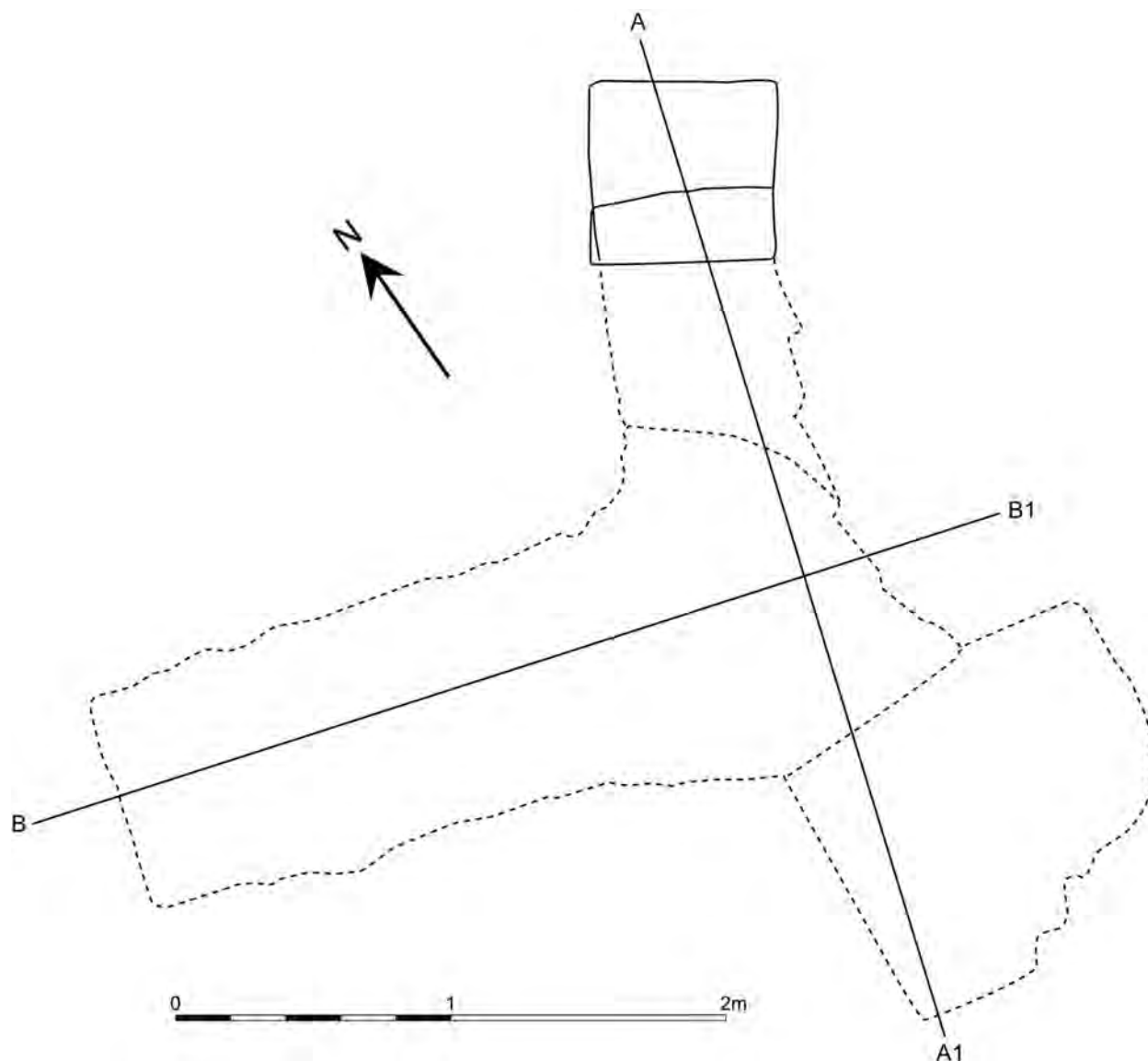


Figure 3.3.12 Plan of Grave 1, [11-Q-65].

BURIAL: there were seven bodies in the tomb, four of them (one child and three adults) scattered, and three adults, apparently undisturbed, in the main chamber; dorsally extended, head west (fig.3.3.16). **CONTENTS:** three bowls (fig.3.3.17), largely complete, two faience scarabs and beads (restrung) in fill.

11-Q-65/1/1. Bowl, direct rim and round base. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?); thin red slip interior and exterior rim. D:246mm; H:84mm. Photo: C/053:12. SNM.18284. (fig.3.3.19)

11-Q-65/1/2. Beads (350+). White shell disc beads (5mm x 1.5mm); Blue faience barrel beads (4mm x 5mm; 5mm x 6mm); 1 carnelian bead (6mm x 10mm). Photo: C/056:18. SNM.18449. (fig.3.3.23)

11-Q-65/1/3. Scarab. Green faience. L:15mm; W:12mm; Th:7mm. Photo: C/050:24–25. SNM.18451. (fig.3.3.22)

11-Q-65/1/4. Scarab. Green faience. L:12mm; W:8mm; Th:5mm. Photo: C/050:26–27. SNM.18553. (fig.3.3.22)

11-Q-65/1/5. Bowl, direct rim and flat base. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?); thin red slip exterior rim and interior surface. D:210mm; H:75mm. Photo: C/056:6. SNM.18303. (fig.3.3.20)

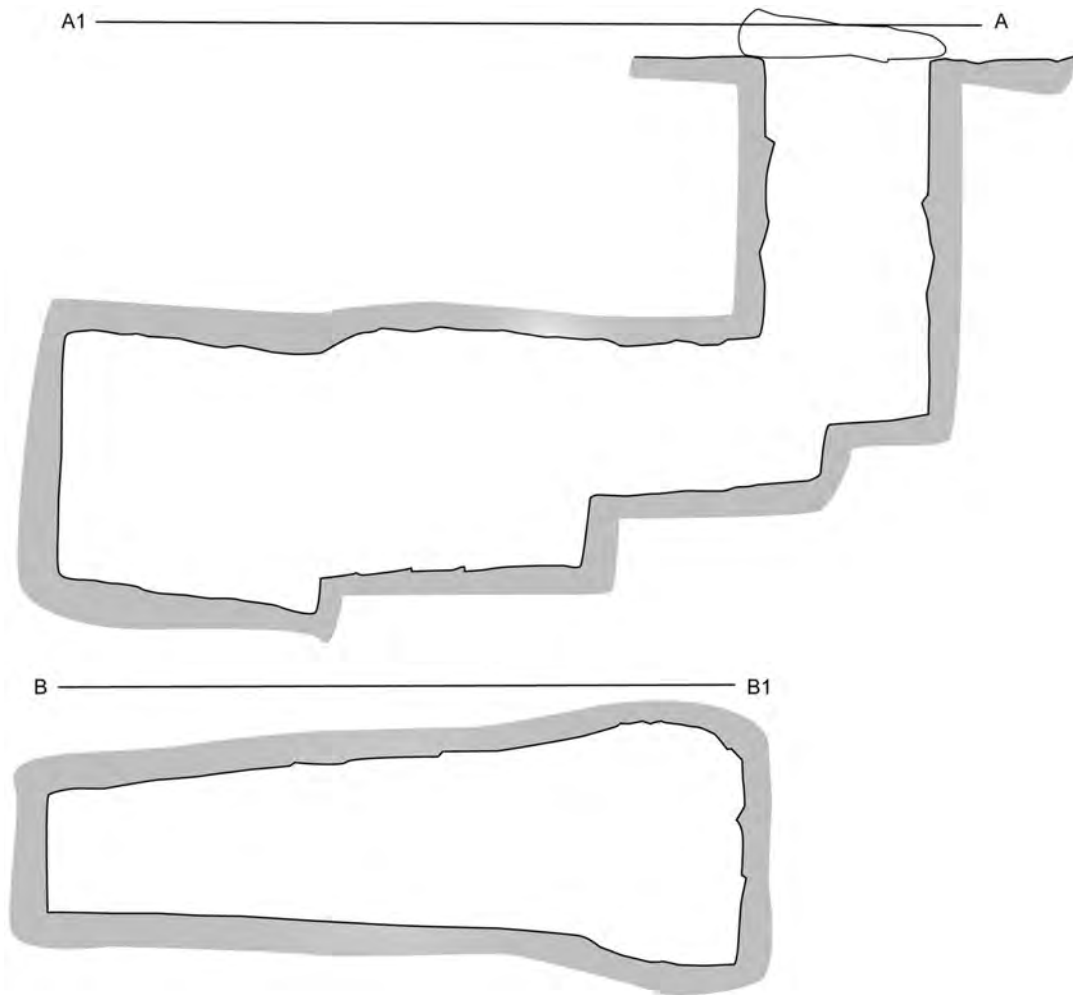


Figure 3.3.13 Sections through Grave 1, [11-Q-65].



Figure 3.3.14 Shaft blocking of (11-Q-65/1). Rubble and stone chippings around grave visible behind.



Figure 3.3.15 Shaft blocking of (11-Q-65/1).



Figure 3.3.16 Burial chamber of Grave 1, [11-Q-65], looking towards west end with disturbed burials in foreground and undisturbed burials behind.

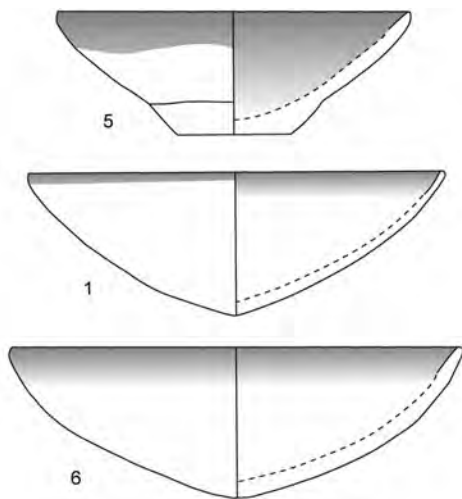


Figure 3.3.17 Bowls from Grave 1, [11-Q-65], (scale 1:4).

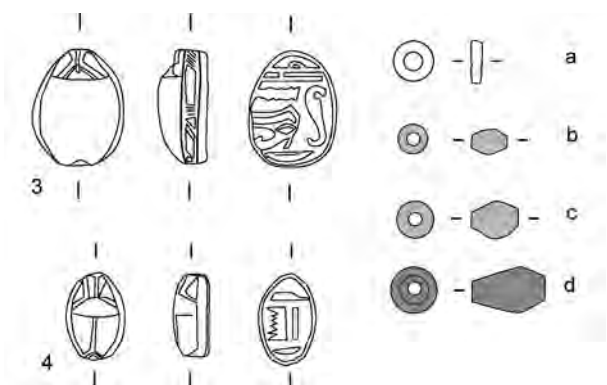


Figure 3.3.18 Scarabs (3,4) and beads from (11-Q-65/1): shell (a), faience (b,c) and carnelian (d), (scale 1:1).



Figure 3.3.19 Bowl (11-Q-65/1/1).

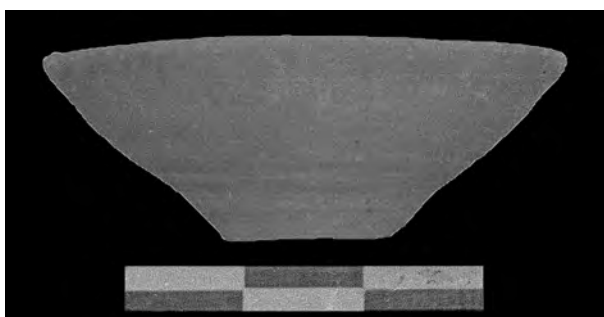


Figure 3.3.20 Bowl (11-Q-65/1/5).



Figure 3.3.21 Bowl (11-Q-65/1/6).

11-Q-65/1/6. Bowl, direct rim and round base. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?); thin red slip exterior and interior rim. Incomplete, some rim pieces missing. D:267mm; H:90mm. Photo: C/053:25. SNM.18329. (fig.3.3.21)

Grave 11-Q-65/2:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: a ring of large stones around grave.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit 270cm x 80cm, narrowing to 50cm at north end, cut in to loose bedrock to a depth 110cm deep (fig.3.3.24). Remains of blocking of large flat stones at north end. Fill of blown silt.



Figure 3.3.22 Faience scarabs from Grave 1, [11-Q-65].

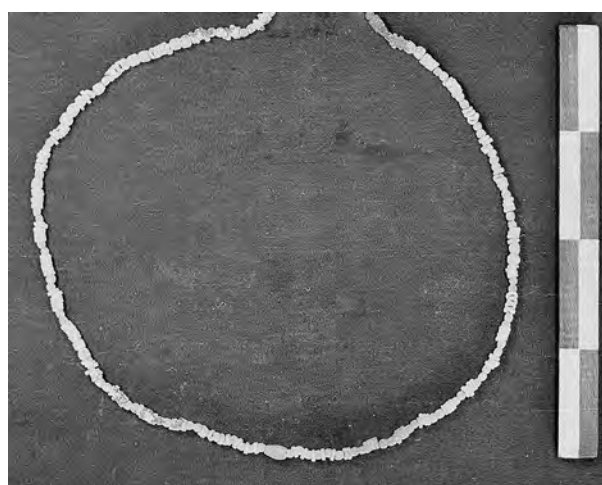


Figure 3.3.23 Beads (11-Q-65/1) from fill; restrung.

BURIAL: scattered bones of adult in fill.
CONTENTS: a few sherds of wheelmade, soft brown ware dish with red-slipped rim (fig.3.3.24).

11-Q-65/2/A. Dish. Wheelmade, soft brown ware; red-slipped rim. Sherds only. D:c.410mm. Not registered.

The pottery does not allow close dating of these graves, as common bowl forms through the New Kingdom. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: AJM VII: 89. No previous record. Photos: F/304:1-2, 6-9. Air Photos: 623190, 633094, 328258. Investigated: 27-28/11/1965.

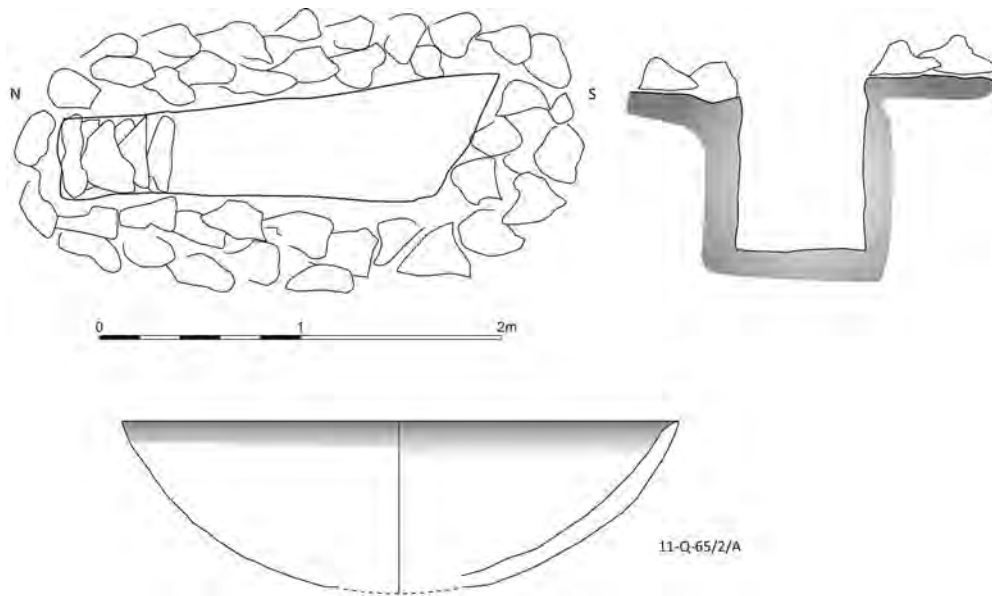


Figure 3.3.24 Plan and section of Grave 2, [11-Q-65]. Reconstructed profile of large dish/bowl (11-Q-65/2/A) (scale 1:4).

11-Q-61 Workshop

Saras East

LOCATION: this site was located just on the west side of a long, low rocky outcrop c.350m from the road and c.550m from the river (fig.3.3.11), c.40–50m to the northeast of [11-Q-59].

DESCRIPTION: the area covered by this site was c.53m (north-south) x 22m (east-west). On low-lying ground it formed a very low mound. The surface of the site was covered with blown silt and was littered with large rocks and stones from local

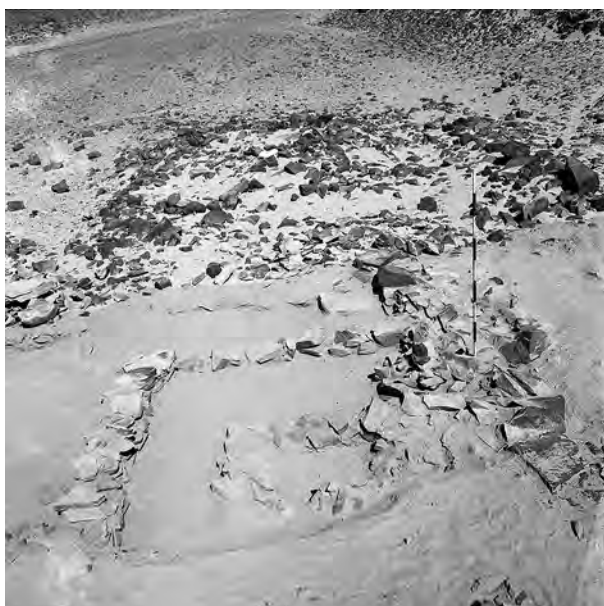


Figure 3.3.25 Initial test excavation at south end of site [11-Q-61], with undisturbed surface beyond.

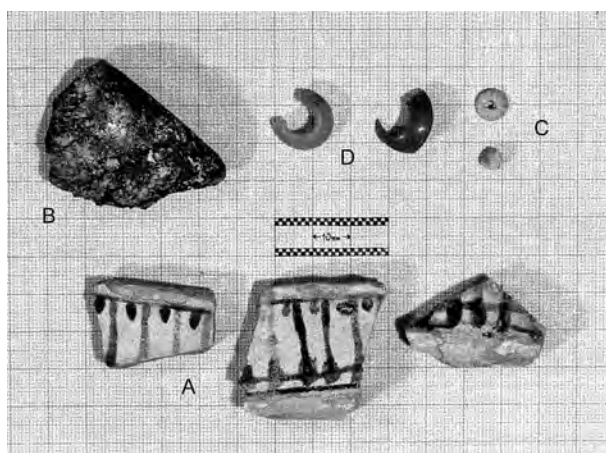


Figure 3.3.26 Finds (unregistered) from test excavations of [11-Q-61]: faience bowl fragments (a), stone vessel (b), beads (c) and earrings (d).

rock outcrops, visible on air photographs. There were some quartz pebbles on the surface, but not many, and only occasional sherds as well as a few large granite crushing/grinding stones. Some of the larger surface stones suggested the presence of wall lines.

When first located in November 1965, two exploratory test trenches were excavated across the north and south ends of the sites. These revealed a number of structural remains and a depth of not

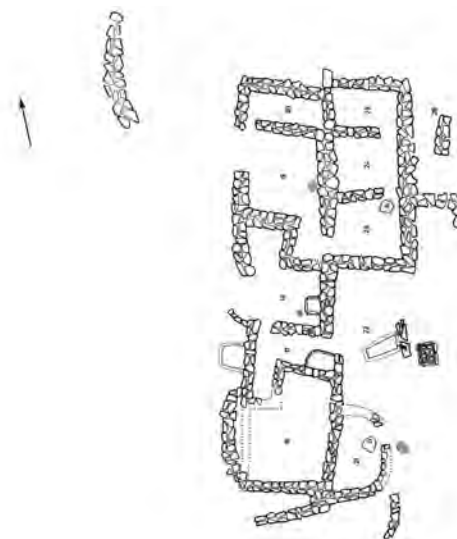


Figure 3.3.27 Plan of two building complexes [11-Q-61].

more than 34cm from surface to bedrock, and a fairly clean, sandy fill with few sherds, fallen stones from the walls and occasional fragments of charcoal.

Apart from one Kerma sherd most pottery was of 'soft brown wares' with a few wheelmade 'redwares' and 'Kena' wares. Other finds included three fragments of a decorated faience bowl (a), part of a granite vessel (b), yellow faience (c), and stone beads (d), and carnelian earring (e-g) fragments, (fig.3.3.26). The site appeared heavily eroded by wind action. It became apparent that small-scale test excavation of such a site could provide little useful information and that a full open-area excavation was required. This took place in December 1965, when the site was fully excavated.

This confirmed that the site consisted of two distinct building complexes, one at the north

and one at the south end. The complex at the south end consisted of some 15 rooms (1-15), all with dry-stone built walls of rough local stones. The walls were generally c.40-50cm wide at the surviving levels. There appeared to have been a laid floor of packed mud, but only one floor over this area of the site. In the back of the rooms the floors were featureless. Preservation of the walls was to a maximum height of 60cm, but was more commonly no more than 30cm. The fill was quite uniform over the area, being principally blown silt mixed with rocks fallen from the walls. There were occasional small patches of quartz dust, both dry and washed, but these were all quite small except in the area around the 'bins' of Room 2. The walls and floors were built directly onto a bed of loose granite gravel.



Figure 3.3.28 Plan of southern part of complex [11-Q-61] (plan A. J. Mills).

In Room 2 there were two “bins” about 1m apart, one c.0.75m internal diameter, the other c.1.10m. They were more or less circular and were sunk about 20cm below the floor level. They are built or lined with stones which protruded above the floor surface. This ‘room’ had no walls on the west or south side and may have been an open outside space. The fill of these bins was a fine yellow dust which appeared to have been packed/laid with water.

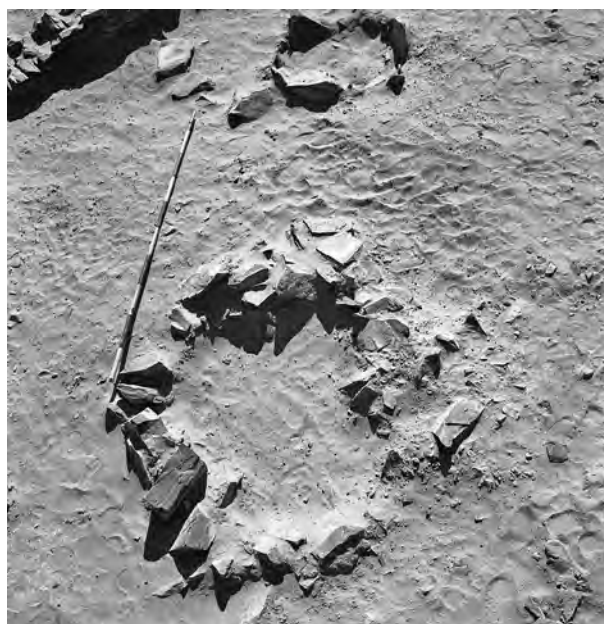


Figure 3.3.29 Room 2, stone foundations of two bins.

Room 3 had no internal features and was divided by a small spur wall projecting into it. Room 4 was a small, rectangular room with a setting of two large stones lying edgewise, set in the mud floor. They were 30cm apart and stood 18cm high; comparisons with other sites suggest this was an emplacement for a large grinding table/slab.

Room 5 was L-shaped and in the northeast corner was a sub-circular stone-lined pit sunk below the floor level. It was c.55cm in diameter and c.45cm deep, and lined with flat stones (fig.3.3.31). It was found filled with blown silt and at the bottom was a thin layer of dark grey ash. The stone lining displayed no trace of burning. The original test excavation revealed a grinding stone set in the floor near the centre of the room. Room 6 formed a bay off the south side of Room 5. Here was found a burial, of uncertain date, cut through the floor. The body was of a young person, dorsally extended, head east turned south,



Figure 3.3.30 Room 4, stone stands for grinding slab.



Figure 3.3.31 Stone-lined bin in Room 5.

right hand on pelvis, left at side. The burial was in a small rectangular pit.

Rooms 7, 8 and 9 formed featureless rooms with rounded walls. Room 10 was similar, but had a stone setting similar to that in Room 4, but with the stone blocks set only 14cm apart (fig.3.3.32). Room 11 was another small chamber but probably opening. This had a small bin built of stones in the southeast corner. The fill of the bin was largely dry white quartz dust.



Figure 3.3.32 Room 10, stone stands forming support for grinding slab.

The other rooms were more regular and rectangular. Room 12 was featureless apart from a area of light burning in the centre of the floor. On its north side it led in to Room 13, a small room with a rectangular bin (1.05m x 0.60m), in the northwest corner. The bin was built with stones and appears to originally have been lined with flat stones at the bottom. On the east side, Room 14 had a granite mortar set in the floor. The small Room 15 was featureless.

Some twenty pieces of large granite mortars and grinders were found in the fill of this area as well as many more of the small stone pounders. Two further fragments of a faience vessel were found. Pottery was not very abundant and it was estimated that c.50% of the sherds were from soft-brown ware bowls with red-slipped rim. There are also a few Qena or Ballas sherds, and some sherds of heavier red ware. Sherds from three or four hand-made vessels were found including two 'Kerma' ones.



Figure 3.3.33 View south across east side of [11-Q-61], Room 26 on left.



Figure 3.3.34 View southwest from south end of [11-Q-61] towards [11-Q-59] and [11-Q-62] in distance, under excavation. This makes clear the close proximity of these three sites. The upstanding building remains to right of cleared pathway seem likely to date to the 19th century.



Figure 3.3.35 View north across [11-Q-61].

Between this southern building complex and the northern complex was an open area (c.13m north-south) in which no structural remains were found. The area did, however, bear the remains of

occupation in the form of tailings and dry quartz dust; quartz pebbles 2cm^3 - 2mm^3 , occasional pot sherds and a few examples of stone pounders. This space extended to the west of the northern structures for a distance of c.20m more and was a maximum of c.23m wide (east-west).

The northern group of structures was similar in many ways to the southern. The walls were dry-built of rough local stone set on granite gravel, with packed mud floors. The fill was largely blown silt mixed with fallen rocks. The preservation was about the same. Eleven rooms (16–26) were defined, including some likely open working spaces.

Room 16 was featureless. The west wall was originally straight but looked to have been rebuilt at some stage with a curving, lighter wall. Room 17 appeared to be more in the nature of a corridor than a room, opening out to Rooms 22, 16 and 18. There was a small, rectangular bin in a corner. Stone lined, it had a packed mud bottom which displayed traces of water. Room 18 was L-shaped. Within it was a small bin built with stones which was filled with a mixture of dry quartz dust and blown silt. Beside it was a small pile of 2mm^3 quartz



Figure 3.3.36 View looking west across north end of [11-Q-61].

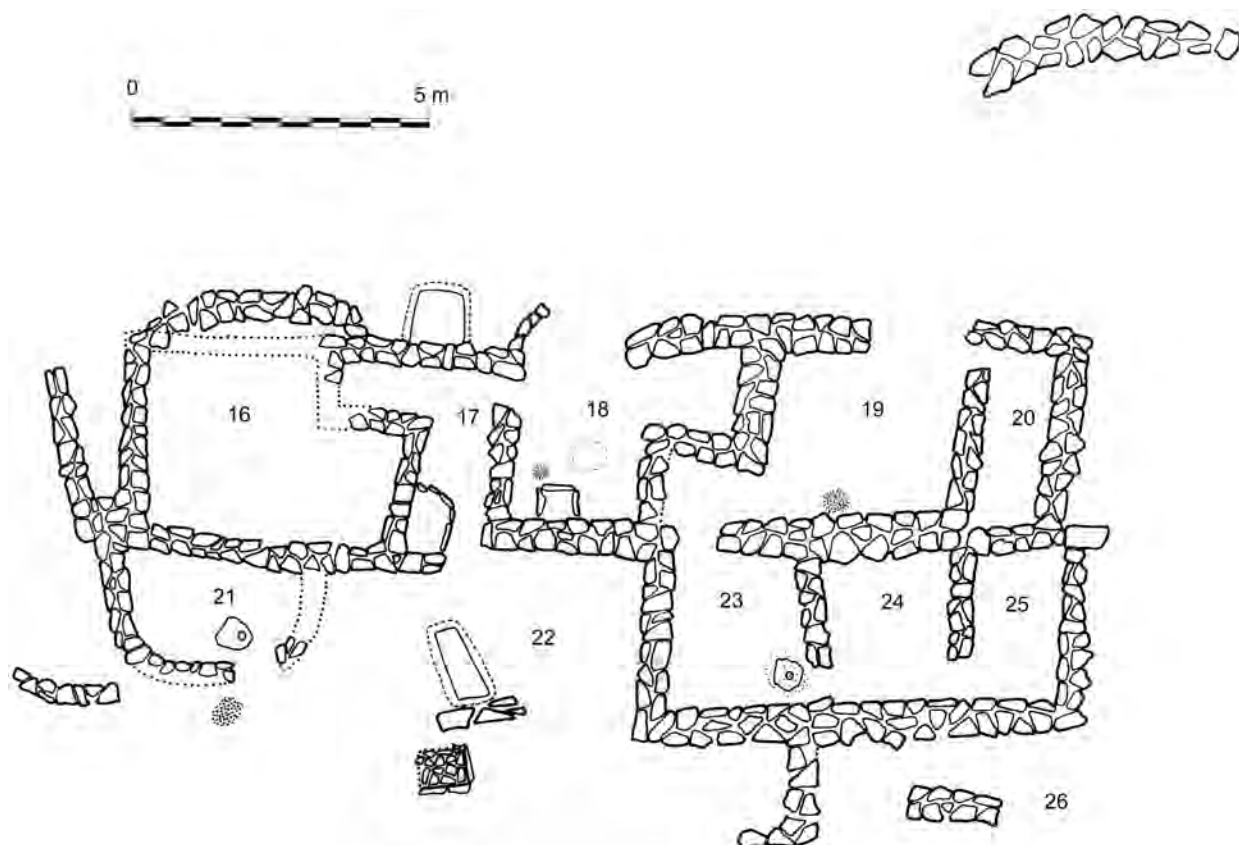


Figure 3.3.37 Plan of north part of complex [11-Q-61] (plan A. J. Mills).

pebbles and an area of light burning. Room 19 had a small pile of 2mm^3 quartz against the east wall. Room 20 was a featureless chamber.

Room 21 had a granite grinding stone embedded in the floor just near the doorway opening into Room 22. Just outside this door, was a pile of 2cm^3 quartz (fig.3.3.38). The north wall of this room had been lost but its line was defined by the edge of the mud floor.



Figure 3.3.38 Quartz chippings outside Room 21; with grindstone just inside entrance (looking west).

Room 22 may have been an open space. A group of small beads (4) were found in this area. It contained two interesting features. One was a sub-rectangular area of mud $1.30\text{m} \times 0.55\text{m}$, on which water has rested. The edges of this turned upwards and it seemed to represent the eroded remains of the base of a bin which had been set at a higher level (fig.3.3.39). To the east of this was a line of stones, perhaps the remains of a low wall linking the features. To the east of the wall was a stone-lined tank (fig.3.3.40). This was rectangular ($0.80\text{m} \times 0.60\text{m}$), and lined with flat stone slabs (one a reused grindstone). It was $c.45\text{cm}$ deep and cut into the gravely natural rock. The bottom was also lined with small flat stones. The fill of this tank had a well-defined stratigraphy. The upper 15cm was blown silt mixed with quartz dust. This rested on $c.10\text{cm}$ of water-packed yellow and white quartz dust. Below this was $c.7\text{cm}$ in which there are several thin layers/lenses of “wet” tailings and dry quartz dust. This rested on 3cm of mostly blown silt. Below this were further alternating

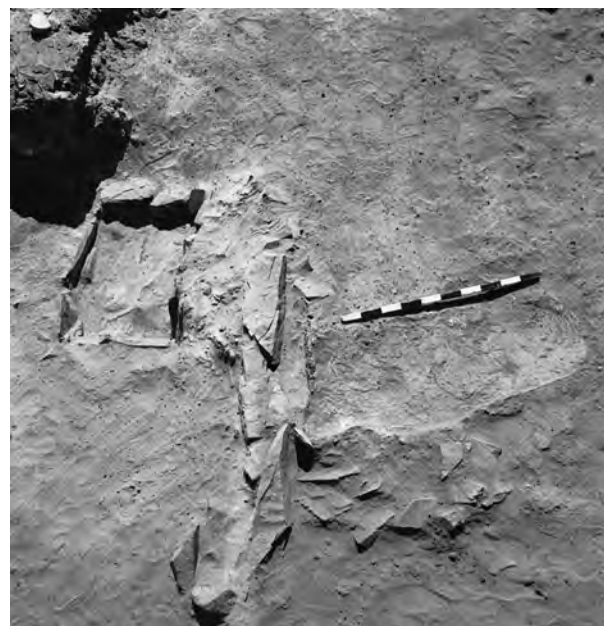


Figure 3.3.39 Room 22, stone-lined bin (unexcavated) and outline of the mud floor of another bin (?) feature to north (right).



Figure 3.3.40 Room 22, excavated stone lined tank/bin.

layers. Between here and the wall to the west was an area of tailings.

Room 23 had a granite mortar embedded in the floor (fig.3.3.41) and around it are some 2mm^3 quartz fragments. The adjoining chambers, Rooms 24 and 25 were featureless. Room 26 to the east was divided from Room 22 by a short wall. This may also have been an open space.

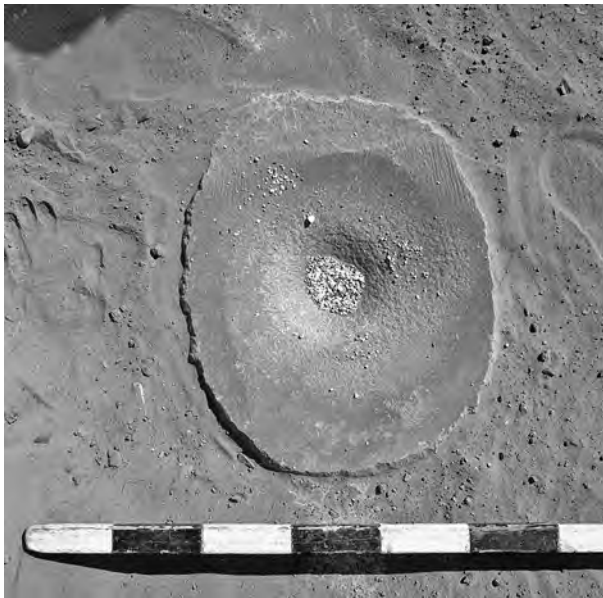


Figure 3.3.41 Room 23, grindstone set in floor.

Finds (fig.3.3.42) from the northern area included a copper alloy awl (1), part of an ear plug (?) (2), a fragment of a blue frit bowl (3), beads (4) and some carnelian earring fragments (e-g). The pottery was recorded as similar to that in the southern part of the site, and 'not plentiful'.

11-Q-61/1: Copper alloy awl. L:130mm. Photos: C/049:7; C/094:33. SNM.18503. (fig.3.3.43)

11-Q-61/2: Travertine ear plug, part. (?) D:24.5mm; Th:6.5mm. Socket D:4.5mm, 4.5mm deep. Photo: C/050:1. SNM.18453.

11-Q-61/3: Bowl fragment, blue frit. D:114mm; H:36mm. Photos: C/057:34, C/160: 31. SNM.18452.

11-Q-61/4: Blue faience and calcite beads (c.70). Photo: C/056:11. SNM.18559. (fig.3.3.44)

11-Q-61/A. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, hard pink ware (marl clay); polished surface. D:180mm.

11-Q-61/B. Bowl with modelled rim and inflected contour. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). D:210mm.

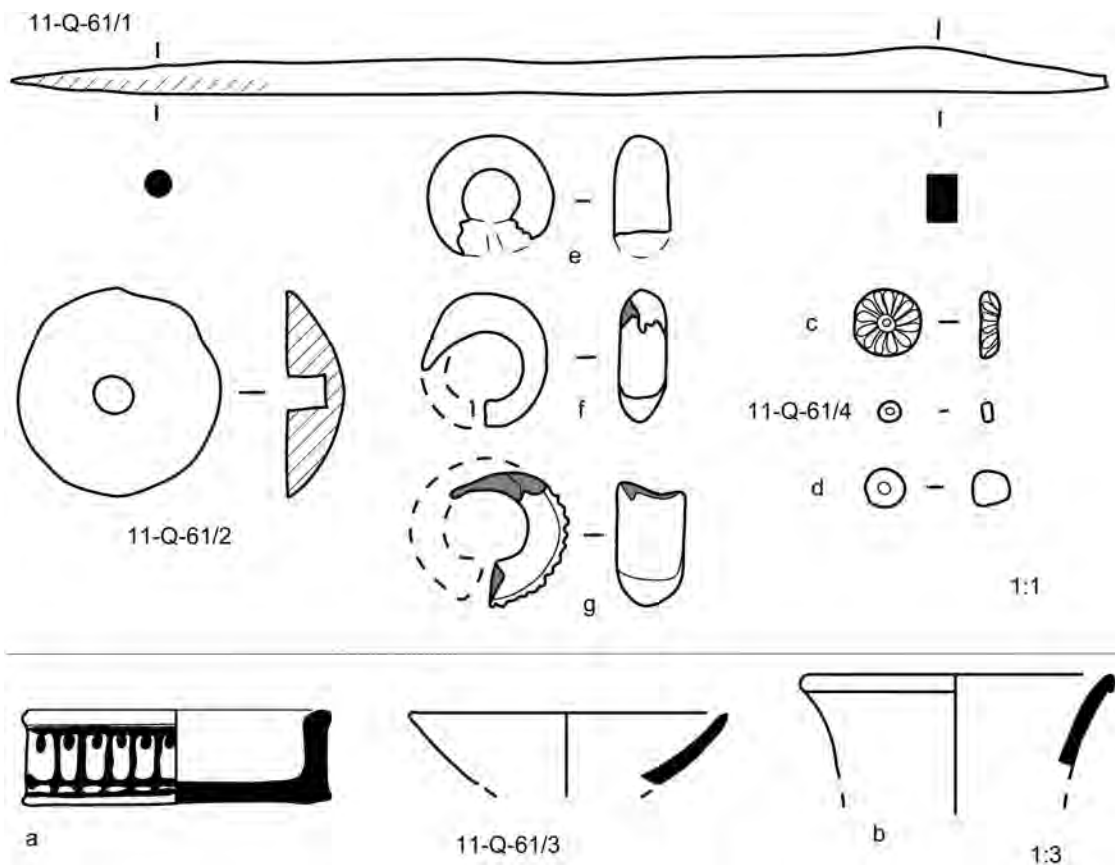


Figure 3.3.42 Finds from [11-Q-61].



Figure 3.3.43 Copper alloy awl (11-Q-61/1).

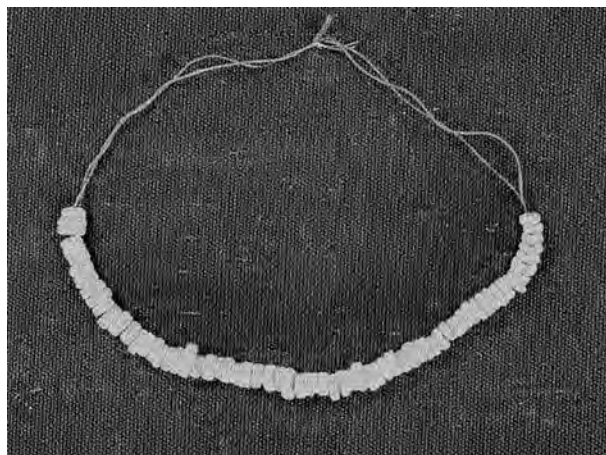


Figure 3.3.44 Blue faience and calcite beads (11-Q-61/4) from Room 22.

11-Q-61/C. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on exterior rim. Interior smoothed, exterior surface gently ribbed. D:214mm.

11-Q-61/D. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped interior and exterior rim. D:265mm.

11-Q-61/E. Bowl. Handmade, soft brown ware. Uncoated. D:200mm.

11-Q-61/F. Bowl with direct rim and carinated contour. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on exterior rim. D:244mm.

11-Q-61/G. Cup with direct rim and inflected contour. Wheelmade, red ware. Uncoated. D:90mm.

11-Q-61/H. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, hard brown ware. Matte red slipped inside rim. D:274mm.

11-Q-61/I. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped inside rim and interior surfaces smoothed. D:312mm.

11-Q-61/J. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, harder brown ware. Matte red slipped inside rim and interior surfaces smoothed. D:250mm.

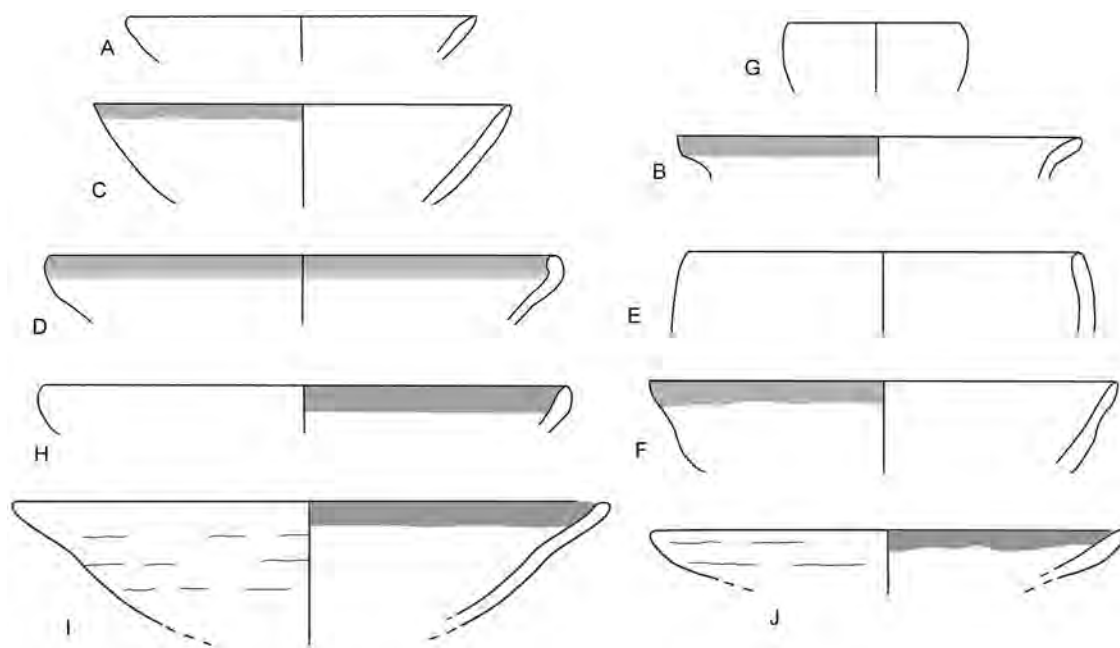


Figure 3.3.45 Sample pottery from test trenches [11-Q-61] (scale 1:4).



Figure 3.3.46 View west across south end of [11-Q-61]

These pottery forms are common in Nubia from the Middle Kingdom (from later Dynasty 12) until the New Kingdom. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: AJM VII: 73–76, 119–126. Photos: F/301: 3–12; F/302: 1–2; F/306: 5–12; F/307; F/308; F/309: 1–6, 9–12. Air Photos: 623190, 328258, 633094. Investigated: 20–22/11/1965; 12–19/12/1965.

11-Q-59 Workshop**Saras East**

LOCATION: this site was located below the south end of a rocky outcrop, c.500m east of the river, between the villages of Maishu and Alifenti. A cluster of what were thought to be quite recent stone structures lay just to the east.

DESCRIPTION: the area covered by the site was not large, measuring c.36m (east-west) x 20m (north-south), forming a very low oval mound. The surface was littered with stones including a dozen or more large pieces of granite (of the type abundant in the Khor Ahmed Sherif) which had been used as mortars and grinders.

The site was examined in two phases of excavation, both in 1965. An initial test excavation of c.10m x 10m at its east side below a rock outcrop exposed a series of rooms (most of Rooms 1–5) all of dry-stone construction (fig.3.3.47); there was no trace of bricks found at the site. Within the test area, and subsequently found all along the south side of the site, was a large area of fine tailings. Within this area ('Room 7') was found a small

stone-lined tank/bin. The fill of this feature was the same as the surrounding tailings. The walls of the rooms (c.35–40cm thick) generally survived only one or two courses high and were built on a bed of coarse granite gravel. It was suggested that while the walls may not have supported roofs, they would have needed to have been high enough to provide adequate protection from the wind. The quality and style of construction varied, some were quite straight and neatly built while others were curvilinear and less substantial. The floors were of packed mud resting directly on the gravel but most of them had been eroded and only traces survived. There was often a pronounced batter where the walls and floor met. Where preserved the floors has a white colouring, suggesting the surface was coated with a plaster incorporating the tailings.

The site was returned to for a complete excavation the following month (December 1965) and some 20 rooms/spaces were defined. The considerable quantities of quartz tailings present suggested a significant amount of gold processing/washing



Figure 3.3.47 Initial test excavations of [11-Q-59], from north.



Figure 3.3.48 Test excavations of [11-Q-59], from west.
Examples of large grindstones on surface in foreground.

was undertaken. The fill of rooms 7, 8, 9 and 12 and parts of adjoining rooms was almost entirely composed of tailings except for a thin surface layer of blown silt. This deposit of tailings covered an area of some 30m x 11m and was often at least c.20cm deep (so potentially c.66m³). The tailings varied in colour from a pure white through yellow to pink, presumably reflecting varying impurities in the quartz. A sample of white tailings and a sample of yellow were taken for analysis: (1) from a small pile just to the south of the bins in Room 8 and (2) from a large area in Room 14, where there were piles of quartz that has been crushed to c.2mm³ size.

The fill of the northern half of the site was a generally fairly clean blown silt mixed with rocks that have fallen from the walls. Towards the floors there were some sherds, charcoal and other occupation debris. The generally poor preservation of the site provided few clues to the construction history of the site but there was some evidence for possible rebuilding noted in the walls around Room 5 and a possible blocked doorway was identified between Rooms 3 and 7.

Room 1 was featureless apart from a large area of light burning on the floor. A number of bronze artefacts were recovered from the fill above the floor. Room 2 also included an area of ash which included some animal bone, and a small area of powdered quartz in the fill. Room 3 had a granite mortar embedded in the floor (fig.3.3.50). Around it were some chips of quartz, generally c.5mm in

diameter. There was a possible blocked doorway leading to the southwest towards 'Room 7'. Room 4 had a hearth built with stones in the corner, with some accumulations of ash beside it (fig.3.3.51). Part of the floor looked to have been made partly of tailings. Room 5 was a small space off Room 4, built against a rock outcrop. Its walls would appear to have been rebuilt at some point; the wall dividing Rooms 3 and 5 being a secondary construction.



Figure 3.3.50 Mortar embedded in floor of Room 3.



Figure 3.3.51 Hearth in corner of Room 4 with ash deposit beside it.

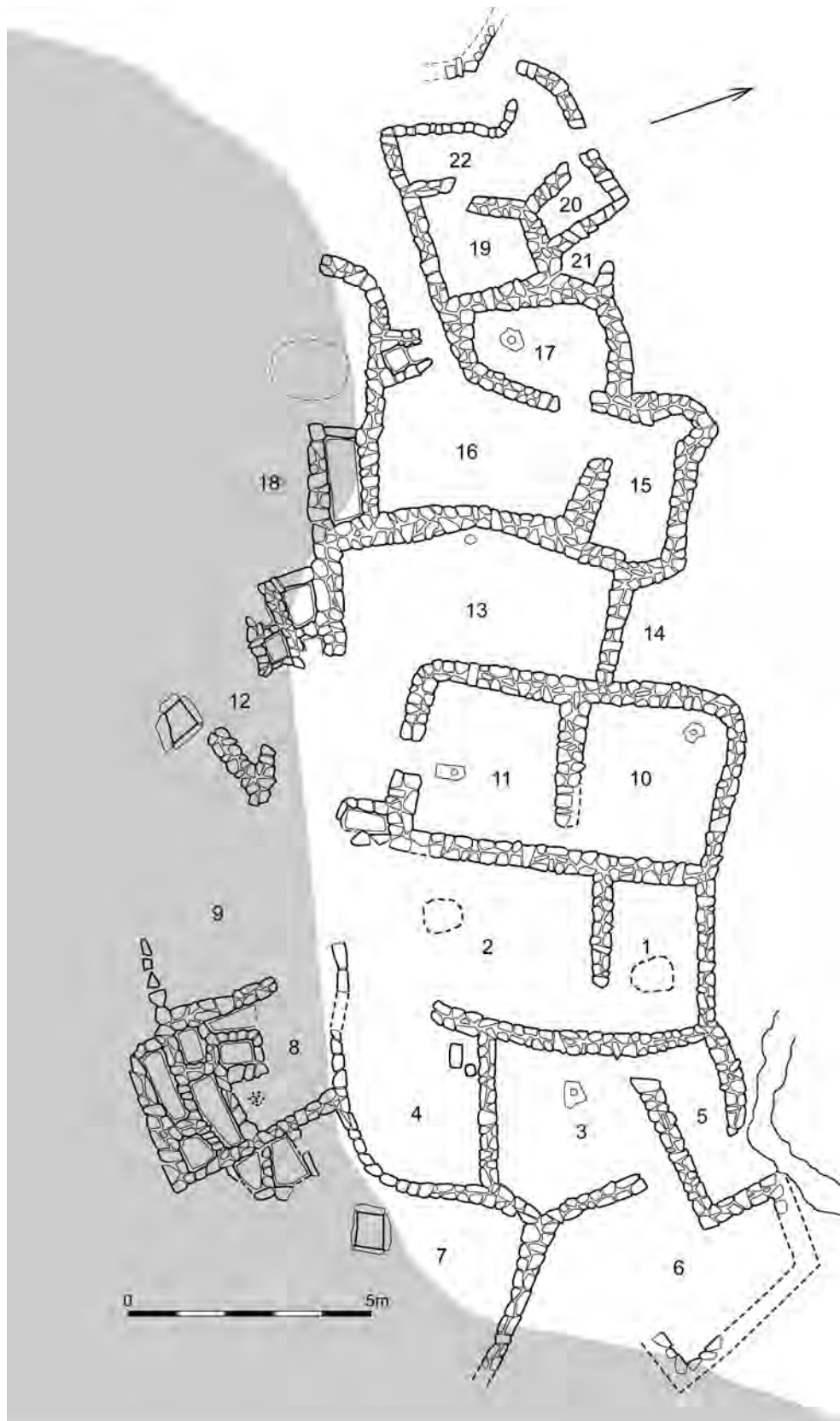


Figure 3.3.49 Plan of [11-Q-59] workshop with large spread of tailings on south side (shaded).

Room 6 had a small outcrop of rock in the middle of it. What was probably an outside space 'Room 7' contained a stone-lined tank/bin (fig.3.3.52) and the remains of a further two stone-built bins abutting the wall separating this room from Room 8. The fill of this area/room was largely quartz tailings. The tank measured 75cm x 57cm and was preserved c.20cm deep. Cut slightly into loose crumbly bedrock it was lined with flat stones. The base had a coating of a smooth but

sandy yellowish-white plaster/mortar c.1cm thick which extended c.9.5cm up the sides (fig.3.3.53). The condition of this plaster (rather loose and crumbly) suggested that the pit had not been used to hold water, and there were no traces of burning. The tank/bin was surrounded by a large area of tailings and filled with the same material.

Room 8 was a small area containing the remains of 7 or 8 small, subrectangular stone-built bins, abutting each other. The original height of the

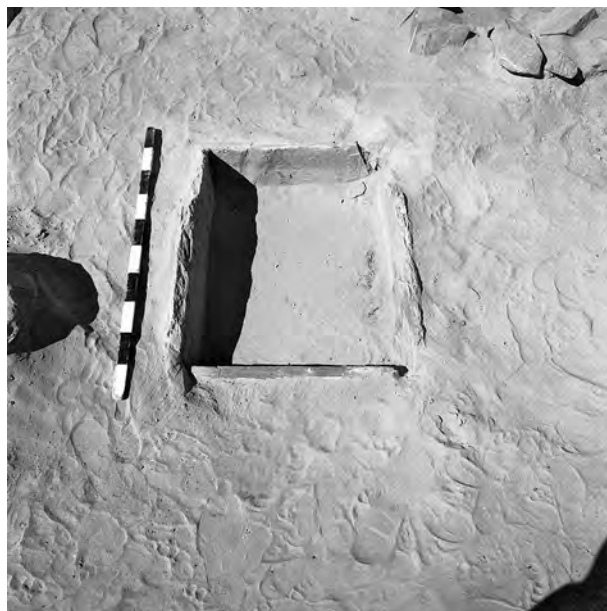


Figure 3.3.52 Stone-lined bin in Room 7, from east.

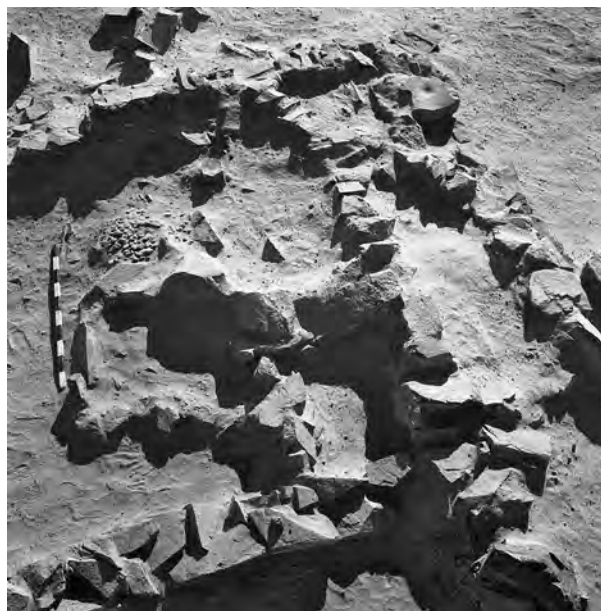


Figure 3.3.54 Stone 'bins' in Room 8 area, from west.



Figure 3.3.53 Detail of plastered lining of bin in Room 7.



Figure 3.3.55 Deposit of large pebbles in Room 8 area.

light walls surrounding them was uncertain and none survived higher than 37cm. The bases of the bins were of packed mud but the walls did not have a smooth finish. All the bins were filled with tailings, in some cases very hard-packed and thick. Beside these was found a pile of smooth pebbles (figs 3.3.54–55). It was thought likely that washing occurred in this bins, but they may have served as storage bins. Similar bins at other sites (e.g. [11-Q-61], Room 22) were considered fairly obviously connected with washing processes. The adjoining ‘Room 9’ was featureless.

The two adjoining subrectangular rooms 10 and 11 both had granite mortars set in their floors. To their south, ‘Room 12’ had another stone-lined tank (70cm x 55cm x 48cm deep) set into the tailings and cut into the gravel below. Its stone lining included three reused grindstones. There was another rectangular, stone-built bin with a mud floor in the corner of the room. Room 13 had a small area of rather white fine ash in the centre of the floor; possibly not a cooking fire. There is also a round, bowl-shaped depression in the floor near the angle in the west wall. It is c.25cm in diameter and a maximum of 7cm deep. It appeared to be made of packed mud, the lip of which has then been plastered; the plaster looking like coarse tailings. On its north side ‘Room 14’ may have been an open space, as no trace of a wall survived on its north side. In this area was a large deposit of 2cm³ quartz.



Figure 3.3.56 Stone bin on north side of Room 12, from east.



Figure 3.3.57 Stone bin on north side of Room 12, from north.

Room 15–17 formed another group of interconnecting rooms. Room 15 had a small deposit of tailings on the floor. Room 16 had the remains of two small, rectangular stone-built bins with mud floors near its entrance. The inner Room 17 had a mortar embedded in the floor. To the south ‘Room 18’ was an open area. Within it is a large rectangular stone bin with a mud floor. Just to the southeast of this were the remains of four other smaller bins (fig.3.3.49). The largest of these was filled with blown sand and rubble, the others were filled with tailings. To the west was a large pit, c.1.60m x 1.25m, which seemed to have been cut through the tailings, into the gravel below. This was possibly a later intrusion. Rooms 19–22 at the west end of the site were featureless. Their less careful construction was similar to what was found with some rooms (6–10) at site [11-Q-61], being smaller and less well-constructed than other rooms elsewhere on the site.

The initial testing of the site suggested that the pottery from the site was fairly uniform, being principally soft brown ware (Nile silt) pieces (bowls and jars), some with red-slipped rims. The final assessment suggested however that the majority of sherds were of harder wheel-made wares, both red wares and Qena and Ballas wares, and c.25–35% of soft-brown siltwares. The bulk of the sherds are divided ‘more or less equally between the red and the buff’ (i.e. marl) wares. Occasional ‘Kerma’ sherds and other local ‘Nubian’ vessels were also

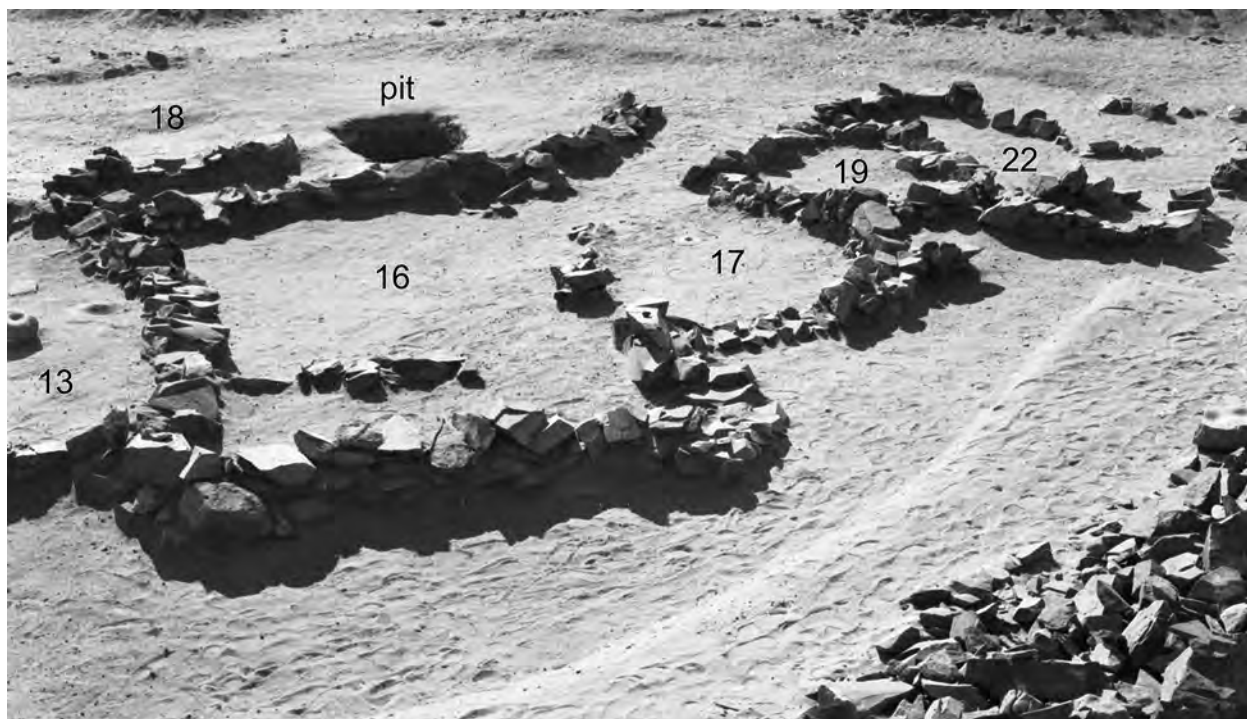


Figure 3.3.58 Excavated rooms at west side of [11-Q-59], from north.



Figure 3.3.59 Excavated site [11-Q-59] towards northwest. Note large rock outcrop, one of many in this area, between site and river beyond (marked by trees); west bank hills in distance.



Figure 3.3.60 Excavated site [11-Q-59] looking east.



Figure 3.3.61 Excavated site [11-Q-59] looking south.

noted. The composition of this assemblage was thought to be slightly different from that encountered at site [11-Q-61], but no collections seem to have been made or pottery samples drawn. It was noted however that the quantity of pottery for a site of this size seemed small. The few other objects from the site were principally copper alloy tools, most recovered in Room 1 (see below).

Finds (fig.3.3.62):

Room 1:

11-Q-59/2. Razor, copper alloy. L:133mm (blade L:40mm). Blade tip missing. Photos: C/049:6, C/094:33. SNM.18502. (fig.3.3.63, 2)

11-Q-59/3. Necklace counterweight, copper alloy. Two suspension holes and incised representation of Anuket. L:80mm. Photos: C/049:13, C/094:33. SNM.18505. (fig.3.3.63, 3)

11-Q-59/4. Copper alloy needle, bent. L:97mm. Photos: C/049:10, C/094:33. SNM:18488. (fig.3.3.63, 4)

11-Q-59/5. Calcite bow-drill holder. D:21mm. Photo: C/050:3. SNM.18421. (fig.3.3.64)

11-Q-59/6. Razor, copper alloy. L:142mm (blade L:85mm); Th:0.5mm. Photos: C/049:2, C/094:33. SNM.18506. (fig.3.3.63, 6)

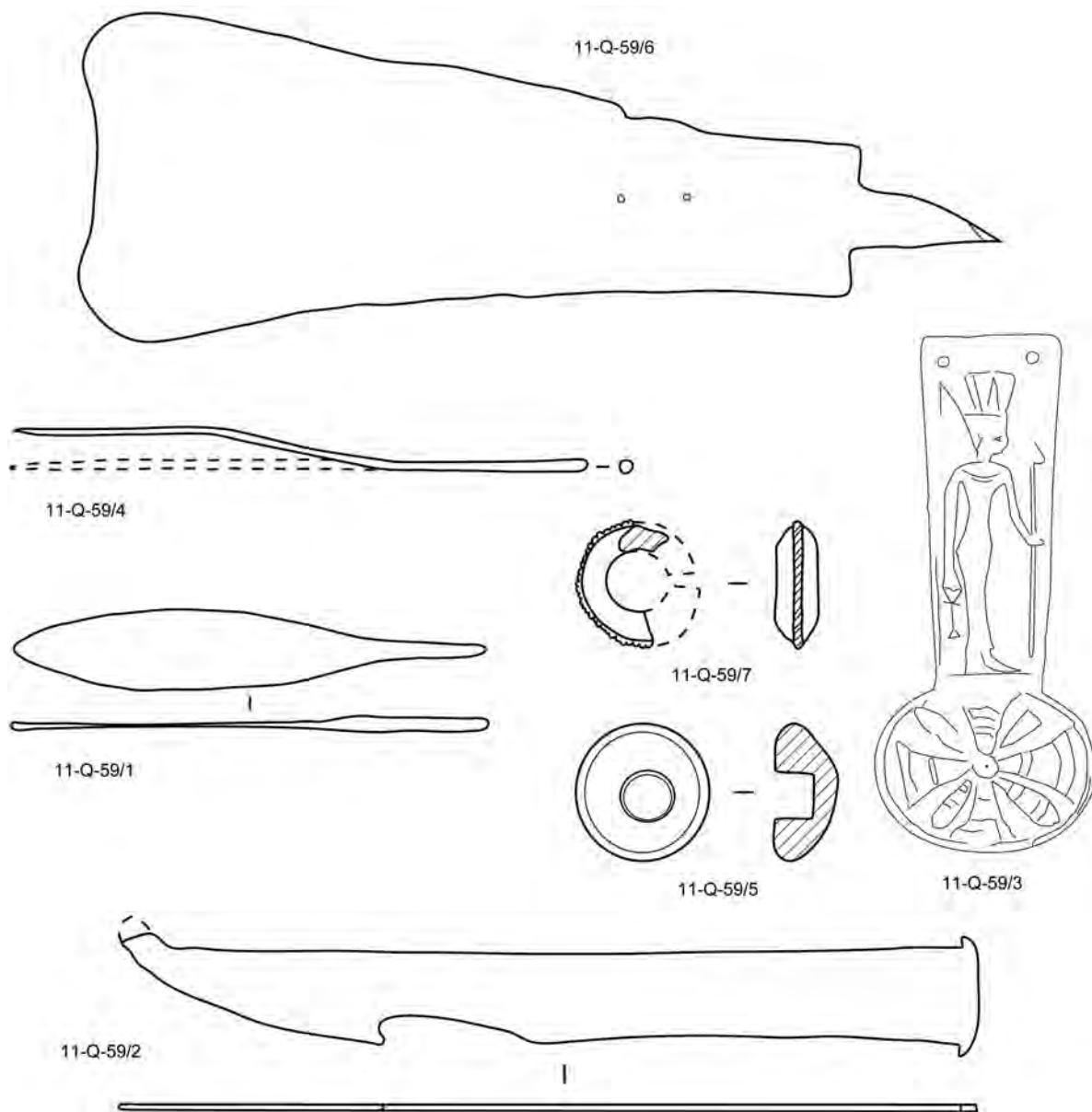


Figure 3.3.62 Small finds from [11-Q-59].

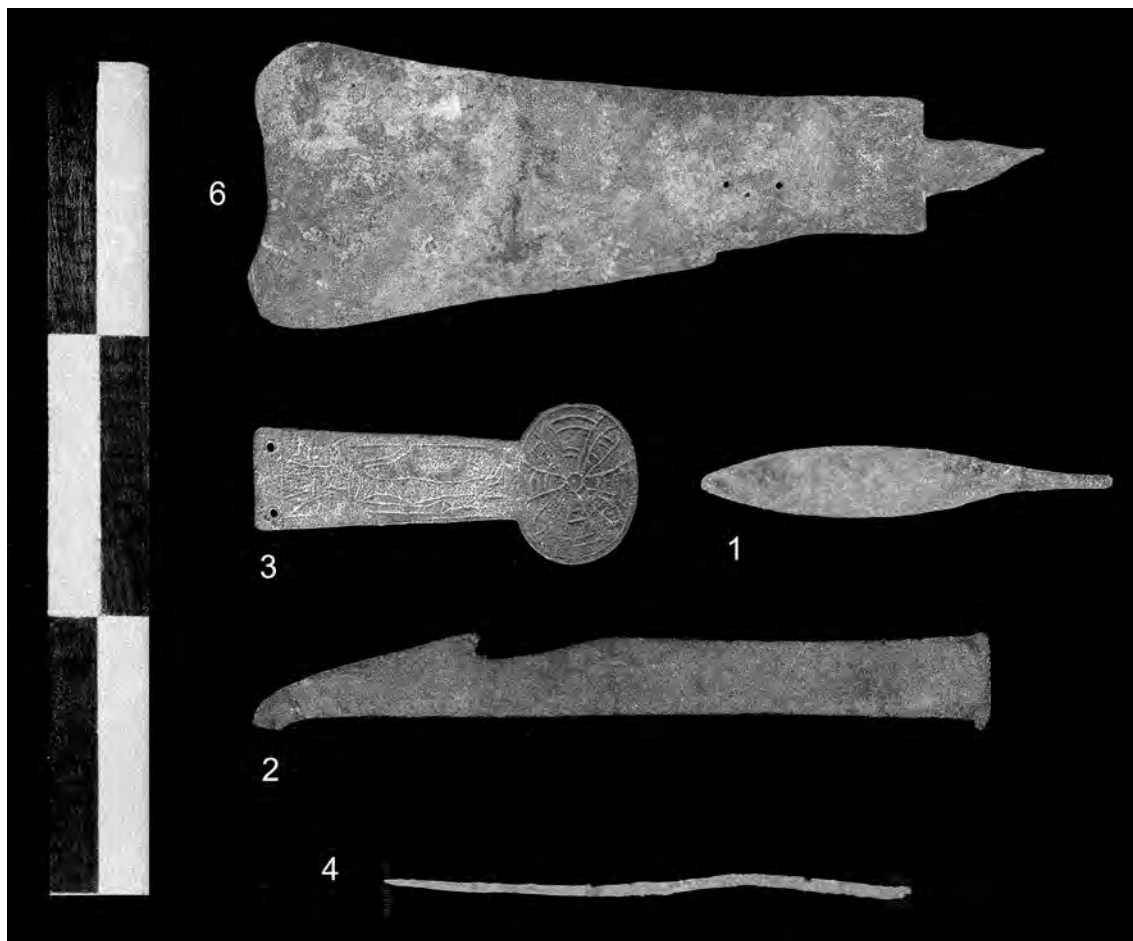


Figure 3.3.63 Copper alloy finds (11-Q-59/1-4,6).

Room 2:

11-Q-59/1. Blade, copper alloy. L:75mm. Photos: C/049:5, C/094:33. SNM.18489. (fig.3.3.63, 1)

11-Q-59/7. Carnelian ring, part. D:20mm; Th:7mm. Photo: C/050:2. SNM.18423. (fig.3.3.65)

Room 14:

11-Q-59/A. Schist palette, fragment. Estimated c.70mm x 50mm. Not registered.

Uncontexted:

11-Q-59/B. Faience vessel fragment. poorly preserved; traces only of external decoration. Burnt. D: ?; H:30mm. Not registered.

11-Q-59/C. Faience, vessel wall fragment; traces of internal decoration. Not registered.

11-Q-59/D. Beads (various). Includes incomplete faience amulet bead, hard white stone disc beads, blue glass and blue faience. 1 larger organic (bone/horn?) barrel bead.

11-Q-59/E. Bowl, fragment. Coarse handmade black-ware bowl with roughly polished surfaces. D:c.210mm. H:150mm. Not registered.

Some observations were recorded on the various grindstones recorded on the surface and during excavations, and their various functions they

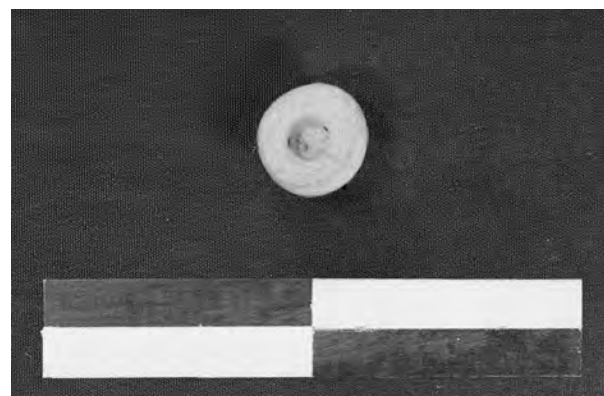


Figure 3.3.64 Calcite bow-drill holder (11-Q-59/5).

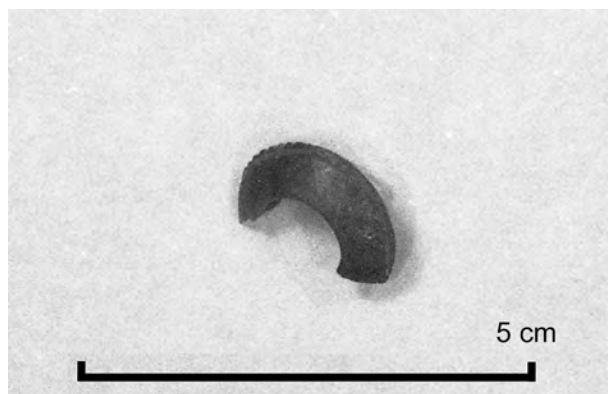


Figure 3.3.65 Carnelian ring, fragment (11-Q-59/7).

may have served in processing activities. They were described as two distinct types of grinders/mortars. One type (1) comprised blocks with round, cup-shaped depressions, no larger than 12.5–13cm in diameter and 3cm deep. These blocks, which measured ≥ 40 cm square and were ≥ 20 cm thick generally had more than one such grinding depression in them. The dimensions of the ‘cup’ was thought likely to be determined by their use, probably the crushing of small pellets of ore which have already been reduced to c.2mm diameter by another crushing process. The second type of tool (2) had a wide, shallow depression, generally oval (≥ 35 cm x ≥ 45 cm x c.3cm deep).

The surfaces were commonly scored along the length and such tools were undoubtedly used to finally grind the quartz to a very fine powder. The scoring was up to 2mm deep with 3–4 grooves per cm. It was not uncommon to find a boulder with both tools on it (fig.3.3.66). A third tool type (3) found in abundance in the fill, but rarely on the surface were the granite pestle stones, presumed to be associated with the large grinders (tool 2). These were normally large enough to grip with two hands and all displayed one or two very smooth, flat surfaces.

An operational sequence for the use of these tools was proposed by the excavators: Ore was brought down from the mines in stones ranging in size from c.2–12cm³, the smaller sizes being rather more common. This material was then crushed by Tool 1 as finely as possible, often part of it being rendered to a powder. The granulated quartz (probably rather like coarse sand) was then finely ground in Tool 2 with the use of Tool 3. The powdered ore was then panned to extract the metal.

DOCUMENTATION: No previous record. AJM VII: 65–72; 127–132. Photos: F/299: 5–12; F/300; F/301: 1–2; F/309: 7–8; F/310, F/311; F/312. Air Photos: 623190, 328258, 633094. Investigated: 18–21/11/1965; 15–20/12/1965.

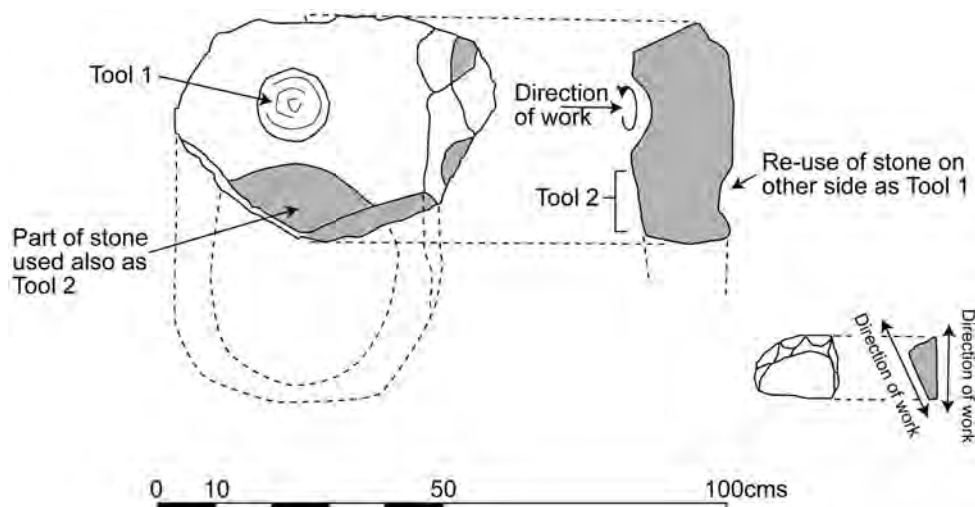


Figure 3.3.66 Examples of grinding tool types from surface of [11-Q-59].

11-Q-62 Workshop

Saras East

LOCATION: this was located c.450m east of the river bank (250m east of the road) and about 450m south of the Saras Rest House. It lay on a low slope on the south and east sides of a low, rocky outcrop, c.70m to the west-southwest of [11-Q-59].

DESCRIPTION: this was the largest of the workshop sites found in this area, covering an area of c.65m x 60m. The western side was bounded by the top of the low rocky outcrop and the site gradually sloped down to the east and south. The surface was blown sand and littered with stones and rock (fig.3.3.67), a few potsherds and a certain amount of quartz pebbles and chippings. There are also a number of large granite mortars and grinding stones. Some wall lines could be traced amongst the surface stones.

An initial exploratory trench was excavated east-west across the site (across parts of Rooms 1–4) revealing that the site lay on a slope of fossil alluvium which is about 50cm below the surface at the top of the site and 40cm below at the bottom of the slope, with thin deposits (5–7cm) of windblown sand beneath the walls and floors, above a natural surface of ancient alluvium. The fill was a fairly clean sand, with, some charcoal fragments and sherds, along with stone rubble towards the mud floors. A sketch section was recorded (fig.3.3.68). The sherds were noted as appearing similar to those from nearby sites [11-Q-59] and [11-Q-61], mostly a soft brown ware with red slipped rims, a few wheelmade hard red ware and occasional handmade ('Nubian') sherds. This trench exposed a number of dry-stone walls, standing one or two courses high, but no complete room could be



Figure 3.3.67 Panoramic view across site [11-Q-62], before excavation, looking towards southeast. Note large grindstones on surface in lower right part of image.

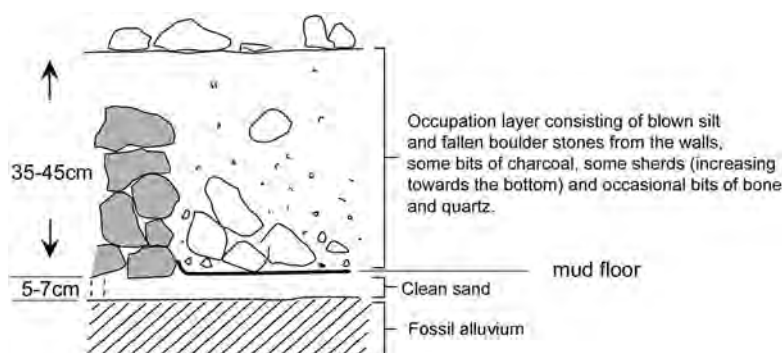


Figure 3.3.68 Sketch section of walls and floor levels.

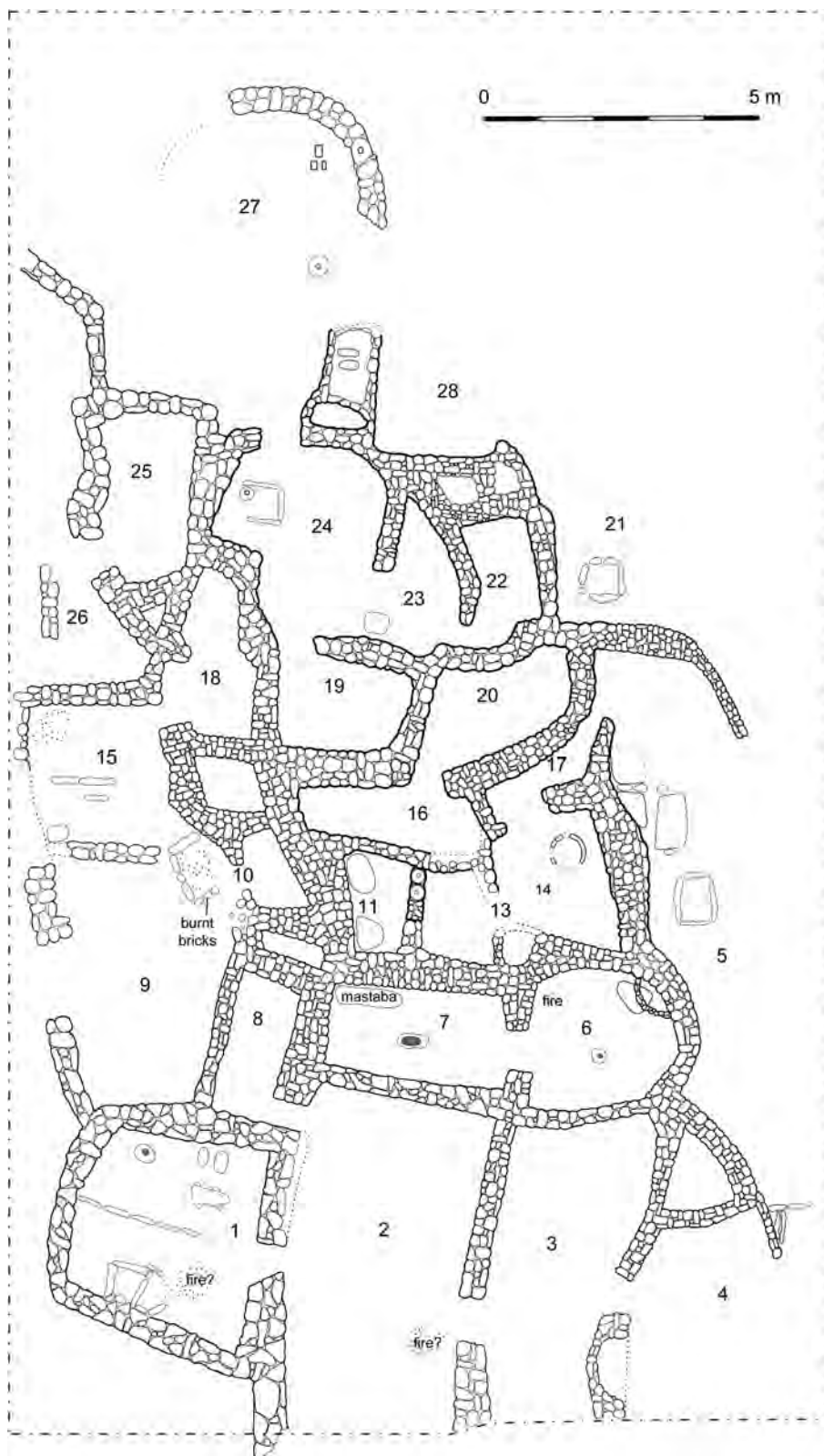


Figure 3.3.69 General plan of [11-Q-62] with second (upper) phase of rooms in central area (mainly Rooms 19–24).



Figure 3.3.70 View east across central area of excavation [11-Q-62].

defined within this initial test (this area spanned Rooms 1–4). The test trench also exposed part of a dump of stone tailings c.12cm thick.

The next month, following excavations at similar sites in the area, a larger sample area (estimated at c.50% of the area with structural remains) was excavated. This measured c.27m north-south x 15m east-west, covering the area from the north end of the site and extending over the whole slope from the rocky outcrop to its lowest part. Within this area some 30 rooms were exposed (fig.3.3.69), all with dry-stone walls and packed mud floors.

The central part of the site was rather better preserved than found at other similar sites in the area, with some walls surviving c.50cm high, and with most of the mud floors preserved.

Virtually all of the rooms appeared to have served as working areas. The fill was generally as encountered in the test trench, mainly quite clean blown sand mixed with fallen stone from the walls. Below the sand the occupation levels contained quantities of tailings, quartz dust (c.2mm³) as well as larger quartz fragments (>20mm³), some charcoal and ash, sherds, stone tools and several small objects.



Figure 3.3.71 Room 1 features, from west.



Figure 3.3.72 Room 1 Grinding emplacement, from north.

At the end of the excavation it was possible to confirm that in some areas, there were two distinct structural phases. A small area of rooms/features from the earlier phase was exposed towards the north end of the site (see below, fig.3.3.86).

Room 1 was one of the more completely preserved with a number of interesting features. It is subdivided into two areas by a low thin wall made of large flat orthostats, laid end to end (figs 3.3.71–2). On the north side a large granite grinder was found in situ. It was raised c.48cm above the floor standing on two upright stone blocks placed on edge, parallel to each other (fig. 3.3.74). The direction of work was parallel to the direction of the supporting stones; its raised position was presumed to have facilitated grinding work. A second pair of blocks beside this feature was presumed to have supported a second grindstone. To the west was a granite mortar embedded in the floor. In the southern half of the room was another feature, constructed of flat stones and mud built against the wall (fig. 3.3.72), forming another type of grindstone emplacement; the lower bin was c.25cm below the base of the upper one. The floors of this feature were mud with little evidence for the presence/use of water. The fill in this area was similar to elsewhere. Close to this second feature was a small area of burning on the floor, marked by fairly dark ash. This area was recorded as having two floor levels c.9cm apart, separated by ‘rubble and rubbish’.



Figure 3.3.73 Feature within Room 1, from north.

To the east were a series of at least three rooms/spaces (Rooms 2,3,4). Their southern extent was not fully defined, lying beyond the edge of excavation. The only feature in Room 2 was a small patch of light burning on the floor. There was a large subrectangular bin in the west wall of Room 4. ‘Room 5’ extended along the (lower) east side of excavated area (fig. 3.3.75). Features included

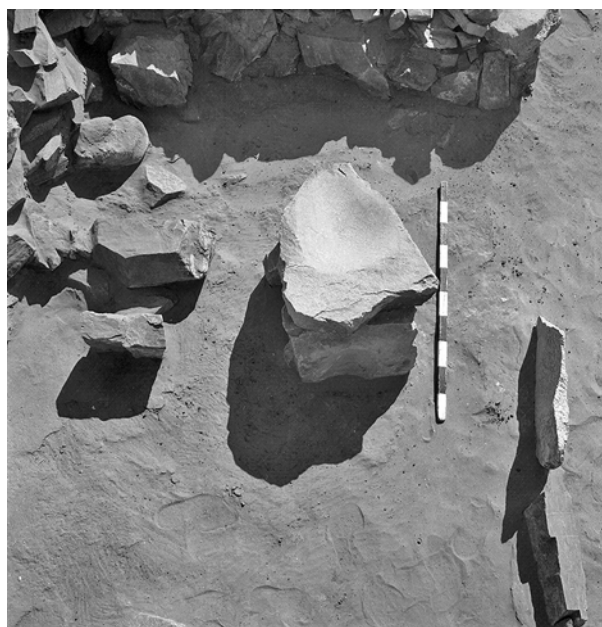


Figure 3.3.74 Room 1. Two grindstone stands one with grinder in place, in northwest of room.



Figure 3.3.75 Two tank/bins on east side of site in ‘Room 5’ area; from north.



Figure 3.3.76 View looking north across east side of site [11-Q-62]. Saras fort on hill (top left).

a bin abutting Room 4 in which there is a 12cm deposit of tailings. Further north, adjacent to room 13 there was a cluster of three more small bins and as well as two shallow rectangular stone-lined rectangular tanks (similar to example in [11-Q-59], Room 7).

Room 6 had two floor levels. At the level of the upper surface there was a granite mortar in one corner; the lower (c.15cm below) had a bin built into the same corner and a mortar set in the floor near the centre of the room, with a small fire on its north side. To the west Room 7 had a low stone mastaba (120 x 40 x 15cm high) in one corner. A granite grinder, only lightly used lay near the centre of the room. How these rooms were accessed was not clear.

Room 8 was a small featureless room with access to Room 2. The larger Room 9, accessed from the west had a granite mortar embedded in its floor. Room 10 adjoined 9 and may have been part of it; it consisted largely of four large bins with mud floors, at a slightly higher than the floors in the adjoining rooms. One bin was built with upright flat slabs, the others with ordinary boulder stone,



Figure 3.3.77 Rooms 9 and 15, with series of stone bins.

as used in the walls. This bin was full of 2mm³ quartz chips. The other bins were filled with the same general fill deposits. Parts of two burnt mud



Figure 3.3.78 Room 11 with mud bases of two bins in corners of room; looking west. Grinders/mortars in centre of room.



Figure 3.3.80 Detail of stone pounders in northwest corner of Room 15.



Figure 3.3.79 Room 15, from west.



Figure 3.3.81 Bin in southwest corner of Room 15.

bricks were found beside the quartz-filled bin (the only brick recorded at any of these sites). In the northwest corner was a deposit of several stone pounders.

Rooms 11 and 12 were two small inner rooms separated by a half wall. Room 11 had the mud floors of two subcircular bins on its west side. Room 12 was featureless. To the east Room 14 had a round pit, c.25cm deep, sunk in the floor and a bin in one corner by its south wall.

On the west side, Room 15 was another space divided in two in a similar fashion to Room 1. In one half of the room there was a number of pounding and rubbing stones on the floor (fig.3.3.79) and in a corner there was a granite stone which has just begun its use as a mortar or pounding stone beside it. In the other half of the room there was a deep bin/tank, in one corner. In the centre of the floor was an upright stone which may be one of a pair, to support a mortar (as seen in Room 1).



Figure 3.3.82 Stone lined tank/bin inside Room 24 with mortar beside it.



Figure 3.3.84 Stone lined tank/bin in outside area Room 21; looking west towards Room 22.



Figure 3.3.83 Room 22, from north.



Figure 3.3.85 View south across site. Grindstone stand in foreground in poorly preserved Room 27 at north end of site.

Room 18 appears to have been an inner chamber for Room 15 and about half the room seems to have been a storage space.

Rooms 16 and 17 were narrow spaces, perhaps for storage, part of a late phase overlying some earlier structures. Other rooms of this upper level structure were numbered 19, 20, 22, 23, 24; parts of their walls being built on earlier walls, with some new additions. These were largely featureless but Room 24 had the remains of a bin/tank on

one side with a mortar beside it probably in situ (fig.3.3.82). The walls of Room 22 incorporated several large stones previously used as mortars (fig.3.3.83). There was a raised bin/grinding emplacement at the doorway into Room 23 with a lower bin beside, similar to the emplacement found in Room 1.

Room 21 was an external space/room but with two floor levels. The upper surface had a bin/tank, found filled with hard packed tailings hard.

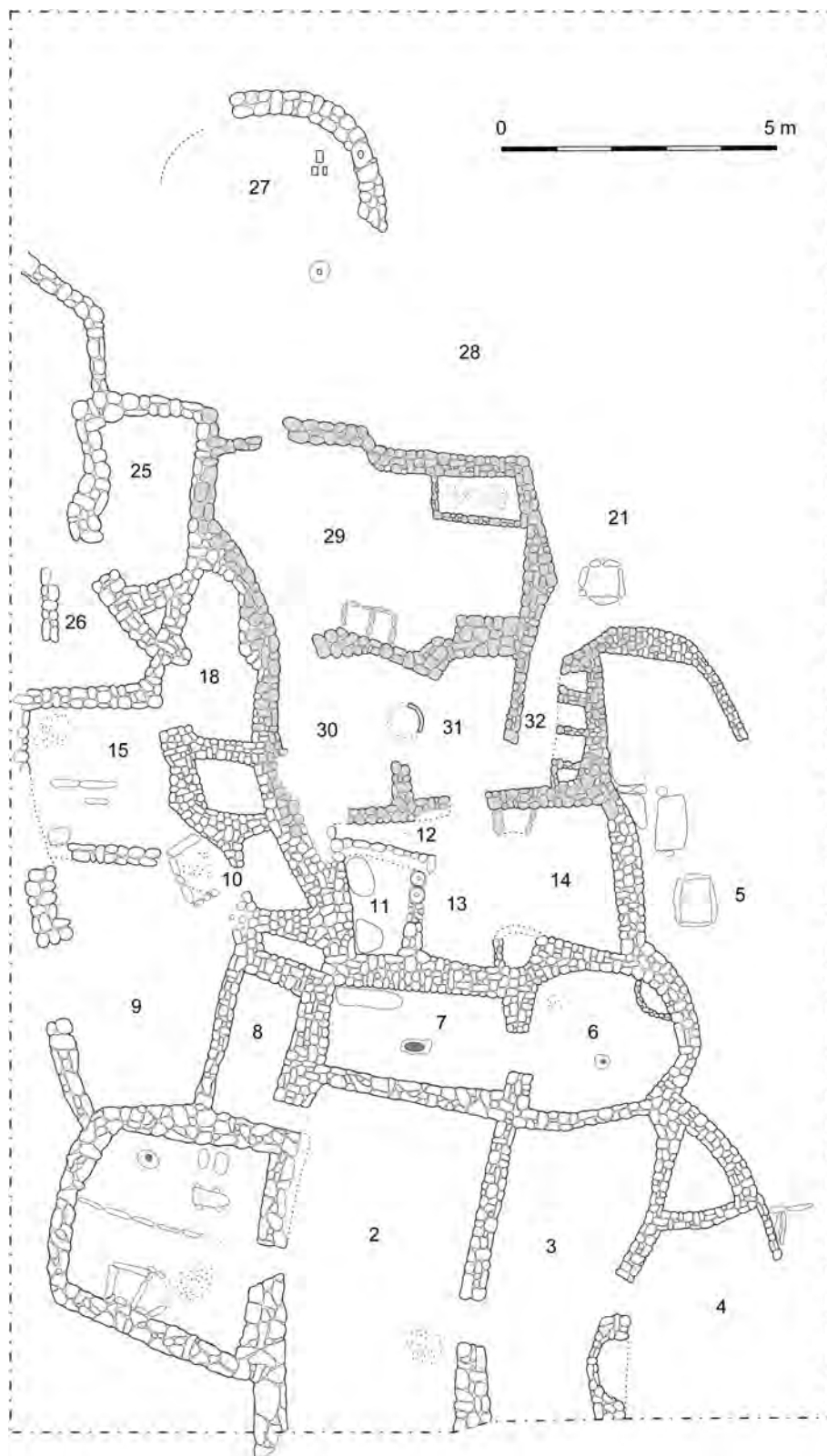


Figure 3.3.86 Plan of earlier phase structure, identified mainly as Rooms 29–31 (shaded).
Potters turntable was apparently found near bin in the northeast part of Room 29.

The wall beside it contained several blocks which had been used as mortars (fig.3.3.84). At the lower level there was another tank, just beside the later one; stone lined and c.40cm deep. The fill was a mixture of tailings, silt and debris. In Room 25 there was a pair of upright stones similar to those in Room 1, forming a grindstone stand. Room 26 was another external space with a small triangular bin formed at a wall junction.

Room 27 lay at the northern edge of the site and was largely destroyed. Within it was a bin with a mud floor, partly filled with tailings. There is also a setting of three upright stones (fig.3.3.85) similar to those in Room 1; perhaps a setting for a very large grindstone. In one corner of this room was a bin next to which was another small subrectangular area within which were two more upright stones. This area was very small and it was considered too small to allow the use of a grindstone; perhaps suggesting it was not surrounded with a full wall. Room 28 was another external space in which there are two bins built against the wall.

Some evidence was found for an earlier building phase, some elements of which had been incorporated into the later structures. Only limited areas of this were exposed and how extensive this earlier building may have been was not determined. It is not possible to trace the construction history of the complex on the basis of the excavation records. Room 29 underlay Rooms 22, 23, 24. In its northeast corner was a large shallow bin

and just outside the bin, on the floor, was the small turntable (11-Q-62/10). There was considerable quantity of 2mm³ quartz in the bins. Rooms 30 and 31 underlay Rooms 19 and 20, and were divided by a short wall. In the space between is a large shallow mud basin. Room 32 was a narrow room to the east of Room 31 with a row of four bins in it at the lower level.

Some possible differences in the pottery from different phases of the site were however identified. Field examination noted that the pottery from the upper level (if mixed with some from the lower level) was chiefly 'red ware'. It is almost all wheel made. Some sherds are of large vessels, others smaller ones. There were a fair amount of sherds of the soft brown (silt) ware bowls. There were also a few Qena ware sherds. The sherd material from the lower level, where securely stratified, was estimated as comprising c.85% soft brown ware bowls. Field records also note that some samples of quartz chippings were taken from the bin in Room 10. It is possible these may survive in the magazines of the Sudan National Museum.

Finds:

Examples of grindstones and (1-2, 11-12) and an ear-plug (3) and needle (4) were recovered from the initial text trench. The find-spots of other registered finds (5-10) were located to room (see above).

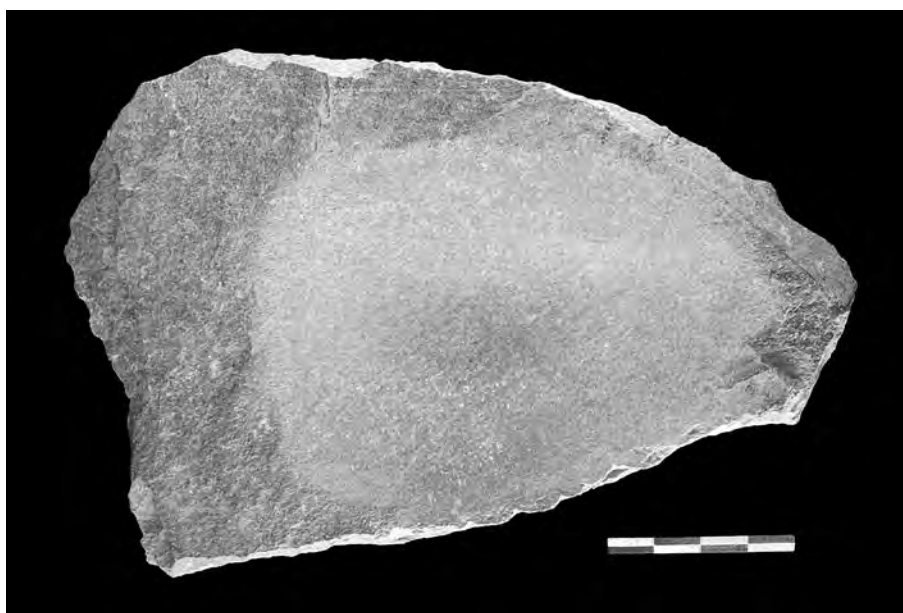


Figure 3.3.87 Example of large granite grindstone (11-Q-62/1).

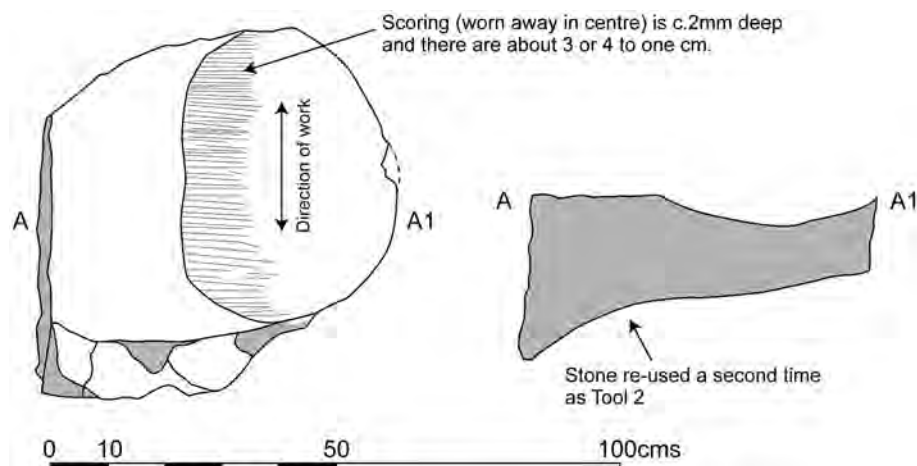


Figure 3.3.88 Drawing of grindstone used on two sides from [11-Q-62].

11-Q-62/1. A large grey granite grindstone. Worked surfaces on both sides. Possibly organic residue/ deposit (described as 'leather-like') found around the rim of the working area. 730mm x 490mm; Th:110mm. Surface find. Photo: C/057:36. SNM.18560. (fig.3.3.87)

11-Q-62/2. Mortar. Pink granite with working surface on two sides. c.400mm x 400mm; Th:200mm. Photo: C/057:35. SNM.18561. (fig.3.3.89)

11-Q-62/3. Ear plug. Calcite. D:20mm; Th:17mm. Photo: C/049:35. SNM.18530.

11-Q-62/4. Needle, copper alloy; broken and lacking eye. L:>52mm. Photo: C/049:12; C/094:33. SNM.18508. (fig.3.3.90)

11-Q-62/5. Copper alloy blade. L:107mm; W:16mm; Th:5mm. Corroded but strong. Photos: C/049:1, C/094:33. SNM.18507. (fig. 3.3.93).

11-Q-62/6. Copper alloy needle. L:101mm;W:4mm; Th:2mm. One end flattened and pierced to create eye. Bent and slightly corroded. Photos: C/049:8-9, C/094:33. SNM.18498. (fig.3.3.90)

11-Q-62/7. Copper alloy plate. L:54mm; W:28mm; Th:1mm. Pierced with 7 holes. Corroded but intact. Photos: C/049:4, C/094:33. SNM.18501. (fig.3.3.90)

11-Q-62/8. Copper alloy chisel, one end broken off. L:36mm; Th:9mm. Slightly corroded. Photos: C/049:3, C/094:33. SNM.18487. (fig.3.3.90)

11-Q-62/9. Copper alloy awl (?). L:80mm; Th:4mm. One end broken; square section in centre. Photos: C/049:11, C/094:33. SNM.18490. (fig.3.3.90)

11-Q-62/10(a,b). Potter's wheel/turntable; hard black stone (Basalt). Highly polished surfaces. Wheelhead

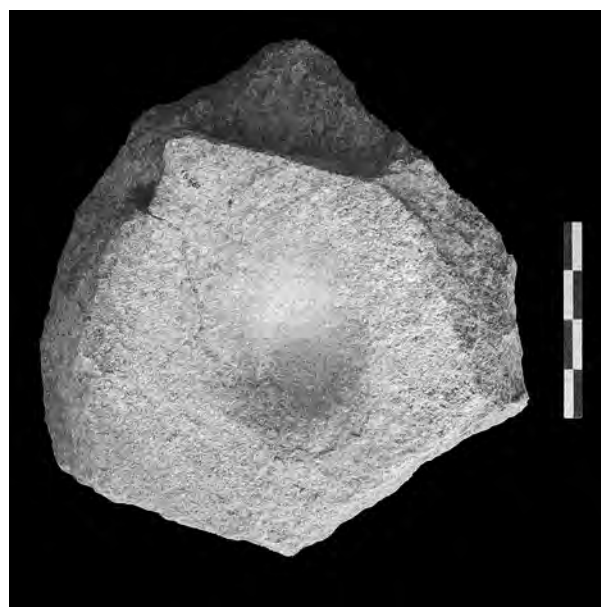


Figure 3.3.89 Example of mortar-type grindstone block (11-Q-62/2).

D: c.192mm; H:70mm. Photos: C/057:22-23. SNM.19397. (figs 3.3.91-2)

11-Q-62/11. Two handed granite hammer stone. Use wear on both ends. L: c.230mm. Photo: C/057:25. SNM.18560. (fig.3.3.94)

11-Q-62/12. Granite grinding/rubbing stone. Two sides ground quite smooth and flat. L:155mm. Th:42mm. Photo: C/057:24. SNM.18560. (fig.3.3.94)

Other finds from test area (fig.3.3.92):

11-Q-62/A: fragment of grey/brown quartzite palette (?), with circular hole in the middle. L: c.60-80mm. Not registered.



Figure 3.3.90 Copper alloy tools and artefacts from [11-Q-62].

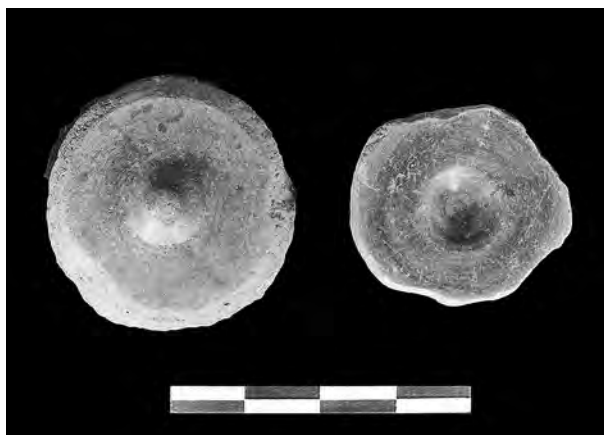


Figure 3.3.91 Potters turntable (11-Q-62/10 a,b).



Figure 3.3.92 Potters turntable (11-Q-62/10 a,b).

11-Q-62/B: fragment of a bracelet (hard, opaque, white, striated stone). D:c.60mm. Not registered.

11-Q-62/C: carnelian pendant. H:15.mm. Not registered.

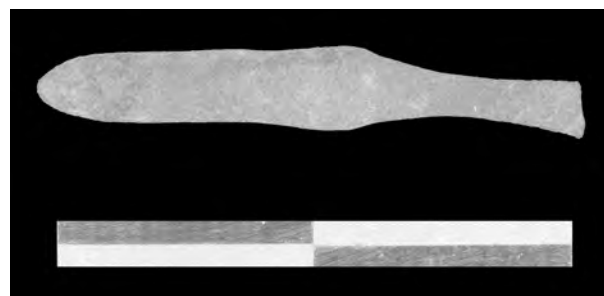


Figure 3.3.93 Copper alloy blade/knife (11-Q-62/5).

11-Q-62/D: faience beads (5). D:4mm. Not registered.

11-Q-62/E: baked mud bead (?). L:54mm, D:21mm. Not registered.

The field notebooks also mention the presence of several small fragments of red ochre and several pieces of what may have been bitumen, as well as various botanical remains, including possible grape seeds, watermelon seeds and possible lentils, all burnt. A few faience beads and a bone earplug were found within Room 6.

Pottery

A sample of sherds recovered from the initial test trench were drawn, derived from c.12 wheelmade vessels, mainly 'red ware' jars and 'soft brown ware' bowls and a small handmade pot (fig.3.3.97). A sample of other sherd material from subsequent excavations was also recorded (fig.3.3.98-9). This included a few sherds of ('Nubian') handmade wares, with red-polished surfaces, some with black

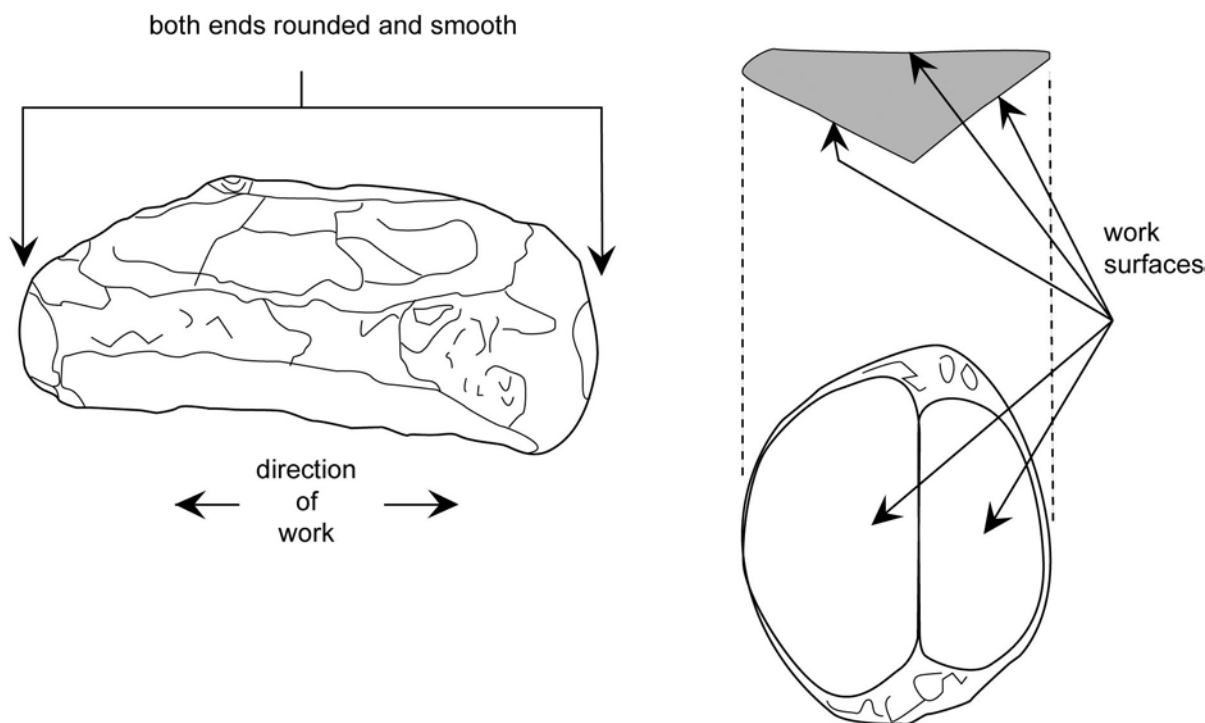


Figure 3.3.94 Granite hammer stone (11-Q-62/11), left; and grinder/rubbing stone (11-Q-62/12), right (scale 1:3).

rims. As noted above, while no quantification of the pottery was made, it was suggested that in the later occupation, 'red ware' pottery predominated, if also containing some 'soft brown ware' bowls and occasional marl sherds. Pottery from the earlier levels was estimated as predominantly (c.85%) 'soft brown ware bowls'.

11-Q-62/x1. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on inside surface and outside rim. D:165mm.

11-Q-62/x2. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on inside surface and outside rim. Interior smoothed. D:234mm.

11-Q-62/x3. Necked ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on outside surface. D:153mm.

11-Q-62/x4. Small pot with folded rim and short neck; round base. Handmade, brown ware (Nile silt) Crude and uncoated. Rim D:57mm; H:75mm.

11-Q-62/x5. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on inside and outside rim. Interior smoothed. D:245mm.

11-Q-62/x6. Necked jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, red ware. Matte red slip on outside surface and inside rim. Rim D:98mm.

11-Q-62/x7. Necked jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, red ware. Matte red slip on outside surface and inside rim. Rim D:90mm.

11-Q-62/x8. Necked ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, red ware; lightly 'ribbed' inside. Uncoated. Rim D:110mm.

11-Q-62/x9. Ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, red ware. Matte red slip on exterior; beige slip on inside surface. Rim D:129mm.

11-Q-62/x10. Necked ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, red ware. Matte beige slip on interior and exterior surfaces. Rim D:135mm.

11-Q-62/x11. Ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, red ware. Matte beige slip on exterior surface. Rim D:96mm.

11-Q-62/x12. Tall ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, hard red ware. Matte beige slip on exterior surface. Rim D:156mm.

11-Q-62/x13. Jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, hard red ware. Matte beige slip on exterior surface. Rim D:210mm.

11-Q-62/x14. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on inside and outside rim. Interior smoothed. D:255mm.

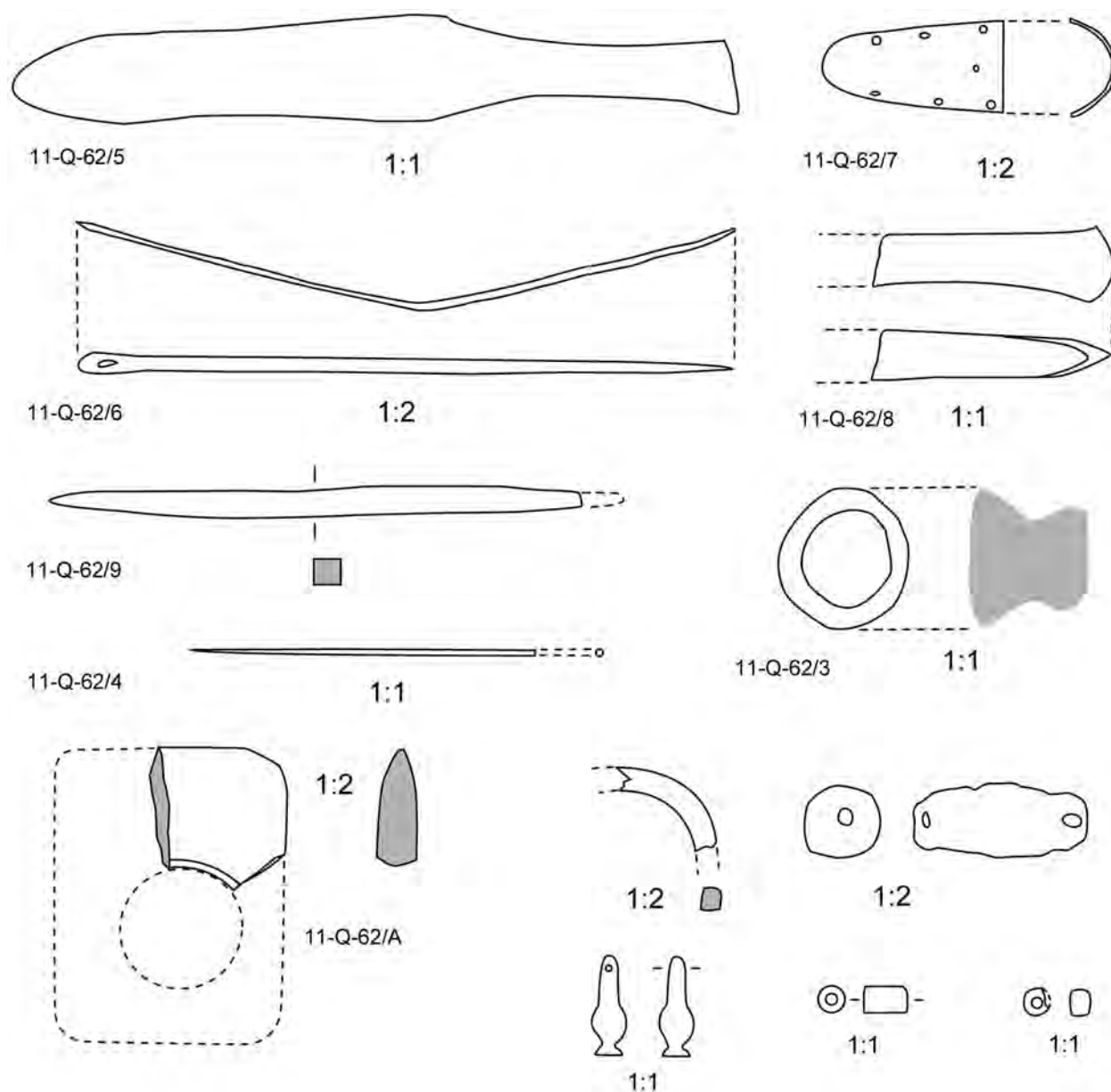


Figure 3.3.95 Finds from [11-Q-62].

11-Q-62/x15. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Fairly hard and red. Interior smoothed. D:212mm. H:c.75mm.

11-Q-62/x16. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped interior surface and exterior rim. D:275mm.

11-Q-62/x17. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped exterior rim and interior surface. Interior smoothed. D:234mm.

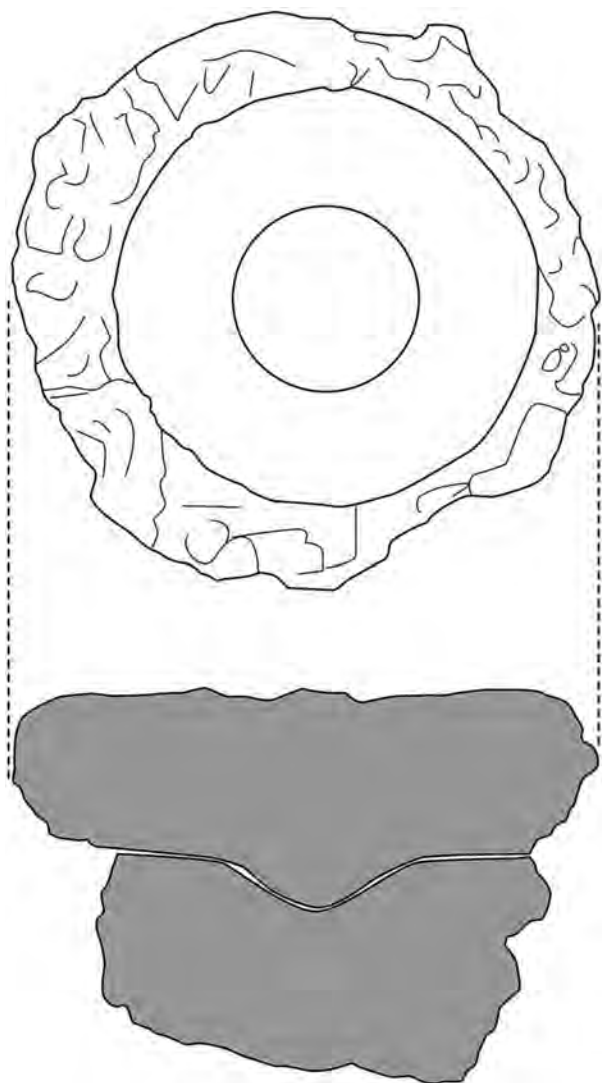
11-Q-62/x18. Bowl with direct rim and inflected contour. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. D:264mm.

11-Q-62/x19. Bowl with direct rim and inflected contour. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. D:204mm. H:c.63mm.

11-Q-62/x20. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Interior smoothed. D:228mm.

11-Q-62/x21. Plate with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped interior and exterior rim. D:264mm.

11-Q-62/x22. Bowl with direct rim and inflected contour. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped interior and exterior rim. D:222mm.



11-Q-62/x23. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on inside and outside rim. D:285mm.

11-Q-62/x24. Plate with modelled rim and round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte buff/ red slipped interior and exterior surfaces. D:210mm.

11-Q-62/x25. Bowl with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped interior and exterior upper surface. D:232mm; H:81mm.

11-Q-62/x26. Plate with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on inside rim and exterior upper surface. D:246mm; H:66mm.

11-Q-62/x27. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on outside rim. Interior smoothed. Post-firing incised potmark. D:240mm.

11-Q-62/x28. Tall necked ovoid jar with direct rim. Wheelmade, Ballas ware (Marl B). Pink/orange slip. Rim D:99mm.

11-Q-62/x29. Ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped exterior surface below rim. Rim D:122mm.

11-Q-62/x30. Ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped exterior surface. Rim D:104mm.

Figure 3.3.96 Potters turntable (11-Q-62/10 a,b).

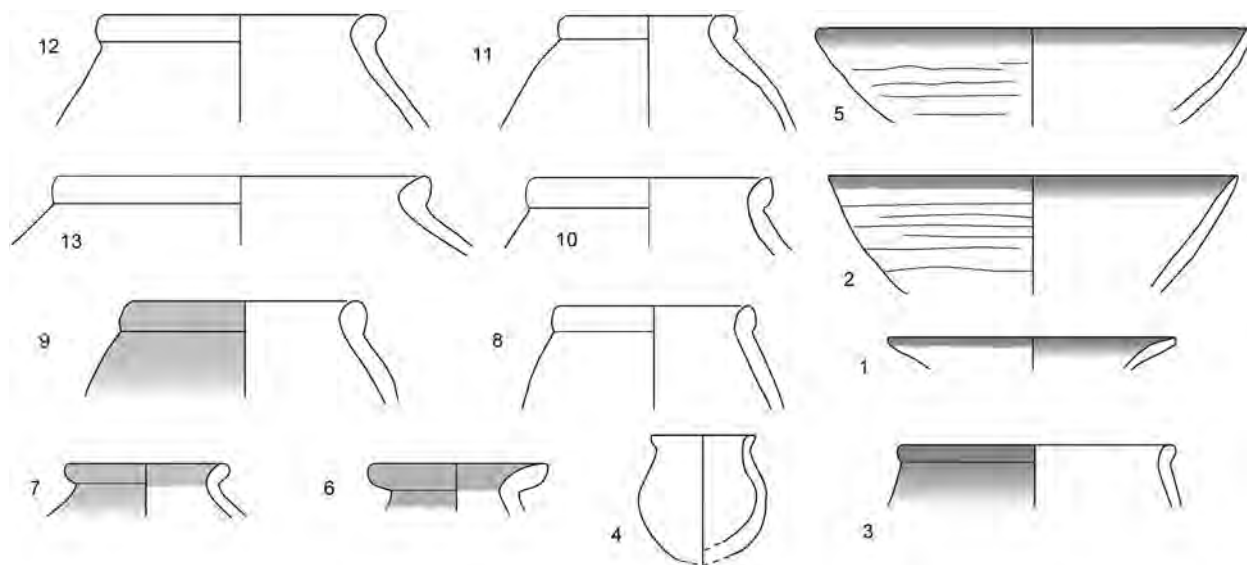


Figure 3.3.97 Pottery sample from test excavation [11-Q-62].

11-Q-62/x31. Ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped exterior surface. Rim D:108mm.

11-Q-62/x32. Necked ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware. Matte red slipped exterior surface. Wheelmarks on interior surface. Rim D:98mm.

11-Q-62/x33. Necked ovoid jar with folder rim. Wheelmade Qena ware (Marl A3). Uncoated. Rim D:220mm.

11-Q-62/x34. Amphora neck with folder rim. Wheelmade. Brown ware (Nile silt?). Red polished slip on exterior surface and inside rim. Rim D:104mm.

11-Q-62/x35. Neck jar with folded rim. Wheelmade Qena ware (Marl A3). Uncoated. Rim D:99mm. No parallel known in Nubia.

11-Q-62/x36. Juglet with modelled rim, tall neck and vertical handle. Wheelmade Qena ware (Marl A3). Uncoated. Rim D:96mm.

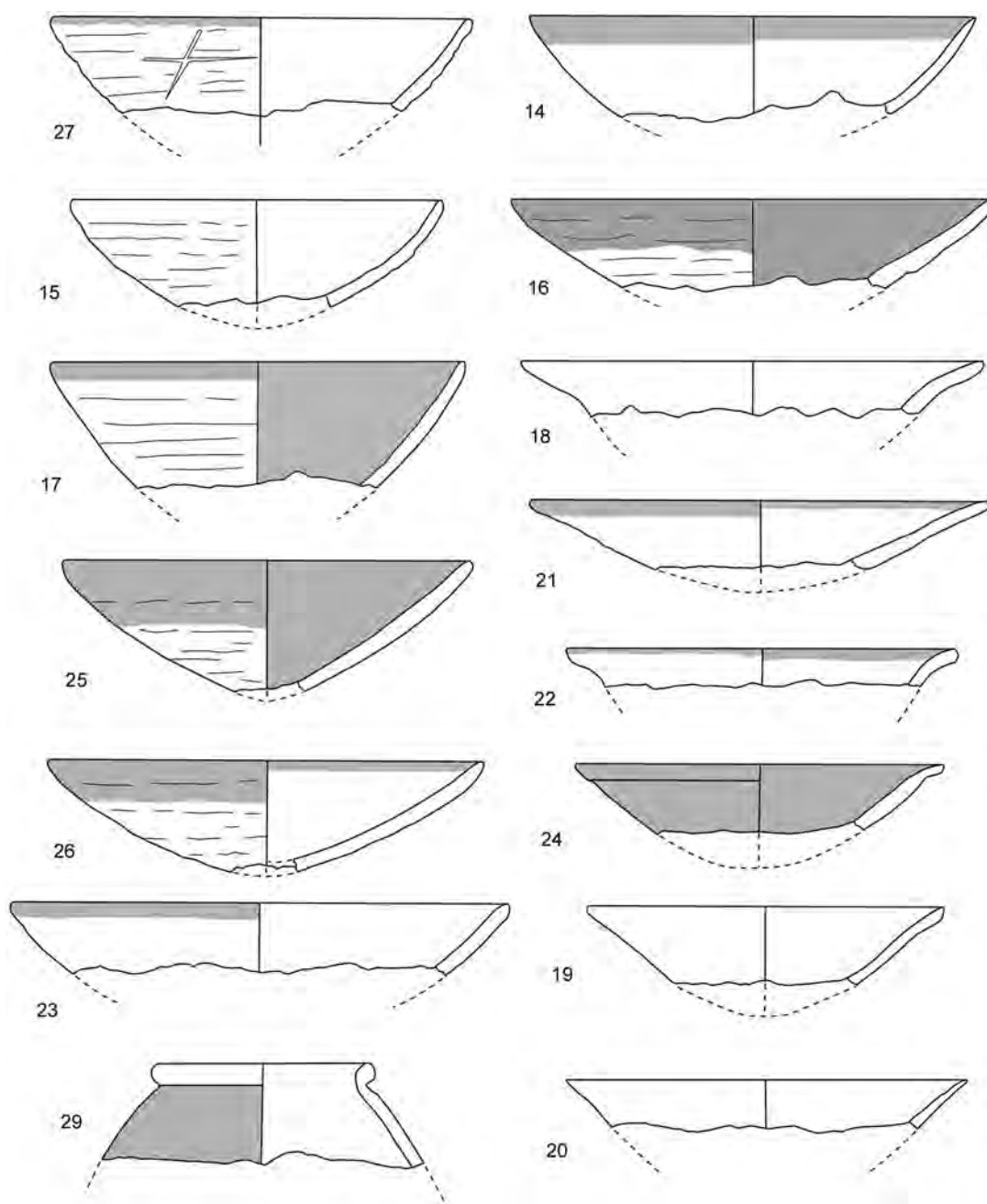


Figure 3.3.98 Pottery sample from [11-Q-62], with a range of plate and bowl forms.

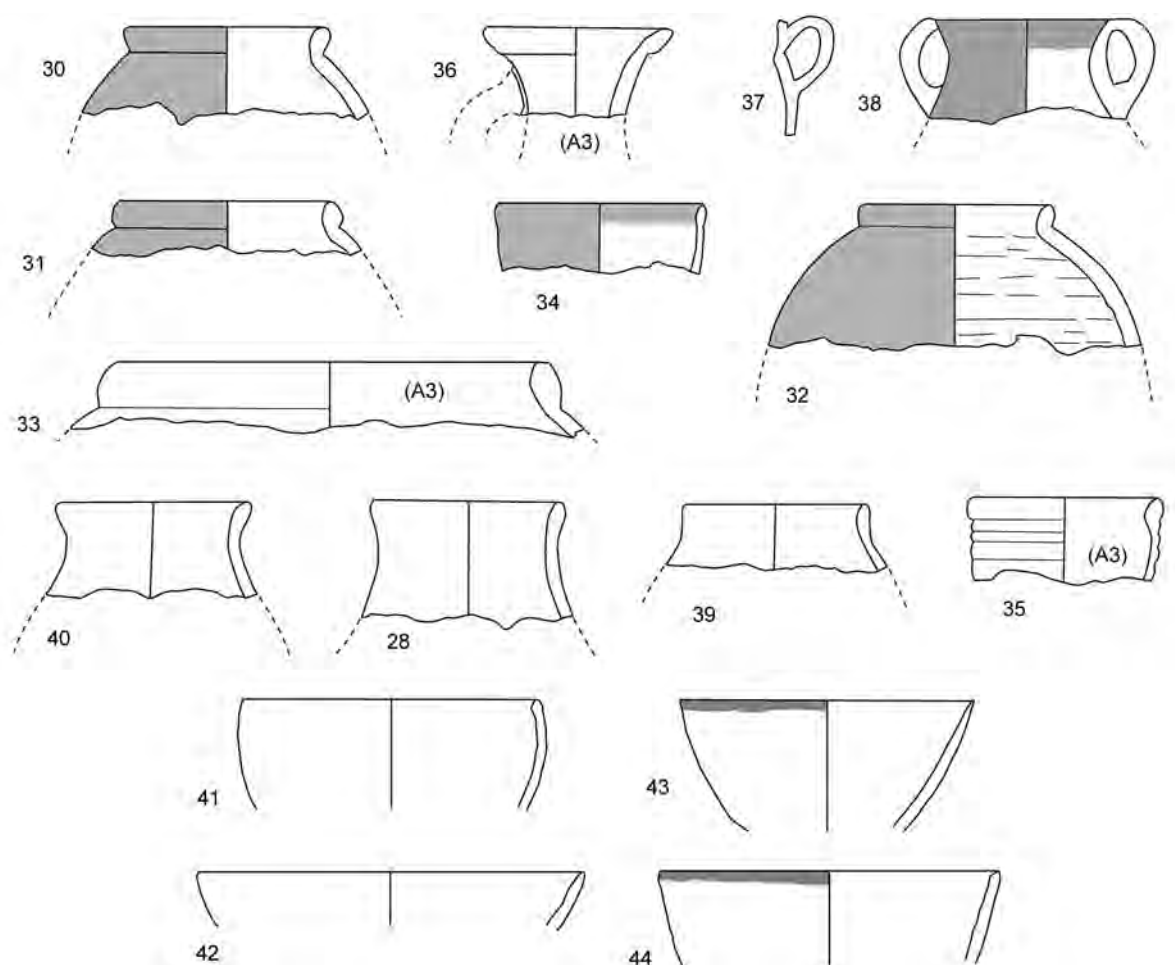


Figure 3.3.99 Pottery sample from [11-Q-62], with a range of jars and other containers; and handmade 'Kerma' pottery (41-44).

11-Q-62/x37. Jug? Wheelmade, red ware with 'bronze' slip on outside surface. Handle.

11-Q-62/x38. Amphora with short neck. Soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped exterior surfaces and inside rim. Rim D:100mm.

11-Q-62/x39. Necked ovoid jar with direct rim. Wheelmade, red ware (Hardened soft brown ware?), uncoated. Rim D:96mm.

11-Q-62/x40. Tall necked ovoid jar with direct rim. Wheelmade, Ballas ware (Marl B). Rim D:98mm.

11-Q-62/x41. Bowl. Handmade, thin walls; red polished inside and outside surfaces. Rim D:152mm.

11-Q-62/x42. Bowl. Handmade, thin walls; red polished inside and outside surfaces. Rim D:202mm.

11-Q-62/x43. Bowl. Handmade, thin walls; black topped red polished surfaces. Rim D:153mm.

11-Q-62/x44. Bowl. Handmade, thin walls; black topped red polished surfaces. Rim D:180mm.

While not mentioned in the field notes, and apparently not registered smallfinds, the ASSN photographic archive contains images of three mud sealings (a-c), identified as coming from [11-Q-62]. These were photographed, at an unknown date, by André Vila. No further information concerning these has been found but these represent an interesting addition to the range of artefacts recovered from these sites.

The pottery collection includes some material likely to be of Middle Kingdom date such as the jar with everted neck (35) and the vessel (37) described as 'bronze', which may be an example of a micaceous-slipped 'golden ware'. Other material may be dated to Dynasties 18-19, on the basis of the amphora and juglet. [LM] The range of pottery would allow for more than one occupation of the site (see below).

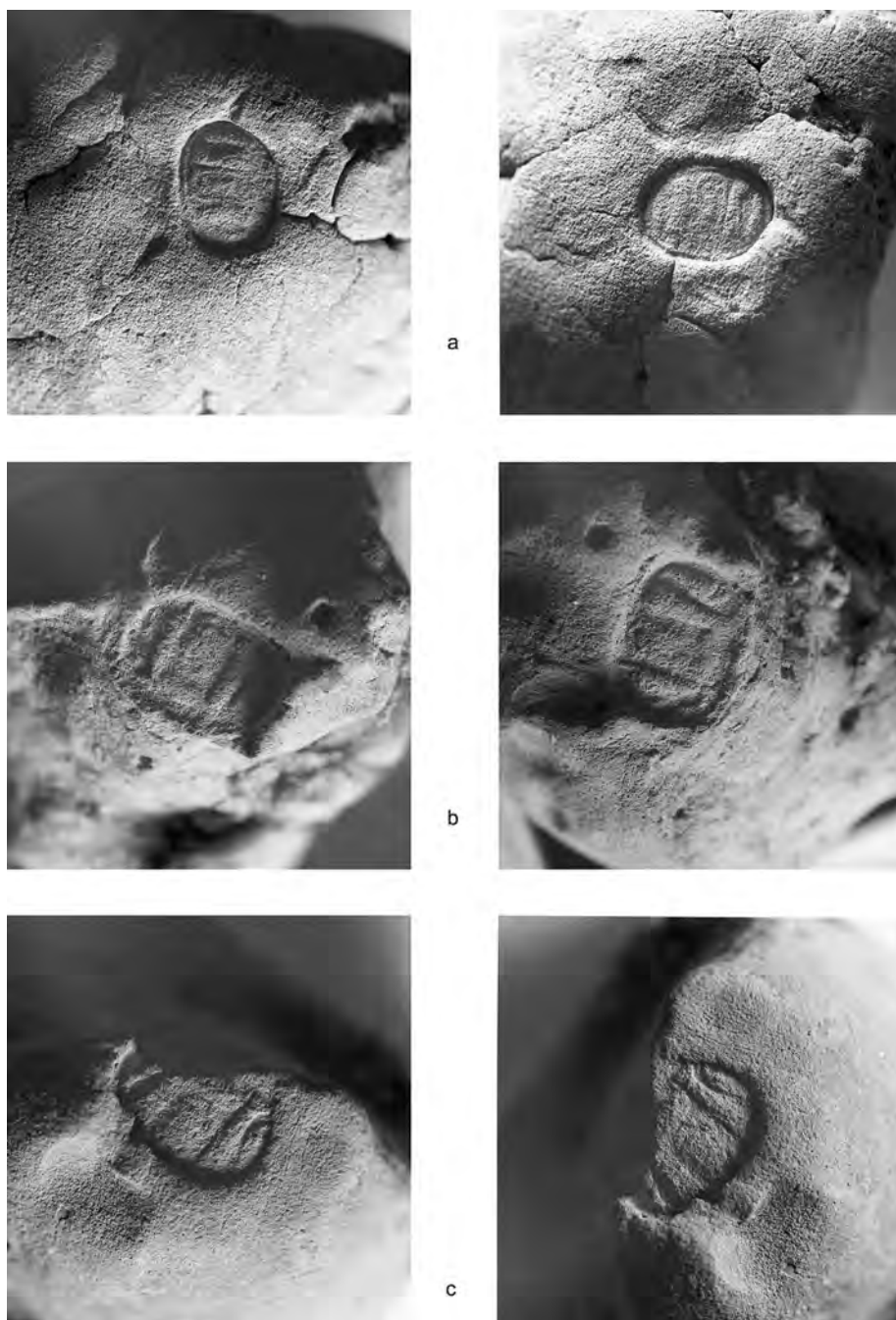


Figure 3.3.100 Three mud sealings (a-c) from [11-Q-62].

DOCUMENTATION: AJM VII: 77-80, 137.
 No previous record. Site Photos: F/296:10-12; F/297; F/302:3-11. Air Photos: 623190, 633094, 328258. Investigated: 22-23/11/1965; 22/12/1965-5/1/1966.

11-Q-63 Workshop**Saras East**

LOCATION: this site was located in a sheltered position between ridges of exposed rock within a low rocky outcrop c.325m from the river bank and c.150m west of [11-Q-62] (fig.3.3.11).

DESCRIPTION: this workshop was the smallest of the four sites in this area, measuring c.12m x 10m. It was very eroded, with the maximum depth of deposits c.25cm and most walls reduced to foundation level. Only limited areas of laid mud floors survived. It was bounded on the east and west sides by rocky outcrops and the bedrock was very close to the surface to the north and south while several large boulders were incorporated into the walls (fig.3.3.101). The surface was blown sand littered with small stones and rocks, with a few

large granite ore crushers, and a few sherds.

The area tested covered virtually the whole area of the site which comprised six or seven rooms/spaces. The fill was blown silt mixed with a few bits of charcoal, only a few sherds and a number of stones fallen from the walls. The core of the structure seems to have been two rectilinear rooms (rooms 1, 2) with an additional chamber on the west (Room 3), a large featureless room on the east (room 3) and a separate chamber on the south side (Room 4).

The space (Room 5) between Rooms 1 and 4 may have been blocked off on its west end. To the west, parts of a stone-lined tank/bin survived. The stone feature dividing Rooms 1 and 2 may relate to processing activities (perhaps the base of a



Figure 3.3.101 View south across [11-Q-63]. Note large boulders used in wall of Room 2, in foreground.

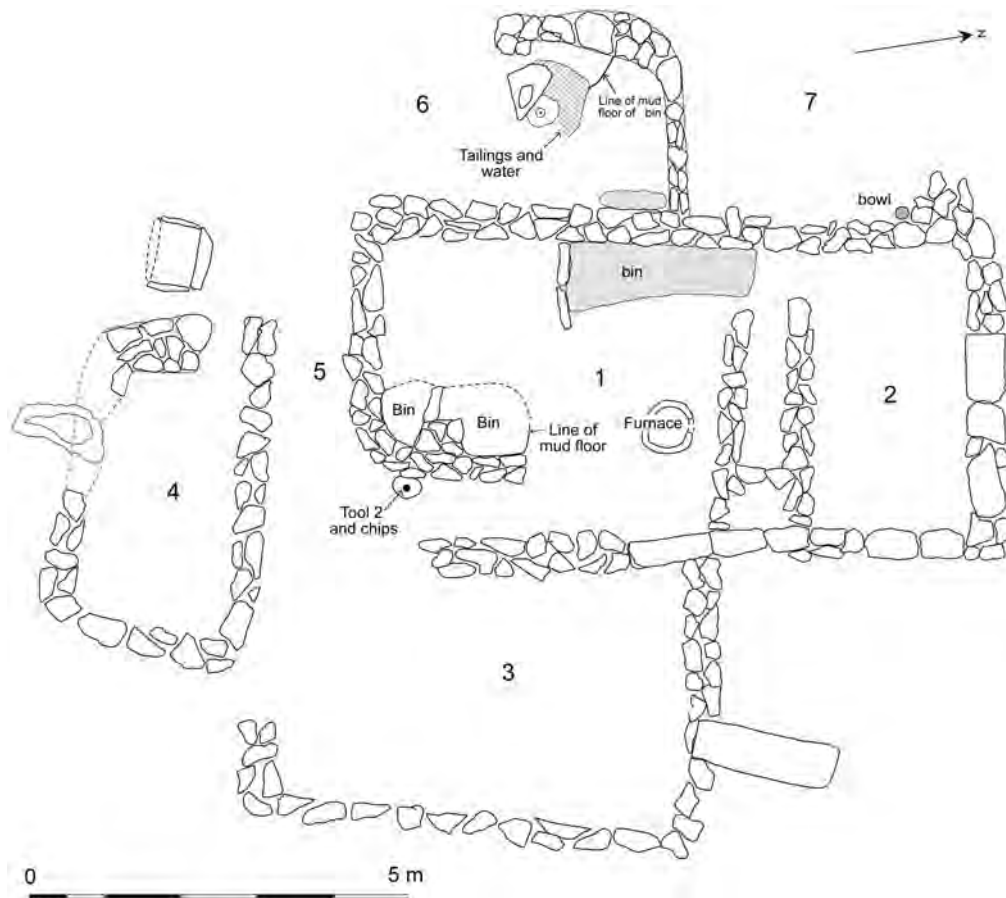


Figure 3.3.102 Plan of small workshop [11-Q-63].



Figure 3.3.103 View west across [11-Q-63], with small rock outcrops beyond.



Figure 3.3.104 View across [11-Q-63], from southwest.

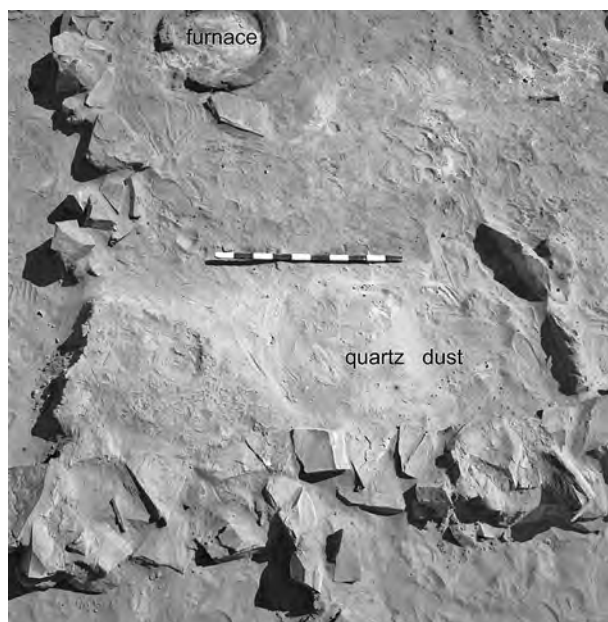


Figure 3.3.105 Room 1 looking east across feature (bin?) with quartz dust, and water-laid material on left (north) side.



Figure 3.3.106 Room 1 brick lined 'furnace', from north.

washing ramp?) rather than a wall. The large area of quartz dust outlined with stones on the west side of Room 1 seems likely to have been the base of some kind of bin feature along that wall. At its north end the base of this feature showed evidence for the presence of water.

The remains of a furnace were also found in Room 1. This round structure, with an exterior diameter of c.75cm was made of mud bricks (30 x 10cm), standing only c.10cm high above the floor surface (fig.2.3.106). The interior was filled with a very fine, very white ash, thought likely to be the product of a very hot fire. No moulds or crucibles were found, however. There seem to have been two small bins at the south end of Room 1. Largely eroded, the outline of their laid mud floors survived, but only a few stones of their surrounds.

There were occasional patches of quartz dust elsewhere, including a pile on the east side of Rm 6. In that room a grinder and a mortar were found together, apparently in situ (fig.3.3.107). The mortar was embedded in a fragment of mud floor overlying which was an area of tailings. The grinder rested just beside the mortar and on top of the floor so that the work surface was raised c.15cm above the floor level (fig.3.3.108).

The pottery found included soft, brown ware sherds, a few of a hard red ware, a Qena ware sherd and fragments of at least three handmade vessels (fig.3.3.113). A fair number of small grinders



Figure 3.3.107 Room 6 grindstone and mortar with fragment of surviving mud floor surface below, from north.

(tool type 3) were found in the fill. A large intact bowl (1) was found at floor level, inverted against the east wall of Room 7 (fig.3.3.109).

11-Q-63/1. Bowl, with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Cracked but complete. D:225mm; H:69mm. Photo: C/056:2. SNM.18319. (fig.3.3.111)



Figure 3.3.108 Detail of Room 6 grindstone and mortar with fragment of surviving mud floor surface below, from north. Note small grinding stone, bottom centre.



Figure 3.3.109 Large bowl (11-Q-63/1) by wall of Room 7.

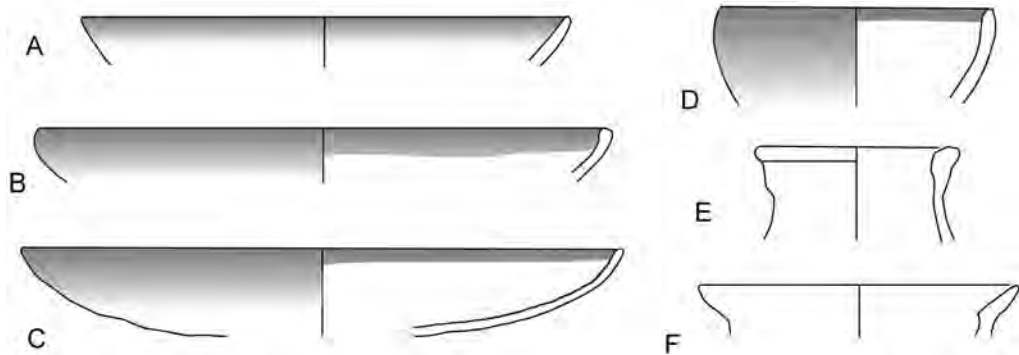


Figure 3.3.110 Wheelmade pottery from test excavation [11-Q-63] (scale 1:4).



Figure 3.3.111 Bowl (11-Q-63/1).

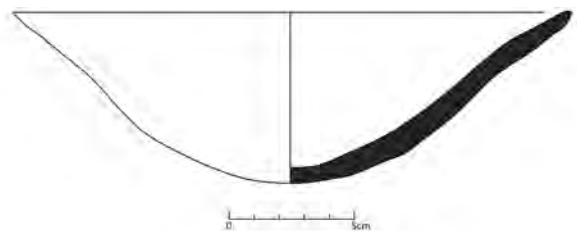


Figure 3.3.112 Bowl (11-Q-63/1).

11-Q-63/A. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped inside and outside rim. D:258mm.

11-Q-63/B. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped outside surface and interior rim. D:300mm.

11-Q-63/C. Plate, simple contour with round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped outside surface and interior rim. D:318mm.

11-Q-63/D. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped outside surface and interior rim. D:144mm.

11-Q-63/E. Necked ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Beige slipped surfaces. Rim D:102xmm

11-Q-63/F. Necked jar with modelled rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Rim D:165mm.

The bowls and plates are common forms from the Middle Kingdom through to the New Kingdom. The jar forms might suggest a Middle Kingdom rather than later date. (LM)

11-Q-63/G. Bowl. Handmade, brown polished ware. Rim D:150mm

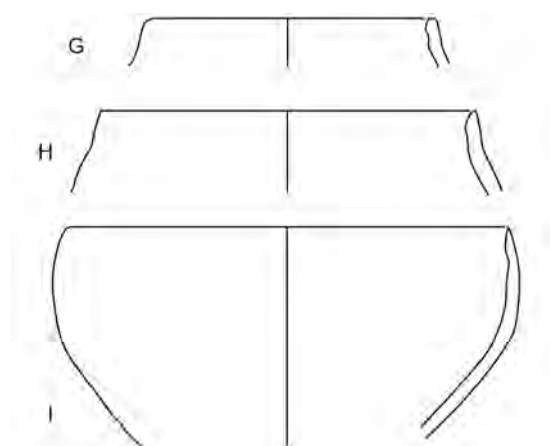


Figure 3.3.113 Handmade vessels from test excavations [11-Q-63] (scale 1:4).

11-Q-63/H. Bowl. Handmade, brown polished ware. Rim D:198mm

11-Q-63/I. Bowl. Handmade, brown polished ware. Rim D:234mm

DOCUMENTATION: AJM VII: 81–84; No previous record. Photos: F/303; F/314: 1–6; Air Photos: 623190, 328258. Investigated 23–24/11/1965; 30/12/1965; 2/1/1966.

11-Q-60 Mining and related structures

Saras East

LOCATION: evidence of mining activities were encountered in southern Saras, during a reconnaissance along the Khor Ahmed Sherif, where two workings were found 17th November 1965 c.2.5km east of the river (fig.3.3.114). One (A) on the south side of the khor was an open excavation, the other (B = No.1) a more extensive underground working, on the north side of the valley.

Further investigation of site B revealed an excavation c.35m long, reaching a maximum depth of c.12m. The width of the underground excavation was c.90–100cm (fig.3.3.117–8), suggesting c.336m³ of ore may have been extracted; calculated as c.270 tons of ore. No direct evidence was found to confirm a Pharaonic date for this pit and pottery found in the vicinity included what was thought to be a quite recent qullah, as well as an “X-Group sherd and a few red wheelmade sherds possible of Phar(aonic) date but not necessarily”.

Three further pits were found closeby, and a further 10 identified on air photographs. Further

exploration of an area of c.2km² on the hills to the north of the khor confirmed the presence of numerous mainly small pits, but with some longer linear excavations. At least 24 different excavations were plotted on air photographs. The smaller seem to relate to locations where quartz veins were exposed on the surface, and removed. Many of these were thought likely to have produced no more than 1m³ of ore.

A number of small stone structures were encountered in this area, at least one group adjoining an excavation (C), suggesting they were associated with the mining. A broad path was also noted leading up onto the hills from the river; this route is apparently still in use as an access route by modern miners active in this area.

Area C is located some 2km east of the river bank and c.1100m north of Khor Ahmed Sharif and situated on a small plateau (fig. 3.3.119). Aerial photographs indicate the presence of a number of areas of disturbance closeby, including some linear excavations. These are well-defined

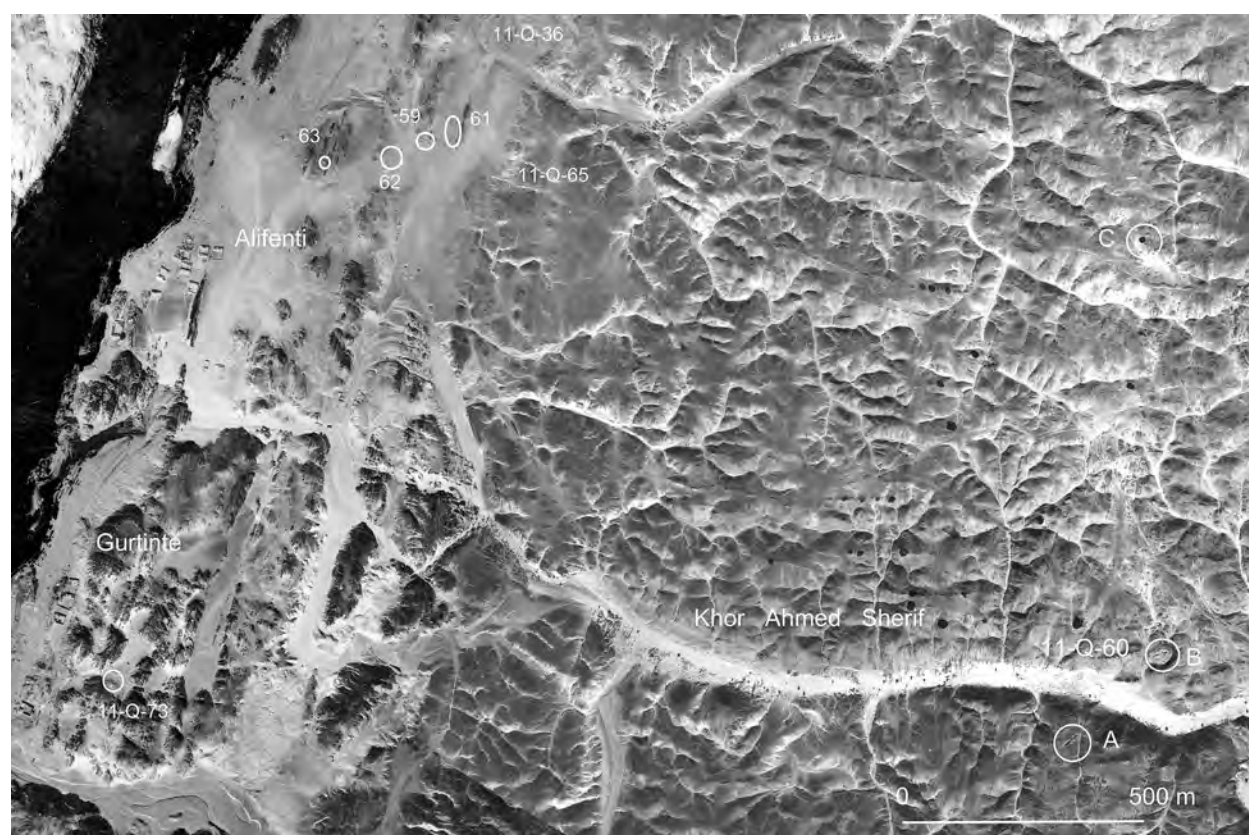


Figure 3.3.114 Mining areas [11-Q-60] along Khor Ahmed Sherif and hills to north, and workshops and nearby graves to northwest. Kerma cemeteries [11-Q-36] and [11-Q-73] are also indicated.



Figure 3.3.115 View across Khor Ahmed Sherif from [11-Q-60/B] towards [11-Q-60/A], (below arrow).



Figure 3.3.116 Open mining [11-Q-60/A] on south side of Khor Ahmed Sherif.



Figure 3.3.117 Entrance to mine shaft [11-Q-60/B] on north side of Khor Ahmed Sherif.



Figure 3.3.118 Narrow interior of mine [11-Q-60/B] on north side of Khor Ahmed Sherif.



Figure 3.3.119 Hut cluster (11-Q-60/C) and nearby linear excavations relating to quartz extraction.



Figure 3.3.120 Structures at [11-Q-60/C], from west.



Figure 3.3.121 Rooms 1-2 at [11-Q-60/C], looking towards northeast.

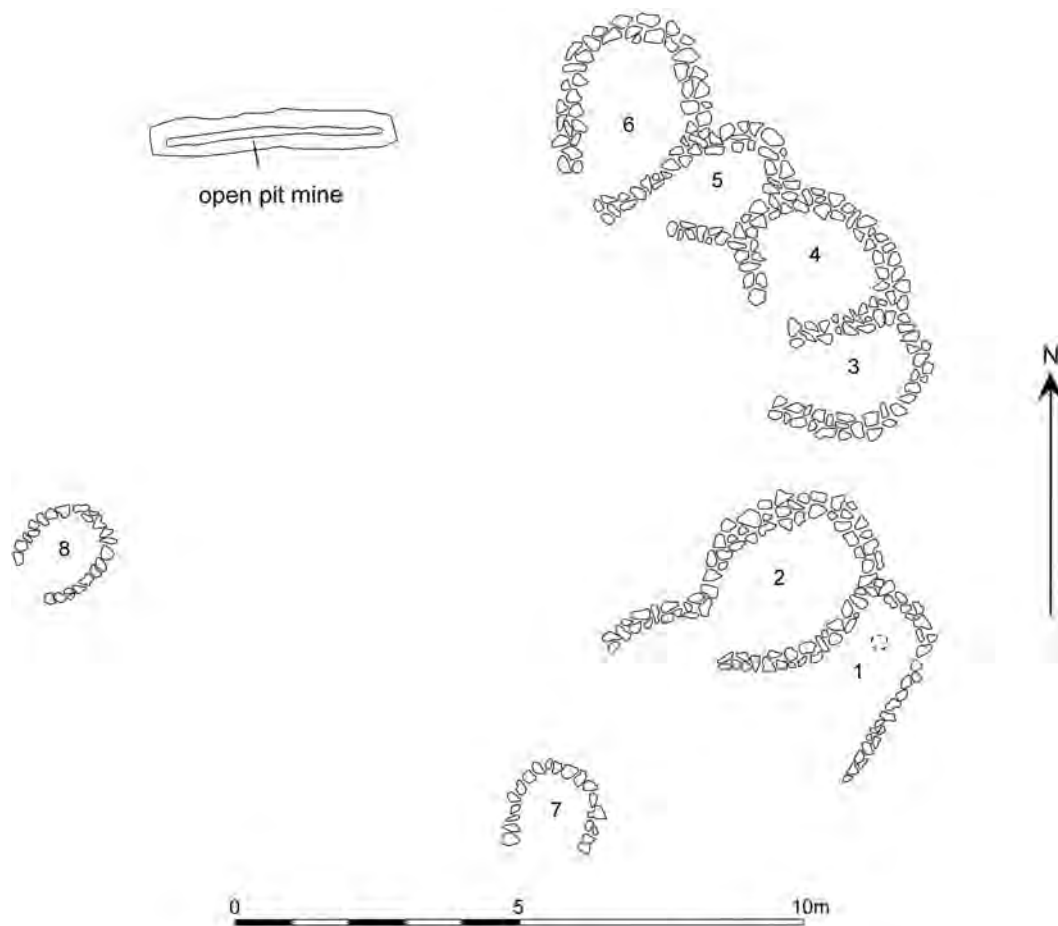


Figure 3.3.122 Sketch plan of stone structures beside linear excavation/mining pit [11-Q-60/C].

on modern satellite imagery of the area and there are indications that some may have been reopened during recent mining operations.

A sample group of structures was selected for testing, the chosen group was located just beside a small quartz working and was thought likely to be associated with it. No direct evidence connecting the mining with the structures was found. These were small, sub-circular structures with drystone walls that probably never stood more than about a metre high (fig.3.3.121–2). They lacked laid floors, and contained only small deposits of blown sand and a few fallen rocks; no real occupation debris, including pottery, was recovered.

Room 1 has a small area of ash, from a fire that was not lit more than a couple of times. Within the fill of Room 6, one small rim sherd of a soft brown ware bowl was found (fig.3.3.123) of a type

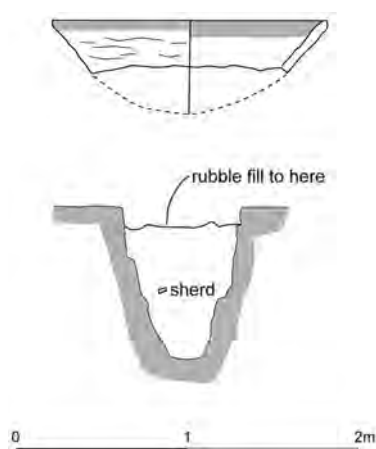


Figure 3.3.123 Bowl with red-slipped rim (1:4) and profile of excavated pit.



Figure 3.3.124 Linear mining pit at [11-Q-60/C], before testing; looking towards east.

commonly found at sites [11-Q-59] and [11-Q-61], [11-Q-62] and [11-Q-63]. While slender evidence, this suggested an association between the huts and the processing/workshop sites in the river valley. If connected with the Pharaonic mining industry, such structures are however relatively uncommon on the high ground where the numerous ancient mining pits can be identified on the ASSN aerial photographs (and modern satellite imagery).

The open pit mine was also cleared out. It was 430cm long and 70cm wide at the surface. It has a V-section with a depth of c.90cm. It was clear that only the quartz vein has been removed; small traces of quartz were found clinging to the matrix in some places. No other evidence as to the method of removal of the quartz was found.

Two sherds of a soft brown ware bowl with a red-slipped rim (fig.3.3.123), was found c.50cm below the surface in the rubble and blown sand fill of the excavation. This provided some evidence, albeit tenuous, for the working of the pit, providing a terminus post quem date on the infilling of the pit with rubble. (It is a common bowl form from the Middle Kingdom until the New Kingdom. [LM])

No other evidence was found at the site relating to its use. No tools or other traces of any labouring or domestic activities were found apart from the actual ore cut, in spreads of quartz chippings (c.2cm³ in size). The quantities found there seemed



Figure 3.3.125 Linear mining pit at [11-Q-60/C], after testing; looking towards east.



likely to exceed the material likely to have come from this shaft. As the site lies on a plateau, it may have been a locality for collecting material from other cuttings (of which there are several close by) whence the quartz was transported to the river.

DOCUMENTATION: No previous record. AJM VII: 133–36; Site photos: F/298; F/299:1; F/305: 4–12; F/313. Air Photo: 633095. Investigated: 28/12/1965.

Figure 3.3.126 View towards river from [11-Q-60/C].

11-U-1 Fortification**Shelfak (Saras West)**

LOCATION: small fortress on high ridge c.60m above Nile banks, with very steep slopes running down to river on the east side. The island of Askut, c.12.5km to the north, was visible from this hilltop.

DESCRIPTION: the fort was excavated by the Harvard/MFA Expedition directed by George Reisner over a period of six weeks in February-March 1931. The excavation work was supervised by Noel F. Wheeler and the main published account (Dunham 1967) was based on the records prepared by Wheeler, edited by Dows Dunham. This small fort had an enclosed area of c.1800m². The main gate was at the southwest side of the fort; a smaller north gate providing access to a

long stairway running down to the riverside where there was a small stone-built quay at the end of a rocky spur. This had small embayments on its upstream and downstream sides. Traces of at least two higher-level quays were recorded c.7m and 11m above this, relating to different river conditions. The effects of water erosion were apparent c.18m above this lower quay, having removed all traces of mudbrick masonry to that level (Dunham 1967, 120–121).

DOCUMENTATION: Wheeler 1931, Wheeler 1932; Dunham 1967. The ASSN reconnaissance re-examined this area in February 1964 but no further work was undertaken.



Figure 3.3.127 Shelfak fort [11-U-1] from east bank, looking upriver.

11-U-11* Inscriptions**Shelfak (Saras West)**

LOCATION: inscriptions on a small hill southwest of Shelfak fort overlooking the river, two on the east side facing the river and one on the north side.

DESCRIPTION: three small New Kingdom inscriptions, one dated to year 18 of Tuthmosis III. Two bore the erased name of the viceroy Amenemnekhu. The scribe recorded in the first text (365) may be linked with another, left two years before, at Abu

Sir [5-T-17/3] overlooking the Second Cataract. Rock drawings and inscriptions recorded by the German Epigraphic Expedition during their second season of fieldwork January-April 1963.

DOCUMENTATION: previously recorded by Epigraphic Survey as [11-U-2/1-3], inscriptions 356-367. Hintze 1965, 14-15, Pl.IIIa; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 90-91; Taf. 122-123.

11-U-12* Cemetery**Shelfak (Saras West)**

LOCATION: located c.350m west of the fort [11-U-1] within sand-covered open ground.

DESCRIPTION: in addition to the fort, some nearby burials were located and excavated in 1931. This site comprises the 'West Cemetery', which contained a group of at least 16 graves with a few more to the north and south, including burials of

adults as well as children. The ASSN reconnaissance re-examined this area in February 1964 but no further work was undertaken. The opportunity is taken here to allocate the cemetery sites in the area separate AMS registrations.

DOCUMENTATION: Dunham 1967, 121-123; Map XII; Pl.XLVIB).

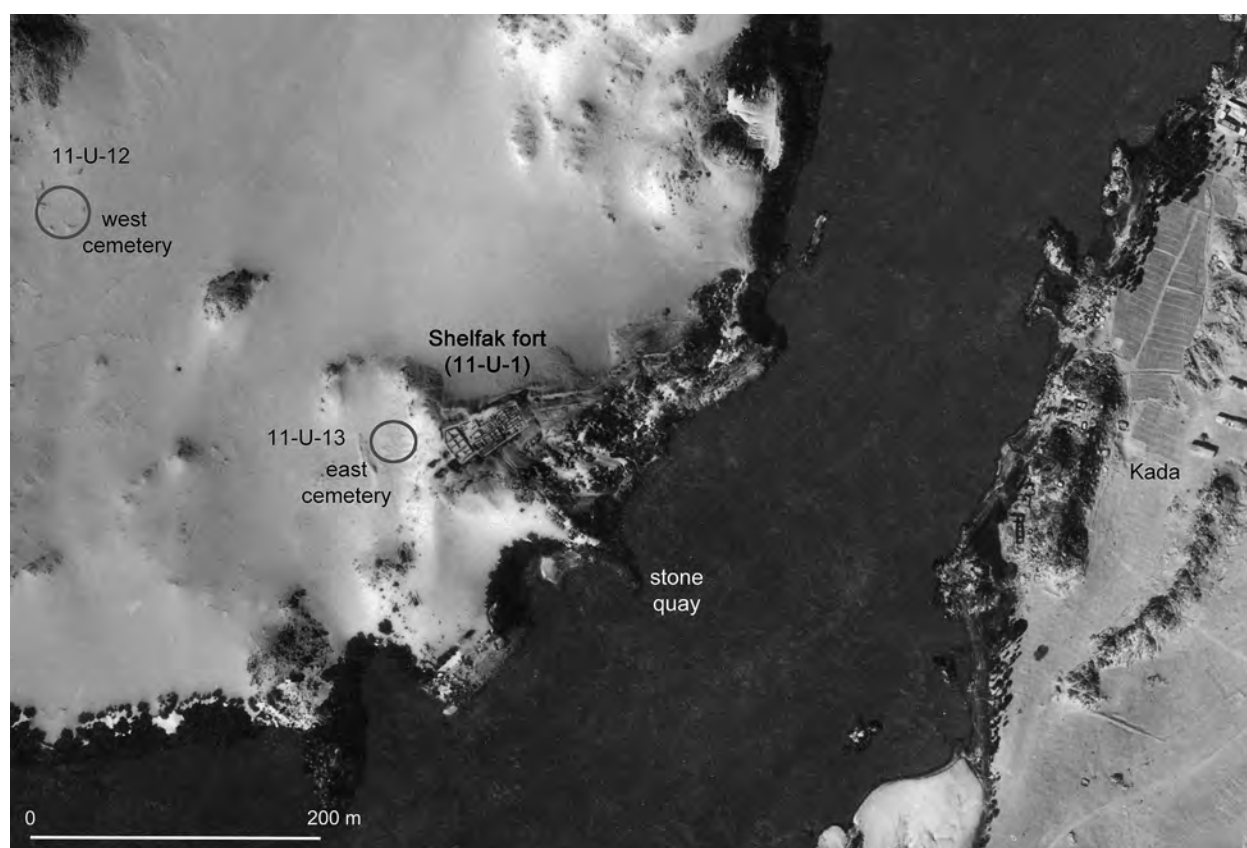


Figure 3.3.128 Shelfak fort [11-U-1] overlooking major bend in river, and approximate locations of associated cemeteries [11-U-12*] and [11-U-13*], excavated in 1931.

11-U-13* Cemetery**Shelfak (Saras West)**

LOCATION: to southwest of southern wall of fort (11-U-1).

DESCRIPTION: the fort and nearby burials were excavated in 1931. This site was a small group of burials to south of fort, the 'East Cemetery'. These included 'two rock-cut tombs .. in the lower face of the steep ascent up to the South Wall of the fort at the extreme eastern edge of the plain' and three

shallow graves c.25m south of the rock-cut tombs (Dunham 1967, 121). The ASSN reconnaissance re-examined this area in February 1964 but no further work was undertaken. The opportunity is taken here to allocate the cemetery sites separate AMS registrations.

DOCUMENTATION: Dunham 1967, 121–123; Map XII; Pl.XLVI.

10-Y-24* Enclosure**Saras West**

LOCATION: on west bank, facing northwest side of Uronarti, in area of low rock outcrops with surface cover of blown sand.

DESCRIPTION: large stone-built enclosure extending over c.550m along the river and up to 175m from river bank (fig.3.3.129). This was noted during the initial reconnaissance survey along the west bank between Shelfak and Semna in February 1964. No sherds or other traces of

occupation were found within the enclosure to indicate its function or the date of the site, but a possible association with the Uronarti fort was thought possible: perhaps a 'caravanserai under observation for trading caravans from the south'.

DOCUMENTATION: the site was not registered by the ASSN but has now been assigned a registration number. (ASSN FD 1963–64: 13, entry 5/2/1964). Air Photos: 758127–8.

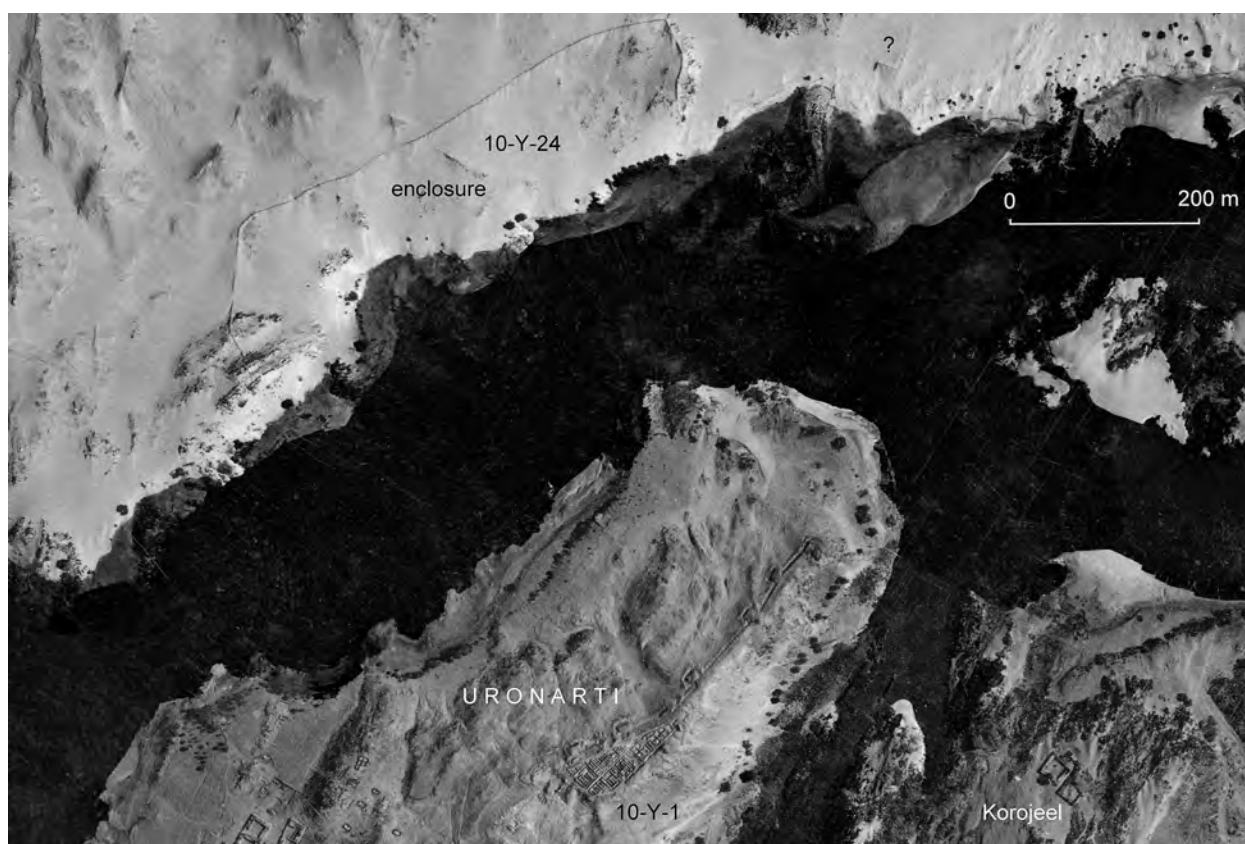


Figure 3.3.129 Stone enclosure [10-Y-24*] of unknown date on west bank opposite Uronarti. Photograph also suggests rectilinear features c.200m to the east of the enclosure close to river bank.

URONARTI



Figure 3.3.130 Uronarti, from west bank, to northeast of island.

Uronarti (Gezira al Melik) was a large island c.1700m long and 600m wide. Its granite core formed a ridge at its north end rising c.67m above low water levels, with two smaller hills of similar height further south. The shallow main river

channel flowed down its west side, but could be dry at low Nile. On the eastern side of the island were a number of small islands and rapids; as reported by Noel Wheeler this was only passable at high Nile (Dunham 1967, 3).



Figure 3.3.131 View upriver with Kajinjera island in central distance, from south end of Uronarti. Hill in foreground was location of some medieval structures [10-Y-5], and inscription [10-Y-3] was near river to left of photograph (1966).

The island contained areas of ancient alluvium, some still cultivated, and some formerly cultivated. The modern village of c.10 or 12 houses was located in an area of low lying alluvium on the west side of the island. When first visited by the ASSN in 1964 a considerable number of stone-built structures were noted, standing on the lower parts of the island. The lack of sherd material suggested that these were of fairly recent construction and not ancient, except in the area of medieval settlement towards the south end of the island [10-Y-5]. Photographs from the earlier twentieth century suggest some on the eastern side of the

island inhabited during the period of Reisner's excavations (Reisner 1929, fig.7) were of relatively recent date, apparently postdating Breasted's visit in 1907. The larger courtyard houses may in turn have supplanted those smaller scattered structures. Some further scatters of medieval and perhaps X-Group pottery were also noted in areas which had been cultivated, to south and west of the modern village (10-Y-4). The island was briefly revisited by the ASSN in mid-February 1966 but no further sites were found. Bell recorded a few toponyms relating to the island (1970, 94-95).

10-Y-1 Fortification**Uronarti**

LOCATION: fort set on highest point of granite ridge towards northeast end of island.

DESCRIPTION: this small fort was most fully excavated by the Harvard-Boston excavations, with some initial work in 1924 and larger scale excavations in 1928–1930. Approximately triangular its sides measured c.57 x 11 x 126m, with a long spur wall running down the ridge to the northeast for a further c.250m. Sheltered below this wall on the east side was a protected stair providing access to the river, and latterly a stone quay, just downstream of the lower rocky rapids on this side of the island.

The site was inspected in February 1964 to assess any requirements for further work. Following a visit with F.W. Hinkel on 11th February it was decided necessary to clear the (New Kingdom) temple prior to making a decision on its possible removal. This work was begun but the project was abandoned once it was established that few decorated blocks survived (Hinkel 1965, 99).

DOCUMENTATION: Reisner 1929; Hinkel 1965; Dunham 1967. *AJM* II: 130–1.

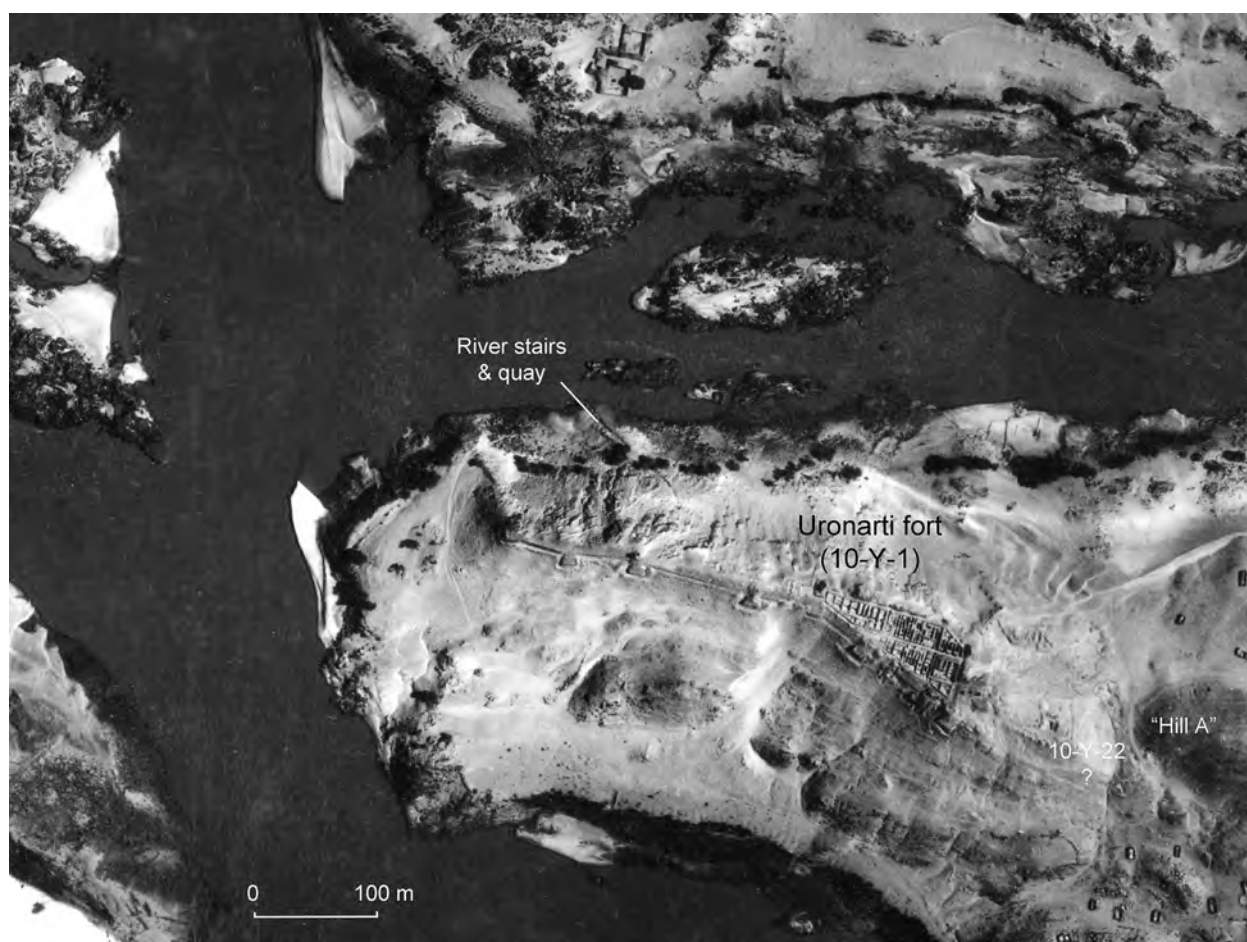


Figure 3.3.132 Uronarti fort; photographed when river levels were quite high. River stairs and later stone quay to northeast of fort.

10-Y-22* Cemetery**Uronarti**

LOCATION: noted by Mills as ‘west of about the middle of 10-Y-1’ which if understood as ‘local west’ locates this as southwest of fort (fig.3.3.132). These would seem to be the graves excavated in early 1930: ‘on the north and northeast slopes of Hill “A”, 25 to 30 metres from the South Gate’ (Dunham 1967, 31).

DESCRIPTION: group of graves noted by Mills in 1964 : “a group, west of about the middle of 10-Y-1 appears to have been excavated. They appear on the surface to be Pharaonic and contain Nubian graves’.

DOCUMENTATION: Dunham 1967, 31–32. Maps II, IX, Pls XX-XXIII; AJM II: 131.

10-Y-2 ‘Palace’**Uronarti**

LOCATION: set on open plateau (fig.3.3.133) between hills forming spine of island, c.760m south of the south gate of the fort (10-Y-1).

DESCRIPTION: excavations in 1930 revealed most of the plan of a very well-built ‘palace’ in an area more recently used as a cemetery including a

‘sheikh’s tomb’, apparently built of re-used pharaonic bricks. The building was oriented exactly to true north and covered just under half a hectare, the main structure measuring 78.4 x 54.7m (fig.3.3.134). No further work was carried out here by the ASSN. Bell’s survey of toponyms recorded ‘sheh abd el-khaalig’ (i.e. ‘Sheikk Abd al-Khaliq’)



Figure 3.3.133 Location of ‘Palace’ [10-Y-2] on Uronarti. Location of Inscription of Turo [10-Y-3] at southern tip of island and nearby area of (unexcavated) burials [10-Y-23*] indicated.

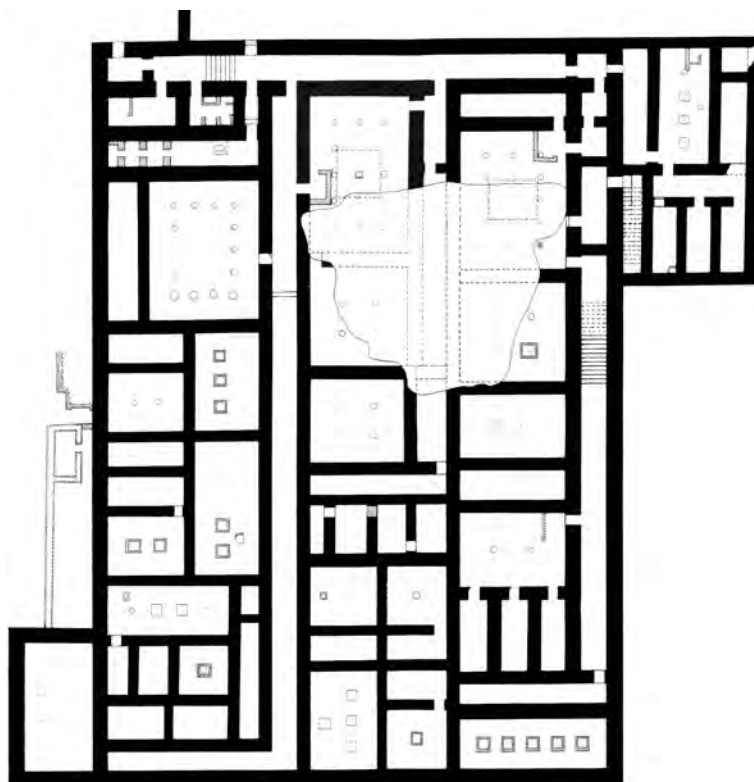


Figure 3.3.134 Plan of 'Palace' building [10-Y-2] to southwest of Uronarti fort (after Dunham 1967, Map VI).

as well as a field name associated with a 'female saint' (El-Haane) on the island (Bell 1970, 94–95, n.224, 230), one or other perhaps relating to this site?

DOCUMENTATION: Dunham 1967, 22–31; Map II,VI,VII; Pls XV-XIX); AJM II: 130–1.

10-Y-23* Cemetery

Uronarti

LOCATION: noted by Mills as 'atop the gebel between 10-Y-2 and 10-Y-5'. This equates with 'the southernmost height of the island (Hill "G")' (Dunham 1967, 31).

DESCRIPTION: group of graves noted by Mills in 1964 : "perhaps as many as ten ...these appear

to be NK tombs and don't seem to have been recently excavated. None were opened". This would seem to represent a possible cemetery in the same area as an isolated grave ('not numbered or recorded') identified in 1930 (Dunham 1967, 31).

DOCUMENTATION: Dunham 1967, 31.

10-Y-3 Inscription**Uronarti**

LOCATION: This inscription of the Viceroy Turo (year 8 of Amenophis I) was at the south end of the island on a granite hillock. Located about half-way up the south-easternmost granite outcrop, it was on the south face of the hill (fig.3.3.131).

DESCRIPTION: an inscription in three lines of hieroglyphs about 6cm high; the overall dimensions were 56cm long x 21 cm high. The letter signs were beaten or incised and were less than one millimetre deep. They were quite clear, however, because of the difference in colour between the rock-face and beneath it. A full facsimile copy was made by the German epigraphic survey in spring

1962 [registered as '10-Y-2/1'], who also recorded two other graffiti on the east bank (registered as '10-Y-10'; renumbered here as [10-Y-20*], see below).

DOCUMENTATION: AJM II: 132–3, with notebook handcopy, 1964. Several previous records had been made, the more recent including Habachi 1957, 58; Porter and Moss 1952, 144; Hintze 1963, 93–5; Dunham 1967, 34; Pl.XXVIA, B; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 92, #368, Pl.124. Site Photos: F/197: 21–23 (film was damaged). Air Photos: 625176; 328252. Investigated: 10/2/1964

10-Y-20* Inscriptions**Saras East**

LOCATION: located 'on the east bank opposite the northern tip of the island' (Hintze and Reineke 1989, 92). No more precise information on location known, perhaps in area opposite fort quay (fig.3.3.132).

DESCRIPTION: two small graffiti identified and photographed by F.W. Hinkel while visiting

Uronarti to inspect the New Kingdom temple in February 1964.

DOCUMENTATION: Hintze and Reineke 1989, 92, #621–622, Taf.125. Air Photos: 625176; 328252.

11-Q-57 Late C-Group? Cemetery

Saras East

LOCATION: this site was located on the lower half of the western slope of a rocky outcrop that was c.250m east of the road (450m from the river), a little to the south of the village of Maisho. This was located c.50m north of the workshop site [11-Q-59].

DESCRIPTION: this was a cemetery of at least 24 graves within an area of c.20 m x 20m. The graves were dug into rather soft fossil alluvium which covered the lower half of the rocky outcrop. The ground surface before excavation was blown silt with a number of local rocks and stones on it. There was a small amount of sherd material on the surface, chiefly Egyptian red ware bowls, some heavier vessels and occasional bone fragments.

The graves were generally similar, being small, slightly oval or rectangular with rounded ends, orientated approximately east–west. All were thought likely to have been plundered. The 15 excavated examples were generally quite shallow and it was suggested that the original surface had been 20cm or more higher than the surviving modern surface. The attribution of this site was uncertain when first tested, and in the field notes it was tentatively identified as ‘Late C-Group’ on the basis of the burial forms, notwithstanding the fact that all the pottery was ‘Egyptian’. This site and its unusual character was identified in the interim report on the 1965–1966 field season (Mills 1973, 202–3), after the excavation of four graves (1–4). A further eleven graves (5–15) were excavated at the start of the 1966–1967 field season, in early November 1966. The more ‘Egyptian’ character of the last burial excavated (15) was noted in the field diary. The records of the site may be incomplete as a plan showing the location of individual numbered graves examined in the second phase of excavations has not been located. Some may be located on the basis of their descriptions, with varying degrees of certainty.

Grave 11-Q-57/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular area, 170 x 35cm, partly excavated in loose sandy alluvium and partly built up with stone. Maximum depth c.20cm but grave eroded, as the feet of burial were found at level of modern ground surface. No trace of blocking. Fill of blown silt.

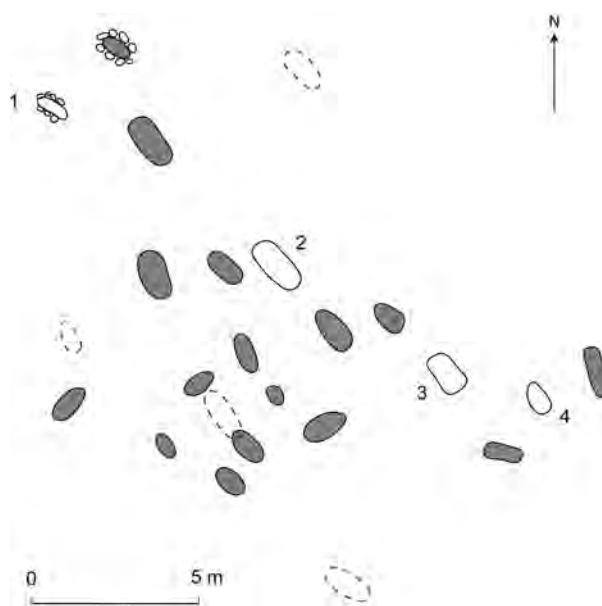


Figure 3.3.135 Plan of cemetery [11-Q-57].

BURIAL: the undisturbed (?) burial of an adult male, lying in flexed position on the back, head east, facing up, left hand on pelvis.

CONTENTS: one sherd of wheelmade red ware bowl below body.

11-Q-57/1/A. Plate with direct rim and flat base. Wheelmade, red ware, uncoated. D:192mm; H:66mm. Not registered.

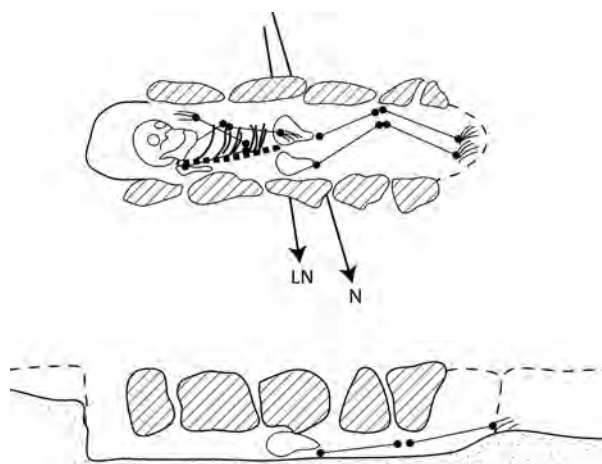


Figure 3.3.136 Sketch plan and section of Grave 1 [11-Q-57].



Figure 3.3.137 Grave 1 [11-Q-57], from west.



Figure 3.3.138 Bowl (11-Q-57/1/A) (scale 1:4).

Grave 11-Q-57/2:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit, 158 x 64cm, rounded at western end. Excavated in loose fossil alluvium to a maximum depth of 40cm; if undoubtedly much

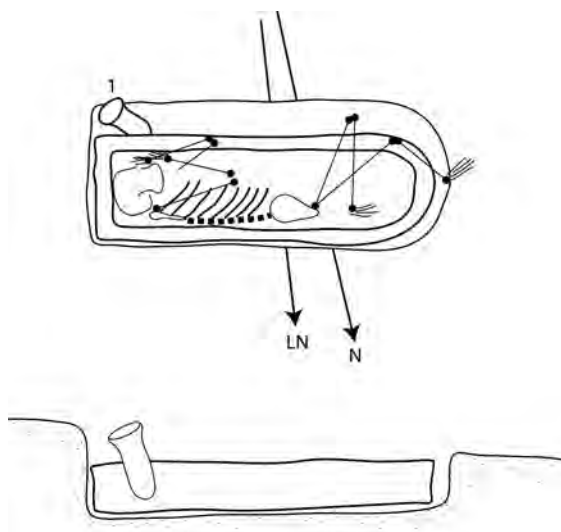


Figure 3.3.139 Sketch plan and section of Grave 2 [11-Q-57].

eroded. Fill was blown silt. No trace of blocking.
BURIAL: an apparently undisturbed body of an adult male, lying in a semi-contracted position within a wooden (?) coffin; head east facing south.
CONTENTS: a wheelmade jar (1), part of a wheelmade bowl (A) and the powdery remains of a possible coffin (?); its interior possibly white painted.

11-Q-57/2/1. Tall ovoid jar with folded rim.

Wheelmade, orange ware (marl clay). Matte grey slip. Warped in kiln. Max D:183mm, H:375mm. Photo: C/054:17. SNM.18415.

11-Q-57/2/A. Bowl with folded rim and carinated contour, base missing, Wheelmade redware with polished red slip. D:234mm. Not registered.

Grave 11-Q-57/3:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit, 125 x 84cm, with rounded corners, excavated in soft fossil alluvium to a maximum depth of 42cm. The west end of grave was virtually on the modern surface and the grave was undoubtedly much eroded. Fill of blown silt. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: the undisturbed body of an adult female, in a semi-contracted position on the right side, head east, facing north. The body lay on a litter.
CONTENTS: a wheelmade jar with rim missing, apparently in situ by head; probably originally sitting on wooden board. Powdery remains of a wooden frame c.122cm long and 50cm wide. This



Figure 3.3.140 Grave 2 [11-Q-57], from west.

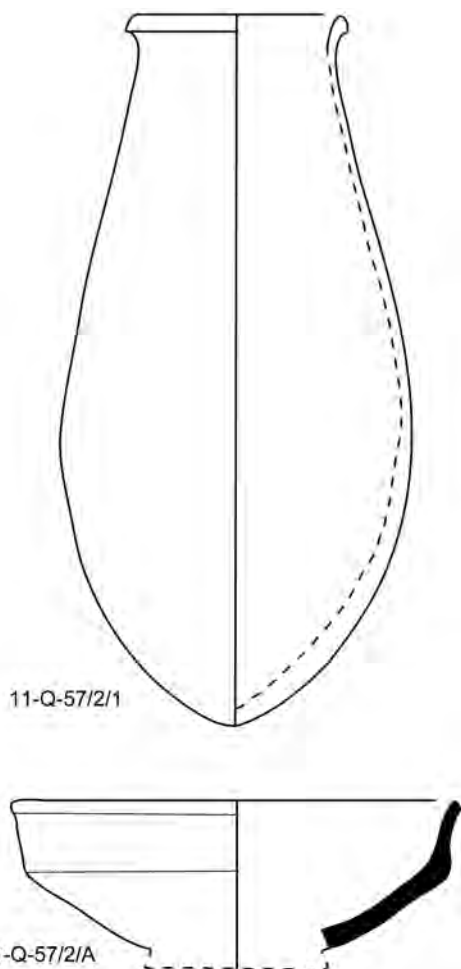


Figure 3.3.141 Jar (11-Q-57/2/1) and bowl (11-Q-57/2/A) (scale 1:4).



Figure 3.3.143 Grave 3 [11-Q-57] from west.

had a wide board at the east end and a curving strut at the west end. The long sides ended in short handles at the west end. The frame seemed likely to have been strung with leather but this could not be confirmed.

11-Q-57/3/1. Slender ovoid jar, rim lost. Wheelmade, redware, uncoated. Max D:75mm, H:>180mm. Photo: C/053:13. SNM.18267.

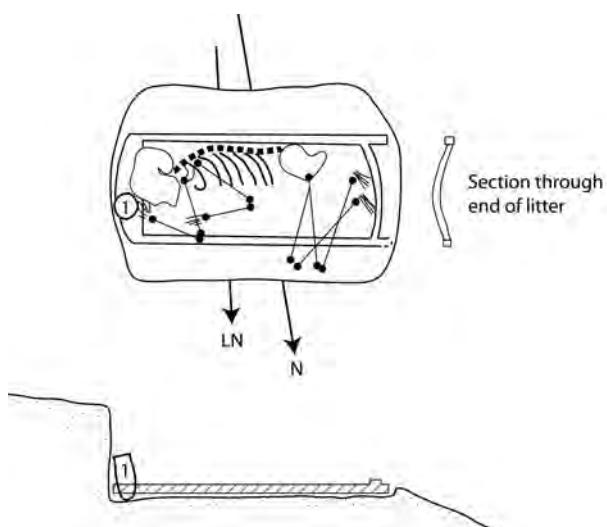


Figure 3.3.142 Sketch plan and section of Grave 3 [11-Q-57].

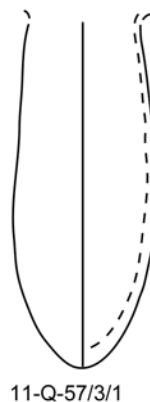


Figure 3.3.144 Jar (11-Q-57/3/1) (scale 1:4).

Grave 11-Q-57/4:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a small oval pit, 110 x 58cm, cut into soft fossil alluvium to a depth of c.40cm. Fill of blown silt. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: the undisturbed burial of an adult male lying in a semi-contracted position on the back, head west, facing south,

CONTENTS: a wheelmade jar (1) covered by a bowl (A), broken in situ, in small pieces.

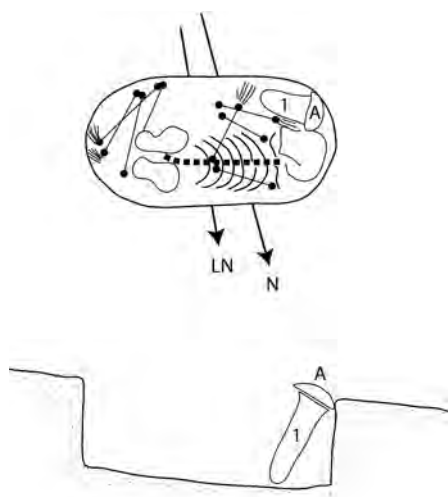


Figure 3.3.145 Sketch plan of Grave 4 [11-Q-57].



Figure 3.3.146 Grave 4 [11-Q-57], from east with jar (11-Q-57/4/1) by head of semi-contracted burial.

11-Q-57/4/1. Tall ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, orange ware (marl clay?). Max

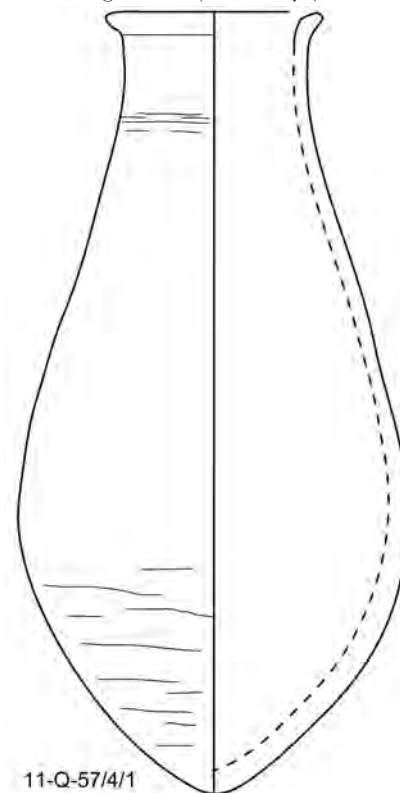


Figure 3.3.147 Jar (11-Q-57/4/1) and bowl (11-Q-57/4/A) (scale 1:4).

D:204mm, H:414mm. Photo: C/054:16. SNM.18403.

11-Q-57/4/A. Bowl with direct rim and flat base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on exterior and interior rim. Rim D:180mm, H:70mm. Not registered.

Grave 11-Q-57/5:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a shallow subrectangular pit c.150 x 50cm. Excavated in soft alluvium to a depth of c.13cm. Fill of blown silt. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: the undisturbed burial of an adult lying in a contracted position on the right side, head east facing north. Right hand on pelvis.

CONTENTS: none.

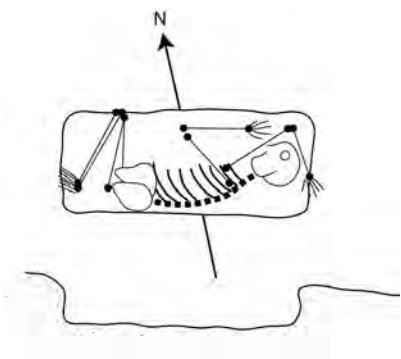


Figure 3.3.148 Sketch plan of Grave 5 [11-Q-57].

Grave 11-Q-57/6:

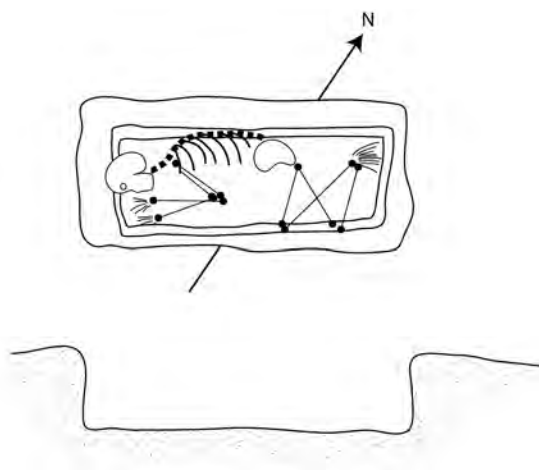


Figure 3.3.149 Sketch plan of Grave 6 [11-Q-57].



Figure 3.3.150 Grave 6 [11-Q-57], from east.

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit, 140 x 60cm. Excavated in soft fossil alluvium to a depth of c.30cm. Fill of soft silt. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: the undisturbed burial of an adult lying in a semi-contracted position on the right side, head southwest, facing south. No blocking. Body lying on a wooden litter (?).

CONTENTS: part of a footed dish (A).

11-Q-57/6/A. Bowl with direct rim and ring base. Wheelmade, redware with polished interior. D:232mm, H:81mm. Not registered.

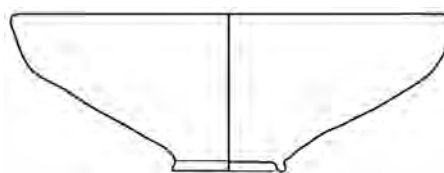


Figure 3.3.151 Bowl (11-Q-57/6/A). (1:4)

Grave 11-Q-57/7:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: grave entirely eroded and only parts of the burial survived at surface level.

BURIAL: a semi-contracted body of an adult lying on right side, head east facing north.

CONTENTS: none.

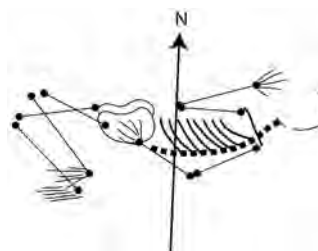


Figure 3.3.152 Sketch plan of eroded Grave 7 [11-Q-57].

Grave 11-Q-57/8:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a small oval pit c.80 x 30cm. Cut in alluvium to a depth of c.20cm. The west end of grave was eroded away. Fill of blown silt.

BURIAL: none.

CONTENTS: jar (1) at east end of grave, possibly in situ.

11-Q-57/8/1. Tall, necked ovoid jar with modelled rim. Wheelmade, red ware, uncoated. Max.D:162mm. H:300mm. Photo: C/060:6. SNM.19404.

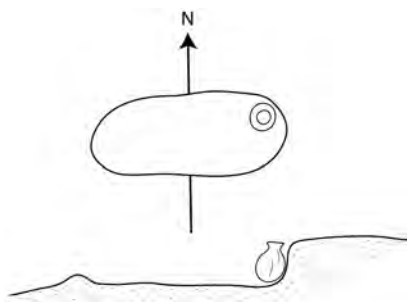


Figure 3.3.153 Sketch plan of eroded Grave 8 [11-Q-57].

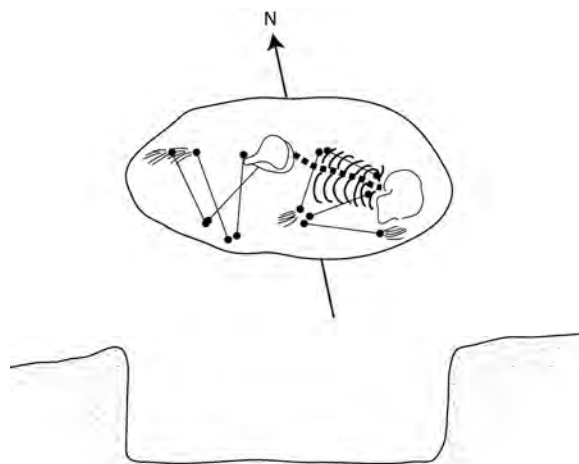


Figure 3.3.155 Sketch plan of Grave 9 [11-Q-57].

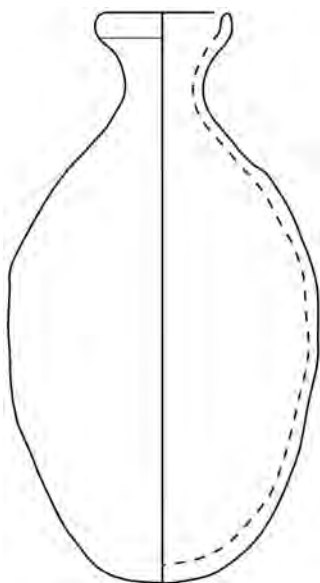


Figure 3.3.154 Jar (11-Q-57/8/1) (scale 1:4).



Figure 3.3.156 Grave 9 [11-Q-57], from west.

Grave 11-Q-57/9:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: an oval pit, 140 x 70cm, dug in soft fossil alluvium to a depth of c.50cm. Located on a gentle slope. Fill of blown silt. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: the undisturbed burial of an adult female lying in a semi-contracted position on the left side, head east, facing south.

CONTENTS: fragmentary remains of a wooden bed or litter.

Grave 11-Q-57/10:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit rounded at the east end, 140 x 80cm. Excavated in fossil alluvium to a depth of c.40cm. Fill of rubble. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: the undisturbed burial of an adult male

lying on the left side, semi-contracted, head east, facing upwards. Body lying on a wooden bed or litter (?).

CONTENTS: jar (1) and dish (2) in southeast corner and bone awl (3) and scarab (4) closeby. and part of a footed dish (A) in fill.

11-Q-57/10/1. Tall ovoid jar with modelled rim. Wheelmade, redware, uncoated. Max D:150mm; H:340mm. Photo: C/060:5. SNM.19403.

11-Q-57/10/2. Bowl with direct rim and ring base. Wheelmade, redware. D:141mm, H:60mm. (VI:235). Photo: C/059:5. SNM.19395.

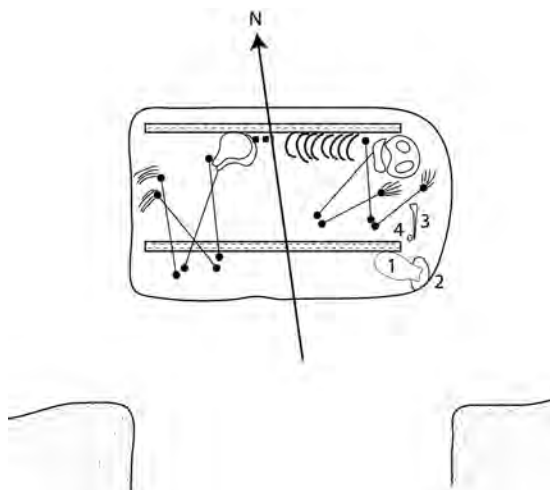


Figure 3.3.157 Sketch plan of Grave 10 [11-Q-57].

Figure 3.3.158 Grave 10 [11-Q-57], from west.

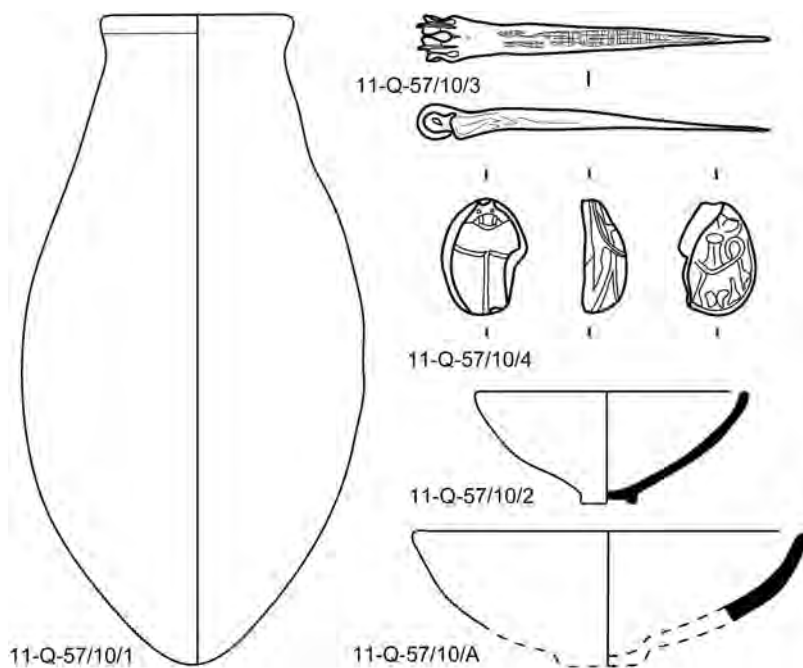


Figure 3.3.159 Jar and bowls (scale 1:4) and bone awl (3) and glazed steatite scarab (4), (scale 1:1) from Grave 10 [11-Q-57].

11-Q-57/10/A. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?); uncoated. Incomplete. Rim D:208mm. Not registered.

11-Q-57/10/3. Bone awl. L:204mm. Photo: C/062:11. SNM.19401.

11-Q-57/10/4. Green glazed steatite scarab. Broken on one side. L:15mm, W:11mm, Th:6mm. Photos: C/065: 19-20. SNM.19398.

Grave 11-Q-57/11:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: an irregular oval pit, 95 x 75cm, excavated in crumbly fossil alluvium to a depth of c.55cm. Fill of blown silt. Traces of stone blocking at foot end. (Grave apparently intercutting with another burial to the south)

BURIAL: the undisturbed burial of a child, lying in a semi-contracted position, head north, facing west. The body lay on a wooden bed or litter.

CONTENTS: none.



Figure 3.3.160 Sketch plan of Grave 11 [11-Q-57].

Grave 11-Q-57/12:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a small subcircular pit 90 x 85cm, cut in crumbly fossil alluvium to a depth of c.70cm. Fill of soft alluvium. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: the undisturbed burial of a young adult, lying in a contracted position on right side, head south, facing east.

CONTENTS: sherds of wheelmade, red-brown pot-stand with red-polished exterior. Not registered or drawn.

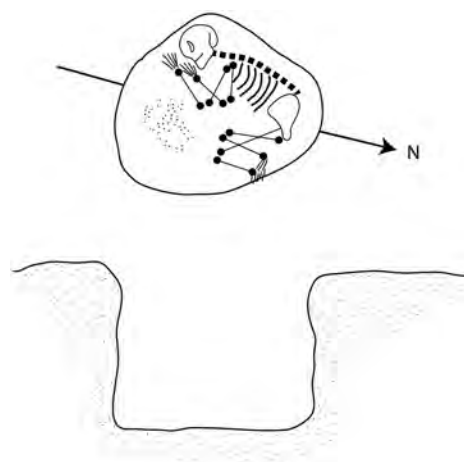


Figure 3.3.162 Sketch plan of Grave 12 [11-Q-57].



Figure 3.3.161 Grave 11 [11-Q-57], from south.



Figure 3.3.163 Grave 12 [11-Q-57], from east.

Grave 11-Q-57/13:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a small subcircular pit 55 x 55cm, cut into soft fossil alluvium to a depth of c.15cm. Fill of soft alluvium. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: the undisturbed burial of an infant, lying in a contracted position on right side, head east, facing north.

CONTENTS: sherds of a wheelmade, red ware dish with red-polished exterior and white-slipped interior. Not registered or drawn.



Figure 3.3.164 Sketch plan of Grave 13 [11-Q-57].



Figure 3.3.165 Infant burial in Grave 13 [11-Q-57], from west.

Grave 11-Q-57/14:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a shallow oval pit, 100 x 70cm, excavated in soft alluvium to a depth of c.40cm. Fill of soft alluvium. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: the undisturbed burial of a young adult, lying in a semi-contracted position on right side, head southeast, facing north. Trace of a wooden bed or litter.

CONTENTS: part of a brown ware bowl. Not registered or drawn.

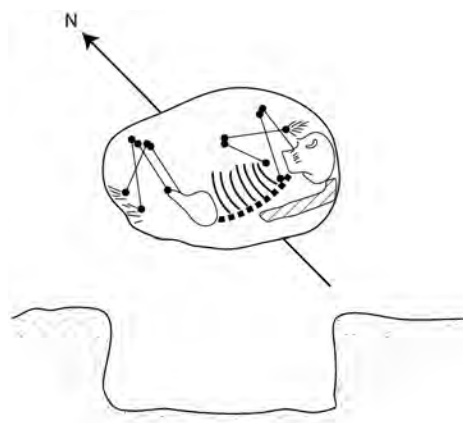


Figure 3.3.166 Sketch plan of Grave 14 [11-Q-57].



Figure 3.3.167 Grave 14 [11-Q-57], from west.

Grave 11-Q-57/15:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit 170 x 58cm, dug in fossil alluvium to a depth of c.35cm.

BURIAL: the undisturbed burial of an adult male, dorsally extended, head west, facing north. Left hand at left side, right arm across stomach. Parts of leather loin-cloth or similar garment (fig.3.3.170).

CONTENTS: none.

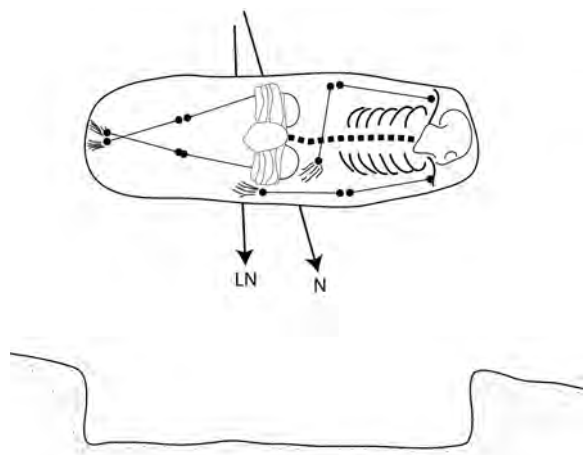


Figure 3.3.168 Sketch plan of Grave 15 [11-Q-57].



Figure 3.3.169 Grave 15 [11-Q-57], from west.



Figure 3.3.170 Grave 15 [11-Q-57], detail of loin-cloth.

Surface find:

11-Q-57/0/1. Green/blue faience scarab. L:14.5mm; W:10mm; Th:7.5mm. Photos: C/065:21-22. SNM.19406.

All the pottery represents types very common in Nubian during Dynasty 18, and particularly the first part of Dynasty 18. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: No previous record. AJM VII: 63-64. Site Photos: F/296:1-9; F/336-712; F/338:7-12. Air Photos: 623190, 328258. Investigated: 17-18/11/1965, 2-5/11/1966.

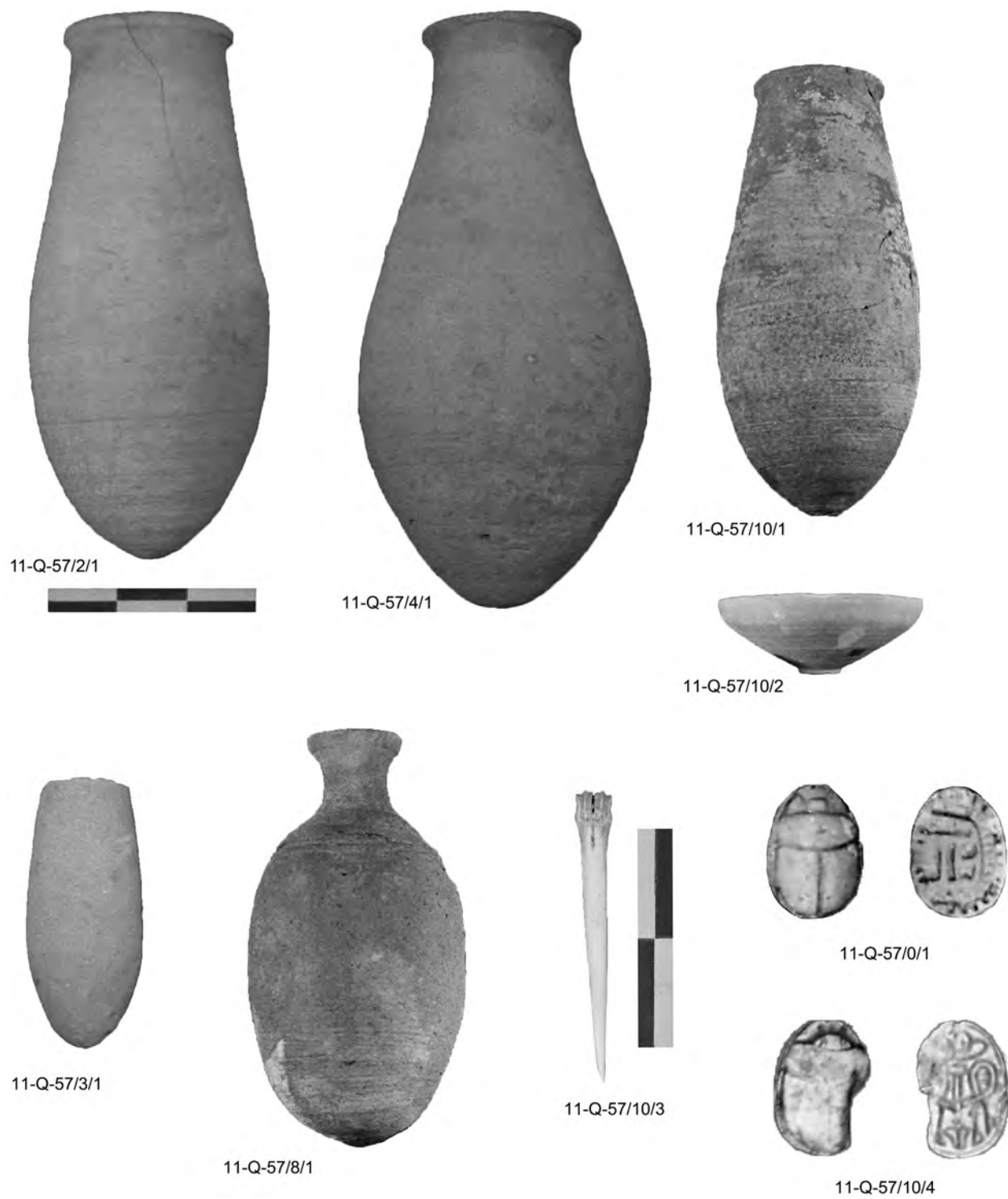


Figure 3.3.171 Pottery and other small finds from [11-Q-57].

4. Semna

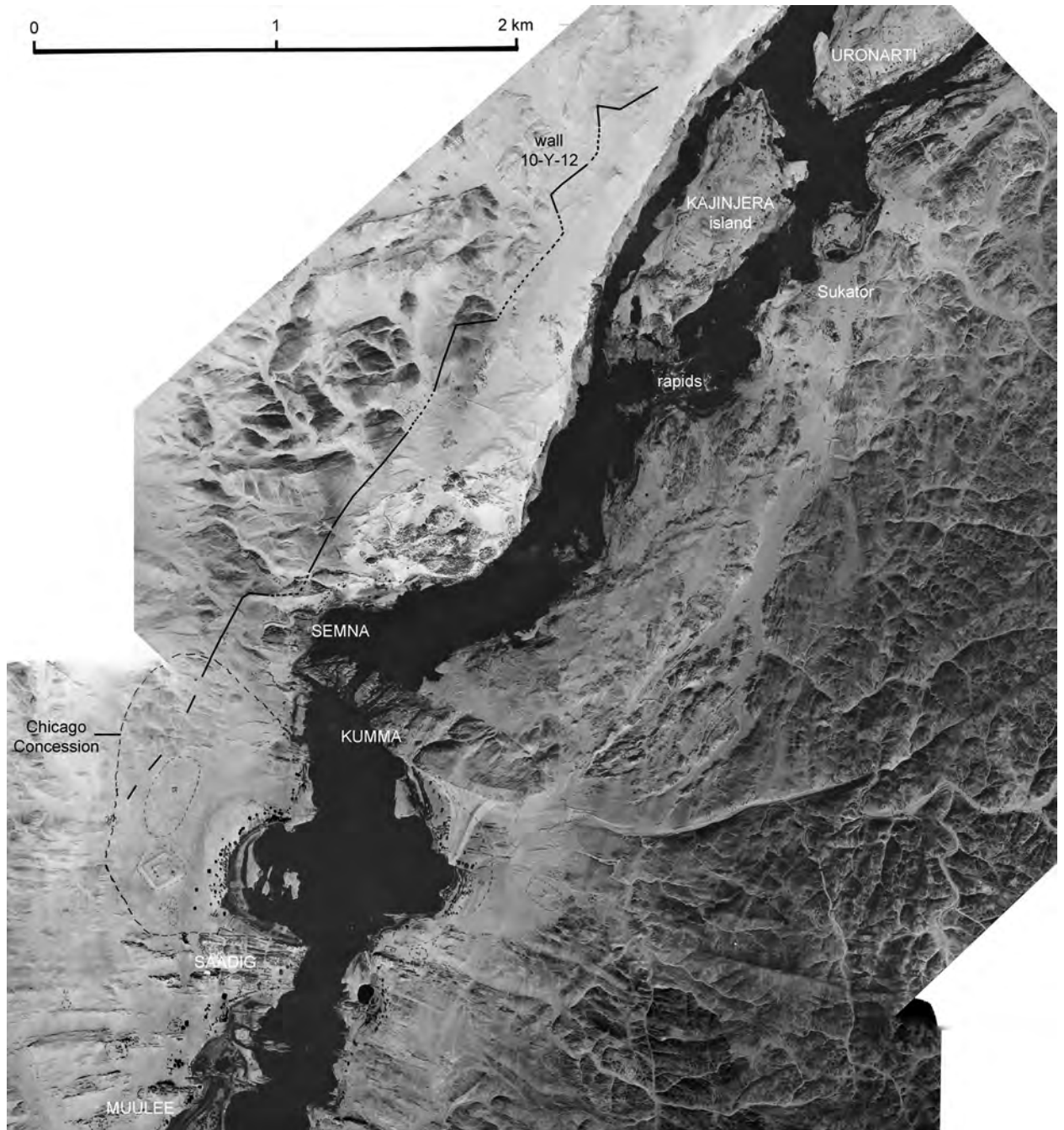


Figure 4.01 Northern part of Semna, with projected line of (Middle Kingdom) wall [10-Y-12] extending from near Uronarti to area of Semna South [16-E-3]. The area immediately south of Semna allocated to the University of Chicago Oriental Institute Expedition is indicated.

The district of Semna extended for c.10km upriver from Uronarti, its southern boundary at Tila island, the boundary with Attiri and Duweishat. In the early 1960s the registered population was only 627 (Dafalla 1975, 337). The southern end of Uronarti lay c.3.5km below Semna. By the mid-twentieth century there was almost no permanent settlement on the west bank in the area north of Semna. The west bank had a covering of blown sand in most areas. On the east bank the only significant settlement north of Kumma (*Kumme*) was at Sukator (*Sukkatoor*) opposite Kajinjera. South of Sukator a palaeochannel ran southwards towards the Semna barrier, formed by a band of hard red and grey gneiss (Ball 1903).

There were significant obstacles to river transport around Uronarti, with the more open but shallow channel to the west only passable at high Nile while the eastern channel was impeded by many rocks and small islands as water levels fell. At the southern end of the main (east) channel around Kajinjera there was a small rapid c.1.3km below Semna (fig.4.02). Noel Wheeler, responsible for a large part of the excavations carried out at Semna and Uronarti by the Harvard University

– Museum of Fine Arts Expedition between 1924 and 1930 provides a useful description of the then current river conditions and their impact on river navigation (Dunham 1967, 3–4).

The substantial Middle Kingdom foundations of Semna West [16-E-1] and Semna South [16-E-3], on the west bank, and Kumma [16-E-2], on the east bank (fig.4.03), were not further investigated by the ASSN. On the west bank, a concession at Semna West was assigned to University of Chicago Oriental Institute Expedition who worked at the site from late 1966 until April 1968.

This area was intensively investigated by the German Epigraphic Expedition, recording a major concentration of inscriptions and rock drawings in and around Semna West and Kumma (Hintze and Reineke 1989; Otto and Otto 1993). As noted previously, some renumbering of sites has proved necessary to avoid duplication of site registration numbers. For example, rock inscription sites initially registered as [16-E-1] and [16-E-2], have been assigned new registrations as [16-E-57*] and [16-E-58*] to avoid duplications (see also below). Other inscriptions registered as [16-E-8] and [16-E-9] were also assigned new registration numbers (see below).



Figure 4.02 Rapids on eastern channel at south end of Kajinjera island, looking southwest (1964).



Figure 4.03 View towards Semna-Kumma from c.1km downriver (1964).



Figure 4.04 View of Semna-Kumma from west bank c.500m northeast of Semna West.

South of the Semna rapids modern settlement was also quite limited. There were however several small settlements including Saadig, Mulê (*Muulee*) Beshari (*Bisshar*) Gushingi (*Gishungi*) Awlo (*Olow*) and Kudi (*Koddi*). This was the last area on the west bank with any significant alluvial land which might support

settlement. On the east bank there was a hamlet at Sindas, opposite Kudi, just below Miskinarti (*Miskemarti*). Upstream of this seasonal island the riverbanks were becoming increasingly narrow, with very little alluvium and only two further small settlements at Dugigel (*Dukkigeel*) and Agir.



Figure 4.05 The southern part of Semna, extending to area of Tila island, near Attiri.

10-Y-12 Wall

Semna West

LOCATION: This site was first identified by the ASSN on the west bank opposite Kajinjera island, upstream of Uronarti, in February 1966. In that area it was recorded as running c.250–350m west of the riverbank approximately parallel to the river for most of the length of the island. It was latterly traced, intermittently, running to the west of Semna West [16-E-1] to near Semna South [16-E-3] (fig.4.06).

DESCRIPTION: once identified, this structure was recognised as very unusual. Test excavations and surface clearance demonstrated the presence of a wall consisting of a single, heavy, mud brick structure, generally 2.25–2.50m thick, if rarely preserved more than one or two courses high. Where traceable it appeared to follow the contours of the hillside. In places that were more exposed, such as where it ran over rocky outcrops, it was

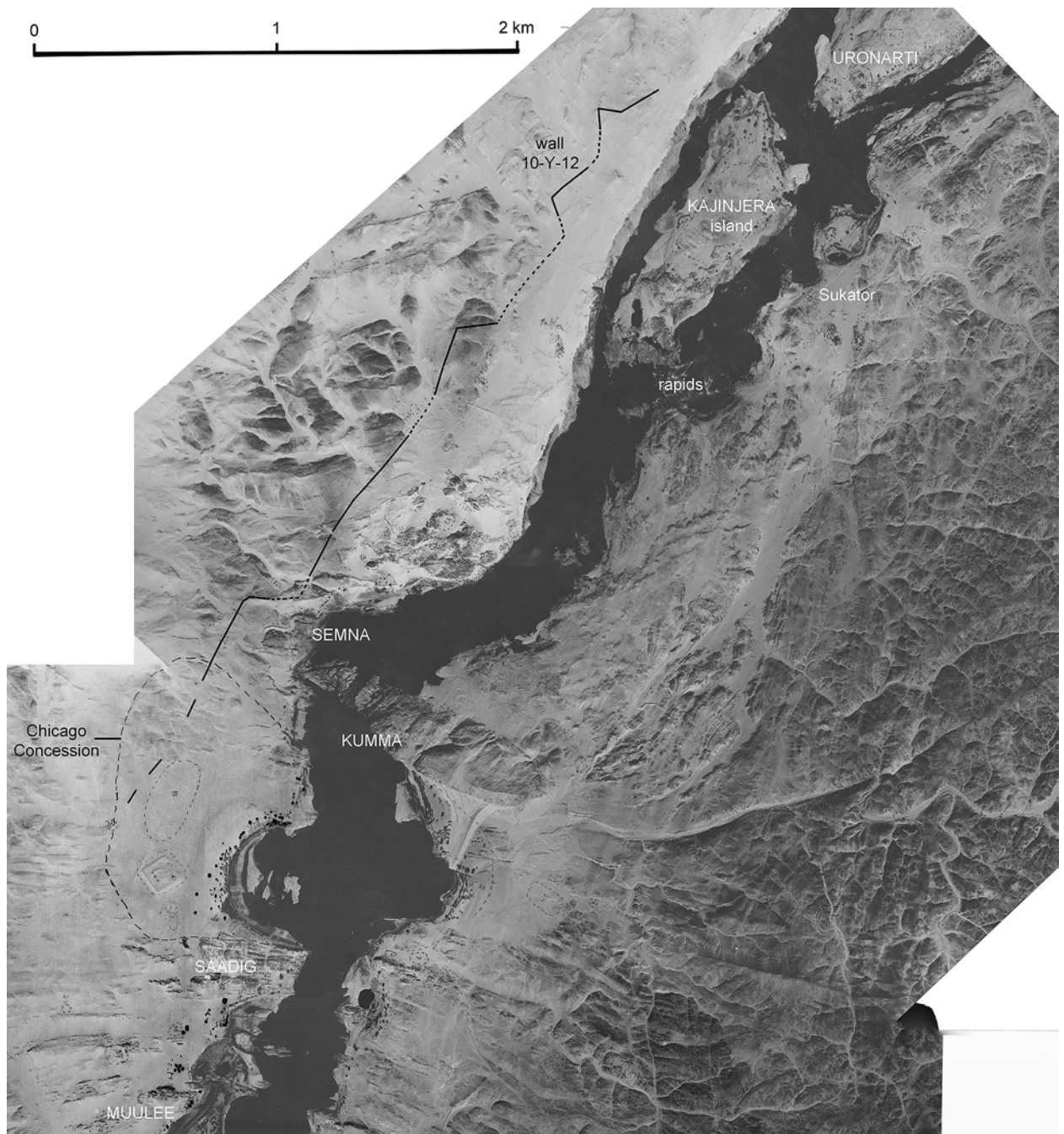


Figure 4.06 Reconstructed line of wall [10-Y-12] based on field tests and aerial photographs.



Figure 4.07 Wall [10-Y-12]. West side of peak tower A, with three courses of bricks, looking towards southwest.

eroded completely; in some other places it was buried in deep sand.

Its original height was unascertainable as the wall was very heavily eroded by wind and sand. Where it survived it had a smooth-worn and level surface with no broken bricks or other debris around it. Midway to Semna in an area where no brickwork survived, a small section of stone construction was also noted (fig.4.14).

The full extent of the wall of the wall remained



Figure 4.08 Wall [10-Y-12]. West side of peak tower A, looking towards southwest.

unknown. It was traced including gaps, over a total length of more than 4.6km. Whether it extended further northward opposite Uronarti could not be determined; the likely line in that area being largely masked by often deep blown sand. Of the visible wall line a total of c.250m was traced, excavated and planned in the northern section opposite Kajinjera island (fig.4.10). A second section of similar length was examined near its south end, where the wall passed c.150m west of the Semna West fort (fig.4.13). In both areas broader sections of walling were interpreted as the foundations of towers; one measured 4.30m x 4.70m wide.

In the northern section of walling west of Kajinjera one tower (A) located on a low rise was excavated (figs 4.07–8). To the southwest the wall then disappeared beneath deep sand, before turning towards the river (fig.4.09). In this area a small number of sherds from jars and a bowl (fig.4.15) were found, but only on the river side of the wall. In that section there was also some evidence for the use of stone, perhaps in repairs/rebuilding.

Some further testing was undertaken towards the southern end of the wall where it passed west of Semna West fort [16-E-1] into the area of the Chicago Concession. Another tower, described as slightly larger than most lay on a crest of a low hillock west of the fort (also the site of some later burials [16-E-28] – see below), in places surviving up to five brick courses high. This tower had a length of a serpentine wall c.2–3m long running from its east side. In this area the wall a ‘heavy,



Figure 4.09 Wall [10-Y-12]. View down slope to southwest of tower A into area of deep sand.

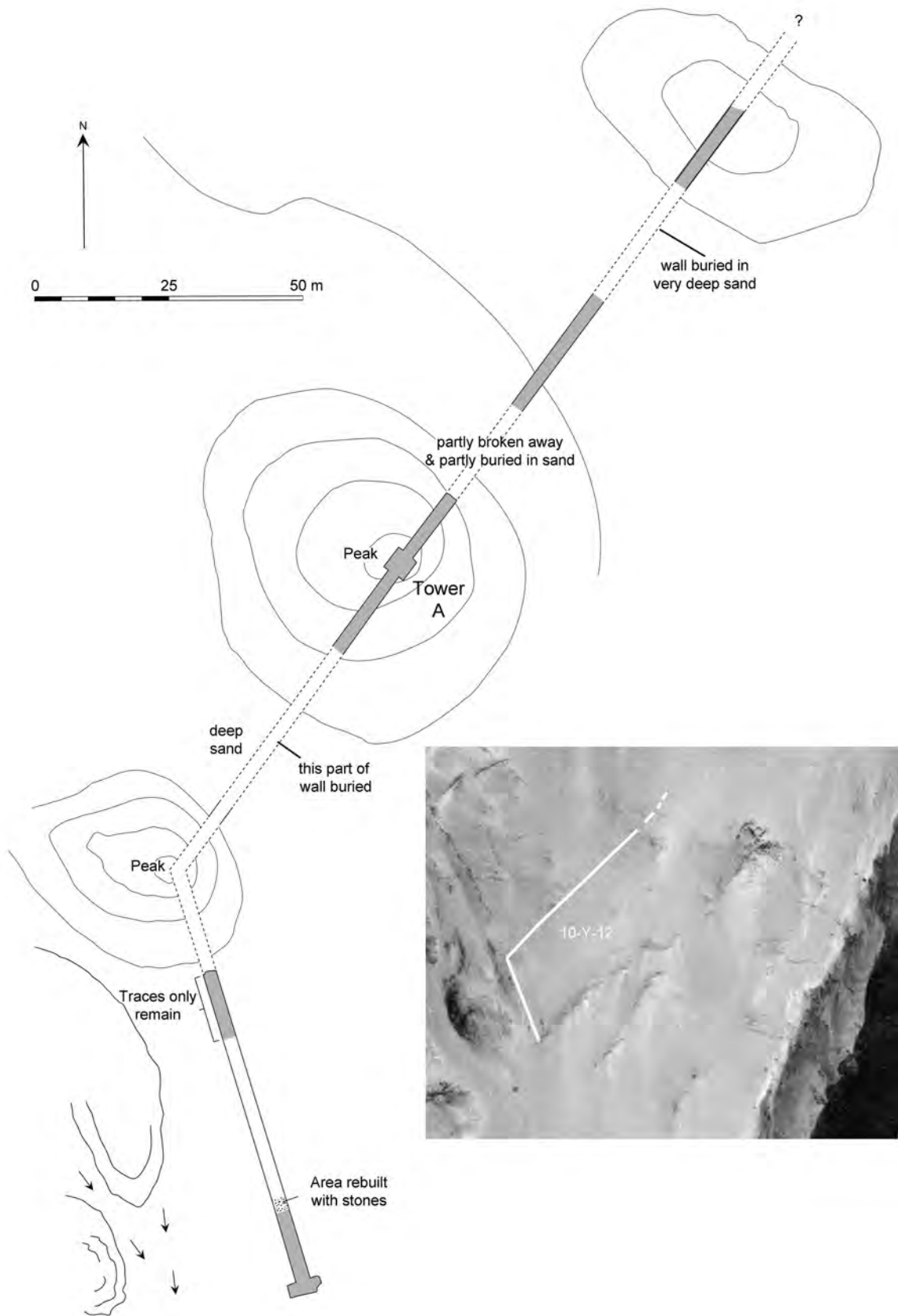


Figure 4.10 Wall [10-Y-12]. Northern section of wall, west of Kajinjera island with areas of test excavations and tower A.



Figure 4.11 Wall [10-Y-12] running down towards river near south end of Kajinjera island.



Figure 4.12 Wall [10-Y-12] running down towards river near south end of Kajinjera island. Several long stone linear features visible beyond the wall are of unknown date and significance.

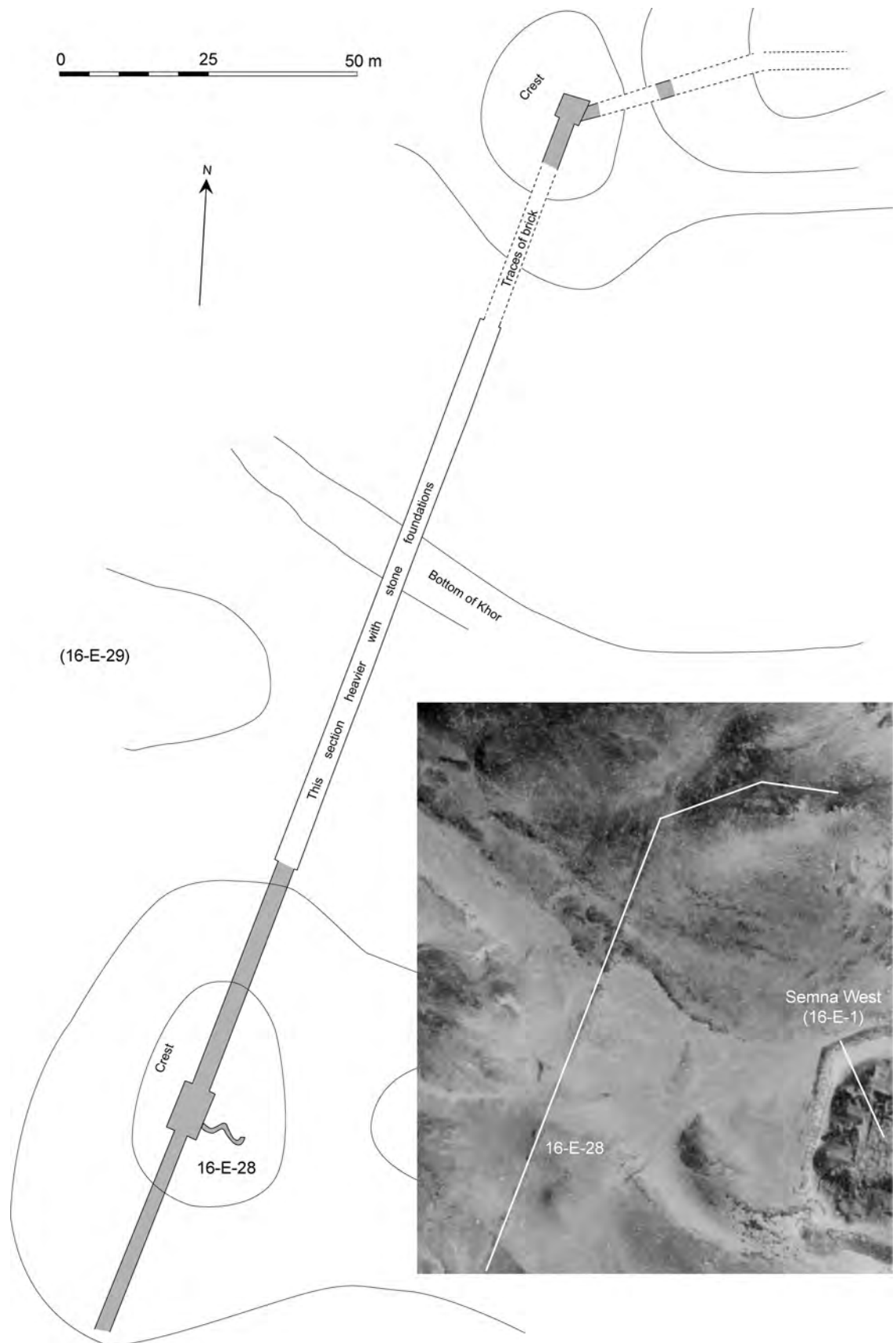


Figure 4.13 Wall [10-Y-12] in section examined to west of Semna West fort.



Figure 4.14 Wall [10-Y-12] with small areas of stonework c.1.2km north-northeast of Semna fort.

yellow-coloured plaster' was reported. No further information was recorded about the southern end of the wall.

Where areas of brickwork were examined the average size of mudbrick was recorded as 7 x 15 x 30cm. There was evidence that the wall has been plastered to its base with a single thick layer of sandy mud plaster 1.5–2cm thick. Some faint traces of whitewash were noted on this plaster, but only on the east/riverside of the wall. It was found that when construction was started the ground surface was cleared of loose rocks, then plastered with mud, to provide a bedding for the first layers of brick.

Finds:

10-Y-12/A. Necked jar with modelled rim. Wheelmade red-brown ware. Uncoated. Rim D:156mm.

10-Y-12/B. Bowl with folded rim. Wheelmade redware with polished slipped surfaces. Rim D:122mm.

10-Y-12/C. Necked jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, red-brown ware, with polished slip. Rim D:108mm.

The jar with modelled rim (A) is a well-known Middle Kingdom form and the other sherds may also be of a similar date. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: No previous record known to ASSN. Borchardt 1923; ASSN FD 1965–1966: 61–63; AJM VIII: 45–48. Photos: F/323: 11–12; F/324: 1–8, 11–12; F/325: 1–4. Investigated: 8–19/12/1966.

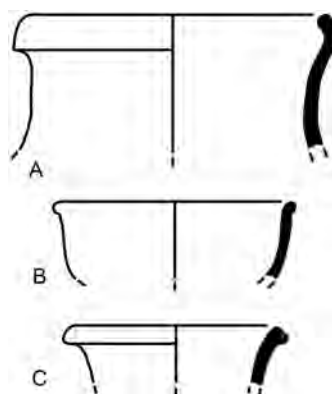


Figure 4.15 Sherds (A-C) found near wall [10-Y-12], probably from northern section opposite Kajinjera island.



Figure 4.16 Semna West – location of graves [16-E-28] cut into wall [10-Y-12], to southwest of Semna Fort [16-E-1] and other known cemeteries S500, S700 and S800.

LOCATION: these graves were dug into the heavy brick wall [10-Y-12], at a point where it crested a rise, to the west and slightly south of Semna West fort [16-E-1]. At this point the wall widened, interpreted as a tower (fig.4.16). The site was c.300m west of the river bank and 75m south of the khor that ran down to [16-E-1].

DESCRIPTION: there were seven small rectangular graves made by either digging a number of bricks out of the [10-Y-12] wall, or by excavating into the ground surface beside it (fig.4.17). They were all plundered, but on the evidence of the three excavated examples, this disturbance was not recent. A few fragments of bone were noted just below the surface of all the grave mouths. The fills were of loose rubble and blown sand. One grave (3) had most of a stone blocking surviving intact and a similar blocking is suggested for grave 1.

Grave 16-E-28/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: rectangular area 180cm x 50cm cut into west side of mudbrick wall [10-Y-12]. Original depth unknown but wall survived c.45cm high and base of grave at level of wall foundation. No trace of blocking and fill above burial 'loose rubble'.

BURIAL: disturbed body of adult aligned near north-south, head to north. The body had apparently (anciently) been turned over to face down. Half pelvis and upper right leg lost (fig.4.18).

CONTENTS: bowl (1) by head; faience scarab (2) beneath pelvis, perhaps near left hand; shell disc bead and part of a striped stone ball bead (3) in fill.

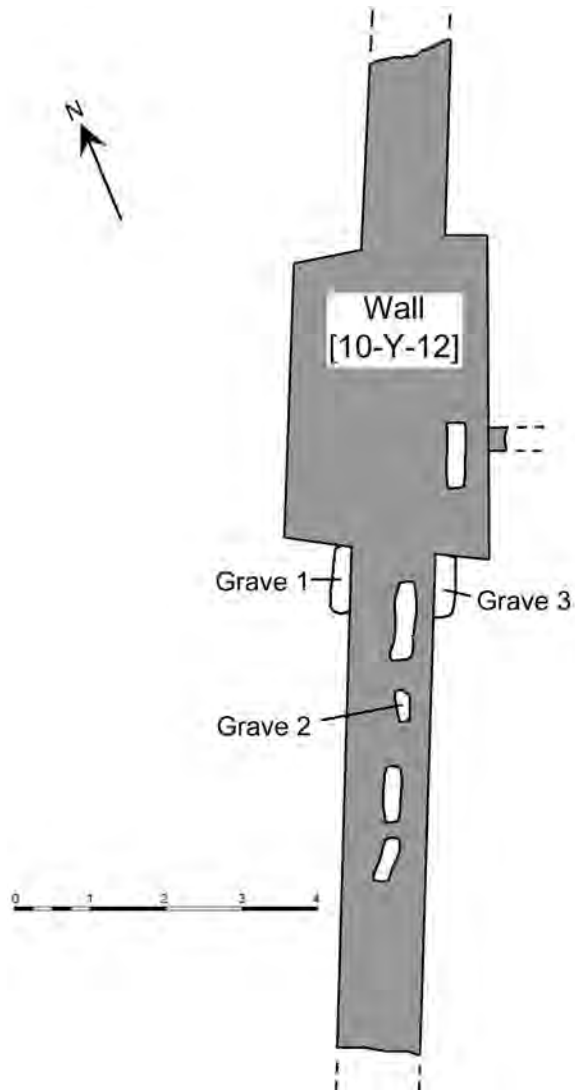


Figure 4.17 Plan of graves of [16-E-28] cut into and around wall [10-Y-12].



Figure 4.18 Grave 1, [16-E-28] from west.

16-E-28/1/1. Bowl, with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?); red-slipped inside and external rim. Vessel quite soft and cracked. D:194mm; H:75mm. Photos: C/054:3-4. SNM.18435. (fig.4.20)



Figure 4.20 Bowl (16-E-28/1/1)

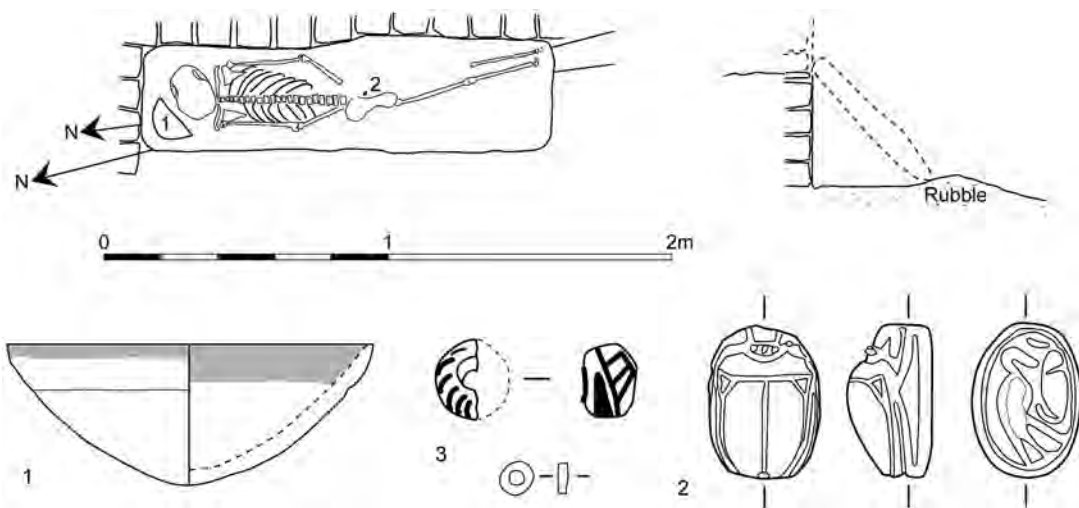


Figure 4.19 Plan and section of Grave 1, [16-E-28]. Bowl (scale 1:4), scarab and beads (scale 1:1)



Figure 4.21 Scarab (16-E-28/1/2)

16-E-28/1/2. Scarab, blue faience. L:20mm; Th:11mm; W:15mm. Photos: C/050:18–19. SNM.18495. (fig.4.21)

16-E-28/1/3. Not registered.

Grave 16-E-28/2:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a small subrectangular pit 65cm x 40cm cut in to mudbrick wall [10-Y-12], to a depth of 20cm. Fill of 'loose rubble and blown sand'. No trace of blocking. A small shallow hollow at the north end of the grave contained a cup.

BURIAL: apparently undisturbed burial of an infant lying in on the right side, head north facing west, in a flexed position.

CONTENTS: bowl (A) at head of burial; necklace of faience beads and carnelian pendant at neck (fig.4.22).

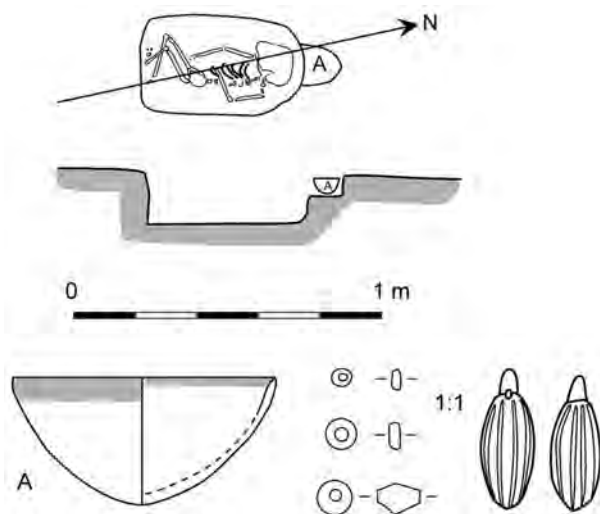


Figure 4.22 Plan and section of Grave 2, [16-E-28]. Bowl (scale 1:4), beads (scale 1:1).



Figure 4.23 Faience bead necklace with carnelian pendant (16-E-28/2/1)

16-E-28/2/1. Beads. 93 x blue faience; 2 x carnelian barrel beads; 1 x carnelian pendant. L:17mm. Photo: C/057:6. SNM:18515. (fig.4.23)

16-E-28/2/A. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on inside and exterior rim. D: 128mm; H:60mm. Not registered.

Grave 16-E-28/3:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a shallow rectangular pit 165cm x 65cm cut in to mud surface and underlying gravel on the east side of mudbrick wall [10-Y-12]. The grave slightly undercuts the wall and its base was 10cm below the surface. Fill of 'loose rubble and blown sand'. A blocking of flat boulders laid against the wall and plastered over with mud, sealed the grave (fig.4.24).

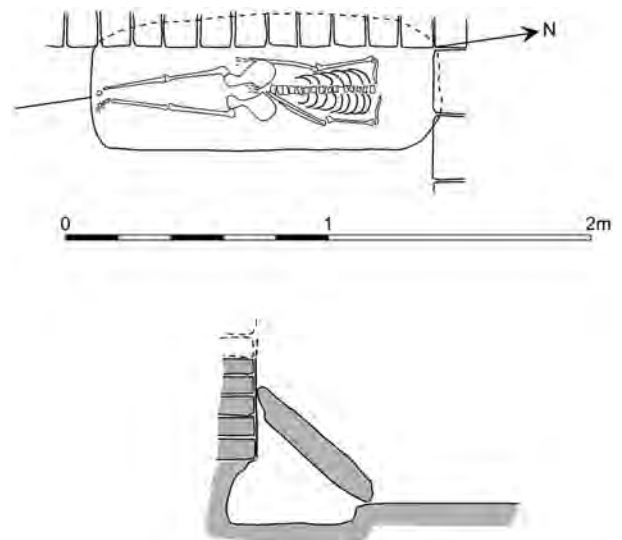


Figure 4.24 Plan and section Grave 3, [16-E-28].



Figure 4.25 Grave 3, [16-E-28] from above, with stone grave covering in situ.

BURIAL: partly disturbed body of a young adult female, dorsally extended, head to the north, left hand on pelvis, right hand by side. Head missing.



Figure 4.26 Grave 3, [16-E-28] from east, with stone grave covering in situ.

CONTENTS: none.

DOCUMENTATION: No previous record. *AJM* VIII: 65–66. Photos: F/326: 3–5; Air Photos: 758133.

INVESTIGATED: 19–20/2/1966.

16-E-21 House

Semna East

LOCATION: this was located on a low saddle between two rocky ridges in the bare, rocky country northeast of Semna East (fig.4.27). Situated c.575m from the bank of Nile, and c.1km east-northeast from Kumma fort [16-E-2], this lay on the east side of a rocky wadi, with a rocky ridge to the east, one of several in this area. The lower ground in this area was crossed by a number of crude, heavy drystone walls, one of many in this area, mainly running along ridge tops; the largest [16-E-40] c.400m to the east, which extended over c.2.5km, running as far north as Sukkator (the hamlet upstream of Uronarti).

DESCRIPTION: a small, near rectangular structure of four rooms, built of small irregular blocks of local stone, bonded in a heavy mud mortar. The surviving walls stood to a height (in centre) of c.60cm, more generally c.40cm; a few sections as high as 1m. The fill within the structure was

largely sterile soft wind-blown sand and fallen, loose wall stones, generally no more than 75cm deep. No evidence for post-abandonment occupation/reuse was found. The walls, with an average thickness of c.25cm, were constructed of relatively long, thin slabs set in mortar, but with no surviving traces of plaster. The building had fairly even and flat floors of packed mud. Rectangular doors were preserved in three rooms. There was no indication of roofing and the limited quantities of fallen stone suggest the walls were originally not standing very much higher than preserved. Three of the rooms (Rooms 1, 2 and 5) contained numerous interior features and discarded/abandoned objects on the floors.

Room 1 was entered by a rectangular doorway from Room 2, not from outside. Within the room two features were recorded. In the southeast corner was a structure (Feature A) of upright slabs



Figure 4.27 Location of site [16-E-21] in areas of wall systems. Two groups of unregistered features (circled) visible to the north and part of long wall feature [16-E-40] running along raised ground to east.

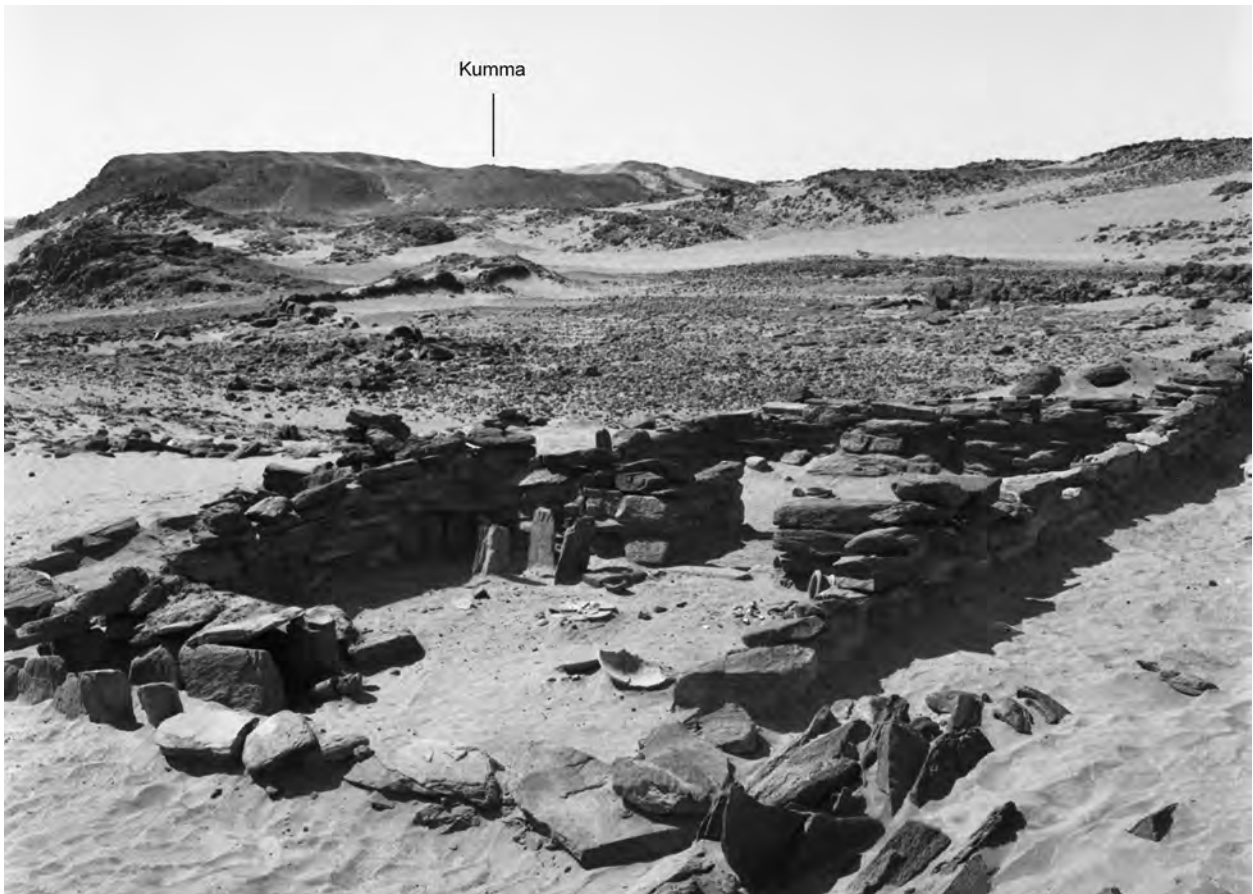


Figure 4.28 View across [16-E-21] towards west-southwest, with approximate location of Kumma fort beyond ridge.



Figure 4.29 Looking west over [16-E-21].



Figure 4.30 View to northwest over [16-E-21].

with a stone cover, plastered with mud mortar. It would appear that when excavated any interior fill was removed, leaving an empty stone frame, open at both ends. There was a similar feature (4) in the adjoining room/space (Room 5). As these

may have been constructed together (and were only partially preserved) the stone frame survived as a 'passage', with the appearance of possibly running between the two rooms, and perhaps to the outside. As preserved this feature stood c.35cm

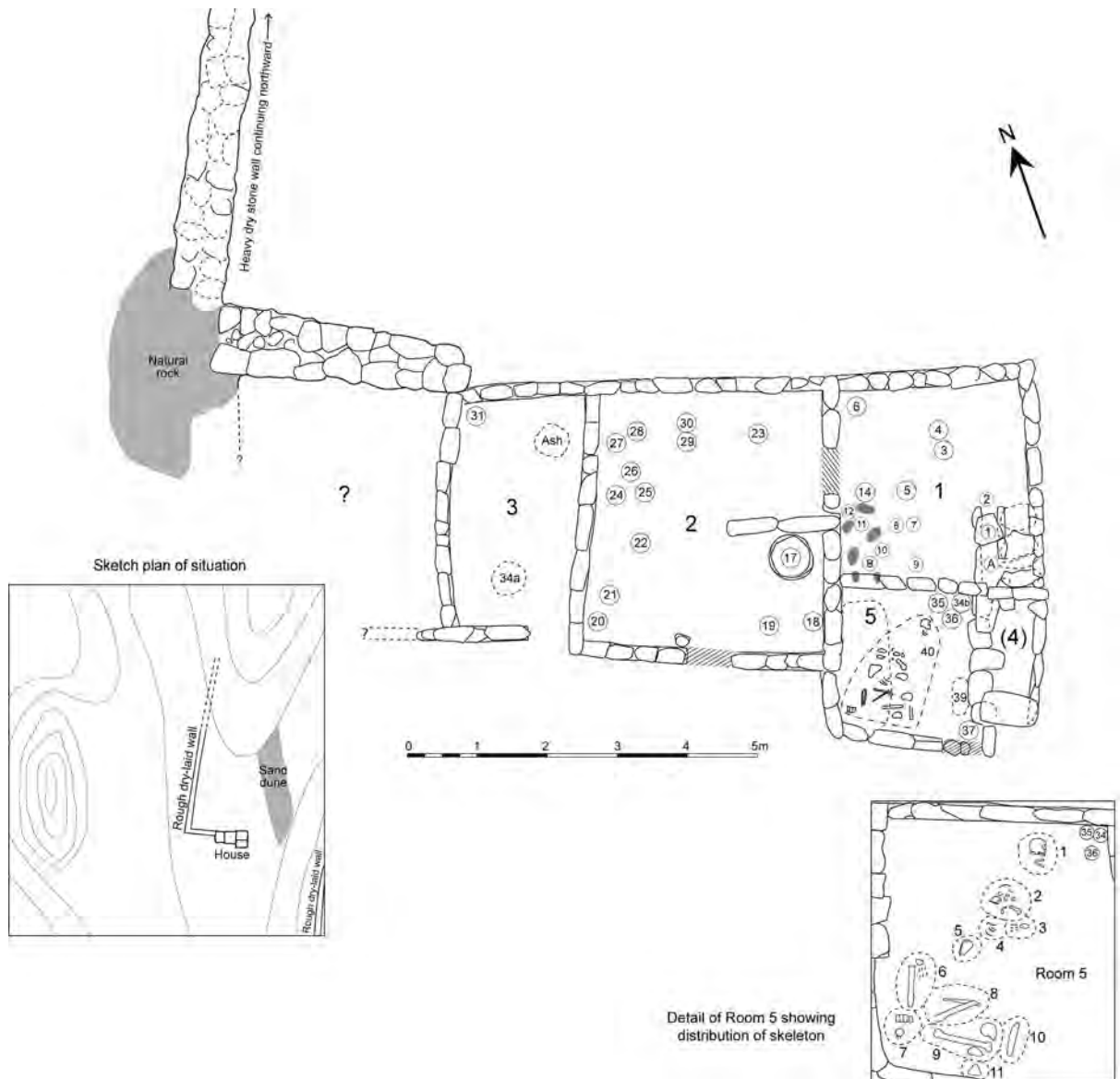


Figure 4.31 Plan of building [16-E-21] and location sketch. Inset shows distribution of disturbed skeleton within Room 5.

above the floor and was c.50cm wide. The sides as well as top apparently had a heavy cover of mud plaster. (The purpose/function of this feature remained unclear to the excavators).

What was thought might have been a potentially similar structure (Feature B) was set in the south-west corner of the room, inside the door. This was preserved as a series of four orthostats, standing c.30cm above the floor. No upper surfaces or covering slabs survived. Two vertically set blocks evident in the fabric of the dividing wall (fig.4.34) suggest that structure was then incorporated into the dividing wall.

A range of artefacts were found at floor level (fig.4.31). These included a crucible (1) found within

the stone 'tunnel' feature A on the east side of the room (see above), with a mud 'stopper/weight' (2), immediately outside the north end of feature A. Several more or less complete pottery vessels were recovered; some broken in situ. A complete incense burner (3) with an incised mark, contained various fragments of chipped and ground stone (3C), ostrich egg fragments and at least two bone tools (3A). A further crucible fragment (3B) would also seem to have been found with this group of material. A second bowl (4) with the same incised mark was broken and incomplete. The plate (5) was found crushed in situ, but complete. It contained some quartzite chips, pieces of yellow and red ochre and four sandstone rubbers.



Figure 4.32 Stone Feature A in Room 1 with mud surface partly preserved.



Figure 4.34 Room 1 from east wall, Looking west.



Figure 4.33 Stone Feature A in Room 1 with orthostats (B) beyond.



Figure 4.35 Room 2 looking north; doorway on right.

The pot stand (6) was found in the northwest corner of the room, with a beer bottle (6B) placed within it, covered by a small dish (6A). This group had been knocked over on its side. Numerous chips of quartzite, carnelian and other stones as well as some yellow ochre and two sandstone rubbers were found around this, suggesting that these may have been inside the bottle, or perhaps placed on the dish. Two cups (12, 14) were found in an inverted

position. Two large bones tools were recovered, one using a large animal scapula (7), and one a tibia (11), found within the area of Feature B. A few other unworked bone fragments were found. Stone tools included a crude chopper/pounder of hard red stone (8) showing little sign of use, and a sandstone rubber (9) stained with haematite on one side.

Room 2 was the largest and core room of the



Figure 4.36 View across Room 2, looking northeast.



Figure 4.37 Pottery and other finds on floor of Room 2.

structure with other rooms forming additions built on to it. It was entered through a wide door in the centre of the south wall, with a stone threshold block. The room was partially divided by an internal wall backing a fireplace (17) on its south side, the room had a continuous, fairly hard-packed mud floor.

As in Room 1 there were several artefacts on the floor, mainly on the north side, but no other internal features. The fireplace (17) was formed of a large reused red ware jar, c.50cm in diameter and c.20cm high, with prominent cord impressions around the body of the vessel. The jar was filled with ash which also covered the floor in this area. The base of a beer bottle (18) and an inverted cup (19) were found closeby. A sandstone grindstone, ground flat on both sides, one side stained with a blue-black pigment (20) were found in the south-west corner of the room, close to a small special pounder, with traces of haematite on surface.

An intact bowl (22A) was found, face up, with a small bowl/saucer (22B), a large quartzite pounder and a sharpened horn tool. In the northeast part of the room a group of objects (23) was found, including a small concave sandstone grindstone with haematite staining, five very small bone beads (23C), a bone needle (23B) as well as piece of animal horn. The latter was thought likely to have been used as a tool, as was perhaps a piece of an animal scapula (unmodified). Four small cups were found on the floor in the northwest part of

the room, (24, 25) were inverted and intact, (28) and (29) face up and intact, with two fragments of ivory bracelets (see 15, above) inside the latter. A wine decanter (25) was found lying on its side, with another small cup (25A) in its mouth (fig.4.37).

Close to the cup (29) was a broken beer bottle (30). Associated with it was another group of objects, which may have once been inside the vessel; two of these were registered. This included a small pounder with traces of haematite, a dark green stone polishing pebble, black and red pebbles, several small pieces of ground sandstone, a heavy stone cobble with a biface chopping edge (30C) and a bone tool (30B). A further cluster of objects/tools (27) included a small grindstone, a spherical pounder stained with haematite, some pebbles, a pebble of haematite, a small grindstone with a pecked depression (27B) and a few other stones.

Room 3 was a rectangular room adjoining Room 2 on its north side, but entered separately from a doorway in its south wall. It lacked a hard mud floor, and the surface was only a thin layer of mud over sand and bedrock. There were no floor features but there was a quantity of ash on the floor near the northeast corner. The only object found in room was part of a thin sandstone grindstone (31) found face up in the northwest corner. The surface was discoloured, apparently from grinding blue pigment. Directly beneath (31) was found a very small, sharp awl made of bird bone (32) and a



Figure 4.38 Room 5 from south, with skeletal remains on left and cluster of pots in northeast corner (top right).



Figure 4.39 Skeletal remains in foreground and pots beyond 'Room 4' stone feature. Further animal (?) bones behind scale along east side of room.

heavy, much used chopper of pink chert (33). Just inside the door was a small collection of unworked animal bone (34), probably goat, including a clavicle, four long bones, and several vertebrae.

Rooms 4 and 5: what was originally designated 'Room 4' was the stone feature running along the east side of room 5. This appeared to be a continuation of feature A in Room 1, apparently not connected with Room 5. This seems to have been roofed over with thin slabs at a height of c.30cm like features A and B, but only a single slab survived, at its south end. The top appears to have been covered with mud plaster like feature A, although only a few traces survived. The space above this poorly-preserved feature was thought likely to have been within Room 5, but whether an enclosed chamber (or perhaps a mastaba?) remains unclear.

Room 5, lay to the south of Room 1. With no entrance to Rooms 1 or 2, any door must have been in the south wall, only preserved as a single course of stonework. The most likely location seemed to be near the southeast corner. The room had a hard packed mud floor, with evidence of burning at several points. Further finds from the floor included a handmade bowl (34B), two handmade bowls (35), one inside the other, the inner vessel complete, the outer broken but complete. A wheelmade jar (36) lying on its side has a lump of haematite beside it and a large plate

(crushed in situ) contained some sherds and sharp stone chippings. A well-used grinding stone (not marked on plan) was found in the southeast corner behind (37).

Room 5 contained, scattered on the floor, a very disarticulated human skeleton of a young adult (40). The skull was found close to the north wall and most of other bones in southwest corner (fig.4.31 detail). A further concentration of poorly preserved bone (39) were found against the east wall. This was thought to be the remains of an animal (ovicaprid?) skull. The identifiable elements of the body included (1) skull and mandible (not in articulation), (2) a mass of vertebrae and ribs, one scapula, one humerus, (3) one foot, (4) one clavicle and several ribs, (5) one scapula, (6) one tibia and one foot, (7) several lumbar vertebrae in articulation, (8) tibia and fibula, (9) femur and both pelvis, (10) shaft of one femur, (11) sacrum. The presence of the skeleton raises a number of questions. The level of disarticulation could be attributed to disturbance by animals, but of a body which no attempt had been made to bury. The position of the remains directly on the floor seemed to suggest a close link with the occupation (and abandonment?) of the structure. No further anthropological study of the remains was carried out.

The northwest corner of house adjoined a much heavier stone and mortar wall (70–100cm wide), which ran westward for 3m. This was much more

substantial than the house walls. At its west end this wall abutted against a dry-laid stone wall which ran northward for at least 15m, more or less following the ridge contour. This wall may also have run southward from its junction with house, but if so, was subsequently destroyed. An additional room/space may have been enclosed in the area between the heavy east-west wall and the west wall of Room 3, but no features were found in this area. Further sherds were found scattered fairly thickly all around outside of the house at ground level for a distance of 3–4m from the building. These were apparently collected separately from sherds recovered inside but no further information on them was recorded in the field notes. Around the outside of the structure was a quite limited deposit of windblown sand and loose stone, comparable to the deposits within the structure.

Registered Finds:

Room 1 (figs 4.40–41).

(1) 16-E-21/2. Crucible, with direct rim and simple contour. Handmade, brown ware (Nile silt?). Vitrified in places, especially around nozzle. Traces of copper (?) may be present. Max.W:150mm; H:105mm. Photo: C/054:32. SNM.18290.

(3) 16-E-21/3. Incense burner. Wheelmade brown ware (Nile silt?), with red slip on rim and incised potmark on interior. D:237mm; Base D:60mm; H:90mm. Photos: C/055:20–21. SNM.18368. Dynasty 18.

(3B) 16-E-21/30. Bowl/Crucible with direct rim, simple contour and round base. Vitrified body. Broken and incomplete. D:55mm; H:25mm. Photos: C/056:36, C/152:35. SNM.18548.

(4) 16-E-21/D. Bowl with direct rim, simple contour and flat base. Wheelmade brown ware (Nile silt?), with base added. Uncoated with incised potmark. D:315mm; H:105mm. Not registered.

(5) 16-E-21/E. Plate with direct rim, simple contour and round base. Wheelmade brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. D:297mm; H:78mm. Not registered.

(6) 16-E-21/6. Tubular pot-stand. Wheelmade red-orange ware. Max.D:192mm; H:84mm. Photo: C/054:34. SNM.18304.

(6A) 16-E-21/7. Bowl with direct rim, simple contour and round base. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Ground down base from larger vessel. D:117mm; H:36mm. Photo: C/055: 12. SNM.18363.

(6B) 16-E-21/8. Beer bottle with flat base, no hole. Soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Broken but almost complete. Max.D:105mm; H:168mm. Photo: C/054:35. SNM.18377.

(12) 16-E-21/10. Cup. Wheelmade redware with direct rim, simple contour and round base. part of rim missing. D:108mm; H:78mm. (VI:138) Photos: C/055:13–14. SNM.18365.

(14) 16-E-21/A. Cup. Wheelmade brown ware (Nile silt?), direct rim, simple contour and round base. Uncoated. D:96mm; H:78mm. (VI:123). Not registered.

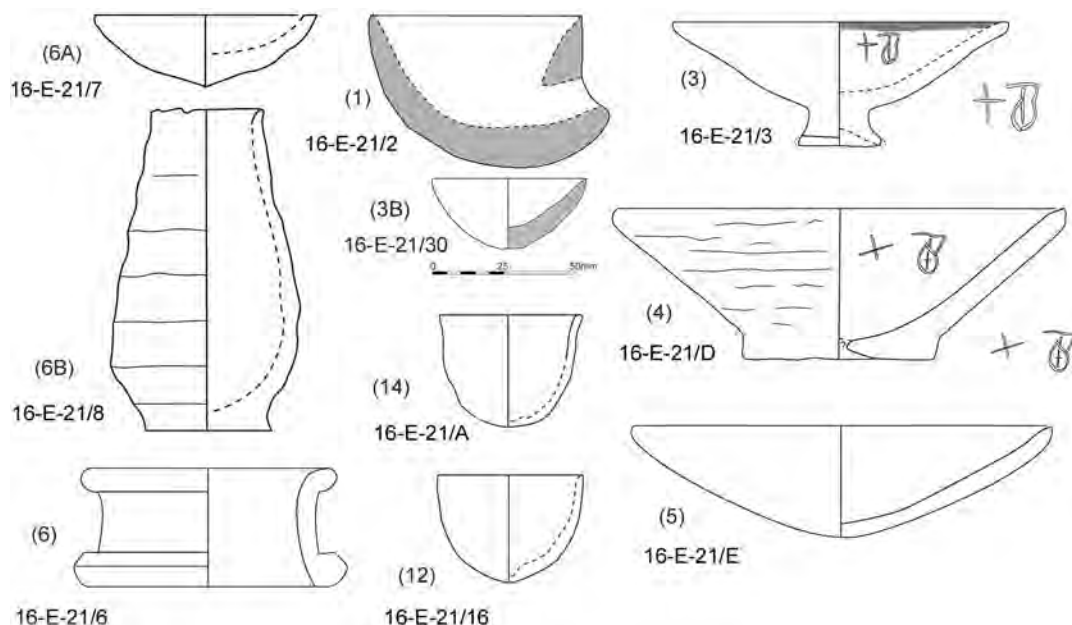


Figure 4.40 Pottery and crucibles from Room 1. (scale 1:4, except (3B))

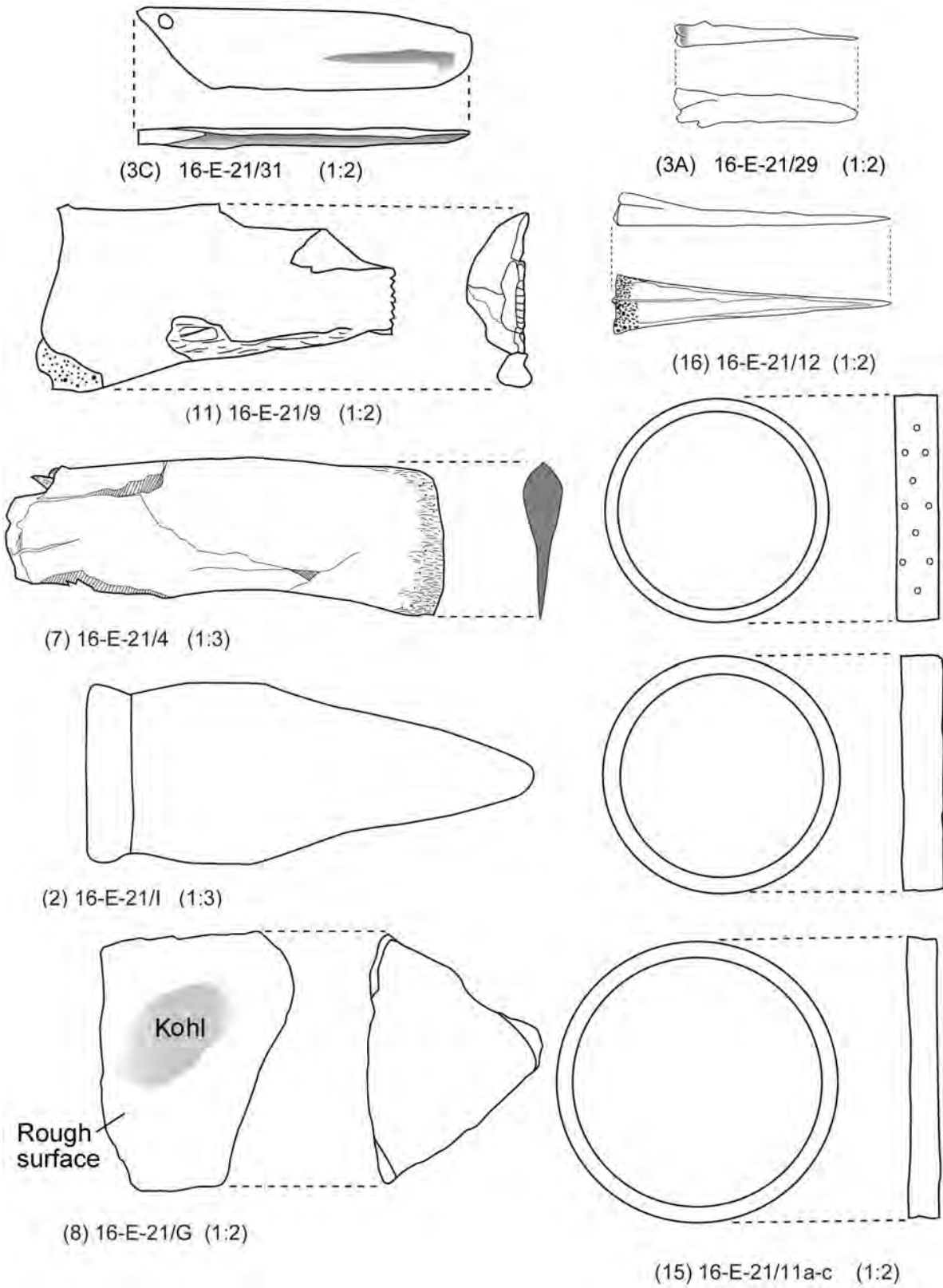


Figure 4.41 Finds from Room 1.

(2) 16-E-21/I. Mud Object. L:222mm; Max.D: 90mm. Not registered.

(3A) 16-E-21/29. Bone awl. L:60mm. Photo: C/049:27. SNM.18525.

(3C) 16-E-21/31. Stone tool. Polisher? Ground down at narrow end. Part-drilled hole at wide end. Photo: C/050:34. SNM.18512.

(7) 16-E-21/4. Scapula of large animal with ground edges, used as tool. L:216mm; W:75mm. Photo: C/049:31. SNM.18543.

(8) 16-E-21/G. Crude chopper/pounder of hard red stone. Traces of kohl (?) on surface. 120 x 96mm; Th:90mm. Not registered.

(9) 16-E-21/H. Sandstone grindstone, subrectangular with rough surface. Haematite stained surface. 150 x 165mm; Th:30mm. Not registered.

(11) 16-E-21/9. Head of animal tibia, ground off to fine-toothed serrated edge at shaft end. Within feature B. L:177mm. W:90mm. Photo: C/049:29. SNM.18538.

(15) 16-E-21/11. Parts of three ivory bracelets. (a) D:72mm; W:12mm; (b) D:56mm; 14mm; (c) 92mm; W:10mm. Photo: C/051:2. SNM.18535.

(16) 16-E-21/12. Bone awl. L:90mm. Photo: C/049:25. SNM.18539.

Room 2. (figs 4.42–3)

(18) 16-E-21/F. Beer bottle fragment, with flat base and hole. Base only. Brown ware (Nile silt?. Uncoated. Base D:90mm; H:>45mm. Not registered.

(19) 16-E-21/B. Cup. Wheelmade brown ware (Nile silt?), direct rim, simple contour and round base. D:90mm; H:78mm. (VI: 115). Uncoated. Not registered.

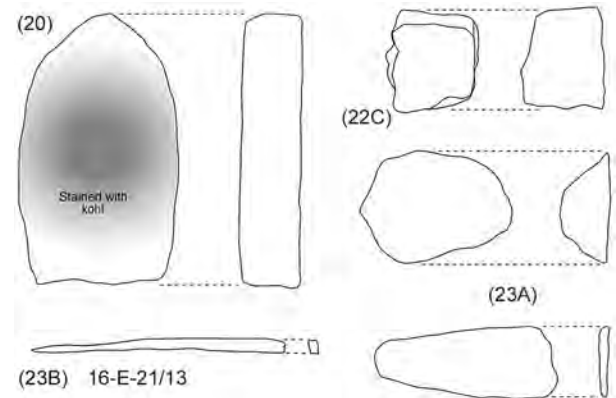


Figure 4.43 Stone grinders, bone needle and haematite fragments from Room 2 (scale 1:2).

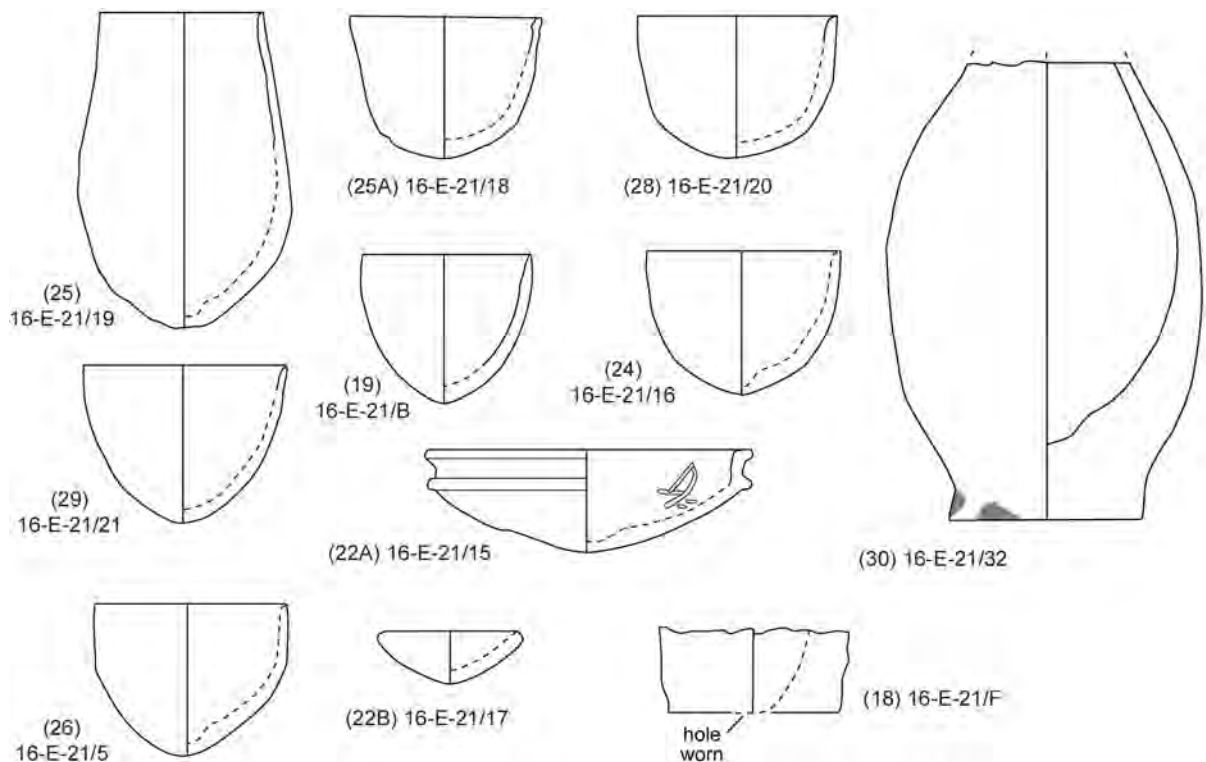


Figure 4.42 Pottery from Room 2 (scale 1:4)

(22A) 16-E-21/15. Bowl with modelled rim, carinated contour and round base. Wheelmade brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated with incised potmarks. Cracked with chipped rim. D:171mm; H:54mm. (VI: 316). Photo: C/055:23. SNM.18372.

(22B) 16-E-21/17. Bowl with direct rim, simple contour and round base. Wheelmade soft brown

ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Ground down base from larger vessel. D:78mm; H:27mm. Photo: C/055:17. SNM.18356.

(24) 16-E-21/16. Cup. Wheelmade brown ware (Nile silt?) with direct rim, simple contour and round base. D:102mm; H:75mm. (VI:136). Photo: C/055:22. SNM.18369.

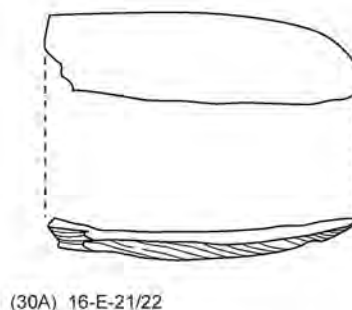
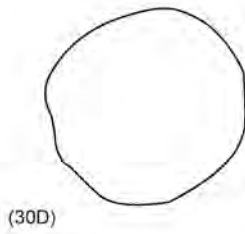
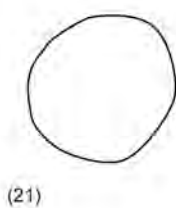
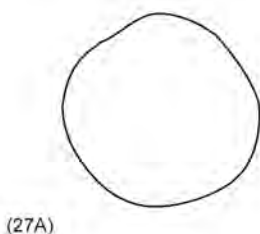
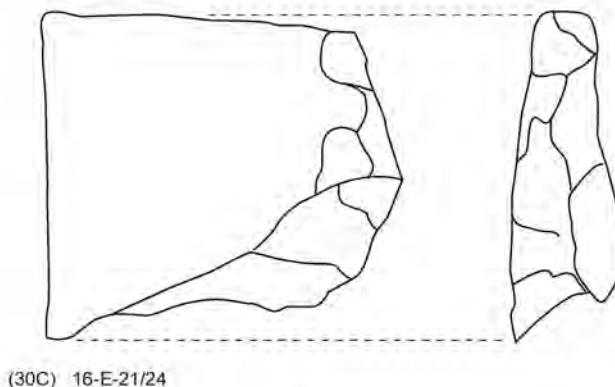
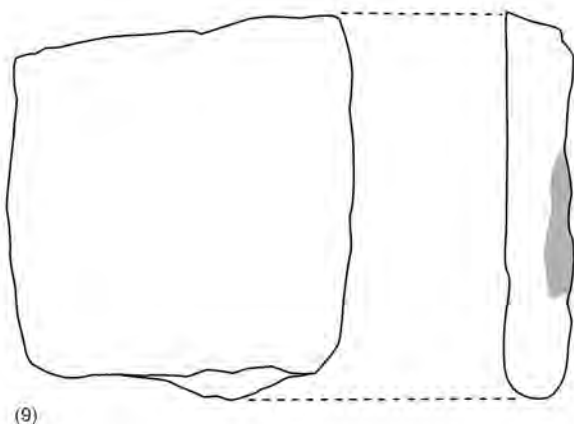
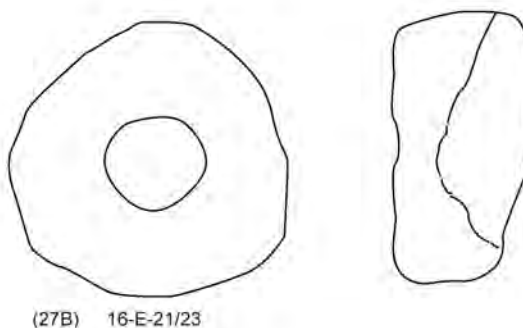
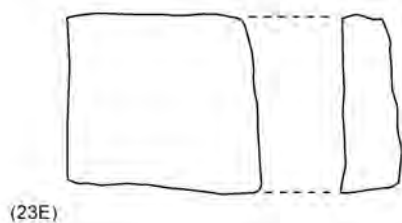
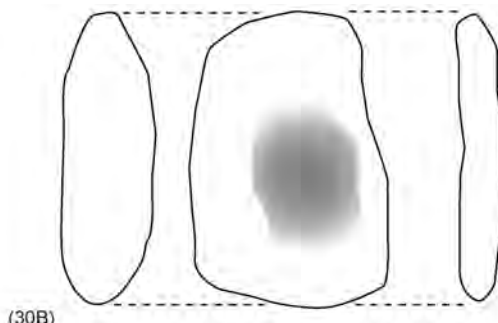
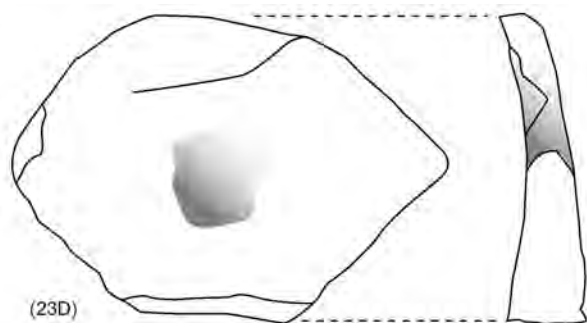


Figure 4.44 Stone and bone objects (scale 1:2).

- (25) 16-E-21/19. Wine decanter, with direct rim, simple contour and round base. Rim D:87mm; H:165mm. Photo: C/054:36. SNM.18301.
- (25A) 16-E-21/18. Cup. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?), direct rim, simple contour and round base. Matte red slip on inside rim. Part of rim missing. D:102mm; H:75mm. (VI:137). Photo: C/055:15. SNM.18361.
- (26) 16-E-21/5. Cup. Wheelmade brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. D:102mm; H:81mm. (VI:126). Photo: C/055:18. SNM.18359.
- (28) 16-E-21/20. Cup. Wheelmade brown ware (Nile silt?), direct rim, simple contour and round base. Rim chipped. Max.D:105mm; H:75mm. (VI:148). Photo: C/056:3. SNM.18331.
- (29) 16-E-21/21. Cup. Wheelmade brown ware (Nile silt?), direct rim, simple contour and round base. Uncoated. Rim chipped. D:108mm; H:84mm. (VI:118). Photo: C/055:19. SNM.18358.
- (30) 16-E-21/32. Beer bottle with flat base, no hole. Broken and incomplete. Max.D:165mm; H:240mm. Photo: C/054:30. SNM.18317.
- (20) 16-E-21/I. Large stone grindstone, ground flat on both surfaces; stained with kohl. 225 x 132mm; Th:50mm Not registered.
- (22C) 16-E-21/K. Quartzite poulder. 75 x 84mm; Th:66mm. Not registered.
- (23A) 16-E-21/L. Two pieces of haematite with ground flat surfaces. (1) 40 x 32; Th:13mm; (2) 50 x 20mm; Th:2mm. Not registered.
- (23B) 16-E-21/13. Bone needle. Eye missing. L:71mm. Photo: C/049:26. SNM.18526.
- (23C) 16-E-21/14. Bone disc beads, various sizes, D:c.5mm. Not drawn. Photo: C/057:2. SNM.18473.
- (21) 16-E-21/J. Small spherical poulder. Trace of haematite. D:c.40mm. Not registered.
- (22C) 16-E-21/K. Quartzite poulder. 75 x 84mm; Th:66mm. Not registered.
- (23A) 16-E-21/L. Two pieces of haematite with ground flat surfaces. (1) 40 x 32; Th:13mm; (2) 50 x 20mm; Th:2mm. Not registered.
- (23D) 16-E-21/M. Concave sandstone grindstone, with haematite staining. 195 x 135mm, Max.Th: 36mm. Not registered.
- (23E) 16-E-21/N. Small ground sandstone tablet. 56 x 52mm; Th:18mm. Not registered.
- (27A) 16-E-21/O. Small spherical poulder. Trace of haematite. D:c.58mm. Not registered.
- (27B) 16-E-21/23. Grindstone/mortar, with pecked depression. D:c.80mm; Th:40mm. Photo: C/050:35. SNM.18385.
- (30A) 16-E-21/22. Bone tool, made from animal rib. Broken end. L:135mm. Photo: C/049:32. SNM.18534.
- (30B) 16-E-21/P. Ground sandstone grinder with kohl (?) stains on both sides. 86 x 60mm; Th:26–12mm. Not registered.
- (30C) 16-E-21/24. Stone tool. A heavy stone cobble with biface chopping edge. c.100 x 102mm; Th:32mm. Photo: C/050:36. SNM.18384. (fig.4.56)
- (30D) 16-E-21/Q. Small spherical poulder. Trace of haematite. D:c.60mm. Not registered.

Room 3. (fig.4.45)

- (32) 16-E-21/25. Bone awl. Very small and sharp tool; bird bone. L:50mm. Photo: C/049:30. SNM.18545.
- (31) 16-E-21/R. Heavy, much used biface chopper/poulder of pink chert. Kohl (?) on surfaces. 100 x 84mm; Th:66mm. Not registered.
- (33) 16-E-21/S. Piece of large sandstone concave grindstone with kohl(?) staining. 480 x 195mm, Th:60–75mm. Not registered.

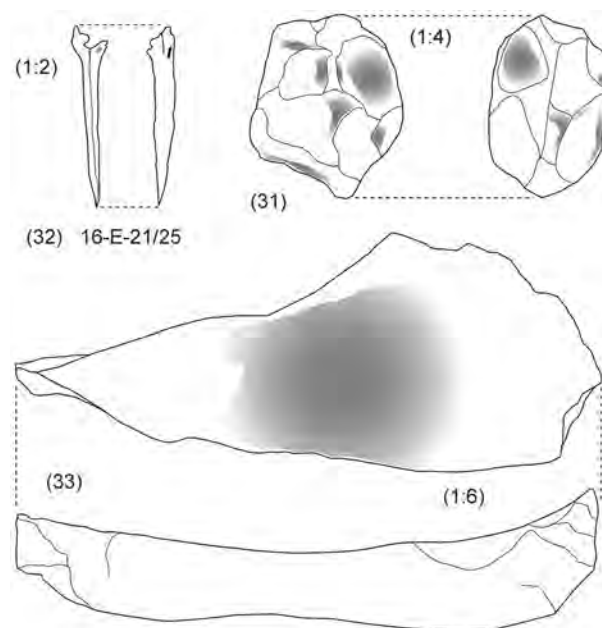


Figure 4.45 Small finds, Room 3. Scales as indicated.

Room 5. (fig.4.46)

(34B) 16-E-21/26. Bowl. Handmade red polished black-topped ware. Broken in situ; part of rim missing. D:156mm; H:144mm. Photo: C/057:30. SNM.18381.

(35) 16-E-21/27. Cup. Handmade, brown-orange ware. Rim chipped. D:144mm; H:96mm. Photo: C/054:18. SNM.18388.

(35) 16-E-21/28. Cup. Handmade, red polished black-topped ware. Broken and rim missing. D:150mm.

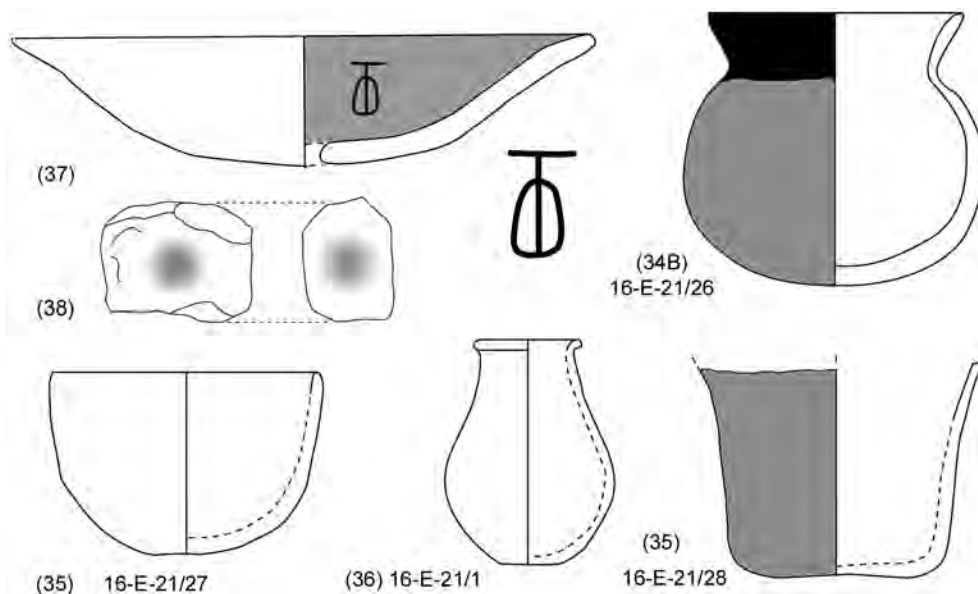


Figure 4.46 Pottery and grinder from Room 5 (scale 1:4).

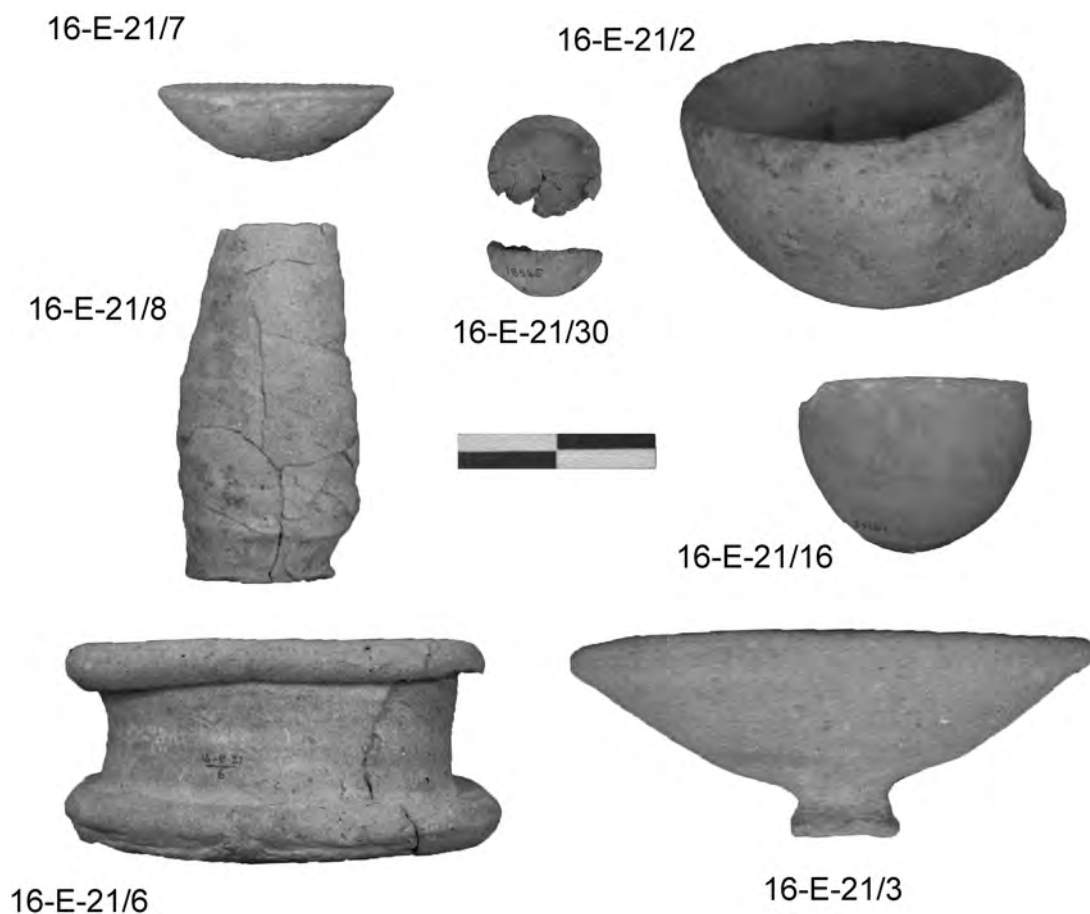


Figure 4.47 Pottery vessels and crucibles from Room 1.



Figure 4.48 Interior of incense burner (16-E-21/3) with incised potmark.

Photo: C/054:26. SNM.18292.

(Finds registered as 16-E-21/27, 28 were found together (27 inside 28) and were given a single finds number (35) during excavation).

(36) 16-E-21/1. Ovoid jar with folded rim and flat base. Wheelmade orange-brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Rim D:54mm; H:118mm. Photo: C/055:32. SNM.18297.

(37) 16-E-21/C. Plate with direct rim, simple contour and round base. Wheelmade brown ware (Nile silt?),

Thin matte red slip on inside surface and incised potmark. Hole worn in base, after firing. D: 309mm; H:69mm. (VI: 447). Not catalogued.

(38) 16-E-21/T. A much used pounder/grinder with deposits of kohl(?) and haematite on surfaces. 80 x 60mm x 48mm. Not registered.

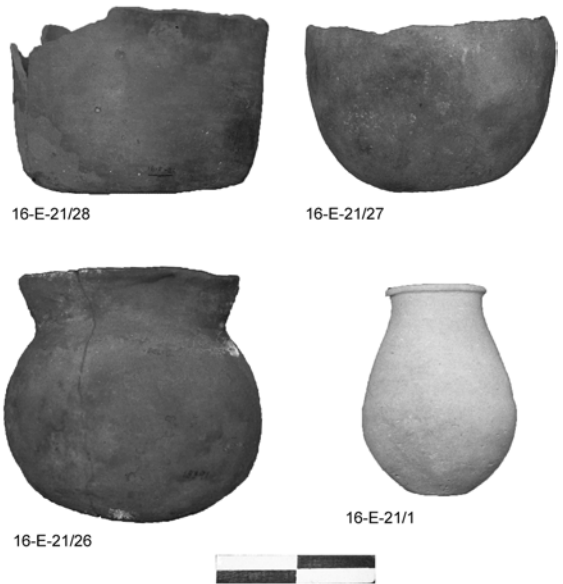


Figure 4.50 Pottery vessels from Room 5.

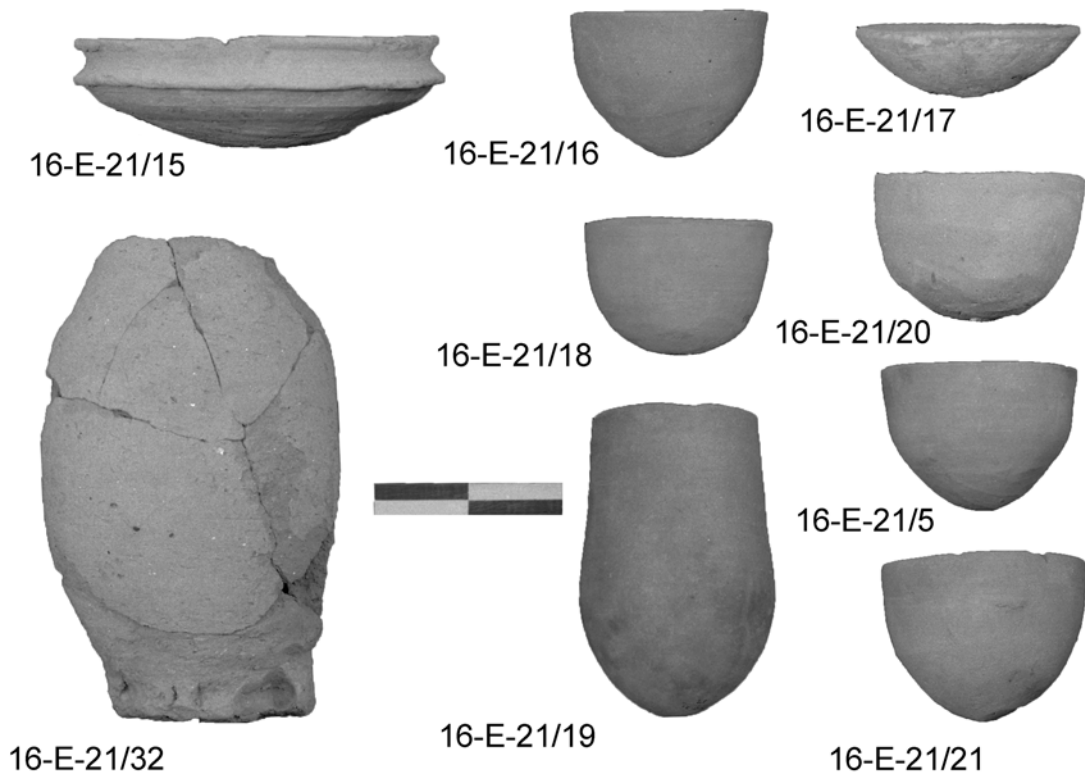


Figure 4.49 Pottery vessels from Room 2.



Figure 4.51 Bone tools from (16-E-21).

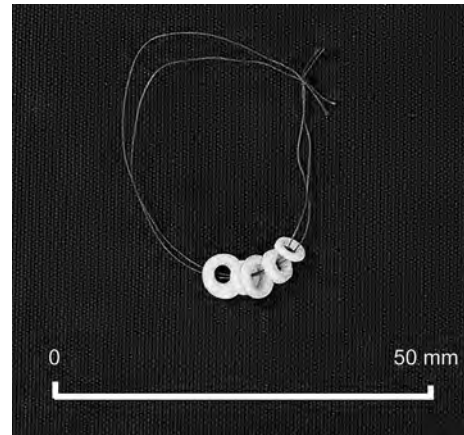


Figure 4.54 Bone beads (16-E-21/14).



Figure 4.52 Stone tool (polisher?) (16-E-21/31).



Figure 4.55 Ivory bracelet fragments from Room 1 (16-E-21/11a-c).

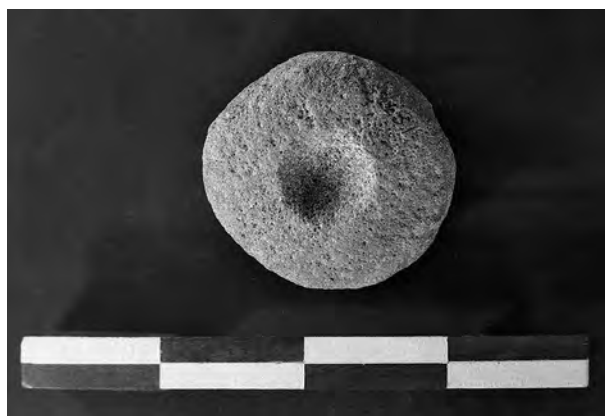


Figure 4.53 Grindstone (16-E-21/23).



Figure 4.56 Stone chopper from Room 2 (16-E-21/24).

Field notes compiled by W. Y. Adams with the excavator (Arbab Hassan Hafiz) suggested that they considered that the character of the artefact assemblage (including the absence of storage vessels) indicated this was a workshop rather than a 'domestic' structure. The presence of possible crucibles suggested some metalworking while other grinding activities and pigment preparation also seems likely. The quantity and variety of stone and bone tools may relate to a number of different activities. The presence of a small quantity of 'Nubian' handmade pottery in Room 5 was also noteworthy. While many of the ceramic forms have quite a long timespan, the presence of a small number of vessels which can be more closely dated to the earlier Dynasty 18 may allow a closer dating

of this site (see below). The character of the site did not suggest a long history of occupation, and perhaps also points to a sudden abandonment.

The overall character of the pottery suggests the assemblage dates to no earlier than the middle of Dynasty 18. The beer bottle (16-E-21/8) is of a type not produced before the reign of Thutmose III and similar carinated bowls (16-E-21/15) are known from Uronarti and Tombos. [LM].

DOCUMENTATION: Site excavated and preliminary recording undertaken by Arbab Hassan Hafiz, with further recording and planning by W. Y. Adams. WYA XII: 41–58. Site Photos: F/318: 9–12; F/319. Air Photographs: 625173. Excavated 26–27/1/1966.

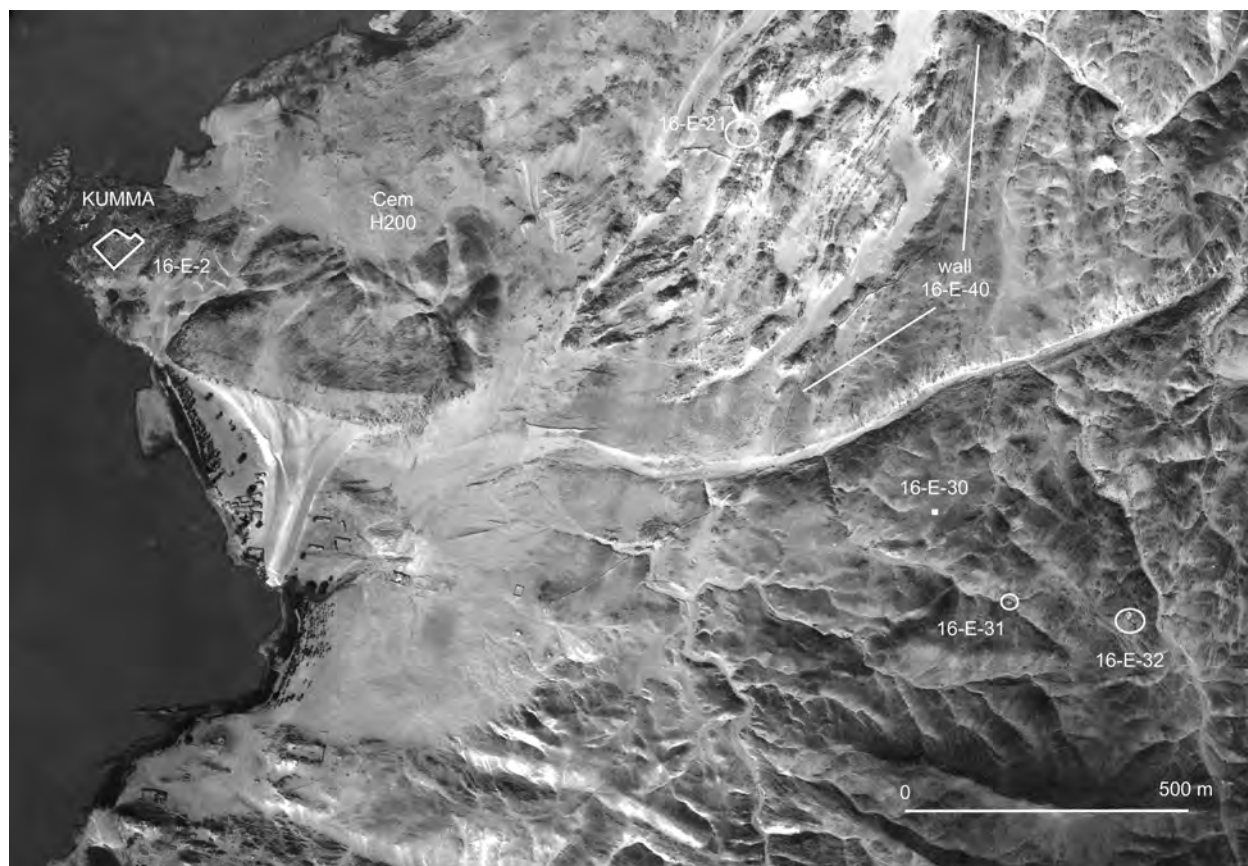


Figure 4.57 Location of [16-E-30] and nearby sites on hills above Semna East/ Kumma.



Figure 4.58 Structure [16-E-30].



Figure 4.59 Design on south face of structure [16-E-30].

LOCATION: this site is located on a plateau in the hills c.1300m from the river bank (Kumma village) and c.200m south of the large khor that ran down to Kumma.

DESCRIPTION: this was a rectangular stone structure 3.30m x 2.80m, built of rough, flattish, boulder stones. The structure was a solid mass of stones and blown silt. One stone, on the outside of the south side has a pecked design (fig.4.59). The structure stood to a maximum height of 1.15m and on the basis of the quantity of fallen rubble

its original height was little more than 1.25m high. It appears to have been fairly neatly made and was build directly on the rocky surface of hilltop. There were no sherds or other objects around the site and, although high, the location does not command particularly good views over the area. [The site remains above water level].

DOCUMENTATION: No previous record. AJM VIII: 69–70. Photos: F/327: 1, 6; F/326: 12; Air Photo: 625173. Investigated: 23/2/1966.

16-E-31 Granite Quarry ?**Semna East**

LOCATION: this site is located on both banks of a small khor near its source. It was c.1400m from the nearest river bank (Kumma).

DESCRIPTION: this site had two elements. The first was an area on the south bank of the khor. It extended over c.50m up and down the hill slope up and over an area c. 20m wide. The second second area was on the north side of the khor, spread over c.30m vertically, over an area extending over c.70m along the hillside. The surface was a mass of smooth-worn, large, granite boulders which have been chipped and broken. There were a large number of quite large, flat chips of granite on the surface. There were also

a lot of large heavy stones with signs of having been struck, perhaps as two-handed hammer stones. The rocks appear to have been only struck and no traces of wedge marks or burning were seen. The area was probably quarried for small blocks and pieces, not large pieces. A few sherds were found in the area included: "a red ware, wheel-made and a soft brown ware Egyptian sherd".

DOCUMENTATION: No previous record. AJM VIII: 72. No further testing. Site Photos: F/327: 2-5. Air Photo: 625173; Investigated: 23/2/1966. [This site remains above water level and c.50m from the water's edge at highest levels]



Figure 4.60 View of boulder strewn hillside at [16-E-31].



Figure 4.62 Detail of broken stones and surface [16-E-31].



Figure 4.61 View of hillside at [16-E-31].



Figure 4.63 Detail of broken stones and possible pounders/hammer-stones [16-E-31].

16-E-32 Cairns**Semna East**

LOCATION: this site was on a small plateau c.1500m to the east of the river bank above Kumma village. The east and north sides of the plateau slope rather sharply down to a khor and the south and west sides gradually slope up to a slightly higher hill before descending. The site lies c.400m east-south-east of another isolated cairn [16-E-30].

DESCRIPTION: the site consisted of some 25 cairns in various states of preservation. Some appeared virtually intact, while others had completely collapsed. They all appeared to be quite similar in form, constructed as a solid stone mass of 'rough hewn stones' as a truncated cone, with a 'flat long standing stone upright on the top', with a niche



Figure 4.64 General view of cairns on plateau [16-E-32], looking east.



Figure 4.65 Well-preserved cairn with niche in south face [16-E-32]



Figure 4.66 Cairn with niche in south face [16-E-32]. Note upright stone on more distant cairn.

(‘window’) built into their south side. They varied considerably in size and proportions; with both quite broad and squat examples (D: c.3.50m; H:



Figure 4.67 Cairns [16-E-32].

2.00m), as well as thin and taller cairns (Base D: 1.40m; H:2.80m).

The area of the plateau was c.100m square and the cairns were constructed quite close to each other, sometimes no more than 1m apart. Built directly onto the natural rock, the surface in this area included outcrops of bedrock paved with small stones and pebbles. On the rise c.30m to the south of the main group of cairns was a further cluster of five more cairns. A few (23) potsherds were collected at the site all considered to be “Pharaonic – all wheel-made red-ware sherds generally of a single type of vessel prob(ably) similar to, if not the soft brown ware bowls so common in D(ynasty) XII here”. The purpose of these cairns, and choice of location remained unclear. The river was not visible from the site and the site did not lie on a route into the hills.

DOCUMENTATION: AJM VIII: 105–6; Site Photos: F/326: 6–11; F/332:1. Air Photo: 625173. Investigated: 23/2/1966. [This site remains above water level].



Figure 4.68 General view over cairns [16-E-32].

Other Semna Sites

Previous excavations and studies of the many Egyptian inscriptions in the Semna area identified several sites of various types which may here be integrated with the ASSN records and allocated AMS registration numbers. This process was begun by A. J. Mills but may now be extended. The most prominent of these sites were those studied by the Harvard-Boston project directed by Reisner, to which may be added the many groups of inscriptions as well as rock drawings registered by the German Epigraphic Survey in the Semna-Kumma area. As noted above, in the unpublished records and published reports rock drawings and inscriptions were assigned various registration numbers, on occasions duplicating those assigned by the ASSN. While some progress was made by the ASSN to integrate the various bodies of documentation, a final concordance was never completed. In the published report of the German Epigraphic Survey the mapping of sites also lacked detail, although the publication of the rock drawings (Otto and Otto 1993) has, on a number of occasions provided useful additional contextual information allowing some inscriptions

to be located more accurately. It seems likely that further information may exist in the archives of that project.

The ASSN archives also allow some corrections to be made to the published records of the Epigraphic Survey. It may be noted, for example, that a number of the published 'Semna' rock drawing sites (Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 275) such as [16-E-12] to [16-E-14] should be reassigned to a more northerly grid square [10-Y], and these have here been registered in a sequence [10-Y-25*] to [10-Y-27*]. Epigraphic site [16-E-4] was also renumbered as [16-E-41*], as the number was also allocated to a cemetery site in Semna East. To the south of Semna there were several further groups of rocks drawings (as well as some inscriptions) around Saidnambi (*Sayegnambi*) and Saadig (*Saadee*). Published by the German Epigraphic Survey (Otto and Otto 1993, 279–291) as sites [16-E-9] and [16-E-15] these too may be assigned new numbers in the range of [16-E-51*] to [16-E-56*]. In the context of this volume, some additional renumbering is also required of some other inscriptions/graffiti sites, listed below.

16-E -57* [16-E-1]

Semna West

LOCATION: Not located on published maps. Dispersed in several groups in and around the fort of Semna West. Not located on ASSN mapping.

Some examples removed to Khartoum (Yvanez 2010).

DESCRIPTION: group of 33 inscriptions, most of Middle Kingdom date published as [16-E-1/1–35] recorded and registered by Hintze and Reineke.

DOCUMENTATION: Dunham and Janssen 1960; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 148–262, pls. 206–224. Yvanez 2010.

16-E-58* [16-E-2]

Kumma

LOCATION: located in several large clusters, on rock faces to west and east of Kumma fort. Not located on ASSN mapping.

examples removed to Khartoum (Yvanez 2010). One of largest concentrations of Egyptian inscriptions in Nubia.

DESCRIPTION: group of c.150 inscriptions, most of Middle Kingdom date, recorded and registered as [16-E-2/1–132] by Hintze and Reineke. Some

DOCUMENTATION: Dunham and Janssen 1960; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 93–147; pls.127–205, Map 6; Yvanez 2010.

16-E-59* [16-E-8]**Semna East – Suratab**

LOCATION: on a rock facing the river, c.500km south of the Kumma dispensary, above a group of houses in the area of Suratab (*Sooratab*). Not located on ASSN mapping.

DESCRIPTION: two inscriptions recorded and registered as [16-E-8/1] by Hintze and Reineke.

DOCUMENTATION: Hintze and Reineke 1989, 163.

16-E-51 * [16-E-9]**Saidnambi (Saadig)**

LOCATION: in area of rock drawing west of hamlet, close to Jebel Bashir (*Bisharinmullee*), c.400m south-east of Semna South (16-E-3); in and around rock drawing station 95 (records 70–73).

registered as [16-E-9/1–8]. Also previously designated [16-E-6] in a preliminary report (Hintze 1964, 40).

DESCRIPTION: a group of Middle Kingdom inscriptions (one dated to year 12 of an unidentified king)

DOCUMENTATION: Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 279–280, maps 25, 27; Hintze 1964, 40; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 164–166.

16-E-56 * [16-E-9]**Saidnambi**

LOCATION: in area of rock drawings on boulders and rock faces near Jebel Bashir (*Bisharinmullee*); in area of rock drawing station 97 (as [16-E-9] – record 79a).

DOCUMENTATION: Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 287, maps 25, 27 (see [16-E-15]); Hintze and Reineke 1989, 165–166, Taf.229.

DESCRIPTION: a cluster of Middle Kingdom inscriptions registered as [16-E-9/9–11].

In addition to the various rock inscriptions in this area, other sites recorded by earlier projects are listed here, and also incorporated into the AMS registration system. In the Semna area these include a series of cemeteries encountered by the Harvard University – Museum of Fine Arts (Boston)

Expedition, published only in 1960 (Dunham and Janssen 1960). On the west bank five cemeteries were identified, designated as ‘Cemetery S 500’, ‘Cemetery S 700’, ‘Cemetery S 800’, ‘Cemetery S 1000’ and ‘South Cemetery’.



Figure 4.69 Semna-Kumma area and site locations.

16-E-61* Cemetery**Semna West**

LOCATION: in open ground to south of Semna West fort [16-E-1].

DESCRIPTION: this is 'Cemetery S 500', within which 103 tombs were examined. These included 24 rock-cut tombs with stairway entrances, four with multiple chambers, as well as 79 other graves. There were about 40 pot burials containing infant burials. The original assessments identified the presence of Middle Kingdom burials, much

disturbed by later reuse, including burials with plaster masks. New Kingdom material can be identified in at least 20 tombs, most seems to relate to the Dynasty 18 with some later use in the reign of Ramesses II, possibly into Dynasty 20 as well as some Dynasty 25/Napatan use (e.g. Grave S 515). Kerma beakers were found in Grave S 523.

DOCUMENTATION: Dunham and Janssen 1960.

16-E-62* Cemetery**Semna West**

LOCATION: on the north bank of the 'north ravine' which ran around the north side of Semna West fort [16-E-1].

DESCRIPTION: this is 'Cemetery S 700', a small cemetery of 15 rock-cut tombs with stairway

entrances, some with multiple chambers and at least two shaft graves. This was thought to date to the earlier Dynasty 18, with some later New Kingdom use, as well as a Meroitic presence.

DOCUMENTATION: Dunham and Janssen 1960.

16-E-63* Cemetery**Semna West**

LOCATION: north of Semna West fort [16-E-1], c.280m from northwest corner of the Taharqa temple.

DESCRIPTION: this is 'Cemetery S 800', a small

cemetery of 12 rectangular shaft graves, most aligned approximately north-south.

DOCUMENTATION: Dunham and Janssen 1960.

16-E-15 Cemetery**Semna West**

LOCATION: poorly defined cemetery c.1km south-southwest of Semna West fort [16-E-1].

DESCRIPTION: this is 'Cemetery S 1000', a large cemetery, only minimally investigated in 1924. It included several tumuli and text excavations revealed the presence of Meroitic end-chamber graves as well as shaft graves. Excavations

in 1967–1968 subsequently revealed at least 534 graves, reported as being largely of Meroitic date but including some post-Meroitic (X-Group) and medieval (Christian) burials.

DOCUMENTATION: Dunham and Janssen 1960; Žabkar and Žabkar 1982.

16-E-64* Cemetery**Semna West**

LOCATION: in open plain c.1.3km southwest of Semna West fort [16-E-1] and c.100m southwest of Semna South [16-E-3].

DESCRIPTION: this is the 'South Cemetery', apparently investigated in 1928 with the excavation of a grid of trenches across it (still visible 30 years later). The trenching revealed graves and other

features extending over c.80m north-south and c.50m east-west so this could have been quite a large site. While clearly very eroded the pottery and varied grave forms suggest burials of Early-Middle and perhaps Classic Kerma date, including animal burials.

DOCUMENTATION: Dunham and Janssen 1960.

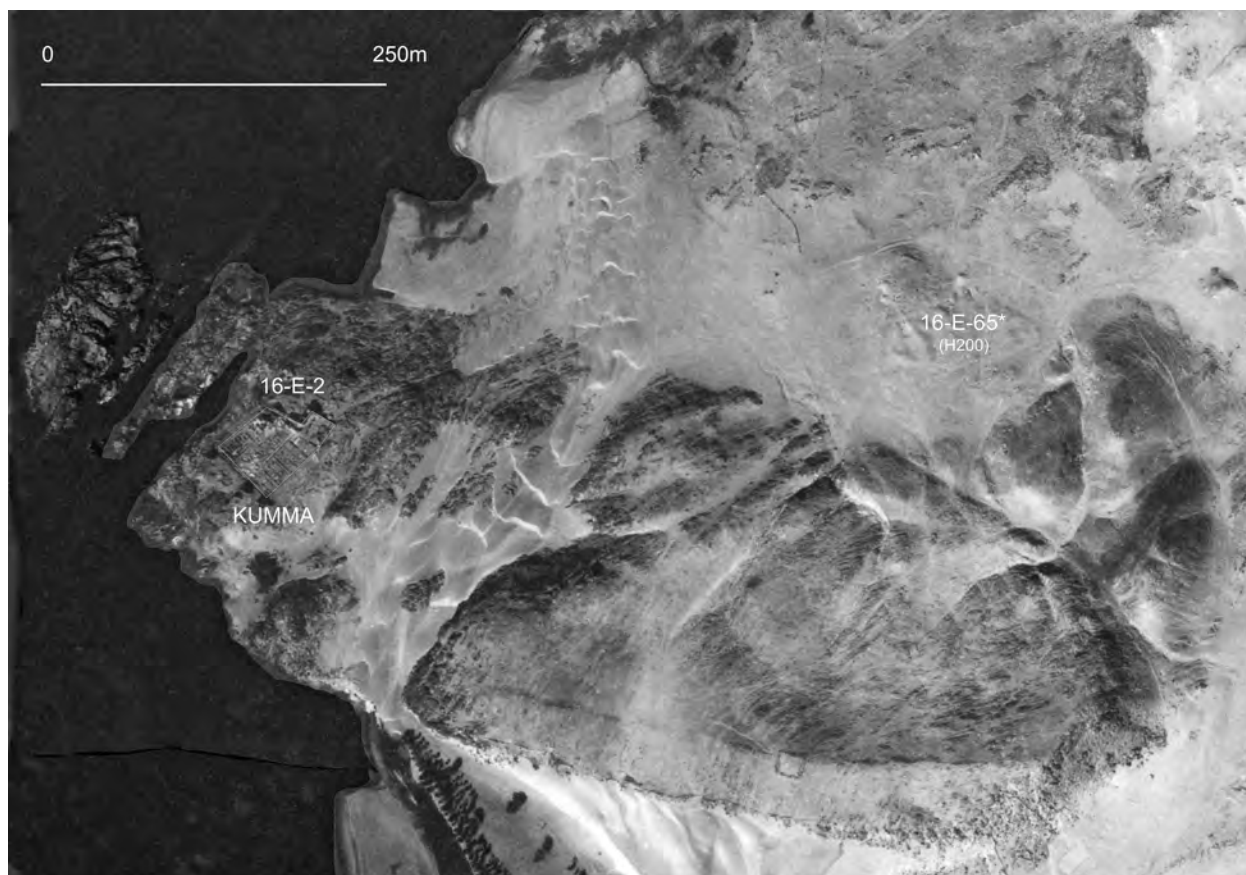


Figure 4.70 Location of cemetery 'H200' [16-E-65*] to east of Kumma fort.

16-E-65* Cemetery**Semna East (Kumma)**

LOCATION: a scattered cemetery c.400m east of Kumma fort [16-E-2].

DESCRIPTION: this is the 'Cemetery H 200', comprising at least 25 graves including rock-cut tombs, one with two chambers and smaller

rectangular shaft graves. While heavily plundered and with some reuse of some tombs, at least two (H208, H224) contained burials with plaster masks.

DOCUMENTATION: Dunham and Janssen 1960, 127–28.

5. Duweishat –Tangur

This section includes all sites within the omodiya of Duweishat, which included three villages of Duweishat, Ambikol and Melik en Nasr. On the southern end of Melik en Nasr a number of sites in grid squares 21-D and 21-E, mainly recorded by the German Epigraphic Expedition are also included here, although some were located within the area of Sonki (*Songi*) which fell within the omodiya of Akasha (see section 6).

Upriver of Semna in the area of Attiri the river channel had a number of significant features, with a cluster of islands and rapids including the rocky island of Tila (the site of a substantial Meroitic settlement), and another isolated islet at Attiri (fig.5.01). In this area the west bank was largely bare rock with minimal alluvial land as far upriver as the major bend in the river. For much of this stretch of the river near Tila island there was no easy riverside route and travelers seem likely to have followed tracks through a number of valleys which cut across this river bend to the southwest.

In modern times the west bank lacked any significant settlement for more than 7km, between Kudi (*Koddi*), opposite Miskernarti, and the small hamlets of Kidingkalu (*Kidinkalo*) and Dokudai (*Dokkidee*) overlooking the river bend at Attiri. On the east bank the large valley of the Khor Murrat joined the river from the southeast in the area of Attiri village. Some 4km upriver just above the river bend was the modern settlement of Sorki, west of another small valley leading down to the river from the southeast. The small island nearby seems likely to be Gaagenarti, recorded by Bell (1970, 98). The district of Duweishat (*Doowishaat*) extended for c.10km, the boundary with Ambikol (*Ambukool*) lying near the small islands of Kumaki (*Kumukka*). From that area a valley led to the southeast through the hills to Ambikol Wells (Biir Ambukool) and more open landscapes beyond.

At the north end of Duweishat the first settlement lay at Askur. Above the next river bend were

two small settlements on the east bank Jedagur (*Jaddigur*) and Usher (*Ussheri*). On the opposite bank modern settlements at Arashi (*Araasha*) and Abuj (*Abuy*) occupied an area at the mouth of wadis leading to the west with some more extensive areas of alluvial land close to river, if exposed to drifting sand. On the east bank there was very little alluvial land and the rocky hills came very close to the river bank. There were three small settlements here, Shunterfagir (*Sheemtefagiir*), Duweisha (*Doosha*) and Shuwerta (*Showerta*). The west bank also had very limited agricultural land, the largest area having a small hamlet of Farri (*Farre*).

There was no modern settlement in northern Ambikol, which extended over c.10km upriver of Kumaki island, beyond Ambikol island. Upstream of Kumaki (*Kumukka*) island, there was a cluster of small islands, one named Meenarti; the area on the mainland to the east being known as Jilukkee. In the area of Fokkitawwo just below Ambikol island on the west bank was a small settlement of Garawd (*Girawwid*), and Abermatto on the east bank. On the island were two main settlements Ambukool and Engera, and a small mainland settlement Lulu (*Olow*), facing them across the narrow seasonal channel which ran long the west side of the island. At Ambikol there was a significant cataract, with the main channel being broken by several islands, at its narrowest forming two narrow channels, commonly impassable at high Nile. At such times the seasonal channel which runs around the west side of Ambikol island provides an alternative route. Upriver of Ambikol on the east bank were settlements at Gublithain (*Gebelticceen*), Kubsurieh (*Kawseriha*), Kisbita (*Kizbitta*) and Anksi (*Angsi*), and the small island of Susinarti/Sunnarti (*Sunnar*).

Upstream of Anksi, the district of Melik en Nasr (*Mekennasr*) extended for c.15km as far as Songi (*Sonki*). The downstream part of this area was dominated by the large but barren island of Turmukki (*Turmukken arti*), c.4km long and no more than 750m wide. The small islands near its east



Figure 5.01 Area of Attiri and north end of Duweishat.

(downstream) end seem likely to be those recorded by Bell as Noodenarti, Arabnarti and Degernarti (1970, 104). There were several small settlements facing the island on the right bank [here south], Nerri at its downstream end, Shalil (*Shelil*), Hawad

(*Hawwatti*), Turmukki (*Turmukke*) at its upstream end, and Melik en Nasr (*Mek en Nasr*) and Sahaba above the island. From this area a number of valleys ran southwards through the hills to reach more open landscapes c.5km from the river. There was no

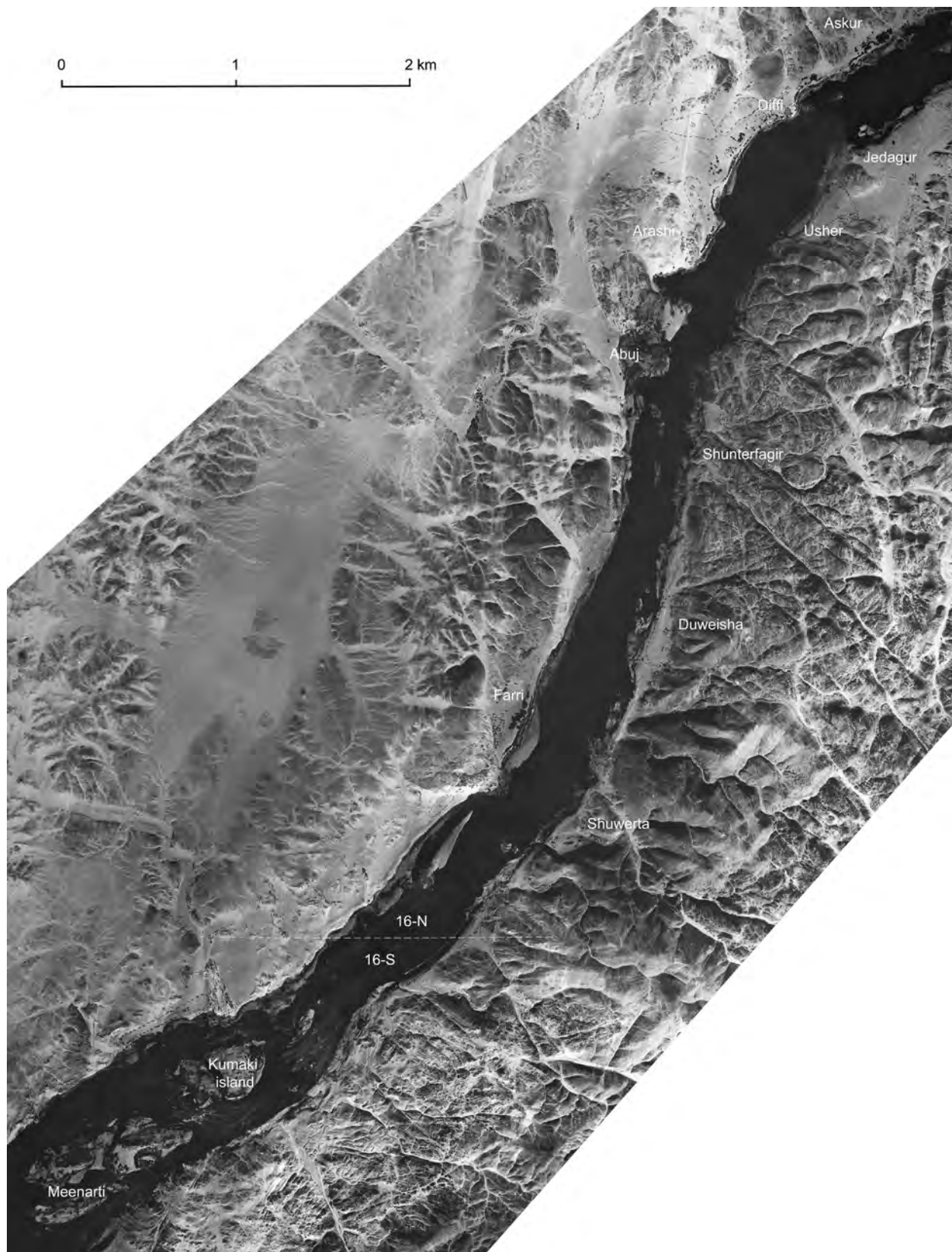


Figure 5.02 Duweishat East. The main area of New Kingdom gold mining and processing was along the east bank and in the hills beyond.

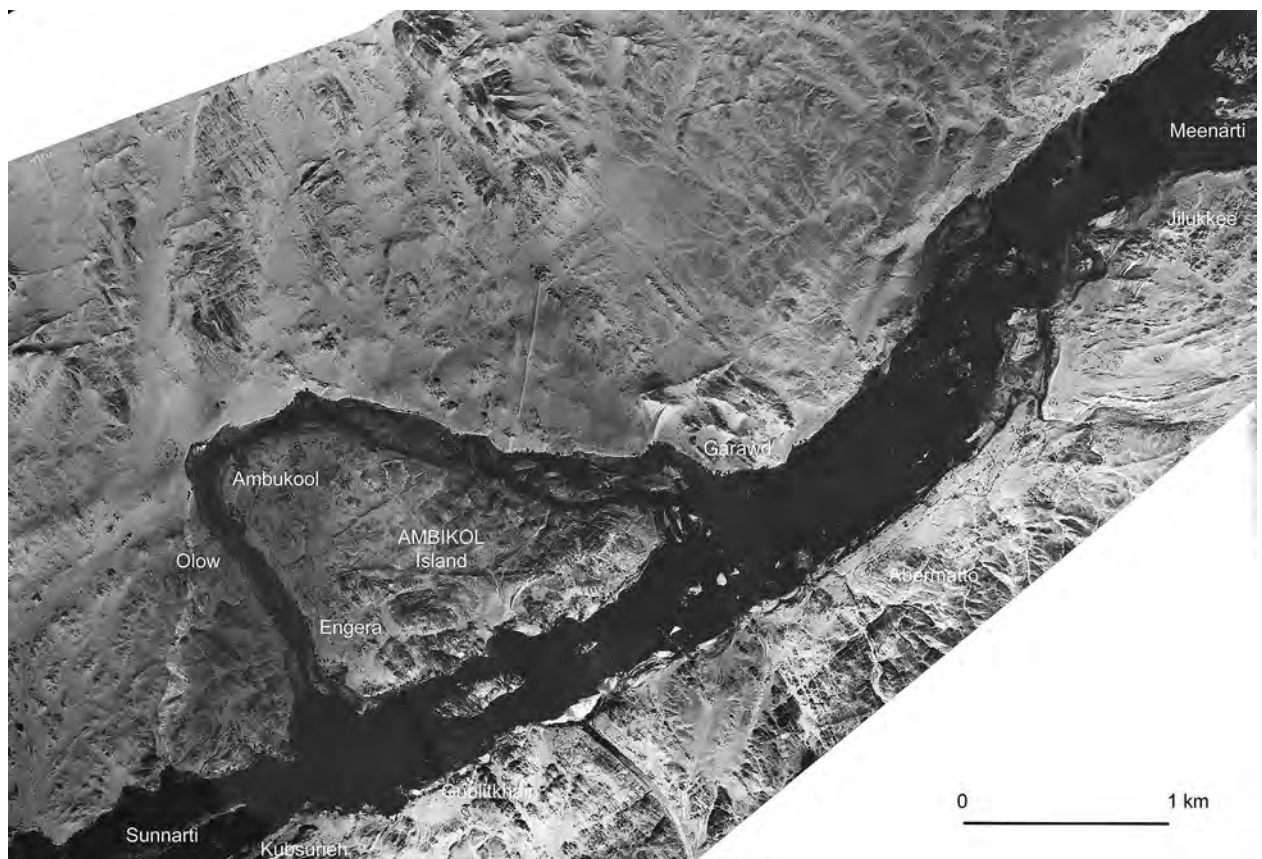


Figure 5.03 Area of Ambikol. In modern times this was very thinly populated, with encroaching blown sand a particular problem on the west bank.

modern settlement on the left (north bank) or the island itself, although aerial photographs record the presence of potentially quite recent abandoned structures on a seasonal island towards the south-east end of the main island. The lower end of the island of Tanjur (*Tangur*) lay c.3km above Sahaba where there was another cataract; the deeper eastern channel being confined between the island and the rocky east bank, and a shallower broader channel running down the west side of the island. There were two main ‘gates’ where the channel narrowed, one about midway along the island and at a second narrower section around a small rocky islet at the upstream end of the main island. By the mid-twentieth century the only settlement in this area was located on the east (right) bank at Tangur although aerial photographs again show potentially quite recent abandoned structures in two or three hamlets on the main island.

No new Pharaonic sites were recorded by the

ASSN in these latter areas. There were in this area, however, several inscriptions previously recorded by the German Academy of Sciences Epigraphic Expedition during their third season of fieldwork in late 1963 (Hintze 1965). Their locations are again indicated in this report. As noted above, the duplication of some site numbers acknowledged in the first preliminary reports (Mills 1965, 2), was not rectified before the publication of the work of the Epigraphic Survey. However, the process of integrating the site records was begun by A. J. Mills following the completion of fieldwork, and the concordance so prepared is again made use of here in renumbering some of these sites. It may be noted that the (West) German Archaeological Institute also carried out some further work in this area, at Sunnarti, Turmukki and Tangur during spring (February-March) 1967 and 1968. This work was mainly concerned with medieval sites.

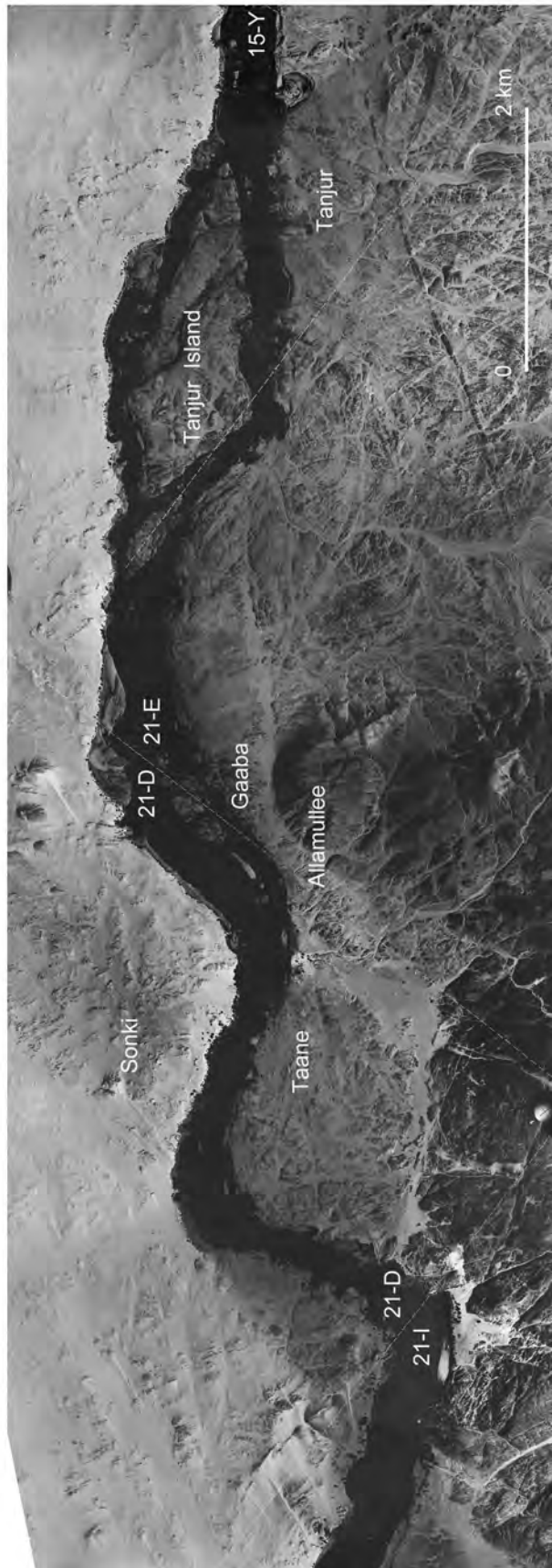
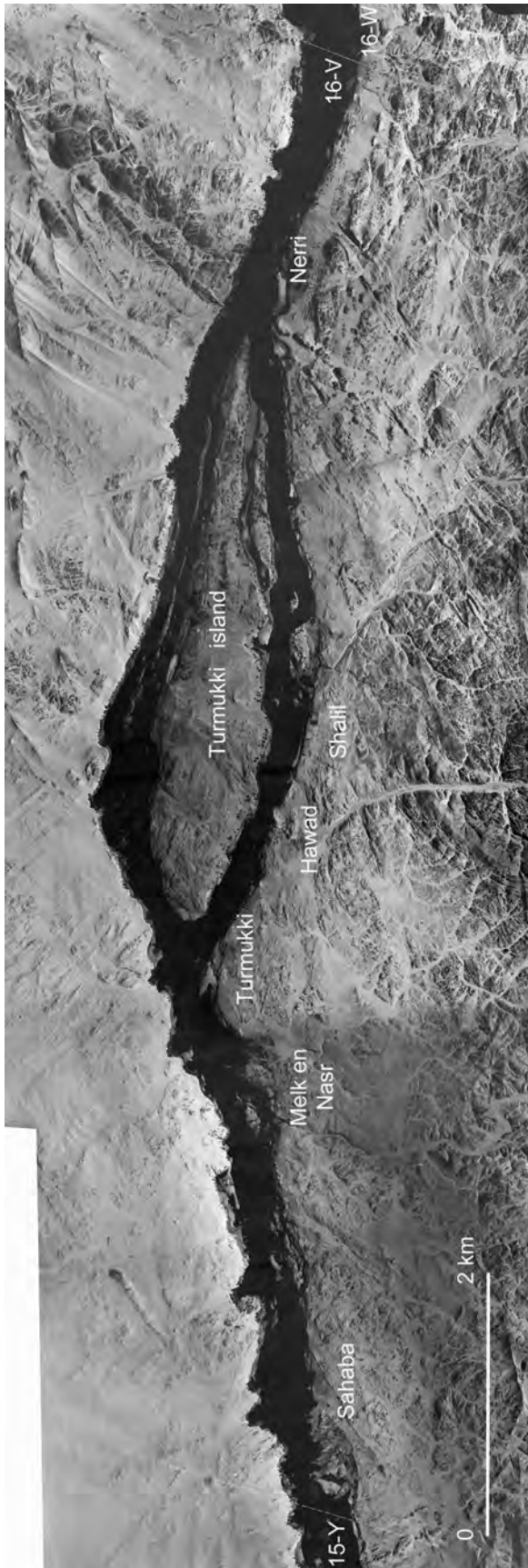


Figure 5.04 Area of Melik en Nasr with large islands of Turmukki and Tangur.

16-O-12 Workshop**Attiri - Sorki**

LOCATION: this site was located within the area occupied by the village of Sorki on the east bank, the southernmost (upstream) settlement within Attiri. This village lay c.550m upriver from the modern mining settlement (Manjam), of which several roofless abandoned structures still stand (in 2017) on the higher slopes, and the settlement of Dokudai (*Dokkidee*) on the opposite bank. The site was identified in January 1967, having not been recognised during the reconnaissance survey of 1964. It lay just above the alluvial land on the lower slope of the steep hills which dominate this stretch of the river (fig.5.05).

DESCRIPTION: this was a very large site, potentially covering an area of c.200m x 150m. It was difficult to fully delineate the site as most of it

had been overbuilt by modern houses. However, scattered over the ground surface throughout the whole village were sherds of Egyptian manufacture and fragments of heavy granite mortars and millers, indicating it underlay almost the whole village, that is all but two or three houses of the c.12 houses. Much of the site has also probably been robbed to provide building materials for the modern village, as most of the houses within Sorki were stone-built. Test excavations were limited to two small areas as the site was so large and as largely overbuilt, while it was felt that the previous excavations of a series of workshops in the Saras area had already provided an acceptable sample of this type of site. The tests carried out were therefore considered sufficient.



Figure 5.05 Location of [16-O-12] in area of village of Sorki. A series of buildings relating to the modern mining operations were located on higher ground to the east.



Figure 5.06 Panoramic view over area of test excavation 1 of [16-O-12], looking north, with village to northeast.

Test 1 was made on a slight rise at the upstream (i.e. west) end of the site close to the khor which defined the end of the site (figs 5.07–8). The cleared area measured c.19m x 14m. The buildings revealed here were heavily disturbed. Surviving walls stood to a maximum height of c.40cm and many walls were incomplete. It appears that in

plan three or four rooms formed units connected by common walls to other units of three or four rooms. Six different rooms (areas) were defined and the photographic records suggest they all had laid mud floors, if much decayed. Rooms 1 and 2 interconnected, and at the east end of Room 1 the walls were faced with large upright



Figure 5.07 View over area of test excavation 1 of [16-O-12] looking east.



Figure 5.08 View over area of test excavation 1 of [16-O-12] looking west.

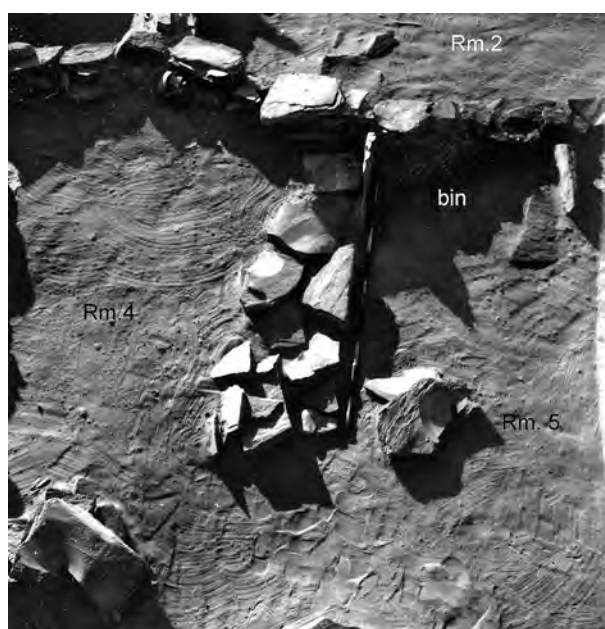


Figure 5.09 Parts of stone-lined bin in southwest corner of Room 5 [16-O-12].



Figure 5.10 Two large grindstones in east wall of Room 5 [16-O-12].



Figure 5.11 Partially preserved stone-lined bin in Room 6, (from southeast) [16-O-12].

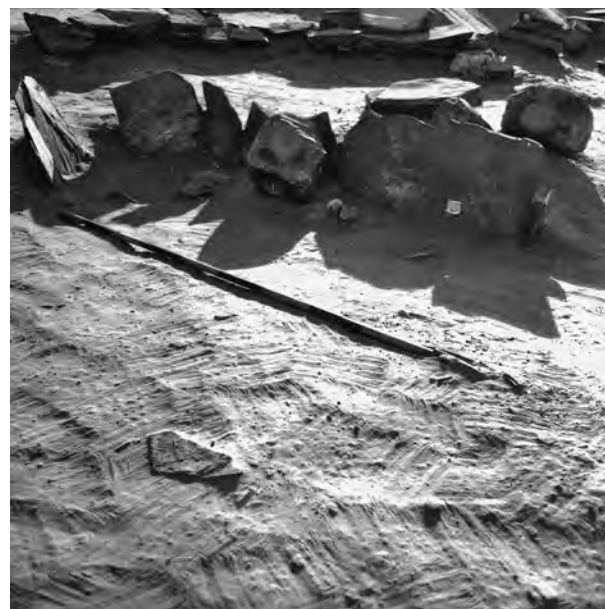


Figure 5.12 Partially preserved stone-lined bin in Room 6, (from northeast) [16-O-12].

slabs to form a bin. ‘Room 3’ was a low-walled bin abutting the outside corner of Rooms 1 and 2.

Rooms 4 and 5 interconnected and opened onto the area designated Room 6. In Room 5 two large upright slabs in the southwest corner of the room formed a mud-plastered bin (fig.5.09). At the east side of Room 5 were two large grindstones near ground level (fig.5.10). Other grindstones and examples of the large mortar blocks

were built into the walls. In Room 6, near the east end of the test, was a further large stone-lined bin, c.2m x 1m (figs 5.11–12). The fill of the test area was more or less uniform stone rubble, fallen from the walls, blown silt, sand and crushed quartz of various sizes. There was ‘a fair number of sherds; all the recorded pottery was Egyptian, mostly soft brown ware including a range of bowl, plate, basin and jar forms’ (figs 5.15–16). There were a large

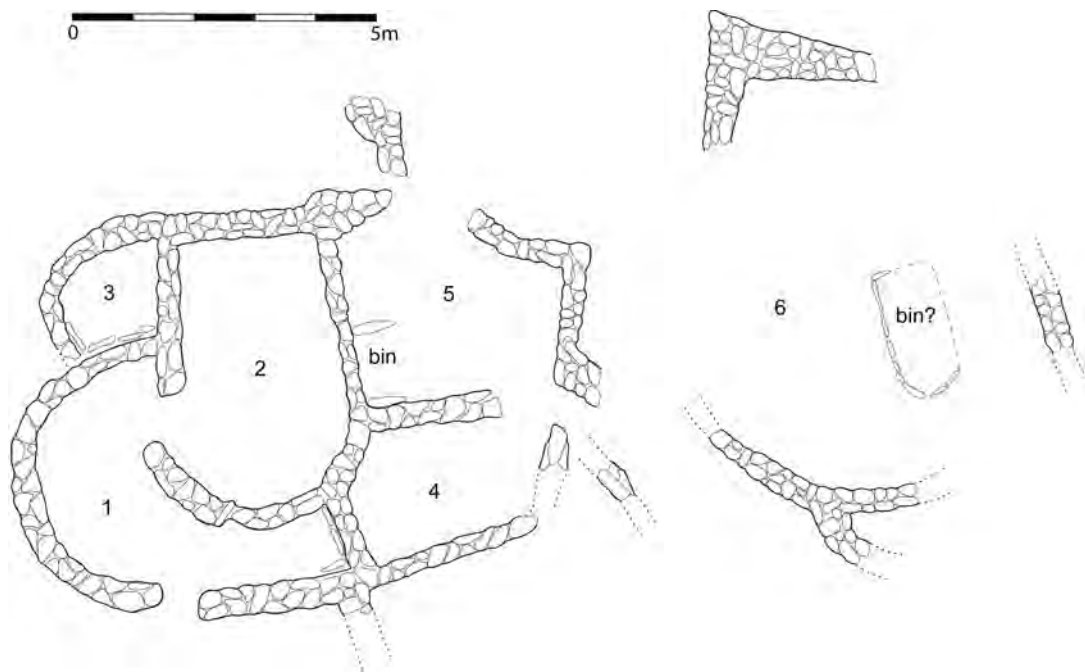


Figure 5.13 Plan of test excavation (Area 1) [16-O-12].

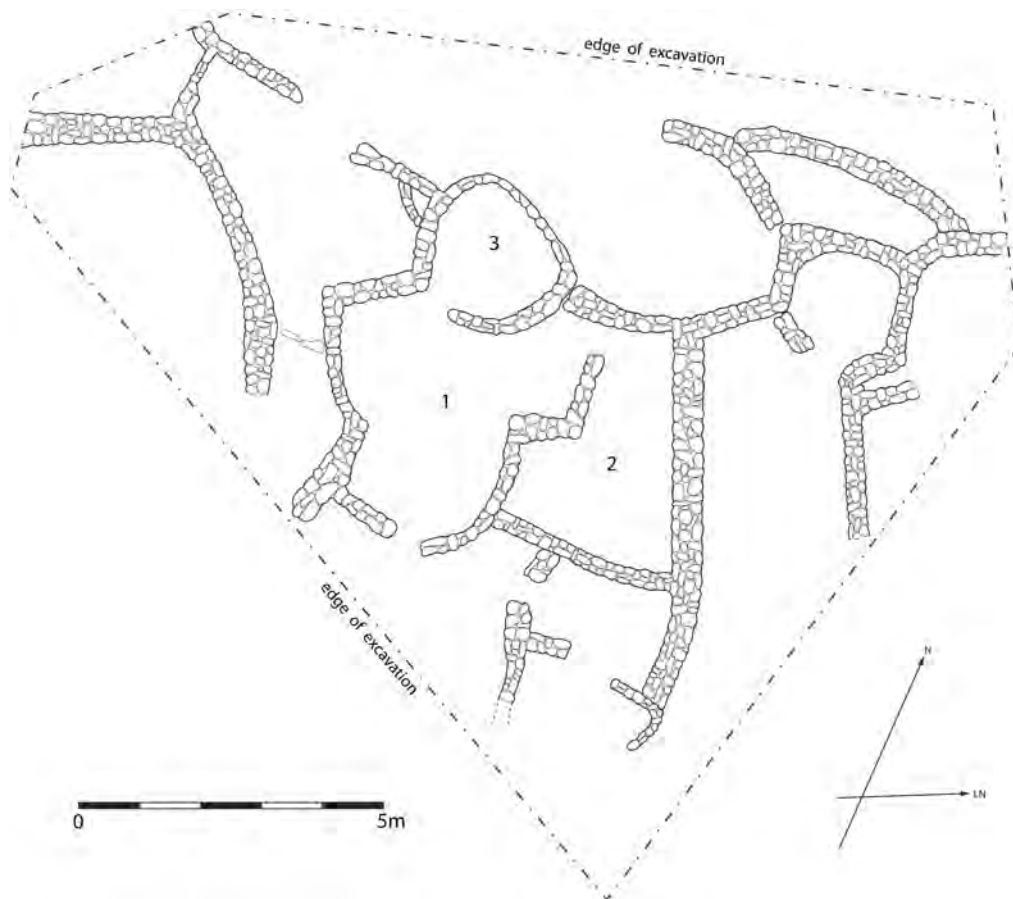


Figure 5.14 Plan of test excavation (Area 2) [16-O-12].

number of grinders and some grindstones, mortars and pestles; some grindstones and mortars were also incorporated into the walls.

For the second test excavation the area selected was c.75m from Test 1, in the middle of the modern settlement. Here an approximately triangular area measuring c.16m x 11m was exposed. The poorly preserved architecture appeared similar to that seen in Test 1. The building complex was not fully defined in any direction and wall lines continued in all directions from the test area. As exposed, the complex comprised groups of stone-walled rooms with mud floors, forming units of two, three or four rooms. Unlike the other area the sample of pottery drawn (fig.5.17) appears to have comprised mainly local 'Nubian' wares, suggesting some potentially significant differences, and perhaps a more complex history to this site.

Pottery (Test area 1) (figs 5.15–16):

16-0-12/A. Bowl with direct rim and inflected contour. Wheelmade, red/brown ware. Matte red slipped surfaces and impressed decoration. Rim D:220mm

16-0-12/B. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped exterior and interior rim with black horizontal band around exterior. Rim D:225mm.

16-0-12/C. Bowl with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with matte red slip.

16-0-12/D. Cup. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped exterior. Rim D:156mm.

16-0-12/E. Plate. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped exterior rim and inside surface. Rim D:228mm.

16-0-12/F. Plate. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped exterior rim and inside surface. Exterior surface rubbed. Rim D:270mm.

16-0-12/G. Large Dish/Plate with ring base. Red slip/wash on surfaces. Rim D:474mm; H:99mm.

16-0-12/H. Plate with modelled rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Red slip/wash on surfaces. Impressed cord decoration on exterior. Rim D:300mm.

16-0-12/I. Plate with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Red slip/wash on interior surface. Impressed cord decoration on ribbed exterior. D:294mm; H:57mm.

16-0-12/J. Plate. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped exterior rim and inside surface. Rim D:235mm.

16-0-12/K. Large Dish with inflected contour. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Red slip/wash on surfaces. Impressed cord decoration on exterior. Rim D:366mm.

16-0-12/L. Deep Dish/Basin with modelled rim and carinated contour. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with red slip/wash on surfaces. Rim D:394mm.

16-0-12/M. Basin with modelled rim and carinated contour. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Impressed cord decoration on exterior. Rim D:405mm.

16-0-12/N. Basin with flat base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Impressed cord decoration on exterior. Uncoated. Base D:120mm.

16-0-12/O. Basin with folded rim. Wheelmade, red/brown ware. Uncoated. Rim D:285mm.

16-0-12/P. Necked jar with modelled rim. Wheelmade, gritty buff/brown ware. Rim D:135mm.

16-0-12/Q. Jar, with folded rim. Wheelmade, red/brown ware. Uncoated. Cord-impressed decoration.

16-0-12/R. Bowl. Handmade RP-BT ware.

16-0-12/S. Jar/Basin with folded rim. Wheelmade red ware with cream-slipped exterior. Rim D:236mm.

16-0-12/T. Necked ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Red-slipped exterior surfaces and interior rim. Rim D:114mm.

16-0-12/U. Necked ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Rim D:130mm.

16-0-12/V. Necked ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated.

16-0-12/W. Ovoid jar with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade, red ware with matte red slipped exterior surfaces. Rim D:144mm.

16-0-12/X. Necked ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, red/brown ware. Uncoated. Rim D:294mm.

16-0-12/Y. Tall ovoid jar with folder rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Rim D:141mm.

16-0-12/Z. Jar, two handled. Wheelmade 'Ballas ware' (Marl B). Uncoated.

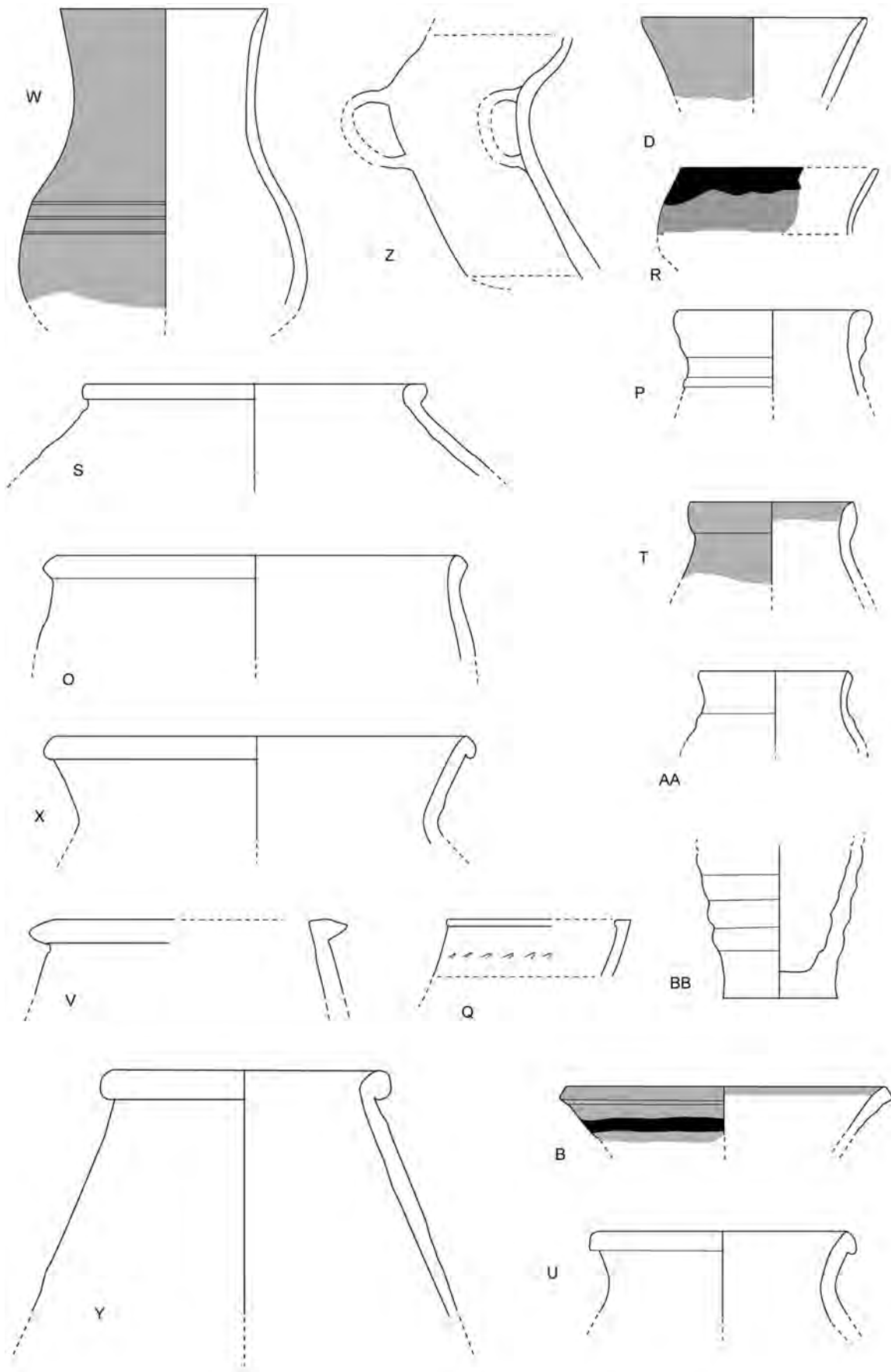


Figure 5.15 Pottery sample from test excavation (Area 1) [16-O-12].

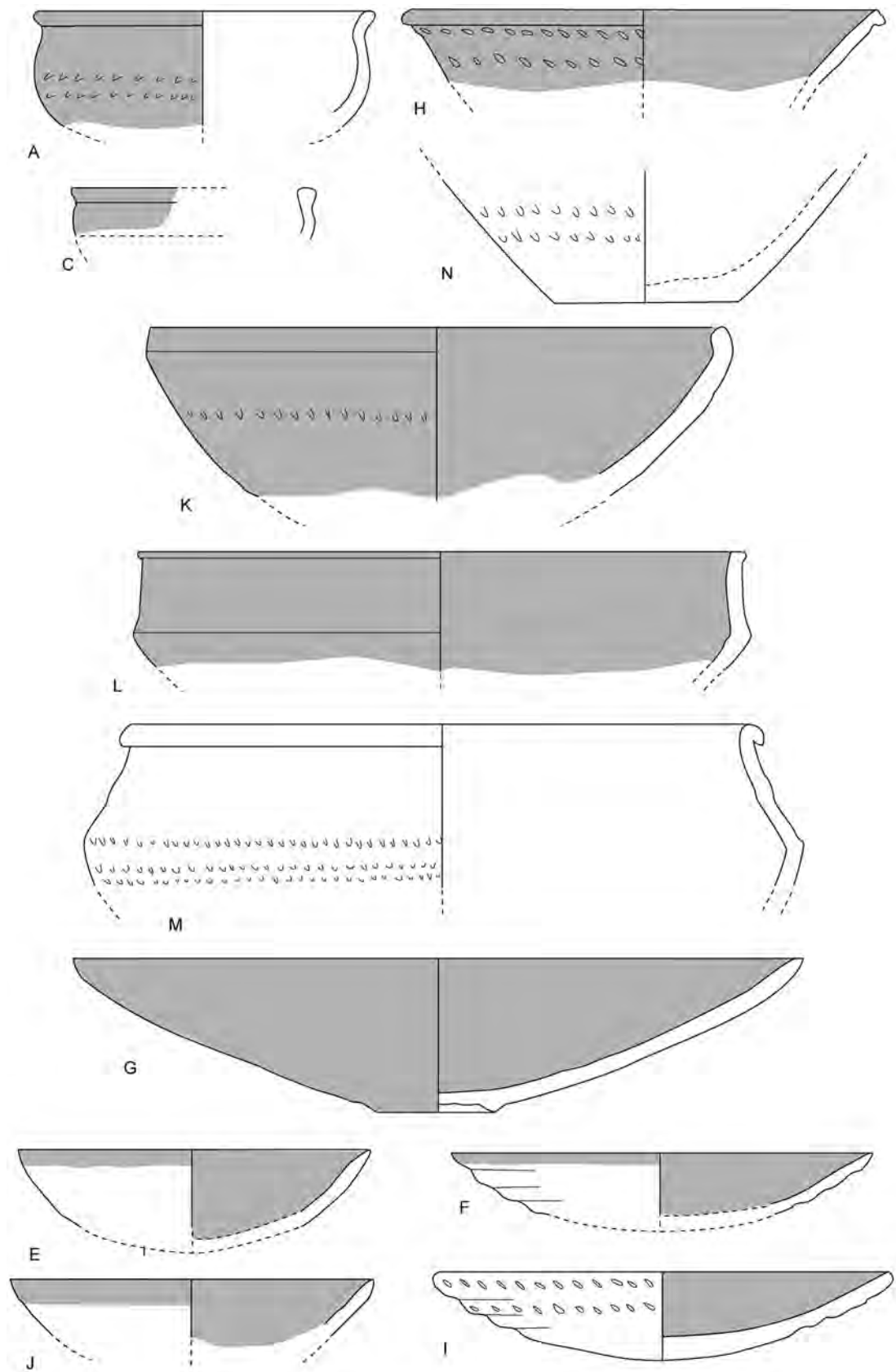


Figure 5.16 Pottery sample from test excavation (Area 1) [16-O-12].

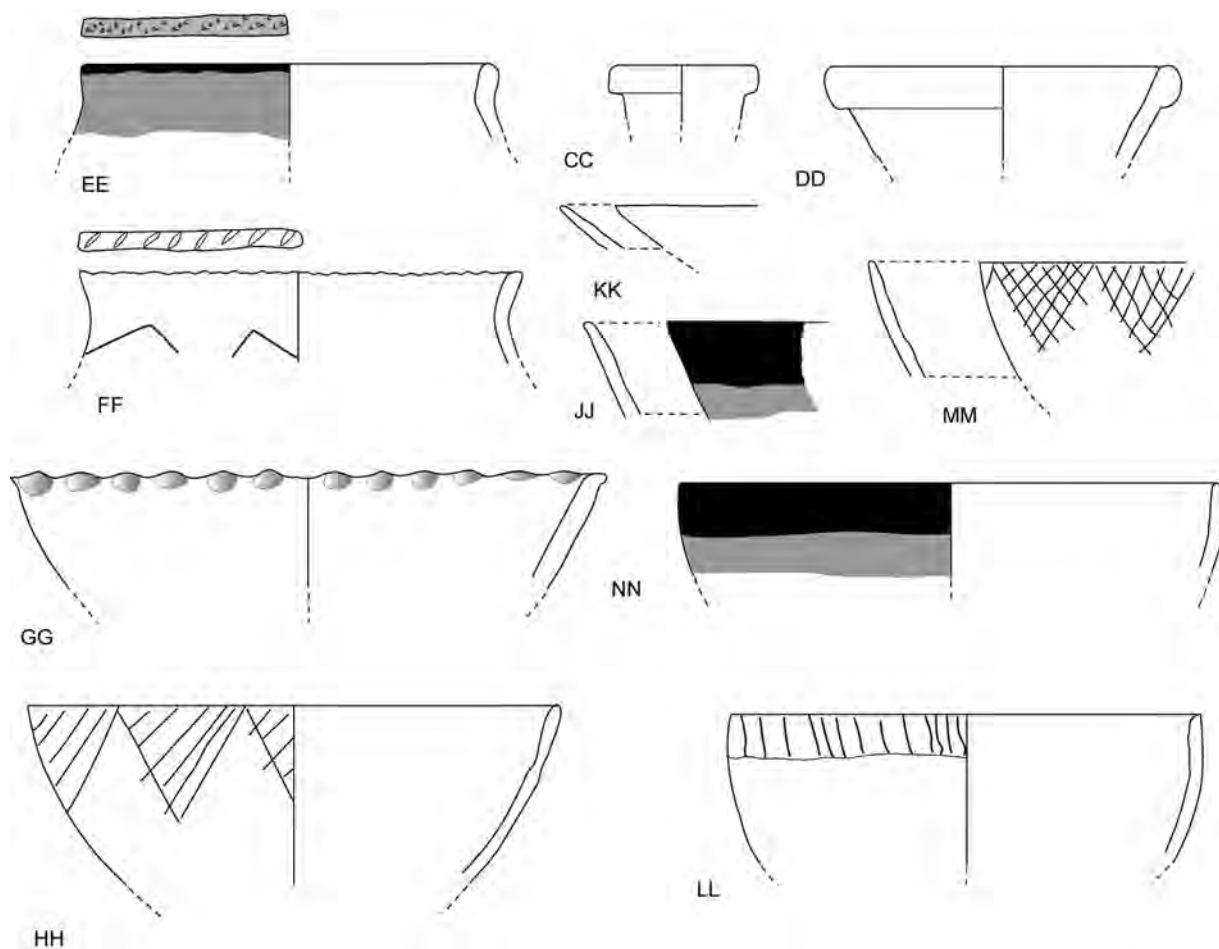


Figure 5.17 Pottery sample from test excavation (Area 2) [16-0-12].

16-0-12/AA. Beer bottle. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Rim D:75mm.

16-0-12/BB. Beer bottle, base. No hole. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. D:60mm.

Pottery (Test area 2) (fig.5.17):

16-0-12/CC. Jar with folded rim. Wheelmade red ware, polished. Rim D:55mm.

16-0-12/DD. Bowl with folded rim. Wheelmade red/brown ware with polished exterior. Rim D:135mm.

16-0-12/EE. Jar. Handmade RP-BT ware. Impressed rim decoration. Rim D:160mm.

16-0-12/FF. Jar. Handmade red polished ware with black interior. Incised decoration on upper body and impressed rim decoration. Rim D:170mm

16-0-12/GG. Bowl. Handmade red polished ware with heavy impressed rim decoration. Rim D:232mm.

16-0-12/HH. Bowl. Handmade RP-BT ware. Incised decoration. Rim D:208mm.

16-0-12/JJ. Bowl. Handmade RP-BT ware.

16-0-12/KK. Bowl. Handmade red polished ware.

16-0-12/LL. Bowl. Crude handmade RP-BT ware with incised decoration below rim. Rim D:186mm.

16-0-12/MM. Bowl. Handmade brown ware. Incised decoration.

16-0-12/NN. Bowl. Handmade RP-BT ware. Rim D:212mm.

The Egyptian pottery includes a range of types commonly found in Nubia, and more typical of Dynasty 18. The amphora form provides a terminus post quem of the reign of Amenophis II. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: No previous record. AJM IX: 98-100. Site Photos: F/353: 4-12. Investigated: 18-24/1/1967.

16-O-27* Inscription (Rock Drawings)**Duweishat West**

LOCATION: on the slopes of ‘Jebel Abrinmulee’, c.1km downstream from the hamlet of Askur, close to the river bank (fig.5.18).

DESCRIPTION: amongst a large group of rock drawings originally registered by the Epigraphic Survey as site [16-J-5], a single, probably Middle Kingdom graffito (n.546) was recorded,

superimposed on a drawing of a bovine. As Hintze and Reineke noted, most inscriptions south of Semna date to the New Kingdom (1989, 167), so its presence in this area is noteworthy.

DOCUMENTATION: Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1983; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 167; Taf.230.



Figure 5.18 Location of rock drawing site [16-O-27] with Middle Kingdom (?) graffito.

16-O-24 Graves

Duweishat West

LOCATION: this site was located on a rocky gebel to the north of Askur. The area over which the graves were scattered began some 125m north of Askur and 450m west of the river bank. It extended west for c.350m and northwards for c.175m (fig.5.19). These burials lay on the east side of the dispersed settlement [16-O-25]. The workshop site [16-O-2] on the east bank lay c.1.4km to the south.

DESCRIPTION: this site consisted of an estimated 15 graves. They were not actually dug into the ground, but rather were built on an area of flat ground against rock faces. Whether the entire area of the grave was closed off or covered with some form of cairn could not be determined; the surviving remains were insufficient to confirm how the burials were closed/covered. No traces of mud or bricks were found. The graves were rather irregular in shape and all were thoroughly plundered. Five graves were excavated and two found to contain pottery recorded (see below). The grave forms were considered as quite similar to those found on Kagnarti [11-L-26].

Grave 16-O-24/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence

GRAVE: an irregular oval area built against the south side of a rock face, c.2m x 1.35m. Fill of loose sand and rocks. No trace of blocking (fig.5.20).

BURIAL: A few fragmentary bones of an adult, in fill. Grave form suggests east-west orientation.

CONTENTS: all finds in fill, displaced (figs 5.21–2).

16-O-24/1/1. Cup, with direct rim, simple contour and round base. Wheelmade, Ballas Ware (Marl B). Prominent wheelmarks on exterior; red-slipped interior. Warped. D:99mm; H:78mm. (VI:126). Photos: C/075:19, C/084:20. SNM.19499.

16-O-24/1/2. Cup, with direct rim, simple contour and round base. Wheelmade, Qena ware (Marl A3), uncoated. Slightly warped. D:90mm; H:78mm. (VI:115). Photos: C/075:21, C/084:21. SNM.19501.

16-O-24/1/3. Cup, with direct rim, simple contour and round base. Wheelmade, Ballas Ware (Marl B). Red-slipped surfaces, interior and exterior. A few cracks and chips to rim. D:96mm; H:75mm. (VI:128). Photos: C/075:20, C/084:22. SNM.19500.



Figure 5.19 Location of cemetery [16-O-24] on east side of dispersed 'settlement' [16-O-25] to north of Askur hamlet.

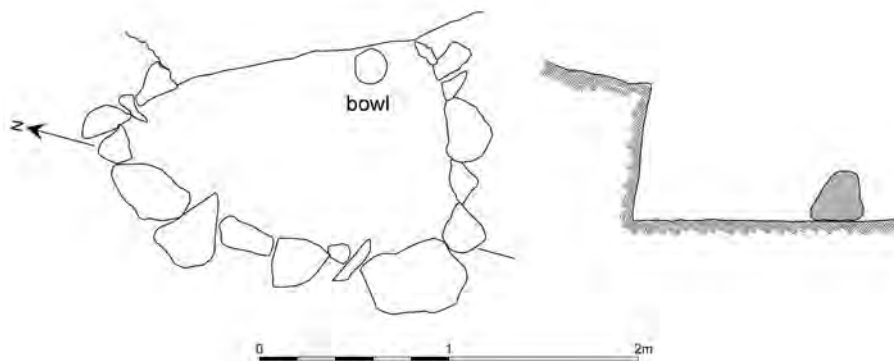


Figure 5.20 Grave 1 [16-O-24].

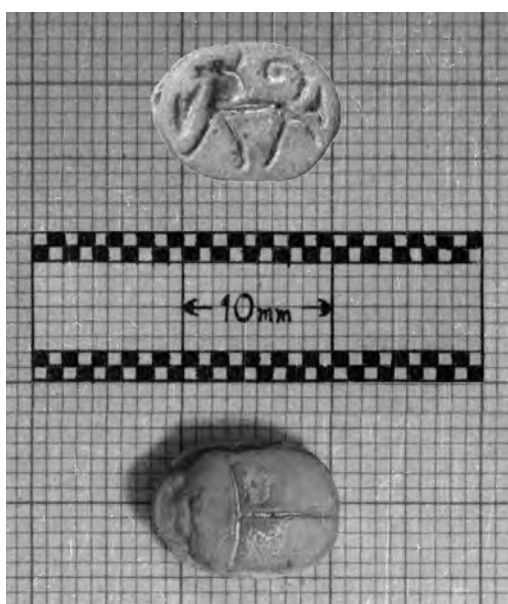


Figure 5.21 Scarab (16-O-24/1/4).

16-O-24/1/A. Bowl with modelled rim, inflected contour and flat base. Wheelmade, hard red ware. Uncoated. Part only. D:204mm; H:81mm. (VI: 252). Not registered.

16-O-24/1/B. Cup, with direct rim, simple contour and round base. Wheelmade, Ballas Ware (Marl B). Prominent wheelmarks on exterior. Part only; base lost. D:96mm; H: >75mm. Not registered.

16-O-24/1/C. Bowl with direct rim, simple contour and round base. Handmade, brown ware (Nile silt ?). Red polished rim; inside surface smoothed. D:66mm; H:c.63mm. Not registered.

16-O-24/1/D. Sherds of two ‘very thin ribbed Ballas-ware vessels’. Not drawn.

16-O-24/1/4. Scarab. Green faience. L:12mm; W:9mm; Th:7mm. Photo: C/084:3-4. SNM.18509. (fig.5.21)

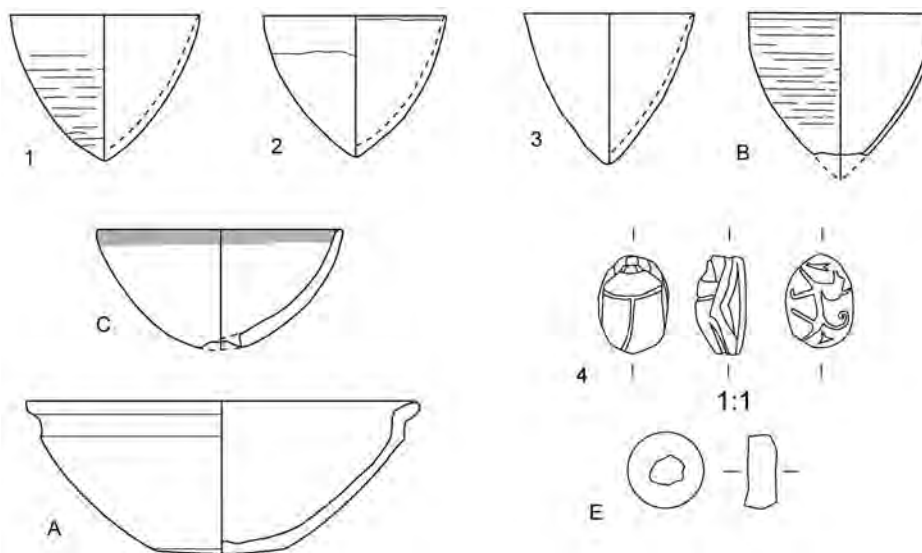


Figure 5.22 Pottery (scale 1:4) and scarab and bead (scale 1:1) from Grave 1 [16-O-24].

16-O-24/1/E. Carnelian disc bead. D:10mm; Th:3mm.

Grave 16-O-24/2:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence

GRAVE: a shallow, irregular area, c.1.90m x 1.35m, constructed with rough local boulder stones, against a rock face. The fill was of blown sand with a few rocks. No trace of blocking (fig.5.23).

BURIAL: a few fragments of bones from an adult in fill.

CONTENTS: a wheelmade bowl in fill, possibly in situ, near southeast corner (figs 5.24–5).

16-O-24/2/1. Bowl with folded rim, inflected contour and round base. Wheelmade, red ware. Uncoated. D:234mm; H:96mm. (VI: 243). Photos: C/075:4, C/084:29. SNM.18502.

The pottery includes types common in Nubia in Dynasties 18–20, but may be later. The predominance of imported cups is quite unusual in such a Nubian site. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: AJM XI: 16; No previous record of this site. No site photos or site plan made. Air Photo: 633074. Investigated: 25–26/11/1967.

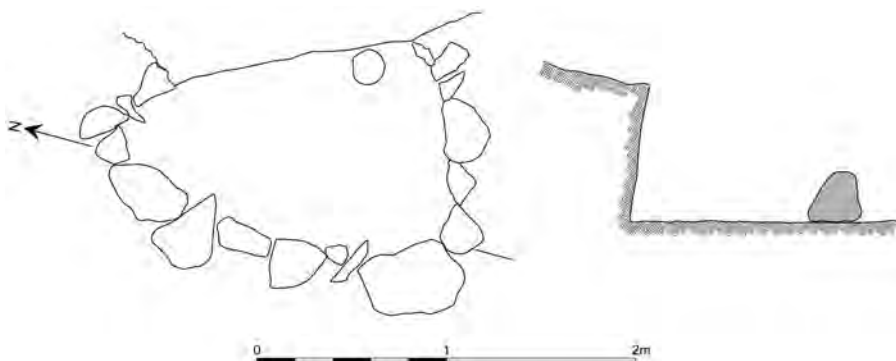


Figure 5.23 Grave 2 [16-O-24].

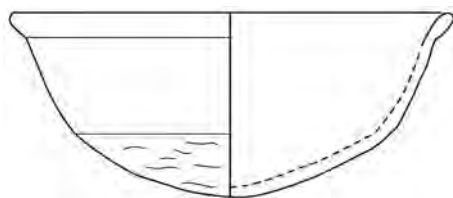


Figure 5.24 Bowl (16-O-24/2/1). (scale 1:4)



Figure 5.25 Registered pottery from graves 1 and 2 [16-O-24].

16-O-25 Settlement**Duweishat West**

LOCATION: this site extended over a considerable area of rocky hills north and west of the village of Askur. The stone huts are only found on the higher ground, extending up to c.800m from the river bank. The small cemetery area [16-O-24] was located on the southeast side of the site (fig.5.19).

DESCRIPTION: this site consisted of c.15–20 roughly built stone huts, some isolated single structures, some in groups of two or three. They normally consisted of one or two subrectangular rooms measuring c.1.5m-2m square. They were commonly in sheltered positions and often incorporated a rock face as a wall. None of these structures were well-preserved; most walls survived as

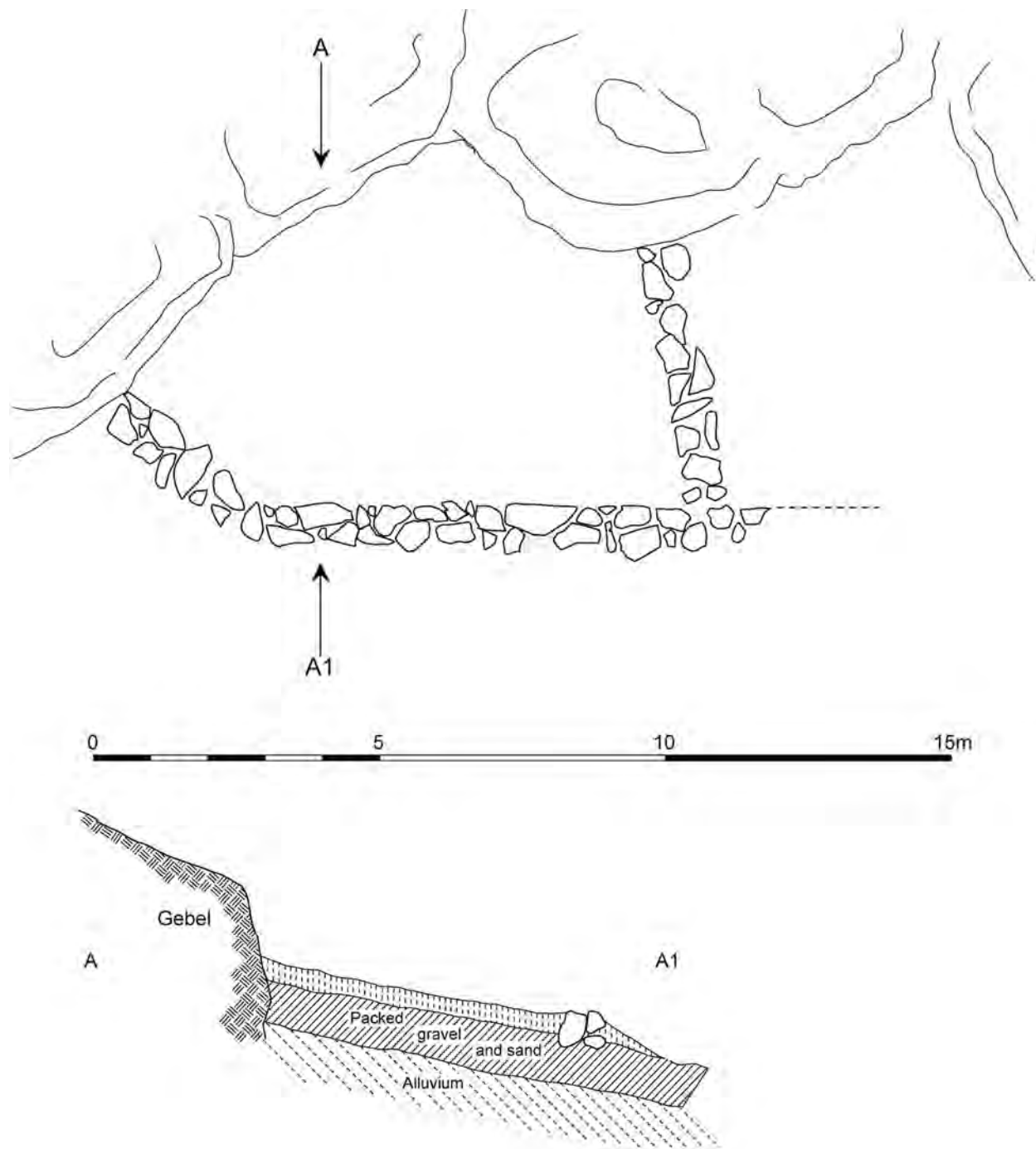


Figure 5.26 Sketch plan of denuded stone structure 1, [16-O-25].



Figure 5.27 Surface clearance around Structure 1, [16-O-25].



Figure 5.28 View across denuded structure, towards east [16-O-25].

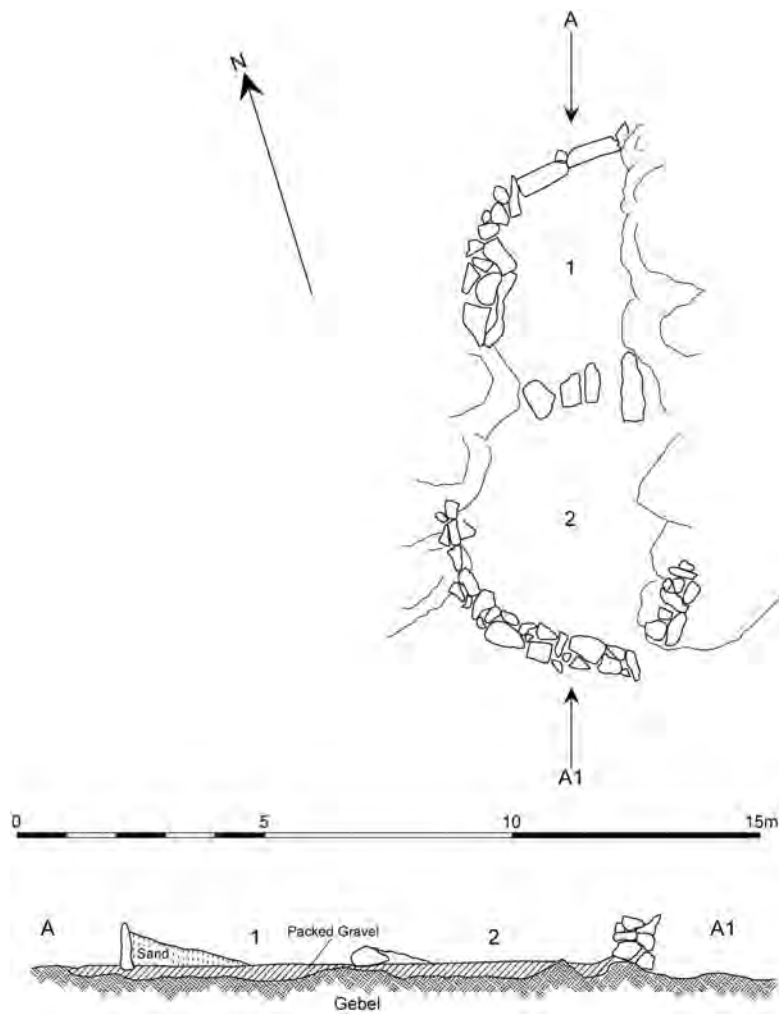


Figure 5.29 Sketch plan of Structure 2, [16-O-25].



Figure 5.30 Structure 2; view to north with blown sand on south side of hills.



Figure 5.32 Entrance at south end of Structure 2.



Figure 5.31 Structure 2; view south towards river.

no more than one or two courses of rough dry masonry. Two examples were excavated. In both cases the structures contained little fill, consisting largely of blown silt, overlying gravel floors. There was little pottery associated with the structures, mostly fairly heavy red ware sherds, some marl ('kena ware') sherds as well as 'some soft brown ware' sherds. The first test excavation (fig.5.26) revealed a structure consisting of a single



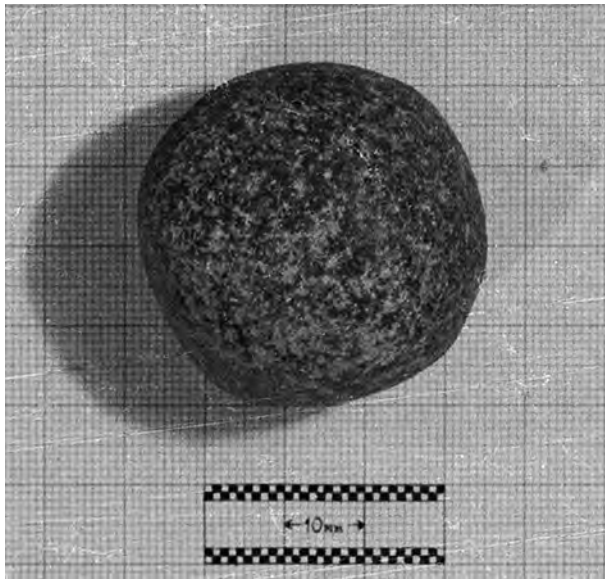
Figure 5.33 Steatite seal/amulet (16-O-25/1).

large room with a probable second smaller one. Excavations yielded only about a dozen sherds and a steatite seal/amulet.

Excavation of a second structure exposed two rooms (fig.5.29) built between rock outcrops, with a doorway at the south end, closest to river. The only finds were 'a couple of red ware' sherds and a granite pounder/grinding stone. No pottery drawn.

Finds:

16-O-25/1. Steatite seal/amulet, pierced, with incised design. L:22mm; W:16mm. Photo: C/084:2. SNM.19515. (fig.5.33)



16-O-25/2. Granite grinding stone. D:c.44mm. Photo: C/084:26. SNM.19517. (fig.5.34)

DOCUMENTATION: AJM XI: 9–10; No previous record of this site. Site Photos: F/372: 2–9. Air Photos: 328242, 633074. Investigated: 25–29/11/1967. [Some of the northwestern parts of this site seem likely survive above 2017 water levels].

Figure 5.34 Granite grinding stone (16-O-25/2).

16-O-2 Workshops

Duweishat – Jedagur



Figure 5.35 Air photograph of northern end of Duweishat in area of Jedagur, Diffi (named after the postmedieval ‘Turkish Fort’ [16-N-28*]) and Askur on the west bank.

LOCATION: this site comprised three separate mounds at the north end of the Jedagur (Jaddigur) plain, the northernmost (‘Kom A’) was c.400m north of the hamlet and c.150m east of the river bank. A second mound (‘Kom B’) lay c.75m to the southeast. A third component (Kom ‘C’) lay c.300m south-southeast of Kom A and c.250m from the river (fig.5.36).

DESCRIPTION: ‘Kom A’ was first noted in March 1964 during the reconnaissance survey. In the absence of any structural remains no further excavation was recommended. In January 1967 when the survey teams returned to this area, a brief test excavation of the mound confirmed that

that there were no surviving sub-surface deposits. The kom measured c.35–40m across and was c.1m above the surrounding plain. The mound was alluvial and its surface was covered with drift sand and a great number of stones. No structural remains survived but the surface stone included numerous heavy granite mortars and grindstones, a lot of broken quartz fragments (c.2cm) and some sherds, chiefly soft brown wheel-made bowls. The grindstones comprised two main types: (1) Large, flat stones with a round or oval (shallow depression (D:c.40cm) on one surface only; (2) rather cubical stones (c.30cm across) with small (D:10cm) depressions (c.5cm deep) on several of the faces. There were also a number of broken hammers

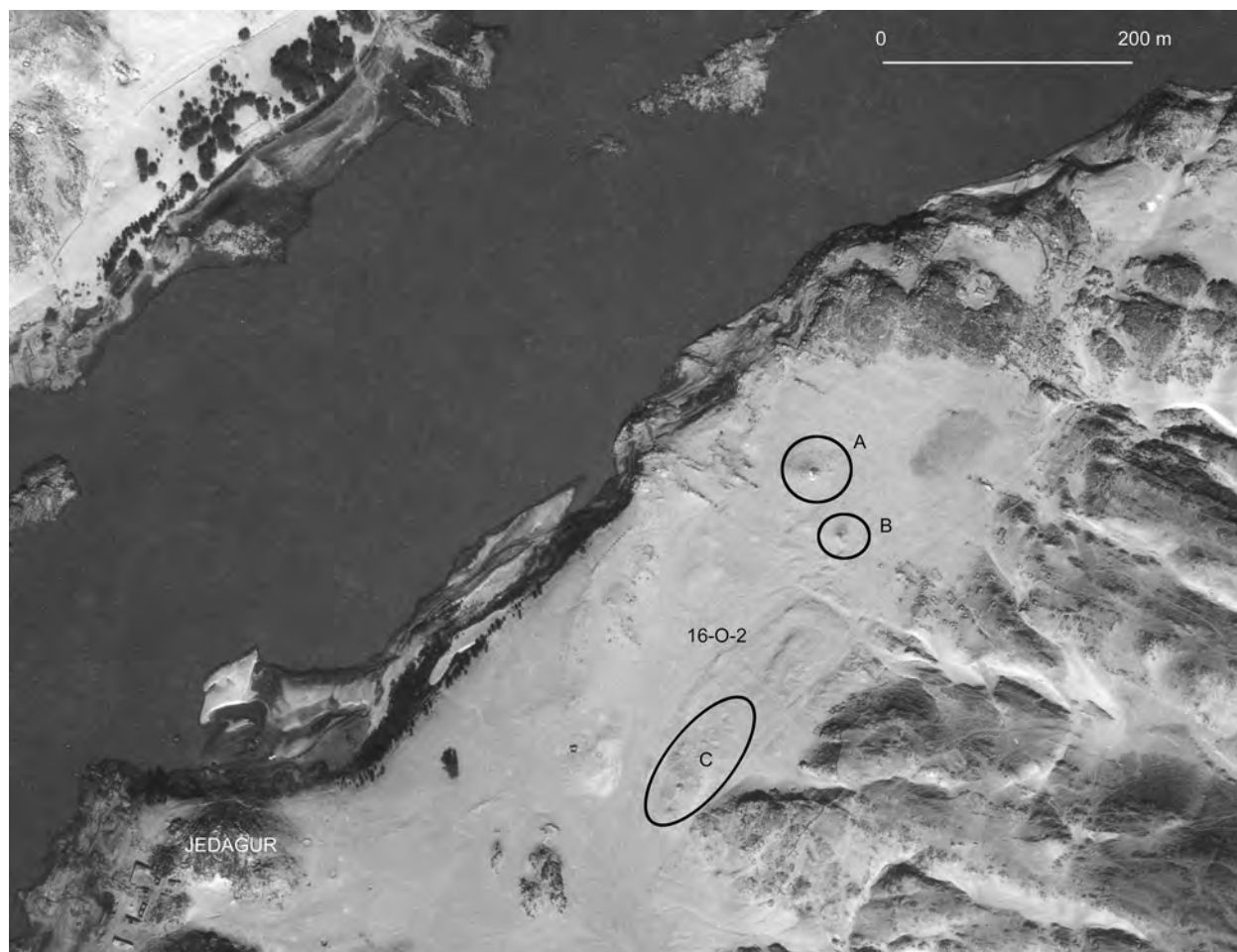


Figure 5.36 Location of three settlement areas of [16-O-2].

and grinding stones. All these stones are very hard, being of granite or other hard black stone. 'Kom B' was smaller but otherwise very similar to Kom A. Measuring c.22m across, it stood c.60cm above the surrounding plain. No traces of sub-surface deposits or surviving structures were noted.

In 1967 the third mound ('Kom C') was noted and further investigated. The mound proved to be much larger, measuring c.70m (north-south) x 30m (east-west), and its highest parts stood c.3m above the plain. Its surface was also littered with rocks and quartz gravel in various sizes, especially more finely crushed material. There were 'a fair number of tools ... mortars, grinders and pestles'. Sherds were also 'fairly plentiful, chiefly soft brown ware bowls'.

A test excavation was carried out including much of the northern quarter of the mound. This revealed the presence of two levels of stone structures. The upper level comprised a complex of nine rooms and a further five undefined areas around it (fig.5.37). There was also a large dump

of tailings (area 9) on the north side of this area. This complex had some grindstone stands as well as large flat grindstones in its central area (Room 6) and some smaller features which may have been storage bins (5A, 14A) or similar.

This upper structure overlay a smaller two-room structure (fig.5.47), underlying Rooms 2 and 6, and maintaining the same general layout (Rooms L1-L2). This structure had grindstone stands and a stone lined bin in Room L2 and another stone bin/tank on the east side of Room L1. Some further features were found to the north of the rooms in the area L3. these included another stone-lined bin/tank as well as some circular features. Three pots were found in these levels below the upper building. The pilgrim flask (1) was found 29cm directly beneath the bottom of the wall separating Rooms 7 and 12 of the upper structure. Two bowls (2, 3) were found outside south side of Room 2 at approximately floor level of the lower building, a position quite close to the other pottery find.

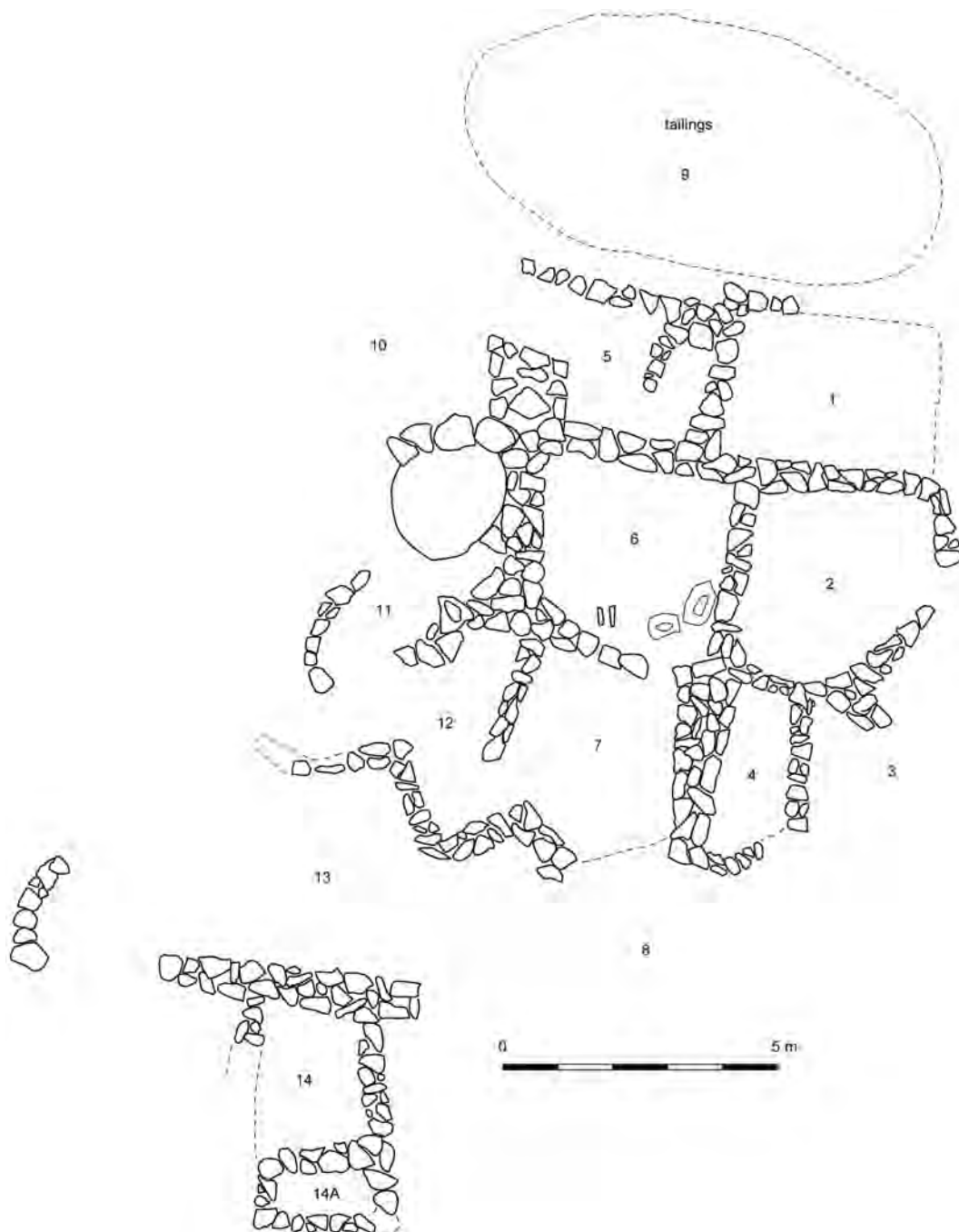


Figure 5.37 Plan of upper levels of workshop on 'Kom C' [16-O-2].

Finds (figs 5.51–3):

16-O-2/1. Large pilgrim flask. Wheelmade, grey-brown ware (marl?) with cream slip. H:207mm; Max.W:171mm. Neck broken, piece of rim missing. Photos: C/059:13–14. SNM.19396.

16-O-2/2. Bowl with direct rim and flat base. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Red slipped rim inside and outside. D:186mm, H:69mm. Photos: C/060:26, C/084: 27. SNM.19399.

16-O-2/3. Bowl with direct rim and flat base. Wheelmade redware. Polished interior and red slipped exterior rim. D:144mm, H:59mm. Photo: C/059:22. SNM.19382.

No sherd collections were made during the test excavations at the site. While the bowls are common New Kingdom forms, such pilgrim flasks appear during the reign of Tuthmosis III. [LM]



Figure 5.38 Room 1, looking west.



Figure 5.39 Detail of stone-lined bin in corner Room 1.



Figure 5.40 Room 2, looking west.



Figure 5.41 Rooms 1 and 2, looking south.

DOCUMENTATION: No known previous record of this site. AJM III: 66–67; AJM IX: 115–116. Site Photos: F/357: 8–12; F/358; F/359: 6–12. Air Photos: 633073, 328241. Investigated: 7/3/1964; 26/1/-13/2/1967.



Figure 5.42 Room 6/L2, looking south. Note grindstone stands and mortars.



Figure 5.43 Large grindstones in Room 7, with doorway into Room 12.



Figure 5.44 Pit in area of Room 11.



Figure 5.45 Pit in area of Room 11, looking east.



Figure 5.46 General view across [16-O-2], looking towards Nile.

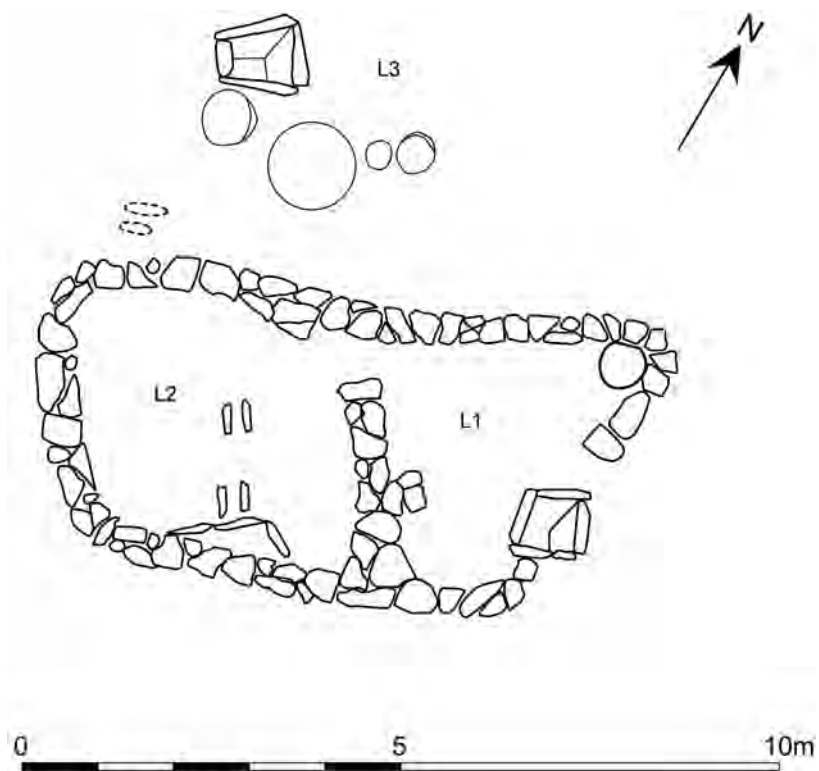


Figure 5.47 Plan of lower (original?) structure [16-O-2].



Figure 5.48 Lower (original?) structure [16-O-2], from east.



Figure 5.49 Stone-lined bin/tank and eroded walls on north side of structure in area L3.

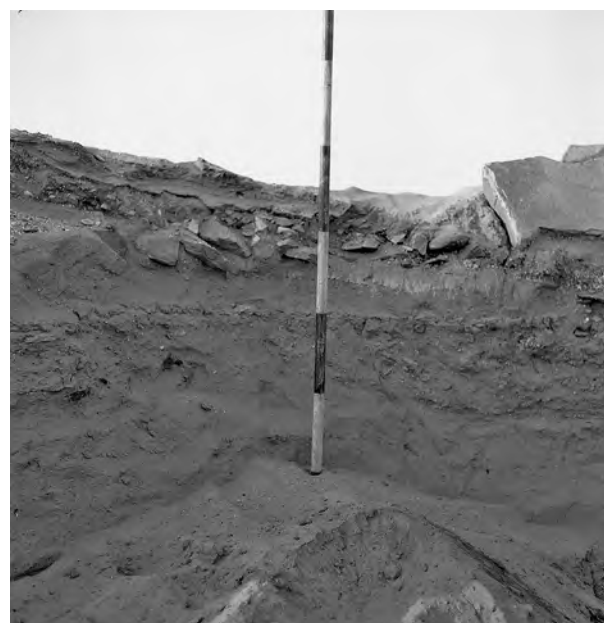


Figure 5.50 Detail of stratigraphy within kom with surface deposits over alluvium, [16-O-2].



Figure 5.51 Pilgrim flask (16-O-2/1).

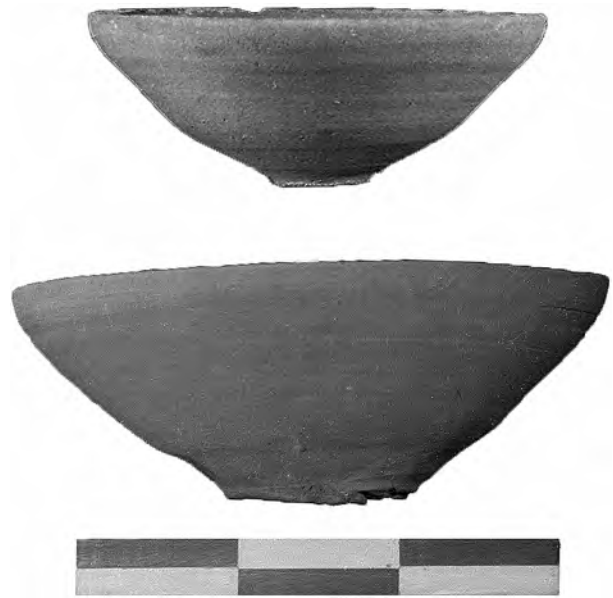


Figure 5.52 Bowls from lower structure (16-O-2/2-3).

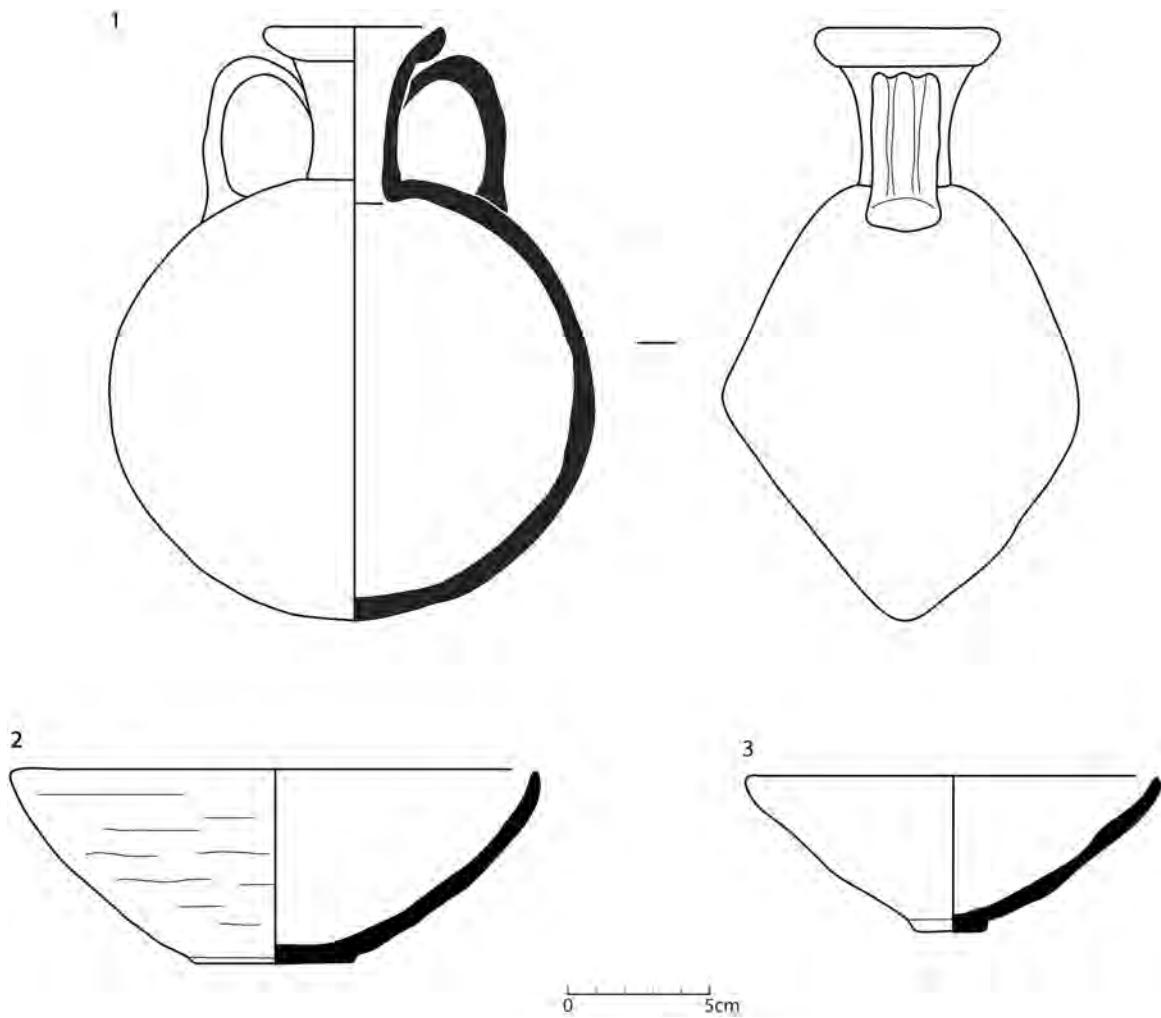


Figure 5.53. Pilgrim flask and bowls from lower levels of [16-O-2].

16-O-15 Stone huts**Duweishat East**

LOCATION: structures on lower slopes of hills east of Jedagur (*Jaddigur*), between wadis leading into interior to east of Nile, c.300m from river (fig.5.54).

DESCRIPTION: scattered stone structures, mainly

one or two room, on hill slopes above plain. Two examples apparently excavated, with no recorded finds but sketch plans (fig.5.55) were made of a small sample. Similar structures were also encountered scattered across higher slopes

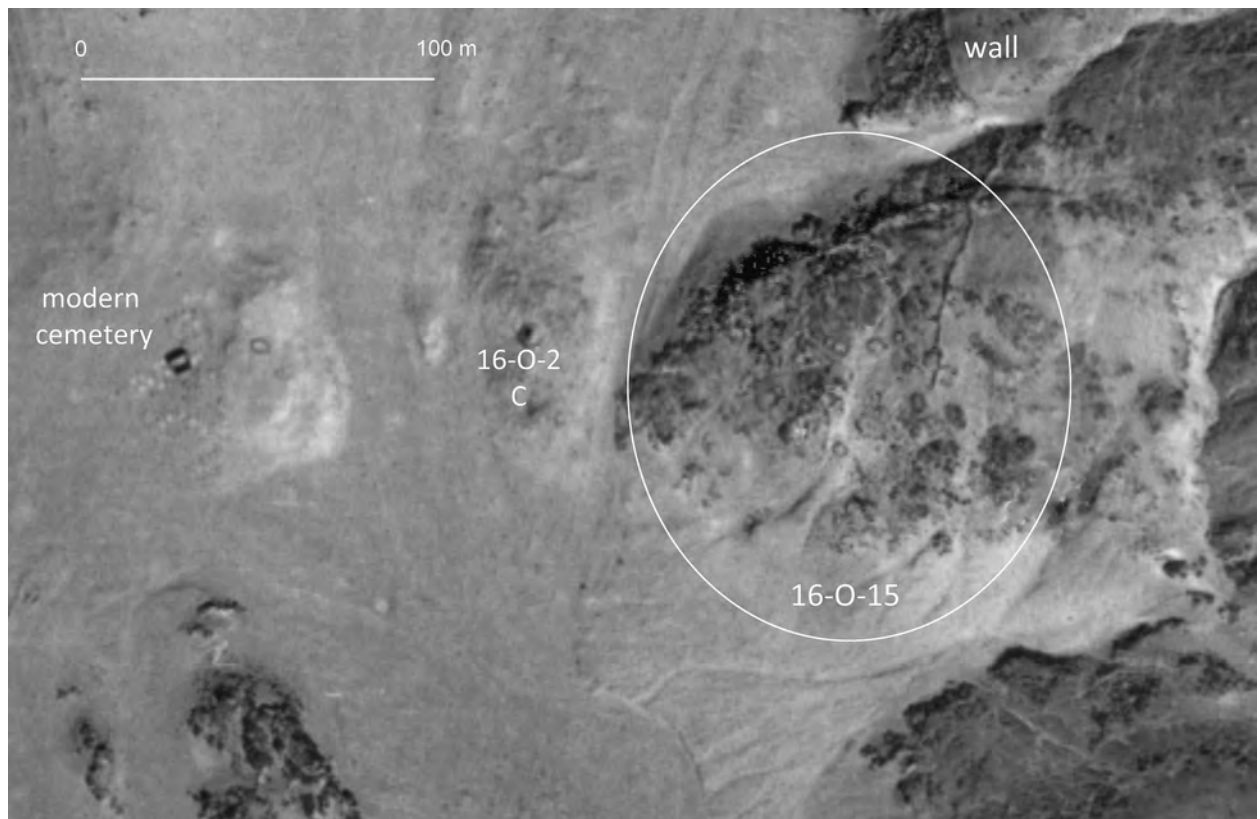


Figure 5.54 Location plan of clusters of stone structures on hill-slopes above [16-O-2/C].

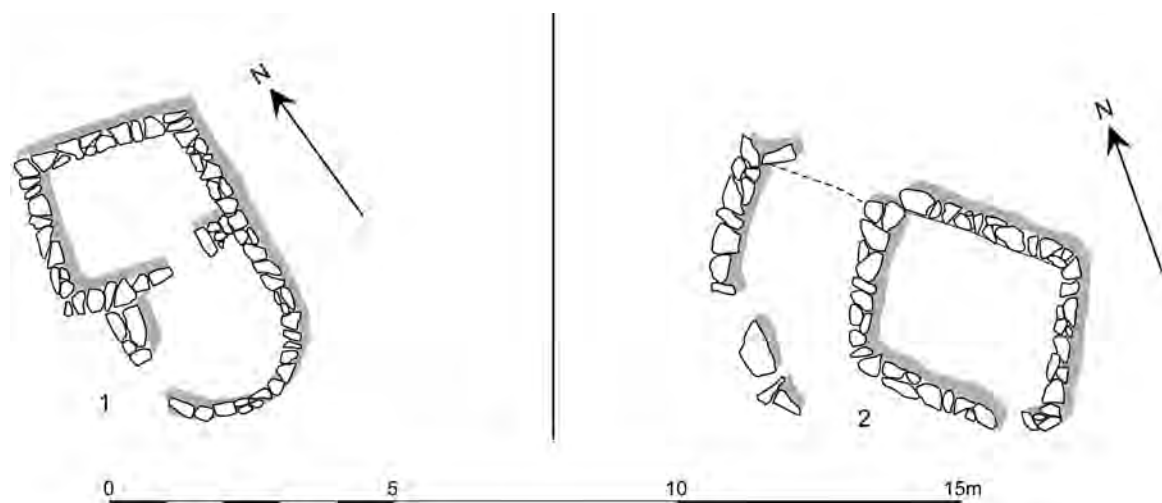


Figure 5.55 Sketch plans of stone structures [16-O-15] in northern Duweishat East.



Figure 5.56 Stone structure [16-O-15/1] after test excavation, from north. Larger stones slabs used to frame doorways.



Figure 5.57 Stone structure [16-O-15/1] after test excavation, from east.



Figure 5.58 Stone structure [16-O-15/4] after test excavation.



Figure 5.59 Stone structure [16-O-15/4] after test excavation

in this gold-mining area. Air photographs also shows presence of probably earlier game-drive (?) walls along hillsides in this area. Initial tests not pursued, as text excavations focussed on the more substantial site [16-O-2/C] in the plain below these structures.

DOCUMENTATION: Sketch plans, no other documents or records. Site Photos: F/356: 1-3, 8-9, 12. Air Photos: 633073, 328241. Investigated 26-29/1/1967.

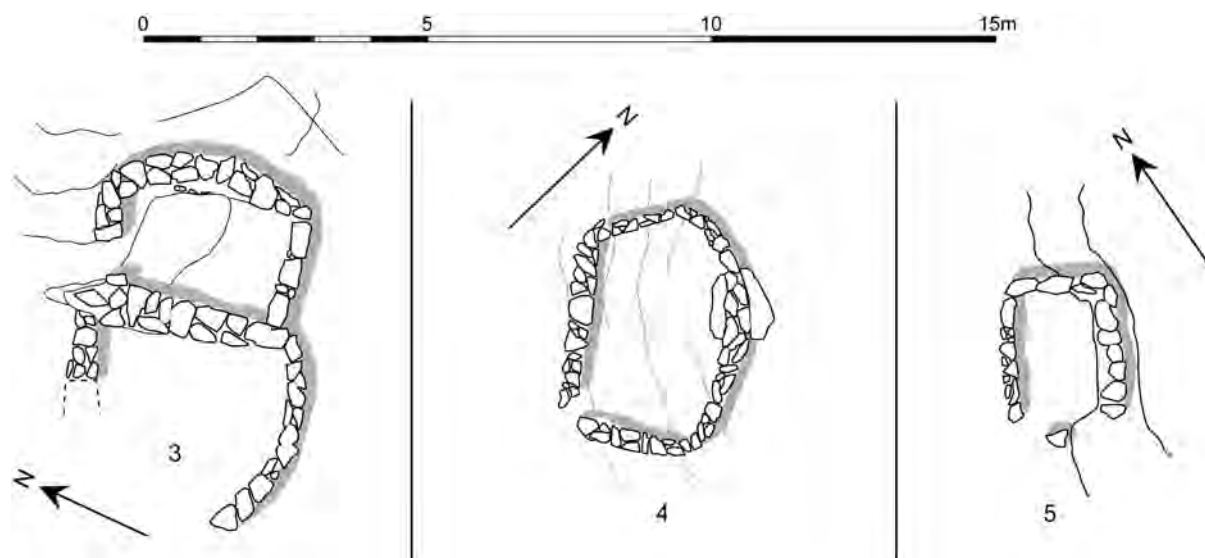


Figure 5.60 Sketch plans of stone structures [16-O-15] in northern Duweishat East.



Figure 5.61 Stone structure [16-O-15] after test excavation, looking west.

16-N-18 Habitation

Duweishat West

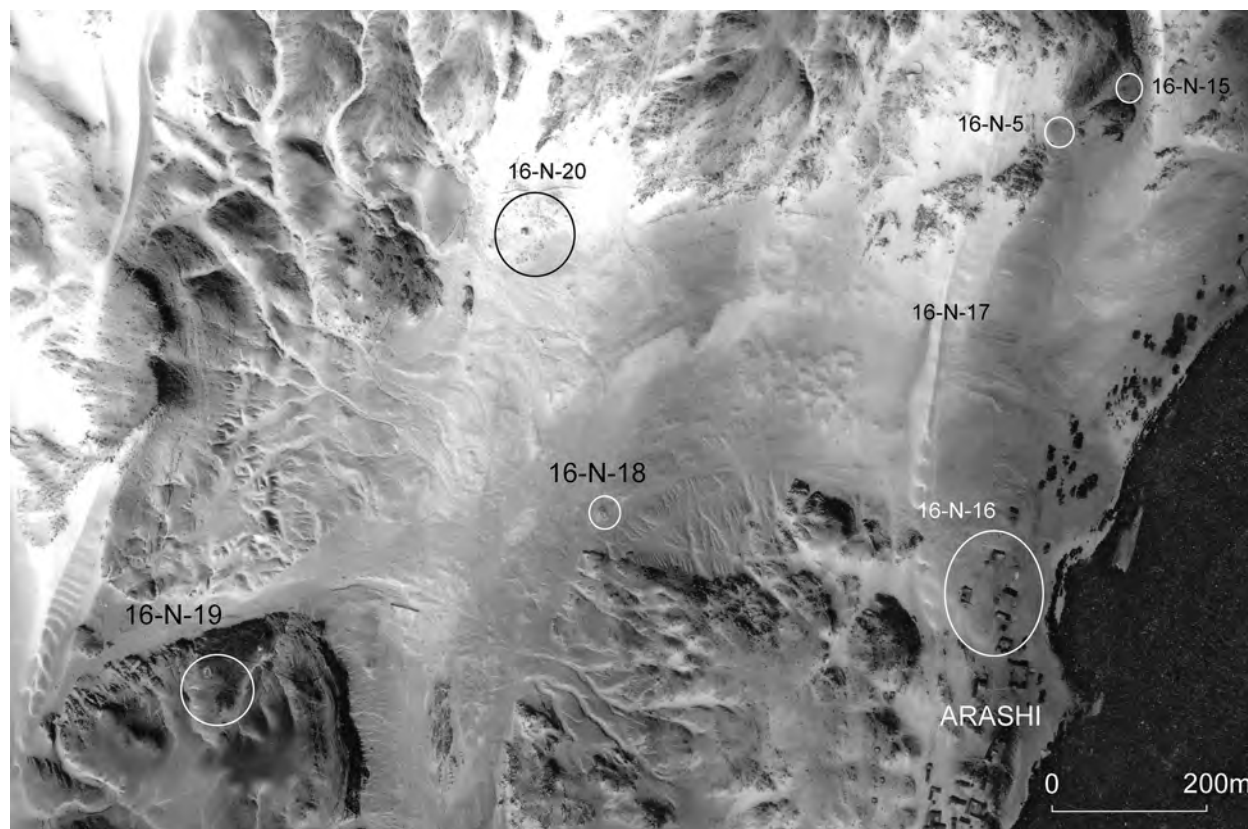


Figure 5.62 Location of [16-N-18] and nearby sites: of which [16-N-15], [16-N-16] and

LOCATION: this site was located half-way up the south bank of the large wadi that encircled Arashi (*Araasha*), at the point where the wadi (the Khor Howi) bends to the south. It was c.625m west of the river bank (fig.5.62). From this area, other wadis led through the hills to the west, reaching more open landscapes c.15–20km from the Nile. [16-N-20] included ‘A-Group’ and/or ‘C-Group’ elements. [16-N-5] was a small medieval cemetery and [16-N-19] a cluster of burials of uncertain date.

DESCRIPTION: the site was almost completely destroyed, the only surviving structures a building of four rooms with stone walls standing one course only. Around the site was a lot of large stone, clearly derived for collapsed walls. There was no larger spread of surface pottery around the site so it may have been no larger than this single small structure. The fill of the structure was largely blown sand. There were only ‘a couple of dozen sherds. The pottery .. largely Egyptian, though somewhat crude. There are soft, brown ware and red ware sherds and a few hand made

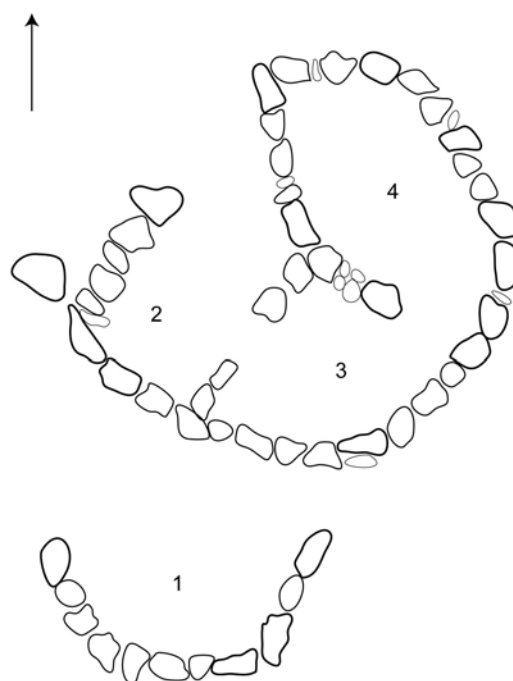


Figure 5.63 Sketch plan of stone structure foundations [16-N-18].



Figure 5.64 View across [16-N-18], Rooms 3 and 4, looking towards northwest.



Figure 5.65 View across [16-N-18], looking along wadi, towards southwest.

pieces'. Field notes note that the nature and date of the site remained uncertain: 'possibly it is very late C-Group'.

DOCUMENTATION: AJM XI: 33–34; No known previous record. Site Photos: F/373: 7–10. Some sherds reported as drawn, but not found in archive. Air Photo: 623168. Investigated: 9/12/1967.

16-O-1 (16-N-1) Mining**Duweishat East**

LOCATION: evidence for ancient gold mines was found at the north end of Duweishat on the east bank only. The actual mines are located between 1 and 3 km from the river, but there were workshop sites down at the riverbank all along Duweishat East. The mines were accessible down a road marked “Doishat Mining Company” which led to the modern mining galleries. There were ancient workings in all four of the modern mines as well as test pits over the whole area. Of the sites down by the river, two were investigated in 1964, the northernmost [16-O-2] and the southernmost [16-S-2]. There were several other workshop sites between these, all small and apparently similar.

DESCRIPTION: in March 1964, during the reconnaissance survey visits were paid to the modern mining operations in this area. It was established that the ancient mining galleries were extensive and the general registration number [16-N-1] was assigned to these. Most of the mining areas, including the main modern mines, were in fact located within grid square [16-O] and this registration has been reallocated to [16-O-1]. These notes were prepared, informed by discussions with mining engineers.

It was estimated that 800,000 tons of quartz, enough to produce 14,400kg of gold, were anciently taken from mine No.1 alone. This was the most extensive of the ancient workings and it was presumed the ore was richest here. The modern yield was estimated at c.18g of gold per ton of quartz in mine No.1 but the veins of quartz were small; in mine No.4, on the other hand, there is a lot of quartz, but the yield was only c.5g gold per ton. In this latter mine the ancient workings appeared much less extensive than in Mine No.1. The ancient galleries only follow the vein of quartz and are sometimes scarcely a metre high and descend at an angle of 45° to well over 50m below the surface. Within the galleries the ceilings were in many places blackened by soot and the floors littered with ash and charcoal. This suggested the possibility that the ore was first cracked from its granite matrix by fire. Copper tools, wood tools and

stone tools have been found in the ancient galleries. These ancient galleries had been back-filled, when exhausted, with rubble. The test pits seen were round holes generally about 1m in diameter or less, which generally occurred in groups, often in a straight line, about 1.5–2m apart. It was reported that no ancient test pits had since proved worthy of working out.

The workshops were found near the mines and down by the river, these latter usually at the mouth of a khor. They are quite small, usually being an area of 25m² or less, and are recognisable by the presence of large heavy grindstones. These seemed to comprise two types: the first a large, flat granite piece with a shallow oval depression in it, the second a cube of granite with smaller, round, deeper depressions on several sides. The former were thought to be used for crushing the quartz to pea size and the latter for grinding this to a powder. Surface surveys showed the presence of New Kingdom pottery on the surface of these sites, but never any Nubian pottery. There are also a lot of quartz pebbles on these sites. On the basis of the initial investigations the workings were assigned a Pharaonic date due to the absence of iron tools found in the galleries, the predominantly Pharaonic pottery found at the workshop sites and the absence of any evidence for gold working or related activities at any of the numerous medieval settlement sites in the area.

It was also noted that the mining company, whose offices were in Khartoum, had plans and sections of all modern workings and also possibly ancient ones. They were also reported as having a number of copper tools and other artefacts found, from time to time, in the ancient galleries. A 1990 note supplied by F. Hinkel, relating to AMS registration, records an artefact in the Sudan National Museum collections (SNM.11503) as from one of these mines.

DOCUMENTATION: Chittick 1957, 47–8, pl II. AJM IV: 2–3 (as [16-N-1]). Investigated 2–22/3/1964.

16-N-11 Cemetery**Duweishat East**

LOCATION: this site was located on top of a fairly high hill above the hamlet of Duweisha (*Doosha*).

It lay c.300m east of the river bank, directly east of the northernmost house of the village (fig.5.66).

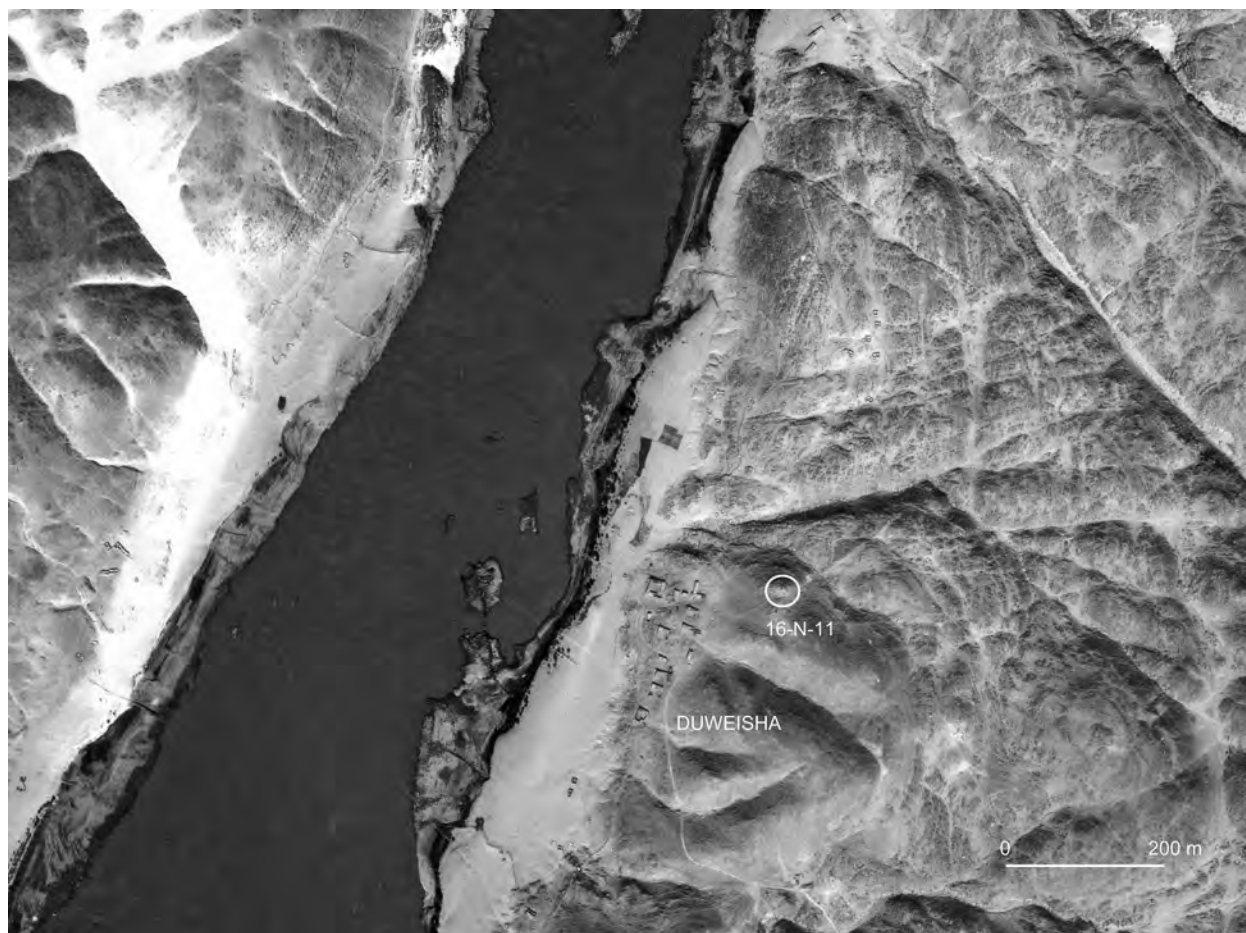


Figure 5.66 Location of small cemetery [16-N-11] above modern hamlet of Duweisha.

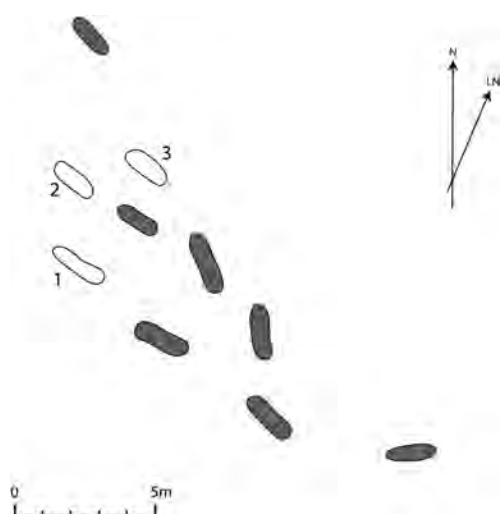


Figure 5.67 Plan of graves within cemetery [16-N-11].

DESCRIPTION: a small group of 10 graves within a surface area of about 25m x 12m (fig.5.67). The surface of the gebel comprised flat local rocks, stones and gravel. There were some wheel-made, red ware sherds on the surface. The graves were indicated by slight depressions. The graves were all about the same size (c.2m x 0.60m), rectangular with rounded ends and all but the easternmost orientated approximately northwest-southeast. They were dug into a loose crumbly bedrock, some into hill slope. All appear to be plundered. Three graves tested. Grave 1 yielded a two-sided seal with a cartouche of Thutmose III while other pottery is consistent with a Dynasty 18 date.

Grave 16-N-11/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit with rounded corners, 203cm x 60cm, cut into rather loose crumbly bedrock to a depth of 90cm. Fill of loose rubble. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: only a few bones of an adult.

CONTENTS: bowl (1), possibly in situ (removed and broken by local boys; recovered), green faience seal (2) and sherds in fill (figs 5.69–71).

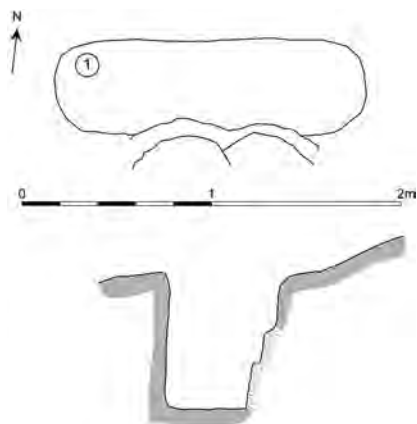


Figure 5.68 Plan and section of Grave 1 [16-N-11].

16-N-11/1/1: Bowl with direct rim, flat base. Wheelmade redware, inside surface polished. D:198mm; H:75mm. Photo: C/059:6. SNM.19383. (fig.5.69)



Figure 5.69 Bowl (16-N-11/1/1).

16-N-11/1/2: Double-sided seal, green faience; pierced. L:17mm; W:13mm; Th:6mm. Photos: C/065:6–7. SNM.19407. (fig.5.70)



Figure 5.70 Faience seal (16-N-11/1/2).

16-N-11/1/A: Bowl with folded rim, simple contour and probably round base. Red ware. Polished white painted decoration on exterior. Rim D:60mm.

16-N-11/1/B: Necked ovoid jar with folded rim; part only. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on exterior and rim interior. Black-painted band around neck. Rim D:90mm.

16-N-11/1/C: Ovoid jar with folded rim; part only. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Rim D: ?

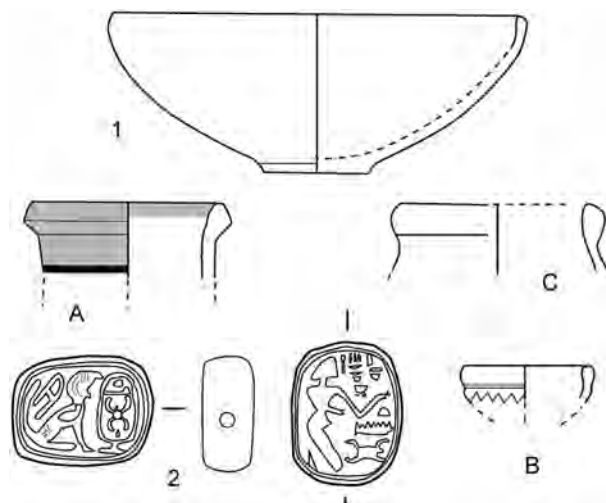


Figure 5.71 Pottery (scale 1:4) and faience seal (scale 1:1) from Grave 1 [16-N-11].

Grave 16-N-11/2:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a rectangular pit with rounded corners, 180cm x 67cm, cut into loose crumbly bedrock to a depth of 105cm. Fill of loose rubble. Blocking of local stone slabs to create small chamber for burial (fig.5.72).

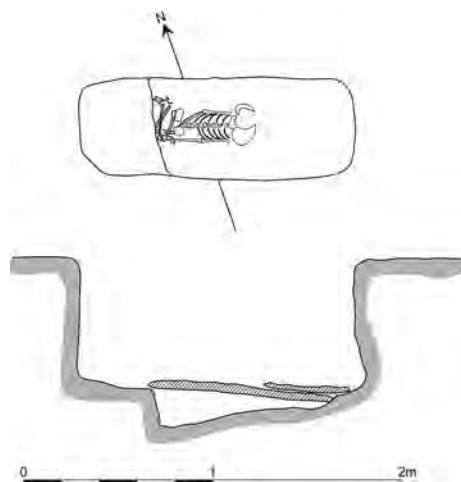


Figure 5.72 Grave 2 [16-N-11], plan and section.



Figure 5.73 Grave 2 [16-N-11], from east. Excavated pit with stone slabs at base covering burial.

BURIAL: apparently undisturbed body of an infant (head crushed), lying on back with legs contracted, arms extended, head to east.

CONTENTS: none.

Grave 16-N-11/3:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence

GRAVE: a roughly rectangular pit, 190cm x 60cm, cut into loose crumbly bedrock to a depth of 90cm. Graves on sloping ground. Part of south side of pit faced with flat stones and mud. No trace of blocking. Fill of blown silt and rubble.

BURIAL: disturbed body of an adult, dorsally extended, head west. Upper body preserved (fig.5.74).

CONTENTS: a few sherds (not recorded separately).

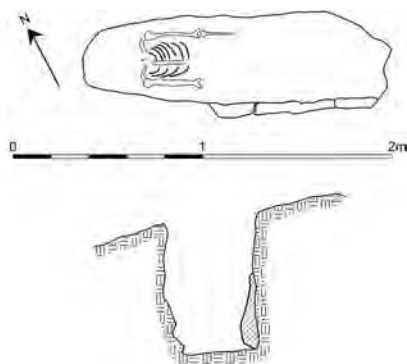


Figure 5.74 Grave 3 [16-N-11], plan and section.

Grave 16-N-11/4:

This grave appears to have comprised a chamber/pit cut into the bedrock on the hillside, then closed with stacked stones. Only recorded photographically (figs 5.75–6); no record of burial or any finds.

This group of pottery can be dated to Dynasty 18 on the basis of the decorative design on the bowl and the jar, both typical of this period. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: AJM IX: 119–20. No previous record. Site Photos: F/360: 1–3; Air Photos: 633070, 328240. Investigated: 16–18/2/1967.



Figure 5.75 Grave 4 [16-N-11]. Unexcavated; robbed to expose grave chamber.



Figure 5.76 Grave 4 [16-N-11]. Unexcavated with drystone wall sealing grave.

16-N-13 Workshop**Duweishat East**

LOCATION: this site was located on a slope of bedrock near the river at the mouth of a khor. It lay c.350m south of the village of Shuwerta and c.200m east of the river bank. It was partly overbuilt by a stone-built house reputedly abandoned c.30 years before (i.e. in 1930s). Aerial photographs suggest the presence of other possible clusters of structures, of unknown date, on the hillside 100–200m to the southwest, towards site [16-N-14]. They also show the presence of a c.600m long ‘game-drive’ wall running along the lower hill slopes from north of the site to close to [16-N-14], continuing upriver towards [16-S-8].

DESCRIPTION: this was an extremely large site with a total area estimated at c.150m x 60m. The surface of the rocky slope was generally covered with blown silt which was littered with rocks, both building stone and granite tools. There was also much quartz, chiefly 2cm³ size. There were a ‘fair number’ of sherds about the site, largely soft brown ware types, and a few sherds of handmade ‘Nubian’ wares.

A sample area, measuring c.45m x 30m was selected for testing. There proved to be only three or four sections of wall that were reasonably well-preserved (around Rooms 9 and 10) and in general most were reduced to the bottom course of stone. Fourteen separate ‘rooms’ or areas were distinguished (fig.5.78). The fill in the area tested was fallen stone rubble and blown silt-sand. There were not many sherds within the fill, but large quantities of quartz debris ‘of all sizes’. Floor surfaces were bedrock and mud. The walls were all of drystone construction.

Room 1 was featureless and opened to the south; Room 2 was at a higher level, also opened to south. Room 3 opened to Room 5, and was at the same level as Room 2 and was featureless. Room 4 to the southwest was at the same lower level as Room 1. The larger Room 5 formed a central space in the complex. There was a rectangular bin in the southeast corner (fig.5.80) and another to the west at the entrance leading through to the western room/space Room 6 (fig.5.81).

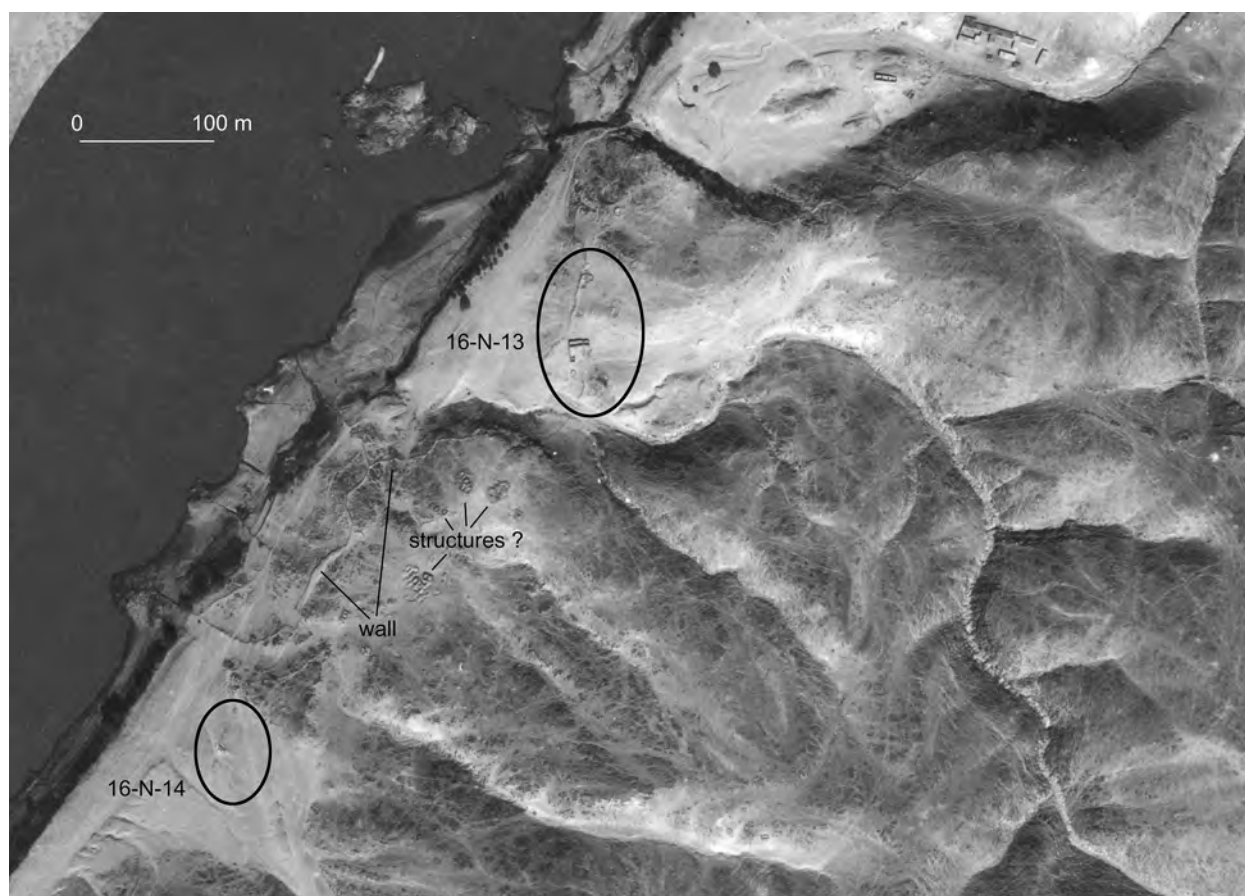


Figure 5.77 Location of workshop sites [16-N-13] and [16-N-14] and nearby features.

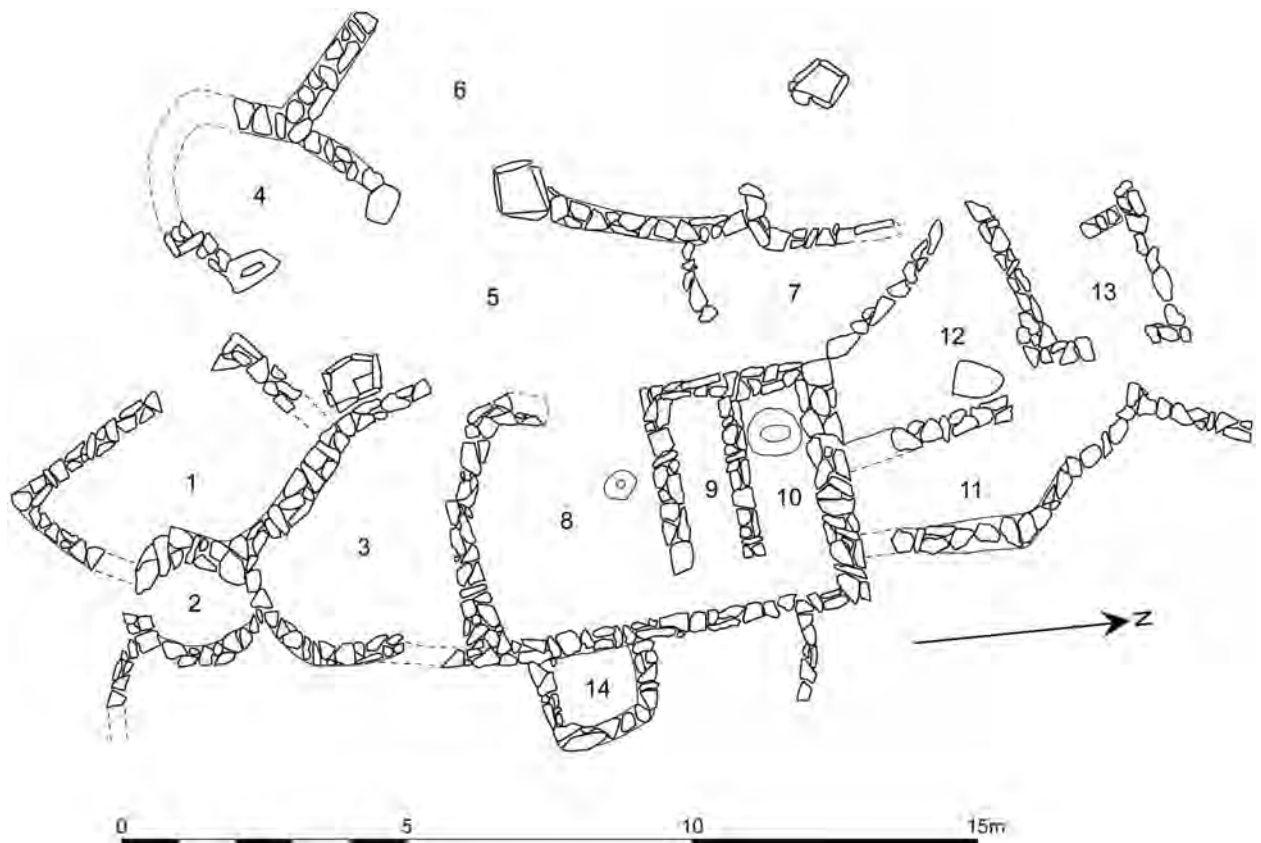


Figure 5.78 Plan of test excavation [16-N-13], Rooms 1–14.



Figure 5.79 View to southwest across excavated part of site from northeast side of Room 14. Several grindstones/mortars visible.



Figure 5.80 Stone-lined bin in southeast corner of Room 5.



Figure 5.81 Stone-lined bin between Rooms 5–6. Pot in floor; large grindstones behind.



Figure 5.83 Room 10 with large grindstone/mortar at west end.



Figure 5.82 Central part of excavation with best preserved rooms (9–10).

There was a second stone-lined bin at the north side of Room 6. Room 7 was a featureless space leading through to the northern group of rooms. Room 8 was at the upper level and had a stone mortar in situ set in the floor. It led into two narrow rectangular chambers (Rooms 9 and 10), the later with a large grindstone in situ (figs 5.83–4).

Rooms 11 and 12 appear to have been built on to the north end of the complex on higher ground, and sloped down to Room 13. Room 12 had a pit



Figure 5.84 Detail of grindstone/mortar in Room 10, from north.



Figure 5.85 Pit beside east wall of Room 12; with Room 11 at higher level beyond.



Figure 5.86 Pit in Room 12. Grindstone in wall behind.

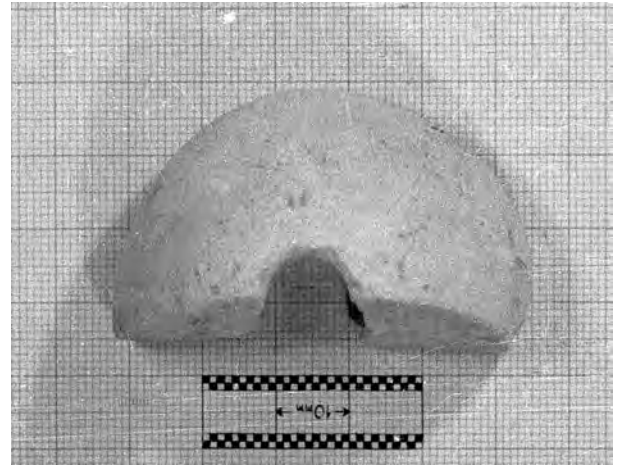


Figure 5.87 Limestone 'mace head' fragment (16-N-13/1).

cut into the rather loose bedrock, lined with mud. Room 13 was a small featureless chamber. On the east side, a small enclosed area 'Room 14' butted on to the east wall of Room 8, at a higher level.

16-N-13/1. Limestone 'mace head' (?); part only. D:66mm; H:38mm. Photos: C/064:30, C/151:28–29. SNM.21413. (fig.5.87)



Figure 5.88 View north across site with modern stone buildings behind.

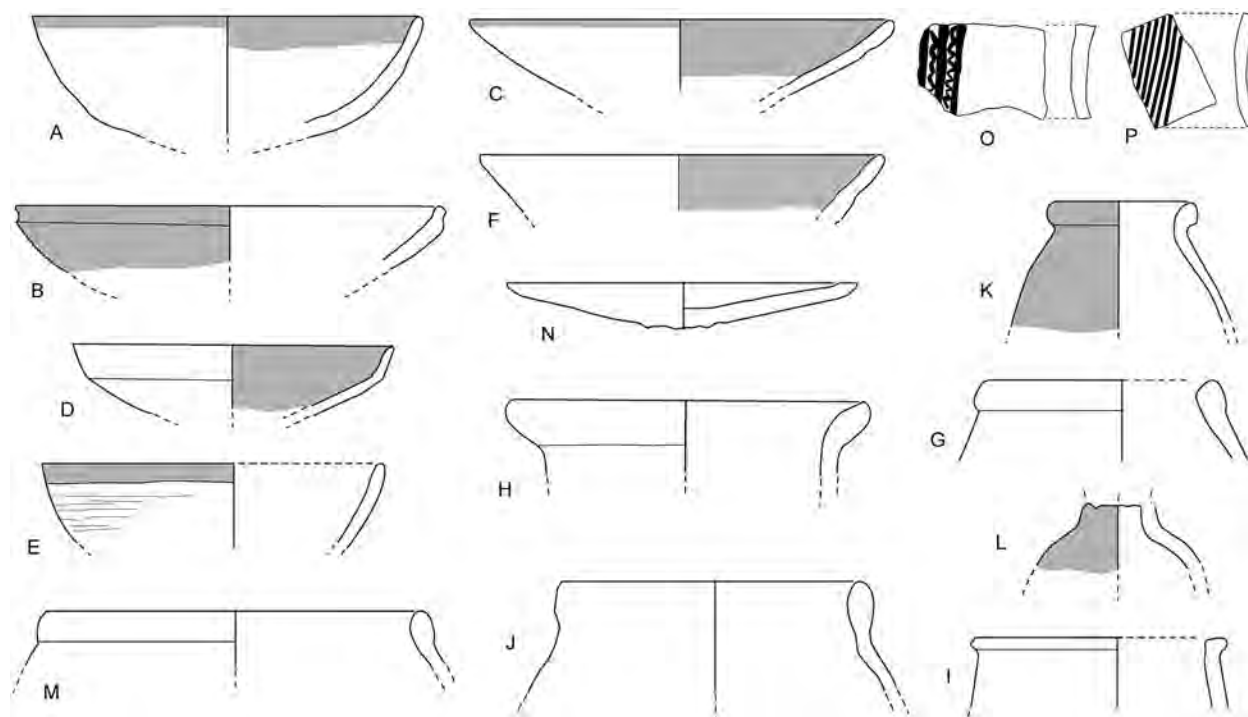


Figure 5.89 Pottery sample from [16-N-13] (scale 1:4).

Pottery (fig.5.89):

16-N-13/A. Bowl with direct rim, simple contour and round (?) base. Wheelmade. Soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on exterior rim and inside rim. Rim D:214mm.

16-N-13/B. Bowl with modelled rim, simple contour and round (?) base. Wheelmade. Soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on exterior surface and polished inside surface. Rim D:238mm.

16-N-13/C. Bowl with direct rim, simple contour and round (?) base. Wheelmade. Soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip exterior rim and inside surface. Rim D:234mm.

16-N-13/D. Bowl with direct rim, carinated contour and round (?) base. Wheelmade. Soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on inside surface. Rim D:178mm.

16-N-13/E. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, red ware. Matte red slipped exterior rim; inside surface smoothed. Rim D: ?

16-N-13/F. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade. Soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Red polished inside surface. Rim D:233mm.

16-N-13/G. Ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade. Soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Rim D: ?

16-N-13/H. Necked ovoid jar with modelled rim. Wheelmade. Red ware. Uncoated. Rim D:195mm.

16-N-13/I. Ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade. Soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Red polished rim and inside surface. Rim D: ?

16-N-13/J. Necked ovoid jar with modelled rim. Wheelmade. Ballas Ware (Marl B). Uncoated. Rim D:165mm.

16-N-13/K. Tall necked ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade. Soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped exterior. Rim D:78mm.

16-N-13/L. Tall necked ovoid jar. Wheelmade. Soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on exterior.

16-N-13/M. Jar with folded rim. Wheelmade. Soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Rim D: 210mm.

16-N-13/N. Incense burner with direct rim, simple contour and ring (?) base. Wheelmade (?). Soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Rim D:196mm.

16-N-13/O. Wheelmade. Qena ware (Marl A3). Black vertical lines painted on external surface.

16-N-13/P. Wheelmade. Qena ware (Marl A3). Black vertical lines painted on external surface.

The Egyptian pottery contains common types associated with Dynasty 18. The incense burner form is typical of this period while the decorated sherds suggest a mid-Dynasty 18 date. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: AJM IX: 125–126; No previous record. Site Photos: F/360: 8–12; F/361: 1–6. Air Photo: 633068. Investigated: 19–21/2/1967.

16-N-14 Workshop/Settlement

Duweishat East

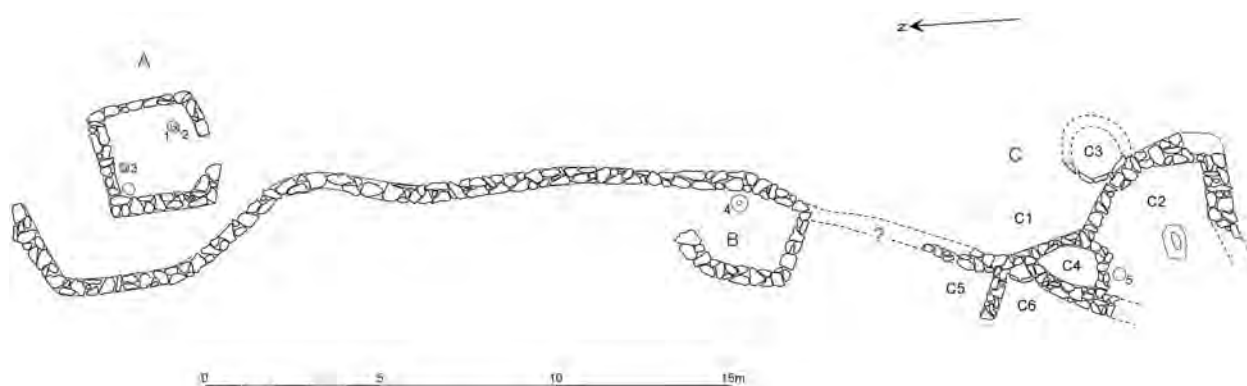


Figure 5.90 Plan of medieval structures (A,B) and remnants of workshop site (C) [16-N-14].

LOCATION: this site was located at the mouth of a wadi about 700m south of the village of Shuwerta. It lay c.100m east of the river bank, on a slight rise of fossil alluvium and gravel. There were further walls and stone structures, of unknown date, on higher ground to the north and northeast (fig.5.77).

DESCRIPTION: the site was largely destroyed. The remains of only three distinct structures were found and examined. The surface of the site was blown silt and sand that was littered with gravel, both basic and complex, and quartz. There are also many larger stones, both building stone and stone tools. The surface sherds were estimated at c.75% ‘Pharaonic’, largely ‘soft brown ware’, and c.25% medieval (‘Christian’), largely ‘hand-made red ware polished’ as well as sherds of qadus jars.

All the surviving structural remains were excavated. These lay along a low stone wall which ran parallel to the river along the lower rocky hill slopes for some distance north and south of this ‘site’. Structure A lay on its east side while Structure B was built against its west side. Structure A was a single room opening to the south. Near square, the walls were drystone built, and it had a

packed mud floor. The structure was built on fine fossil alluvium. In the floor were buried two pots (1, 2) placed upside down with part of a smashed handmade jar set in the floor in the northwest corner. A wheelmade bowl (3) was found on the floor near the middle of the north wall.

16-N-14/1. Handmade red ware pot; rough exterior but polished interior. Cracked and anciently repaired, Max D:261mm; H:189mm. Photos: C/068:9, C/084:35. SNM.19588. (fig.5.91)

16-N-14/2. Handmade red ware pot; rough exterior but polished interior. Small incised decoration below rim. Four small projecting lugs below rim. Max D:198mm; H:126mm. Photos: C/061:9, C/084:34, C/087:37. SNM.19549. (fig.5.91)

16-N-14/3. Bowl. Wheelmade, thin buff ware. Polished cream, incised and stamped central decoration and black painted design. Chipped rim. Rim D:155mm, H:40mm. Photos: C/061:19–20. SNM.19704. (fig.5.92)

‘B’ was also a single subrectangular room, with dry-built stone walls and packed mud floor. The door opened to the north. A pot (4) was half-sunk into the floor against the east wall (no other record of this vessel has been found). This room was also built directly onto the alluvium. No workshop debris underlay the northern part of the site and structures A or B. The sherds from these were almost 100% ‘Christian’ (medieval), and seem likely to be unrelated to the New Kingdom workshop (C).

‘Structure C’ lay to the south and appeared to be distinct, comprising the surviving elements of what had been a larger complex of workshop buildings. The walls were preserved to a height of no



Figure 5.91 Medieval pots (16-N-14/1–2) from Structure A.



Figure 5.92 Medieval bowl with stamped centrepiece and incised designs from Structure A (16-N-14/3).

more than c.40cm, slightly lower than the height of walls within structures A and B and the long wall. Whether it was directly connected to the longer wall was not confirmed. It was difficult to define actual rooms here as the walls were largely destroyed. C1 was a room/space on the northeast side while C3 was a large subcircular stone-lined bin on the east side. C2 opened to the south and was featureless except for a large grindstone on the floor.

A bowl (5, fig.5.93) was buried in the floor of C2 beside the north wall. C4 was a storage bin, probably opening to C2 at its southeast corner. There was a stone bin in the corner of C6, while



Figure 5.93 Bowl (16-N-14/5), from Structure C.

C5 was featureless. The fill of this area was a combination of blown silt and stones. Within the bins C3 and C4 were large quantities of 2mm³ quartz. The sherds from this area were entirely of 'Pharaonic' types apart from a single sherd of a red-polished black-topped (RP-BT) pottery.

16-N-14/5. Bowl with direct rim and flat base. Wheel-made, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red interior and exterior rim. D:202mm; H:78mm. Photo: C/059:20. SNM.19402.

16-N-14/A. Bowl with ring base. Wheel-made, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on interior surface. Base D:64mm.

16-N-14/B. Plate with direct rim. Wheel-made, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red interior surface and polished red slipped exterior. D:152mm.

16-N-14/C. Bowl with direct rim and ring base. Wheel-made, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped exterior rim and polished interior. D:120mm; H:45mm.

16-N-14/D. Bowl with modelled rim. Wheel-made, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped surfaces. D:243mm.

16-N-14/E. Necked ovoid jar with modelled rim. Wheelmade Qena ware (Marl A3). Uncoated. Rim D:90mm.

16-N-14/F. Necked ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade. Red ware. Uncoated. D:?

This pottery collection comprises types commonly found in Nubia during Dynasty 18. Bowls with a ring base are very typical of this period. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: AJM IX: 127–30. No previous record of this site. No site photographs. Air Photo: 633068. Investigated: 25/2/1967.

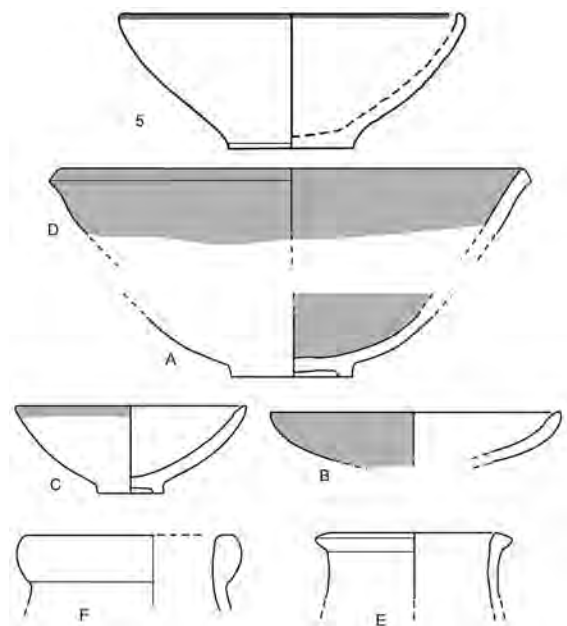


Figure 5.94 Pottery from area of [16-N-14] Structure C (scale 1:4).

16-N-24 Structures

Duweishat West

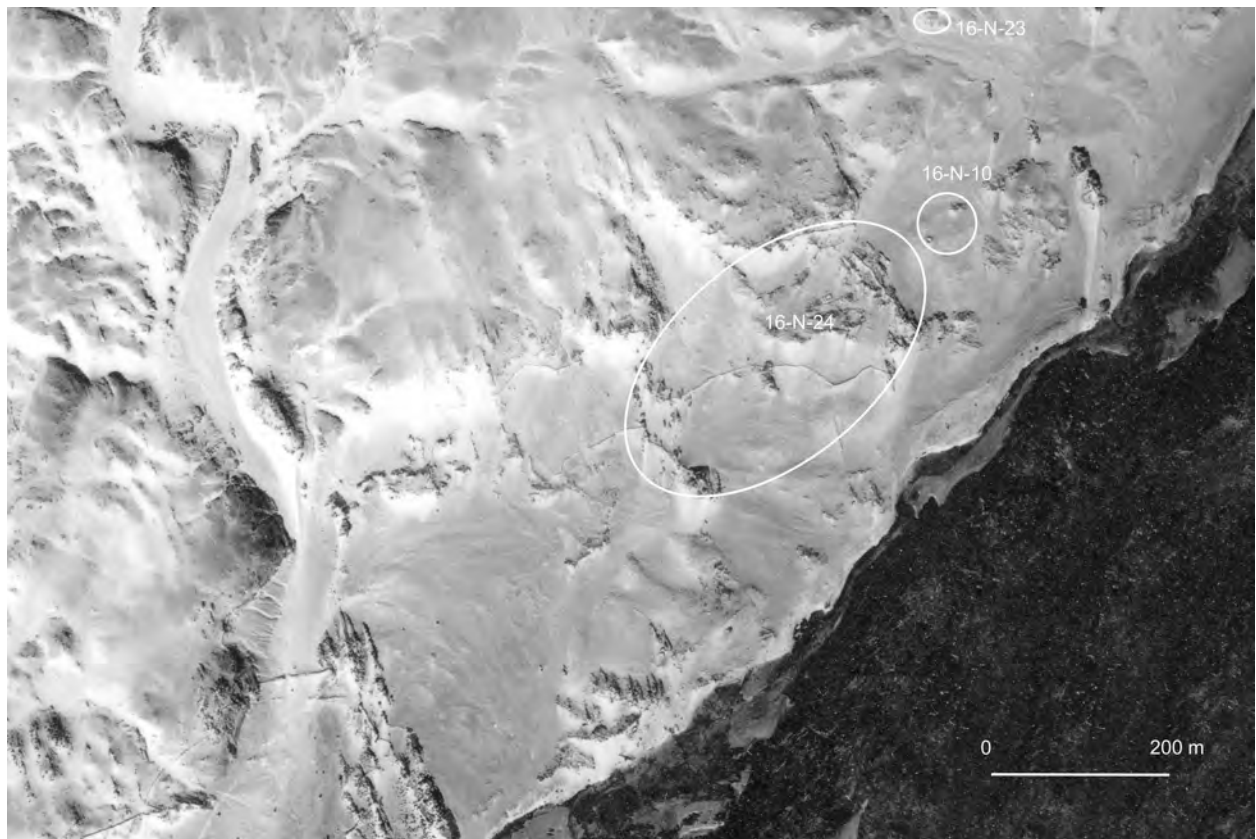


Figure 5.95 Location of stone structures [16-N-24] and nearby sites, including several ‘game-drive’ walls.



Figure 5.96 View to southwest over structure (‘House 1’) of [16-N-24] under excavation. Long wall running westwards visible on lower slope.

LOCATION: this site lay on the west bank just downstream of Kumuki island. It was located c.1.5km southwest of the hamlet of Farri with most structures no less than 200m from the river bank, on lower slopes overlooking a broad embayment along the river bank.

DESCRIPTION: the site consisted of not more than 15 stone-built structures scattered across an area of c.400m x 250m mainly amongst low rocky

outcrops, with no obvious plan. The structures were all built of rough local stones, most with no evidence for the use of mortar or plaster. Where investigated floors appeared to be bare bedrock levelled up with mud and rubble. They were built directly on bedrock and seldom survived more than 75cm high. Rooms were filled to the tops of these walls with blown sand and some fallen debris. There were not many sherds in the fill. Of these an estimated 95% were ‘Pharaonic’ with some



Figure 5.97 ‘House 1’ under excavation.



Figure 5.98 Test excavation within [16-N-24] looking to northwest.



Figure 5.99 Test excavation within [16-N-24].



Figure 5.100 Test excavation within [16-N-24].

occasional medieval ('Christian') sherds. In one subrectangular structure (House I) a 'Christian' jar was found buried in the floor, providing evidence of some medieval use of at least some of these structures.

Some sherds were later identified as medieval coarsewares (Adams wares U5 and U6) as well as an unidentified 'heavy brown ware vessel with a thin matte exterior wash and embossed and black-and-red painted decoration'. The structures commonly comprised two or more adjoining rooms, but not often interconnecting. A long dry-stone wall was also noted running through the area. Aerial

photographs show several stretches of 'game-drive' walls around this area, as well as to the south, in places masked by drifting sand. The medieval occupation may relate to a small cemetery [16-N-10] to the northeast. A small 'C-Group' cemetery [21-N-23] was identified c.500m to the northeast, on slightly higher ground.

DOCUMENTATION: AJM XI: 53–4. No previous record of this site. Site Photos: F/377:4–7; F/378:6–12. Air Photos: 623123, 633067. Investigated: 24–26/12/1967.

16-S-7 Workshop**Duweishat East**

LOCATION: this site was located on a fairly high rise between two khors. It is some 200m east of the river bank and c.1150m upriver from Shuwerta.

DESCRIPTION: this was quite a small site and most of it had been destroyed. The whole area covered by the site was c.30m x 40m. The surface was covered with blown silt-sand littered with quartz gravel of various sizes (2cm³ and 2mm³), local stones and rocks (probably from buildings) as well as granitic mortars, grinders etc. There were not many sherds on the surface, but these were almost entirely soft brown bowls.

The surviving structures comprised a cluster of four adjoining rooms/spaces (fig.5.101), although Rooms 3 and 4 were connected. Room 1 was a large featureless room covering the entire east side of the structural remains, with an entrance at the south end. Room 2 abutted the south end of Room 1. It had no internal features. Room 3 was a small room accessed from Room 4. There was a mud-lined oval pit c.0.85m x 1m cut into the floor. Room 4 was a larger but featureless area opening to the west.

The dry stone walls of the structure were built directly onto bedrock. Floor surfaces were a combination of rock and packed mud. The fill was largely blown silt-sand with some fallen rubble. There was also the same quartz gravel and small fragments of tailings, commonly encountered in these workshop sites. The sherds in the fill were estimated to comprise c.85% soft brown ware, with a few Qena and harder red ware pieces and a few sherds of possibly 'Nubian' handmade vessels. There were also a number of large granite mortars, grinders and many stone pounders. The only other finds were c.40 pierced mud cylinders (1), recovered from Rooms 1 and 3, and some ostrich eggshell beads (2) found in Room 4.

Finds:

16-S-7/A. Plate with modelled rim. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Impressed decoration. Rim D:330mm.

16-S-7/B. Necked ovoid jar with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on exterior. Rim D:96mm.

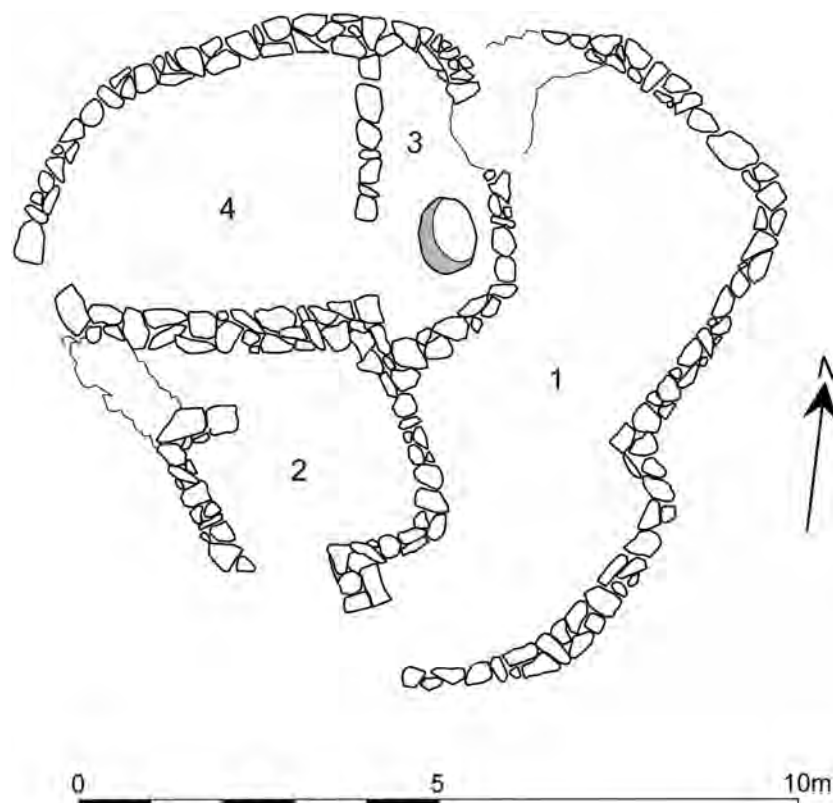


Figure 5.101 Plan of excavated area within [16-S-7].

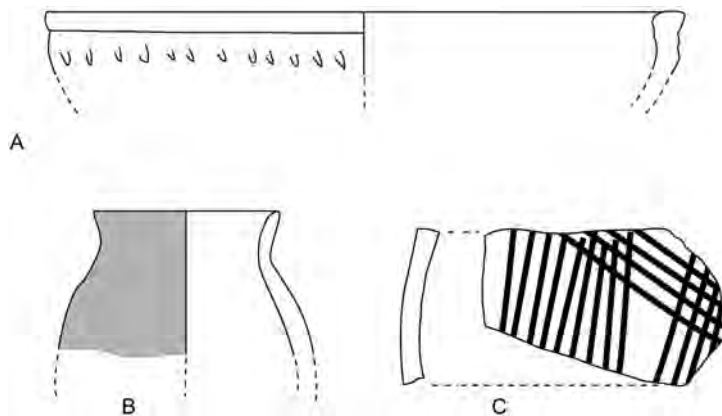


Figure 5.102 Pottery from [16-S-7].

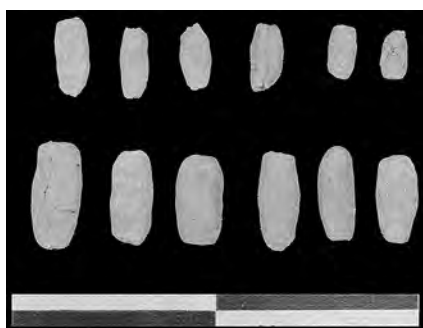


Figure 5.103 Clay cylinders (16-S-7/1).



Figure 5.104 Beads (16-S-7/2).

16-S-7/C. Wheelmade red ware. Wall sherd from jar with black painted lines.

16-S-7/1. 40 mud/clay cylinders, pierced. Possibly lightly fired? L:c.50mm; D:c.10mm. Photo: C/063:24. SNM.19408. (fig.5.103)

16-S-7/2. Ostrich eggshell disc beads: 7 large (D: 15mm) and 2 small (D:5mm). Photo: C/067:12. SNM.19400. (fig.5.104)

Such pottery types are common in Nubia during Dynasty 18. The decorated sherd is typical of the middle of Dynasty 18. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: AJM IX: 133–4. No site photos. Air Photo: 633067. Investigated: 22–3/2/1967.

16-S-8 Workshop**Duweishat East**

LOCATION: this site was located on a sloping rocky hillside c.1400m upriver from the hamlet of Shuwerta (*Showerta*), and c.275m from the river bank. Much of the upper part of the site appears to survive above water level (2017).

DESCRIPTION: this was by far the largest of the Egyptian workshop sites encountered, with surface scatters extending over c.200m east-west x 100m north-south. The surface was blown silt-sand and was thick with 2cm³ quartz gravel and rocks and stones. In many places stone walls were still exposed on the surface. Surface scatters of sherd material were quite abundant, all ‘wheel-made, mostly soft brown ware’, along with numerous ‘granitic mortars’, grinders and grindstones. Only one small area of c.10m² was tested by excavation (fig.5.107). This confirmed the generally good conditions of preservation.

The exploratory excavation exposed seven areas/rooms, two of which contained a number

of stone-lined bins and other features. In Room 1 there was a work area on the north side with a rectangular bin and a small subcircular pit. The ground in this area has been plastered with tailings. An orthostat on the east side has a hole pierced through it (fig.5.109). At the southwest corner (leading to ‘Room 3’) was a large stone-lined pit, 65cm deep. The pit was largely covered and accessed through a small entrance hole in its northeast corner; it was filled with blown sand.

Room 2 was accessed from Room 1. In the southeast corner was a bin surrounded by a slightly raised platform (fig.5.112). The bottom of the bin was plastered with tailings. At the north side of the room was a square raised structure/platform. The exterior was built with flat stones, its interior filled with rubble and then plastered over with mud; a similar structure – a quernstone emplacement – was found at site [11-Q-62, Room1]. Further orthostats were set into the west side of the floor (fig.5.111).



Figure 5.105 Location of [16-S-8] on hilltop at south end of Duweishat. Several further (unregistered) clusters of structures are visible further east.



Figure 5.106 Unexcavated surface within area of [16-S-8] with stone alignments and quantities of quartz debris visible on surface (view towards west).

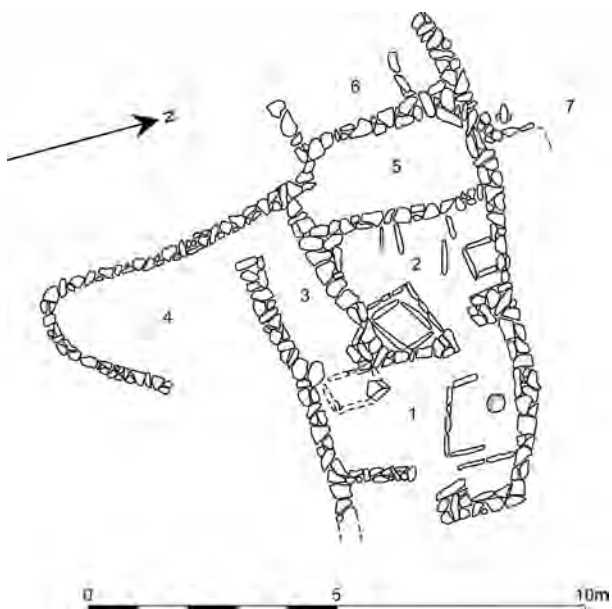


Figure 5.107 Plan of area of test excavation within [16-S-8].



Figure 5.108 Room 1 in [16-S-8] looking north across room towards work space and pit against north wall and entrance to subfloor bin on left.



Figure 5.109 Work place with pierced orthostat and other features in Room 1 (looking west).



Figure 5.110 Entrance to subfloor stone-lined bin in Room 1 [16-S-8].



Figure 5.111 Stone features in floor of Room 2, [16-S-8] (looking towards south wall).



Figure 5.112 Plastered stone-lined bin with raised surround in southeast corner of Room 2, [16-S-8].



Figure 5.113 Mud plastered feature, probably a quern emplacement, Room 2, [16-S-8].



Figure 5.114 View east along Room 3 [16-S-8] to hilltop beyond.

Room 3 was a featureless corridor (fig.5.114) linking Room 1 and Room 4; the latter area being largely destroyed. Room 5 was thought likely to have been a large storage area, as it appeared not to have any entranceway, while it was thought possible that its west wall may never have been much higher than its preserved height of c.40cm. The western area of Room 6 and Room 7 to the



Figure 5.115 Bin area with some surviving plastered floor at north end of Room 6 [16-S-8].



Figure 5.116 Chert blade (16-S-8/1).

north remained undefined the former having a mud-plastered bin in one corner, the latter being featureless.

Small find:

16-S-8/1: 'chert' blade. L:65mm. Photo: C/062:33. SNM.19405. (fig.5.116)

Samples of sherds were recorded (fig.5.117) from test excavation, but no pottery finds were registered.

16-S-8/A. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Red polished surfaces. D:204mm.

16-S-8/B. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Interior smoothed. D:202mm.

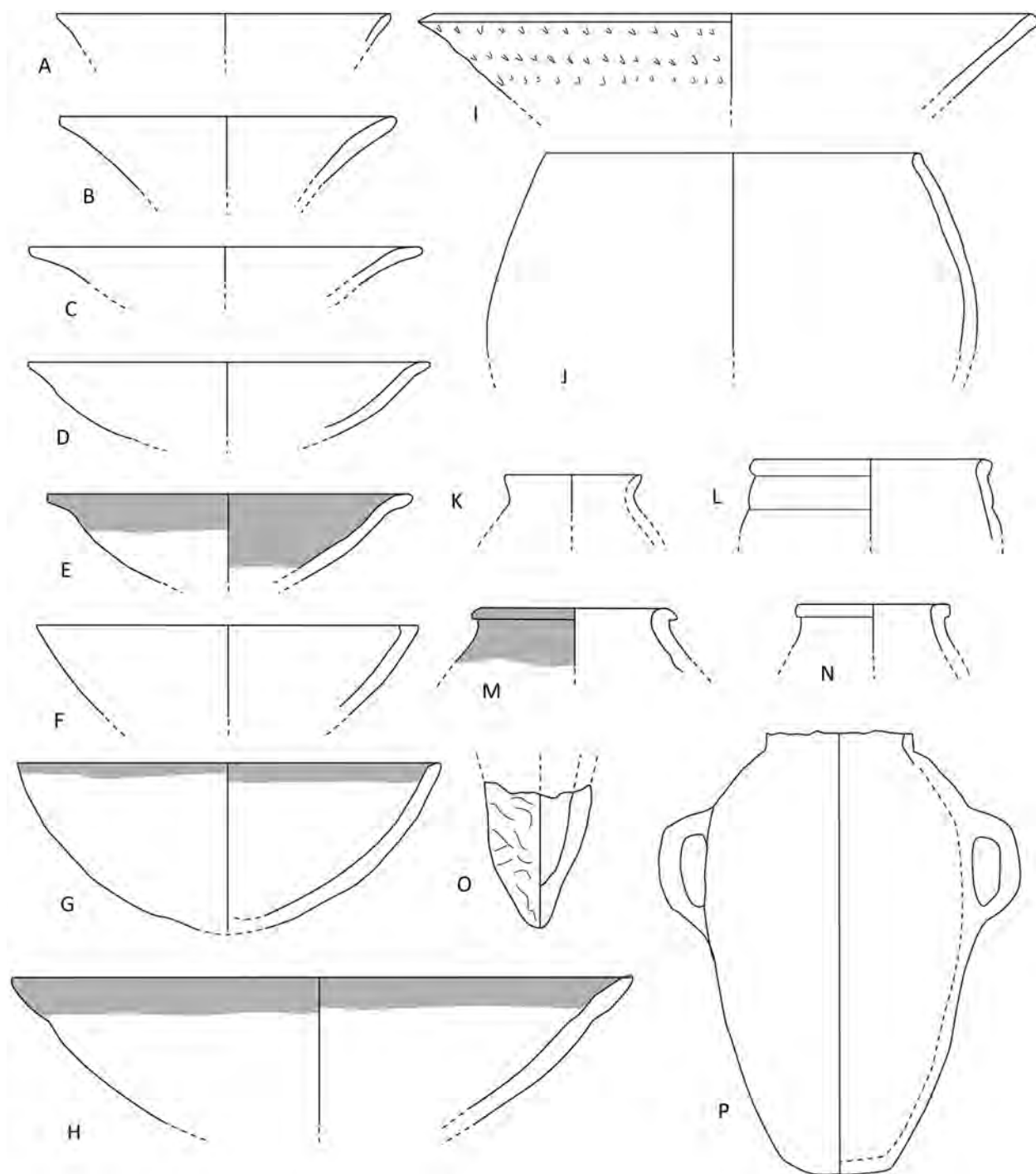


Figure 5.117 Pottery sample from test excavation of (16-S-8). (Scale 1:4)

16-S-8/C. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Red polished surfaces. D:234mm.

16-S-8/D. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, red-brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped interior and outside rim. D:246mm.

16-S-8/E. Bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slipped interior and outside rim. D:222mm.

16-S-8/F. Bowl with modelled rim. Wheelmade, red-brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Rim D:230mm.

16-S-8/G. Cup with direct rim and rounded base. Wheelmade, red ware. Matte red slip on inside and outside of rim. D:258mm.

16-S-8/H. Plate, with direct rim. Wheelmade, brown ware (Nile silt?). Polished inside surface. D:375mm.

16-S-8/I. Plate, with direct rim. Wheelmade, red ware. Uncoated. Impressed decoration on exterior surface. D:366mm.

16-S-8/J. Jar. Handmade red-brown ware. Polished exterior. Rim D:228mm.

16-S-8/K. Necked ovoid jar with direct rim. Wheelmade, brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Rim D:88mm.

16-S-8/L. Slender necked jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, brown ware (Nile silt?). Red polished exterior surface. Rim D:141mm.

16-S-8/M. Necked jar with modelled rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on exterior surface. Rim D:112mm.

16-S-8/N. Ovoid jar with modelled rim. Probably wheelmade (not described). Rim D:92mm.

16-S-8/O. Bread mould. Soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. H: >90mm.

16-O-8/P. Slender ovoid amphora. Wheelmade. Ballas ware (Marl B). Uncoated. Max D: 165mm; H: >270mm.

This range of pottery contains many types common through much of the New Kingdom (Dynasties 18–20). However the amphora (16-O-8/P) form may be more closely dated to the reign of Ramesses II. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: AJM IX: 135–136. Site Photos: F/362:1–11. Air Photo: 633068. Investigated: 23–25/2/1967.

16-S-2 Workshops

Duweishat East

LOCATION: this site comprised two small elements c.100m apart. They were both c.80m from the river. The northern one was approximately opposite the north end of Kumaki (*Kumakka*) Island, the southern one is about very close (c.15m) to the medieval site [16-S-1].

DESCRIPTION: the two areas were registered as a single site as they were so similar, and thought likely to be associated. The surfaces were littered with many small granite stones and gravel and a lot of quartz stones and pebbles. There are a number of mortars/grinders of both types. The area of the northern site was about 35m x 25m,

and the southern 25m x 20m. There was considerably more pottery on the southern site (although it was sparse even there) and many more mortars, which suggested some difference (in function, or longevity?). There did not appear to be any structural remains. A test pit was sunk in the southern site, revealing about 55cm of debris mixed with alluvium. No further excavation was thought warranted.

DOCUMENTATION: AJM III:103. No site photos or other records. Air Photos: 633066, 328237. Investigated: 10/3/1964.

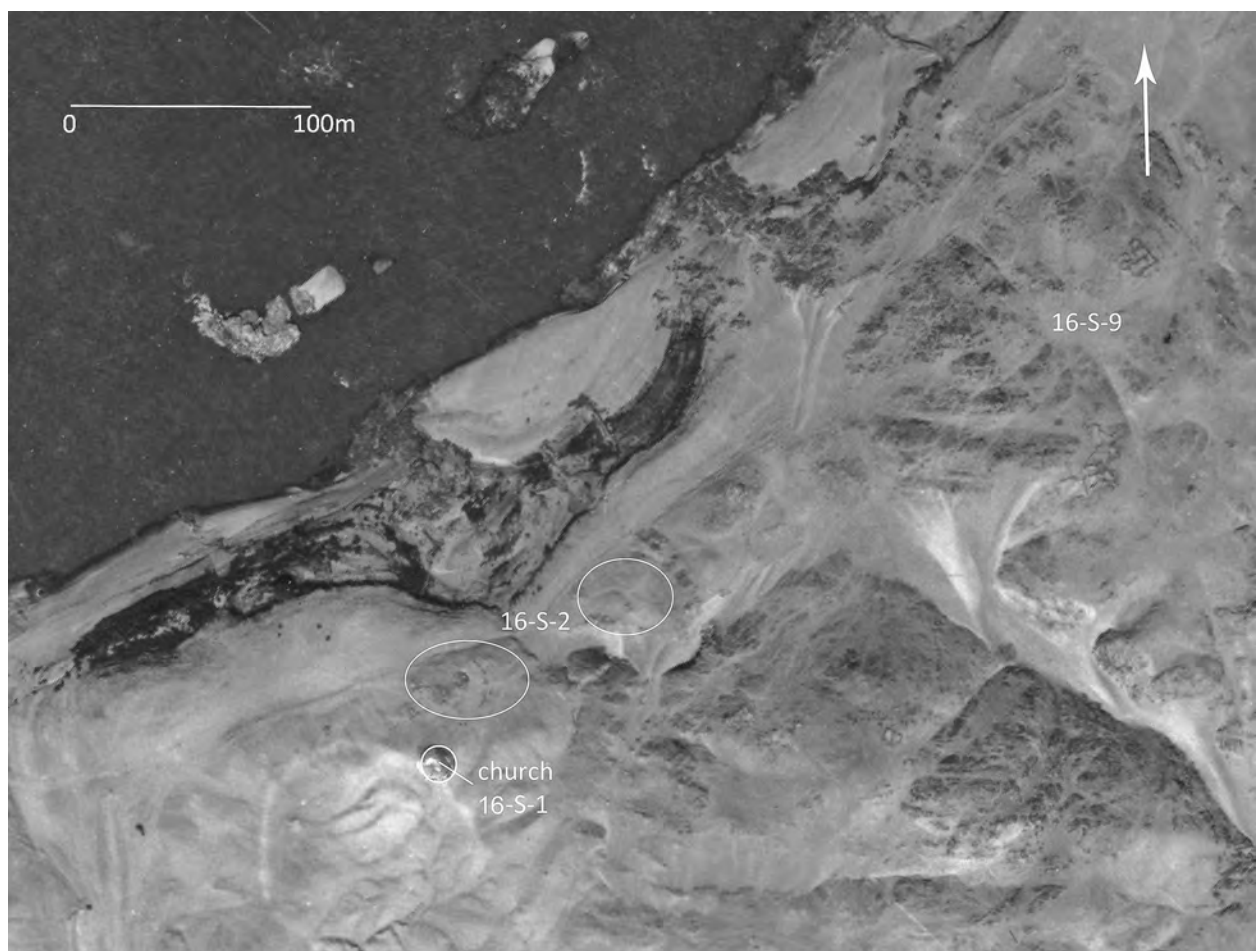


Figure 5.118 Location of [16-S-2] with further workshop sites [16-S-9] on high ground to east.

16-S-9 Settlement/Workshops

Duweishat

LOCATION: this extensive site, or cluster of sites, was located on the east bank towards the south end of Duweishat, just downstream of Kumuki (*Kumakka*) island. A series of at least eight structures/building complexes were identified scattered over the lower slopes of the east bank hills, over an area of about 400m along the river and c.150m (east-west), generally no more than 100–250m from the river bank. These may be linked with workshop sites of [16-S-8] to the north and [16-S-2] just to south. Several of these complexes are identifiable on air photographs (figs 5.119–120), while further (unrecorded) sites exist further away for the river in these hills, many still surviving (2017).

DESCRIPTION: tests were made on a few of these structures and one complex was excavated completely (fig.5.123). The tests revealed fills largely of blown silt-sand with only limited occupation debris close to their mud floors. Walls in general survived to a height of c.50–100cm. They were recorded as being of dry-stone construction, using rough local boulder stones. In general, the

structures have half a dozen rooms, although some were rather larger. Sherds found over the whole site were predominantly ‘soft-brown ware’ bowls with occasional ‘red ware’ and marl ‘Kena’ sherds.

The completely excavated building (House I) was one of the southernmost of these (fig.5.120). Some 16 separate rooms or areas were delineated. The walls, as those in the other houses, were dry-built with rough local stone, resting on bedrock. Preservation varied from a single course to c.125cm. Floors in all areas comprised a thin layer of mud packed on to bedrock. The surface of the surrounding area was a litter of stones and gravel with a fill layer of blown silt. The walls of the building stood above the surface. The fill was uniform throughout, a great deal of blown silt filling the rooms to wall tops, and then a small amount of debris near the floors which comprised some fallen stones, a few sherds, some heavy ore grinding tools and some quartz (all sizes). In all rooms except 1, 2 and 9, the ore crushing tools were found, but never in the quantity normally found in some other workshops.

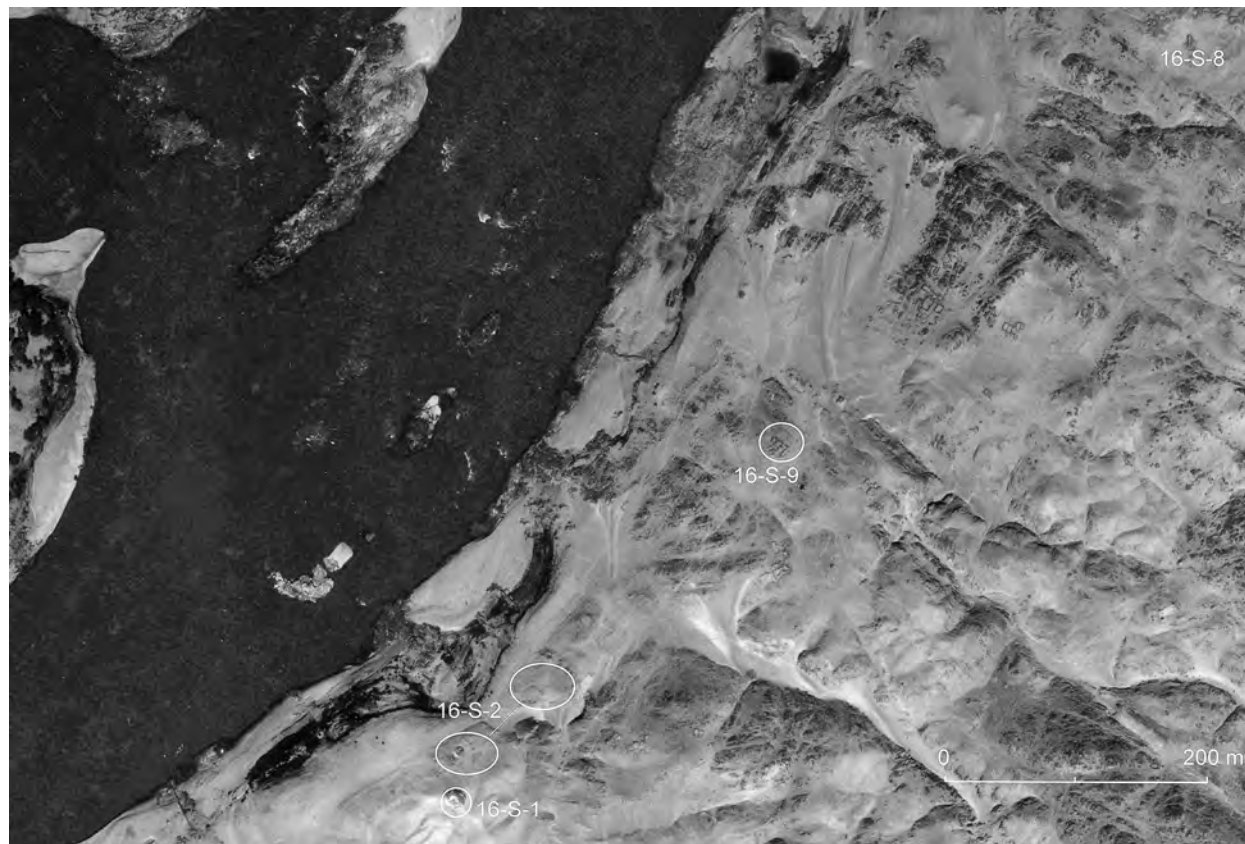


Figure 5.119 Location of [16-S-9] and nearby sites.

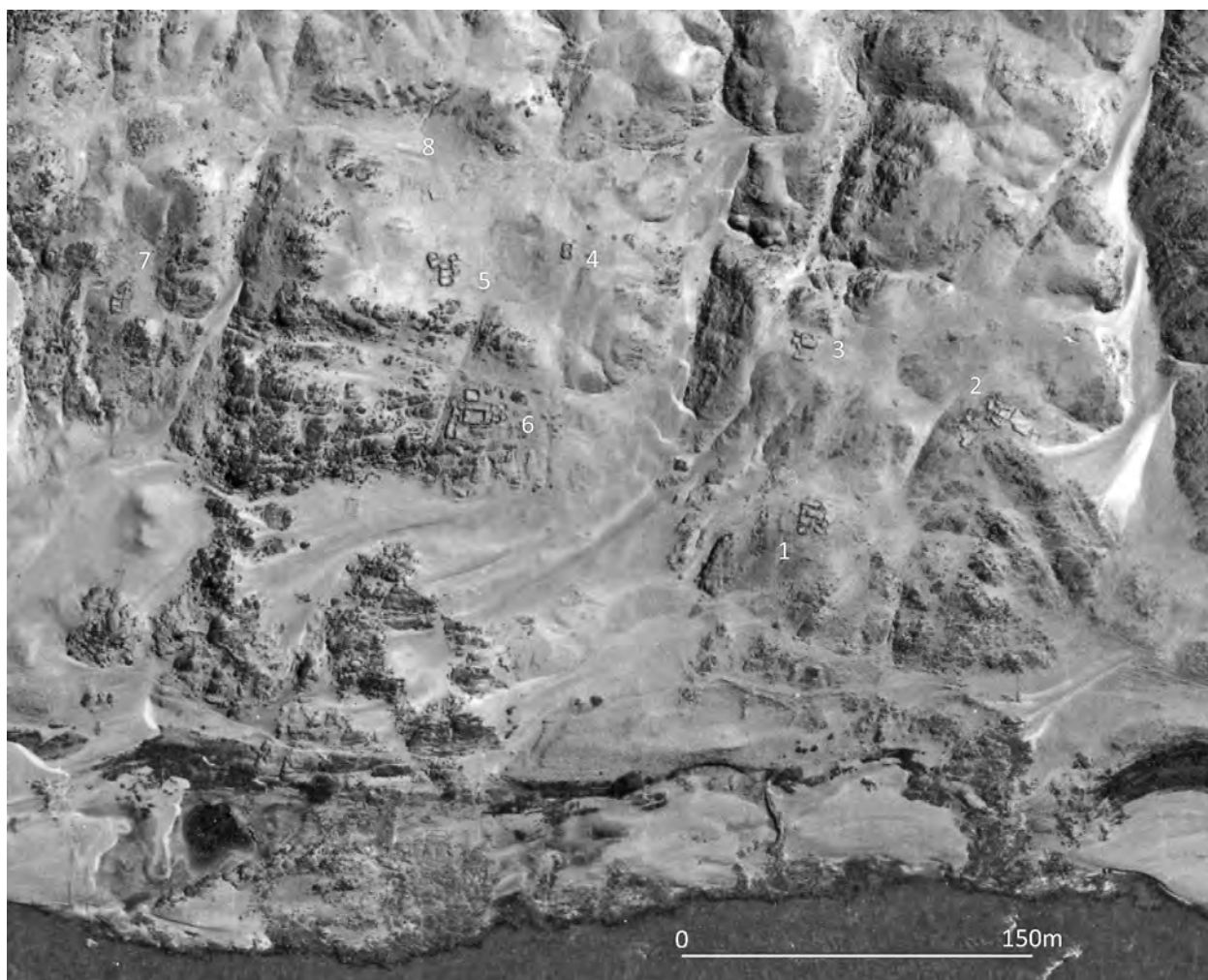


Figure 5.120 Detail of main components of [16-S-9], with test excavation (1) and other structures (2–8). Air photograph taken when Nile levels falling.



Figure 5.121 View along north wall of Room 6 with stone bins and pit (centre).



Figure 5.122 Southwest corner of Room 6 with bin, and grindstones; looking west with river, islands and west bank beyond.

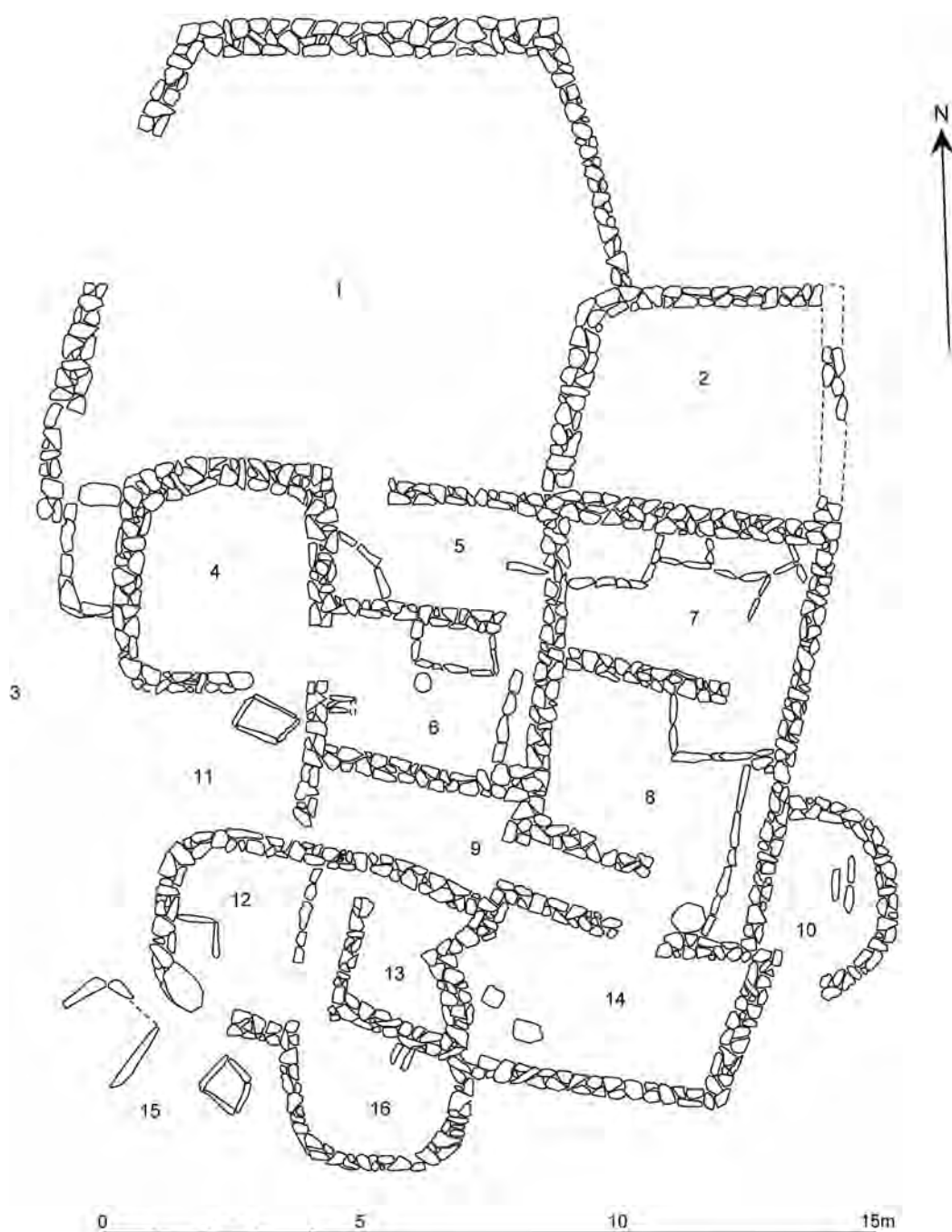


Figure 5.123 Plan of [16-S-9] building complex (House 1).

Rooms 1 and 2 were at the north side of the building and did not connect. These may have been used as yards/storage areas, as the walls were low. Room 1 was considered too large to have been roofed. Room 3 was an undefined open area on the west side and included a low bin built against the wall of Room 4. Rooms 4, 5 and 6 were interconnecting and form a single unit. Room 4 had access to Room 6. It contained no internal features but two grinders were found within

it. Also accessed from Room 1 on its north side, Room 5 was linked to Room 6. It contained a bin constructed from grinders in its southwest corner while part of another bin survived in its northeast corner. Room 6 contained several further features, with a narrow bin along its east wall, a low rectangular bin against the north wall and a deep bin built with used grindstones against its west wall. There was a pit, c.25cm deep (a posthole?), near the centre of the floor. In the exterior space of



Figure 5.124 Stone-lined bin in Room11
(entrance to Room 4); looking south.



Figure 5.125 Stone features (bins?) along north wall of
Room 7.



Figure 5.126 Stone features (bins?) along east wall of Room 8.



Figure 5.127 Stone features (bins?) on east side of Room 8.

Room 11, just outside Rooms 4 and 6 there was a rectangular stone-lined bin, 43cm deep (fig.5.124). There were significant accumulations of crushed quartz tailings surrounding this bin as well as some within it.

On the east side of the complex, Room 7 was accessed through Room 8. It contained a deep

stone-lined bin dug into the northwest corner, and four other low bins built of flat stones along its north wall. In Room 8 there was a low narrow bin built against the east wall. A further low, rectangular bin was built against the north wall, blocking the entrance to Room 7. There was a mud-lined shallow pit near the southeast corner.



Figure 5.128 View east into corridor Room 9.



Figure 5.129 Room 14 with Room 8 beyond.

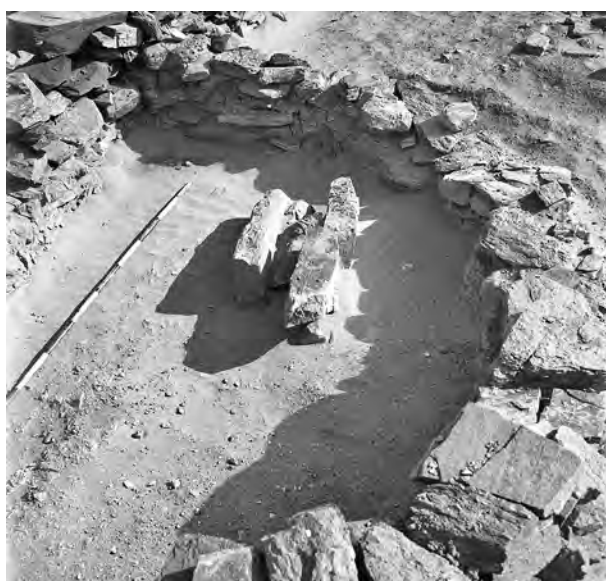


Figure 5.130 Grinder setting in Room 10 on east side of complex.



Figure 5.131 Stone-lined bin, with stone base, in Room 15, at southwest side of site.

These rooms were accessed from Room 9 which formed an access corridor from the west. At its west end a low wall divided it from Room 11 (fig.5.128). The test excavations did not confirm whether this might have been that the remains of a (earlier?) dismantled wall.

Room 14 (fig.5.129) opened into the Room 9 corridor. There were two small pits, c.25cm deep, cut into its floor. Three grinders, one pestle and several manos were found within the room. Room 10 was built onto the eastern exterior of Room 8 and contained an in-situ ‘grinder stand’ of three stone blocks (fig.5.130).

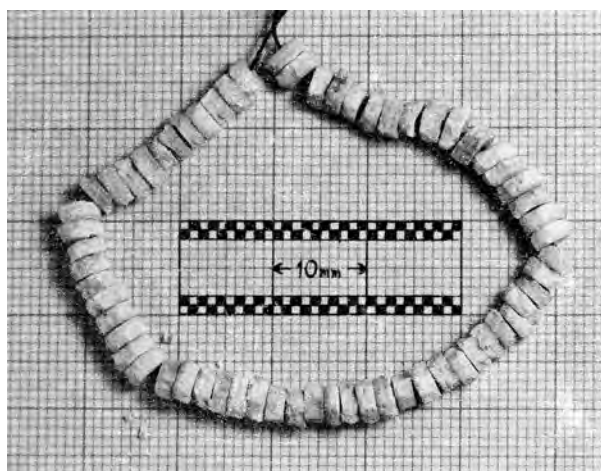


Figure 5.132 Bone beads (16-S-9/1), restrung.

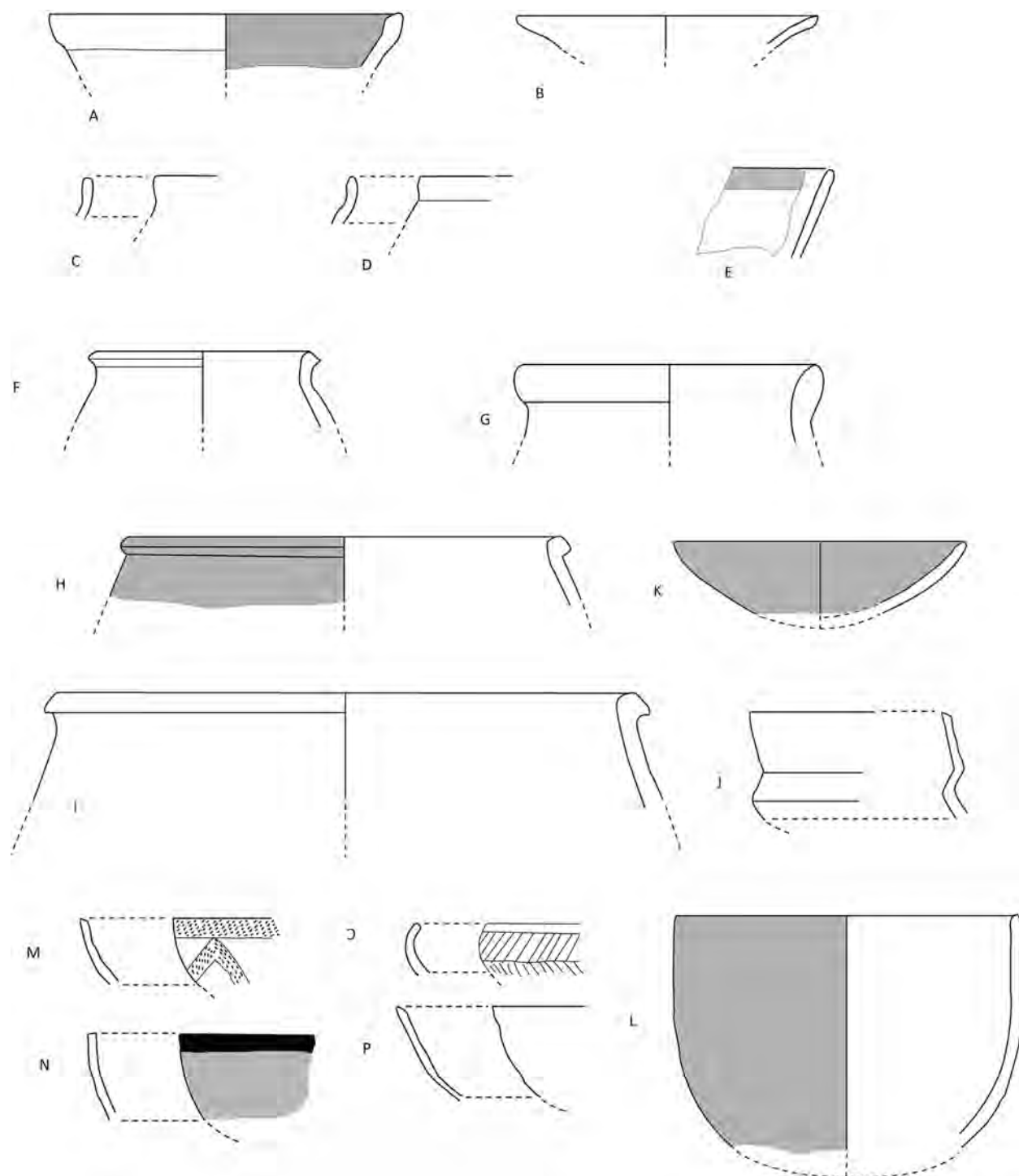


Figure 5.133 Pottery sample from [16-S-9].

The southwest part of the site was formed of three interconnecting rooms (Rooms 12, 13, 16) opening out into the undefined area of Room 15. There, there was another stone-lined, sunken bin, 40cm deep, similar to that in Room 11, as well as a second, large free-standing stone bin. Room 12 had

a short low wall dividing the room into two. There was also a rectangular bin built of used grinders against the west wall. This led into Room 13 which was featureless, although part of a grinder was found in this area. Room 16 had another in-situ 'grinder stand' against its north wall.

Finds:

16-S-9/1. Beads (55). Bone disc beads, crudely cut (fig.5.132). D:c.4mm. Photo: C/082:30. SNM.19392.

16-S-9/A. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Red polished slip on interior. D:200mm.

16-S-9/B. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. D:184mm.

16-S-9/C. Necked jar with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated.

16-S-9/D. Necked jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated.

16-S-9/E. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Red slipped exterior rim.

16-S-9/F. Necked jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, red ware. Uncoated. D:135mm.

16-S-9/G. Necked jar with modelled rim. Wheelmade, red ware. Uncoated. D:182mm.

16-S-9/H. Jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red slip on outside surface. D:270mm.

16-S-9/I. Tall jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. D:360mm.

16-S-9/J. Carinated bowl with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated.

16-S-9/K. Bowl with direct rim and rounded base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Polished slipped surfaces. D:180mm.

16-S-9/L. Large bowl with direct rim and rounded base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Matte red-slipped exterior. D:210mm.

Some handmade pottery was also noted, with a range of bowls, some decorated.

16-S-9/M. Bowl. Handmade grey ware. Polished interior and comb-impressed decoration on exterior. Poorly fired.

16-S-9/N. Bowl. Handmade, red-polished ware with black rim.

16-S-9/O. Bowl. Handmade red ware. Incised decoration.

16-S-9/P. Bowl. Handmade red-polished ware; thin walls ('crude').

This pottery includes types common in Nubia during Dynasties 18 and 19. The carinated bowl form is quite common. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: AJM IX: 143–46. Site Photos: F/369:11–12, F/370:1–10. Records only for House I test excavations. Air photo: 633067. Investigated: 25–27/2/1967.



Figure 5.134 View east across north of [16-S-9] test excavation, with locations of other structures indicated on higher ground.

16-V-22 Inscription**Melik en Nasr West**

LOCATION: this was amongst a group of five rock drawing stations on a ridge which reached the river opposite the eastern end of Turmukki island. This lay at the west end of an area of rocks in which was located a large site complex [16-V-23], which included scattered structures as well as two cemeteries, the latter including Meroitic and medieval and perhaps more recent burials. This inscription (1) was located on the west side of the ridge “about $\frac{3}{4}$ way up to the mountain top,

facing the sand desert behind Turmuki island”.

DESCRIPTION: the inscription was in two vertical lines c.50cm high. Beside it was a very schematic horned animal, perhaps a bovine.

DOCUMENTATION: no previous record. No hand copy. Gez I: 63–65; Site Photos: F/427: 12, F/428: 1. Air Photos: 625149; 328233. Investigated 15/2/1968.

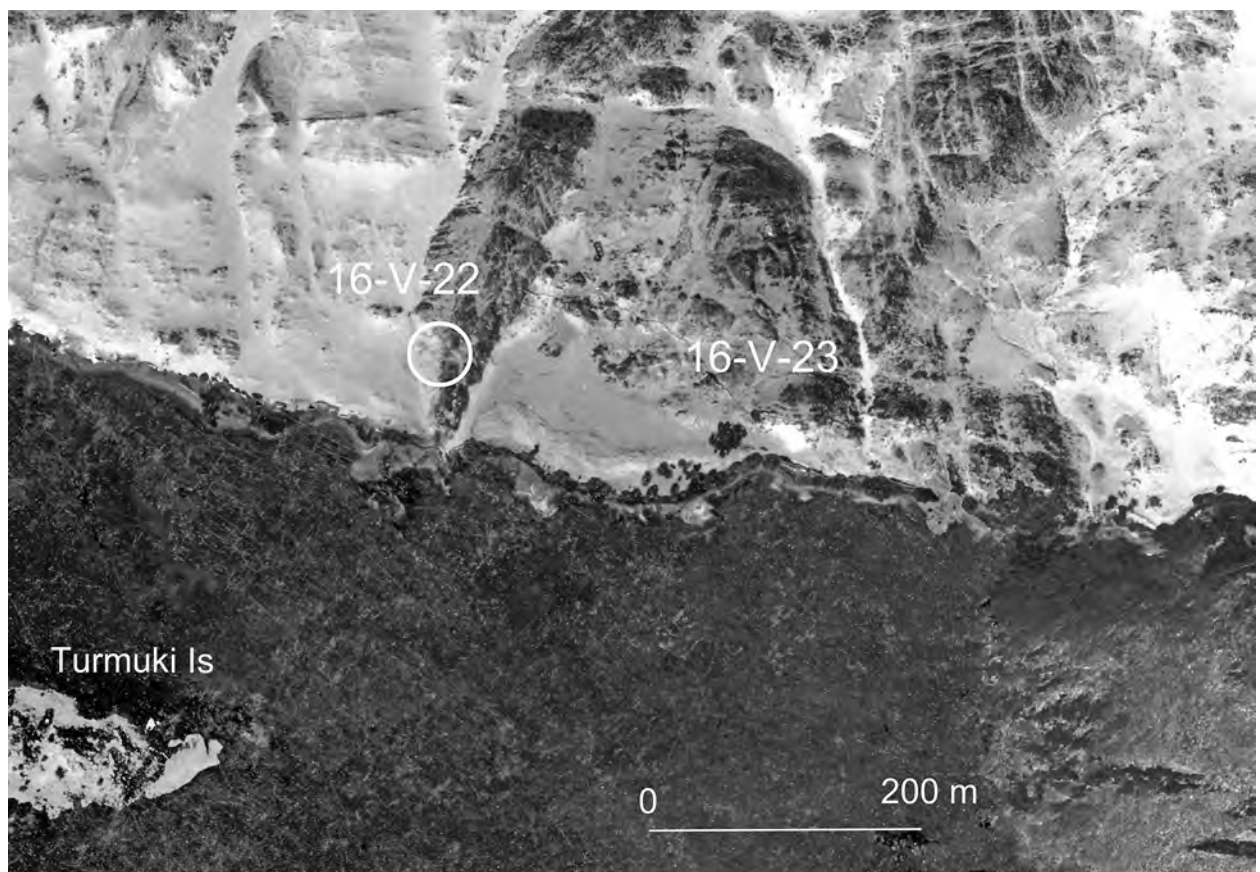


Figure 5.135 Location of inscription amongst rock drawings (16-V-22).

The Egyptian Rock Inscription [16-V-22/1]

W.V. Davies

The inscription consists of two columns, some elements of which are very difficult to read. The column on the right records the presence at the site of Nesmontju, may he live, prosper and be healthy, (son of ?) [name unclear]'; the one on the left that of 'Maf (?), may he live, prosper and be healthy, (son of) Intef, (son of) Nebuhotep'. Date: Middle Kingdom, probably Twelfth Dynasty. The

names Intef and Nesmontju are commonplace; for the less usual 'Maf' (*m^cf*) in other Nubian rock-inscriptions of the period, cf. Žába 1974, 96, no 71, figs 141–142; 181, no. 179, figs 302–303; 213, no. 227, figs 358–360; Gratien 1991, 78; and for Nebuhotep, Žába 1974, 36–37, no. 6, figs 17–18; and 56–58, no. 28h, fig. 58; Gratien 1991, 99 and 133.

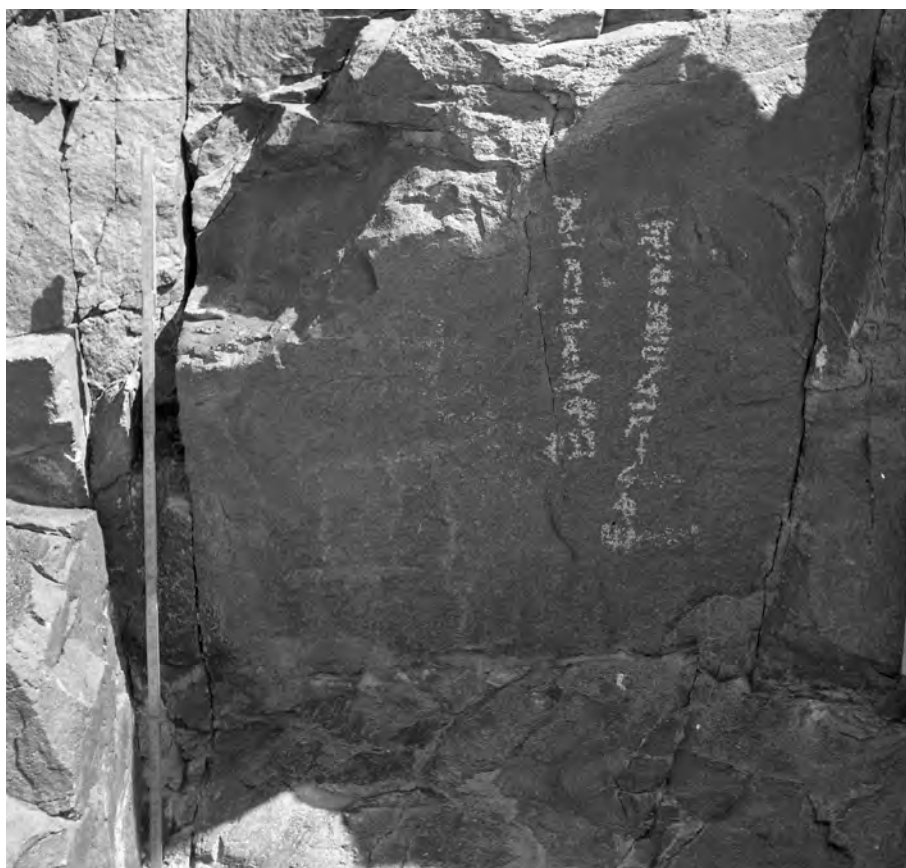


Figure 5.136 Inscription (16-V-22/1).

16-U-46 Settlement**Melik en Nasr West**

LOCATION: this site was on the first terrace west of the Nile opposite a point some 200m downstream of the hamlet of Sahaba, the only modern settlement in this area. It was approximately 100m from the river bank just beside (upstream of) a sandy basin.

DESCRIPTION: the site consisted of a number of stone-walled rooms in an area some 25m (north-south) x 11m (east-west). There were c.10 rooms and one open area (4), all more or less contiguous, some interconnecting. The surface of the site was blown sand, through which some of the walls were showing, amongst a surface scatter of stones and larger rocks and sherds and outcrops of bedrock. Pottery included 'RT-BP, soft-brown ware, wheel-made red ware, hand-made red polished heavy ware and Kena ware' sherds; on which basis this site was identified as 'Pharaonic'. There was, however,

some partial medieval ('Christian') re-occupation, probably relating to other settlement in the same general area and further east, registered as [16-U-47] However, most of the rooms, with the possible exception of Rooms 7 and 11, appeared to have been part of this earlier occupation.

The fill down to bedrock or clean yellow sand, was fairly even in texture and content, from top to bottom, although it was perhaps looser towards the surface. It was a mixture of sand, organic matter, ash (generally concentrated) and charcoal, sherds and stones. Some ash areas were up to 25cm deep. Sherds of medieval ('Christian') vessels were generally found in the upper fill, and never below the floor shown in the section. Floors, where preserved, were of packed mud, but no lower floors were found below the fills below the main floors, although some walls continued beneath these levels.

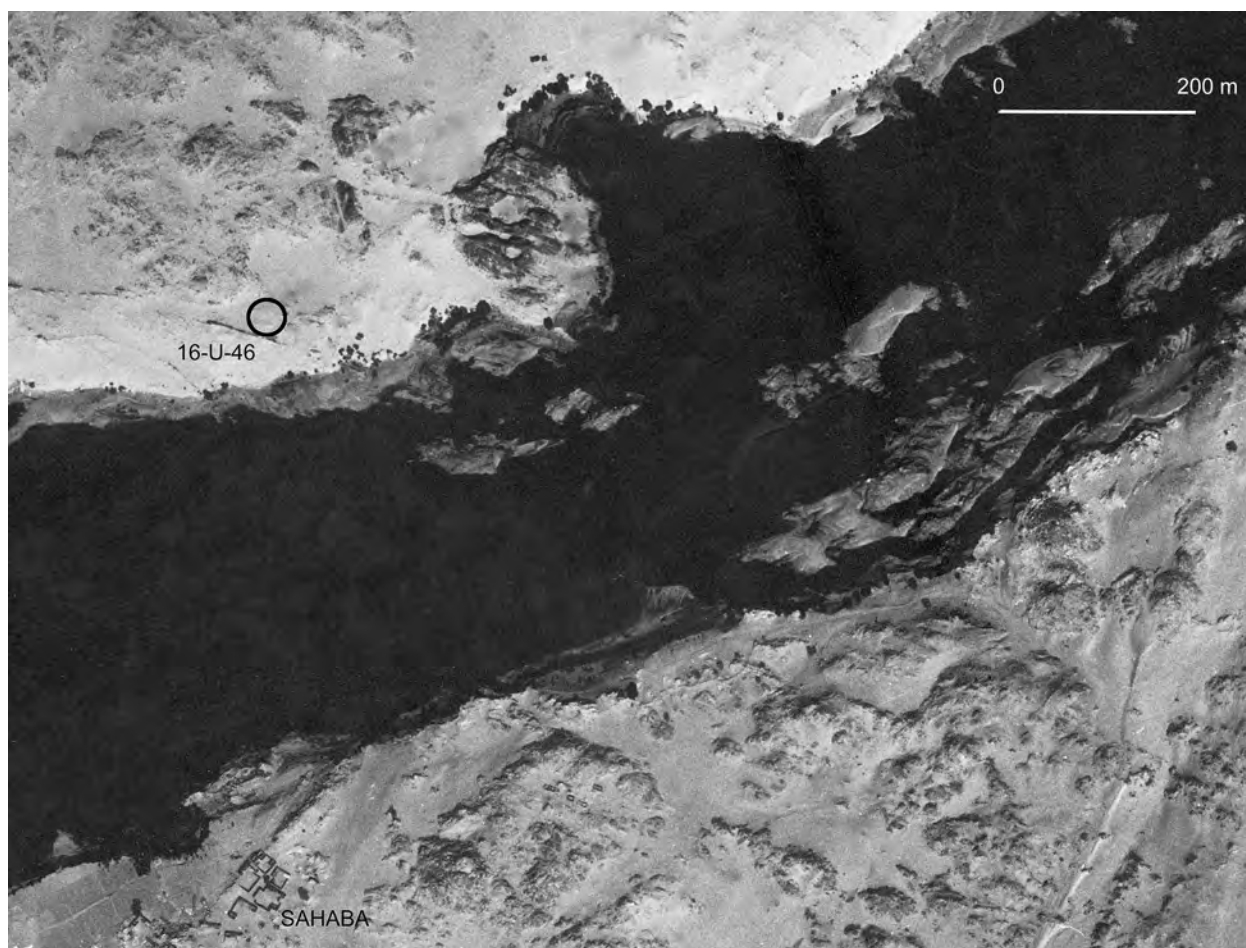


Figure 5.137 Location of [16-U-46] on west bank opposite Sahaba village.

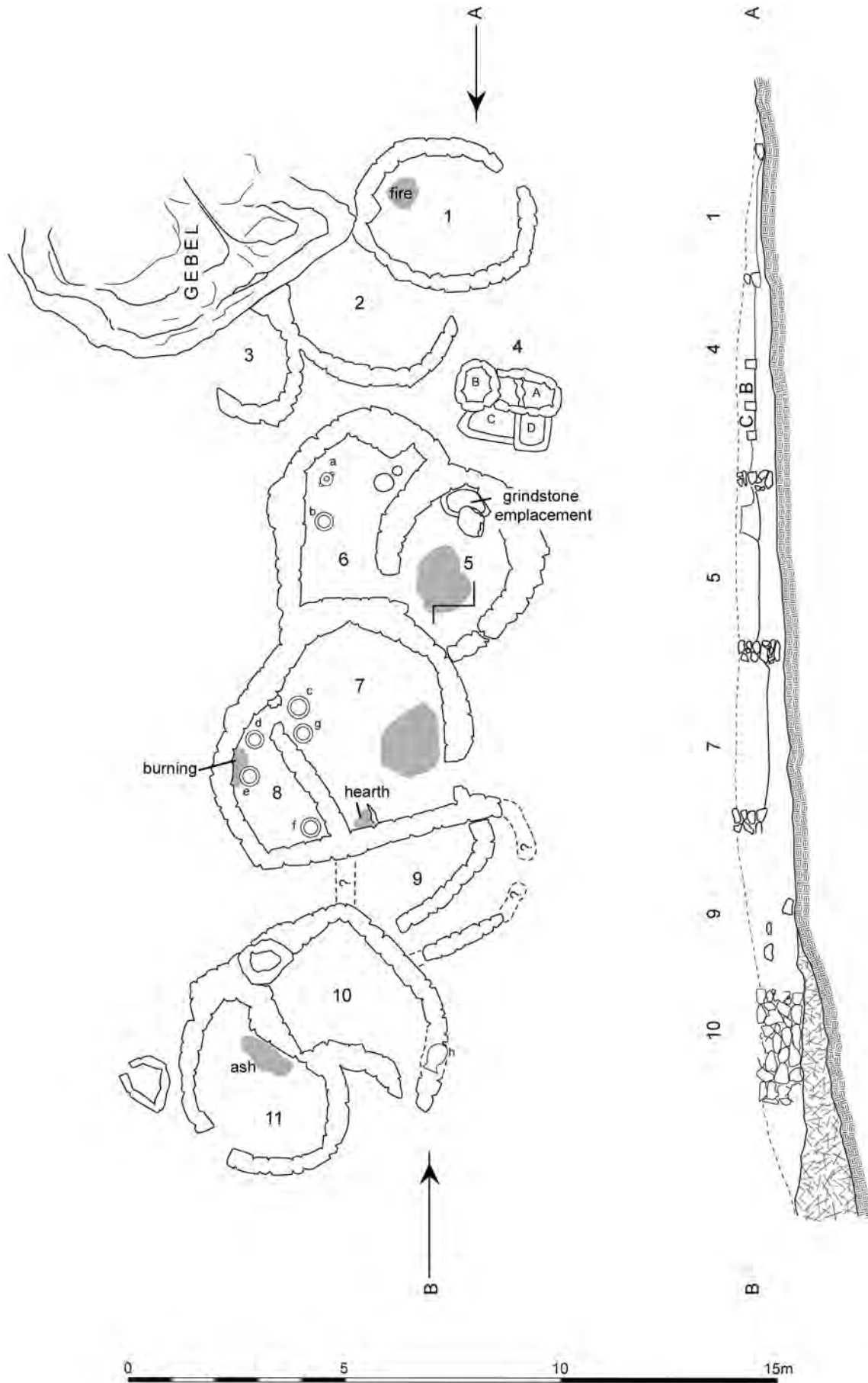


Figure 5.138 Plan of [16-U-46].



Figure 5.139 North end of site, looking upslope to north over bins in area 4.



Figure 5.140 Medieval (?) stone and mud bins in area 4.

Rooms 1, 2 and 3 at the north end of site were contiguous, but not connecting. The walls survived only one course high and no floors survived. There were no features except an area of burning in Room 1. Room 4 was an open area with no floor surface. Within it were four small contiguous bins (A-B-C-D). A and B had stone sides while C and D had mud walls. All had laid mud bottoms. Bin A had been divided in two (fig.5.140). A polished

stone axe (2) and copper alloy object (4) were found in the vicinity of the bins.

Room 5 had large areas of burning in centre of mud floor, c.50cm above bottom of the lowest fills. There is also a grindstone emplacement/stand, a solid construction of mud and stones, c.40cm high x c.55cm across at the top, on which a grindstone was placed. Between this and the wall was a hard-plastered trough. A copper alloy



Figure 5.141 Grindstone emplacement at north end of Room 5.



Figure 5.142 Buried jars in floor of Room 6.



Figure 5.143 Room 9 and Room 7 beyond.

object (5) was found close to the surface in this area. Room 6 was entered from Room 5. Two vessels (a, b) were buried in the mud floor, and there were holes in the floor in the northeast corner for two others.

Room 7 seems likely to have been modified from the original form as the southern wall was set at the level of the mud floor, while the other walls had deeper foundations, below this. It was suggested that its original south wall was that at the south side of Room 9. Floor features include two pots (c, g) – a large area of burning, a hearth area in the southwest corner and a small area of ash against the north wall. Room 8 was accessed from Room 7 and contained three pots (d, e, f) and an area of heavy burning of the mud floor against the west wall. Room 9 had two distinct levels, neither with associated floor remains. The (southernmost) upper wall was at a very high level, while the lower wall had foundations at a lower levels. There were no other features in this area. A stone bowl (1) was found in fill at level of lower wall, and thought likely to relate to medieval use. Room 10 and 11 lay at the south end of site and while adjoining, were not connected. Room 11 appeared to abut Room 10 and might be the later. The only feature was an area of ash in Room 10 and a qadus jar (h).

It was thought probable that the pots buried in the floors, the fire areas on the upper mud floors as well as the grindstone emplacement, the south wall of Room 7 and possibly Room 11, the upper



Figure 5.144 View across [16-U-46] to south (east) bank and Sahaba village.

south wall of Room 9 and the bins (A-D) in Room 4 all related to the medieval ('Christian') use of the site, but the rest related to an earlier 'Pharaonic' phase.

Finds (figs 5.145–9):

16-U-46/1. Sandstone bowl, roughly finished and slightly chipped rim. D:207mm; H:80mm. Photo: C/082:28. SNM.16983.

16-U-46/2. Stone axe; green/grey. L:97mm; W:43mm. Photo: C/082:31. SNM.19409.

16-U-46/3. Grooved sandstone object (fishing weight?). 40 x 35 x 31mm. Photo: C/082:32. SNM.19411.

16-U-46/4. Copper alloy object; pierced with two holes and rounded. Slightly corroded. L:63.5mm; W:31mm. Photo: C/083:17. SNM.19390.

16-U-46/5. Copper alloy object; pierced with two holes and rounded. Slightly corroded. L:62mm; W:26mm. Photo: C/095:16. SNM.19831.

16-U-46/6. Mud object with impressed decoration on one side. D:41mm; Th:22mm. Photos: C/116:18–19. SNM.20256.

Part of a thick copper alloy sheathing were also found in Room 8 as well as fragments of some bone tools (awls?).



Figure 5.145 Sandstone bowl (16-U-46/1).



Figure 5.148 Copper alloy scale or sheathing (?) (16-U-46/5).



Figure 5.146 Stone axe (16-U-46/2).

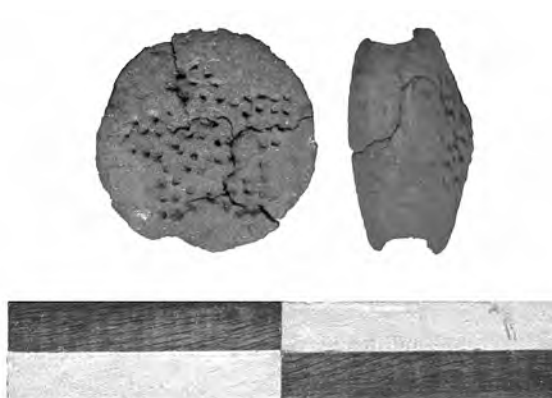


Figure 5.149 Mud object (16-U-46/6) with impressed decoration.



Figure 5.147 Copper alloy scale or sheathing (?) (16-U-46/4).



Figure 5.150 Pottery from [16-U-46].

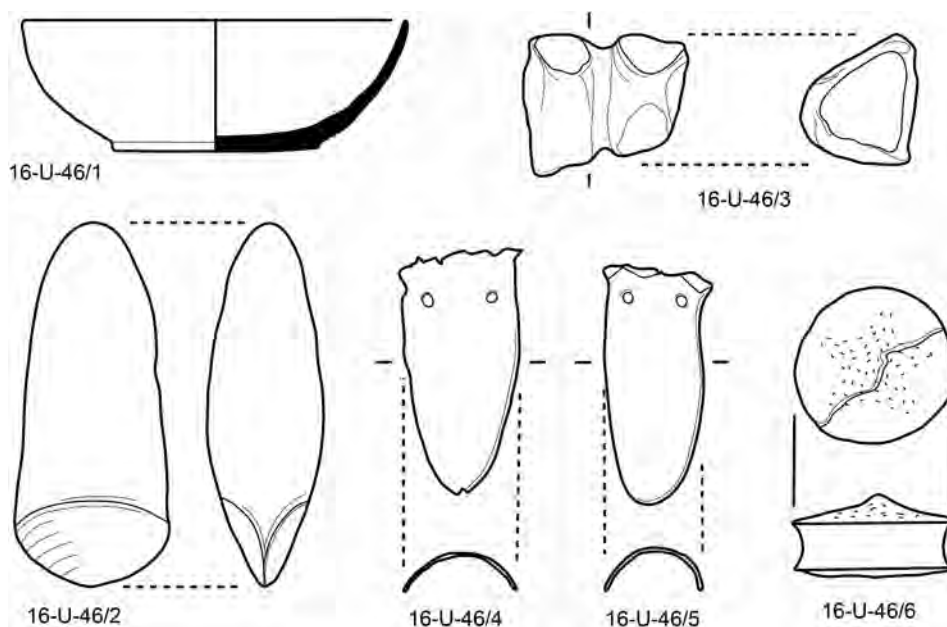


Figure 5.151 Registered small finds from [16-U-46], all (1:2) except stone bowl (16-U-46/1) (scale 1:4).

Pottery (fig.5.152):

16-U-46/a. Wheelmade orange ware two-handled jar with ‘thin kena slip’. Rim D:96mm; H:498mm.

16-U-46/b. Handmade soft brown ware, soot blackened. Rim D:192mm; H:294mm.

16-U-46/c. Handmade soft brown ware, soot blackened. Rim D:192mm; H:324mm.

16-U-46/d. Handmade soft brown ware, soot blackened. Rim D:186mm; H:306mm.

16-U-46/e. Wheelmade redware jar with ‘thin kena slip’. Anciently repaired. Rim D:252mm; H:360mm.

16-U-46/f. Handmade soft brown ware, soot blackened. Rim D:168mm; H:318mm.

16-U-46/g. ‘Similar to c.’

16-U-46/h. Wheelmade red ware, similar to qadus, with kiln-warped base. Rim D:180mm; H:c.336mm.

This group of pottery remains hard to date. The two-handled jar seems likely to be an Egyptian import but no good parallels have yet been found.

DOCUMENTATION: AJM XIII: 34–8. No previous record. Site photos: F/487:9–12; F/498:1–8; F/520:2–3. Investigated: 24–29/10/1968.

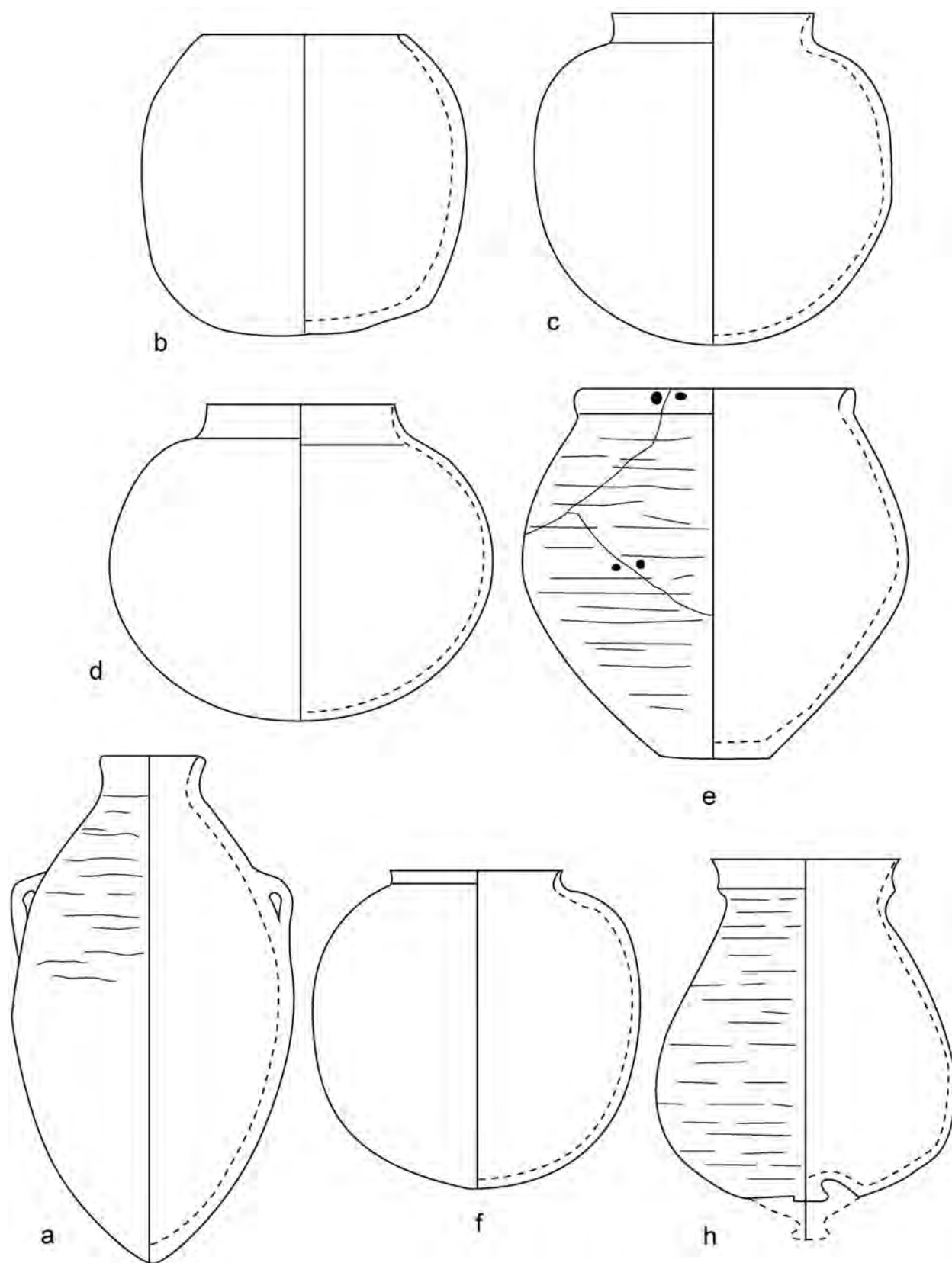


Figure 5.152 Pottery (date uncertain) from [16-U-46] (scale c.1:6).

16-U-60* [16-U-3]

Melik en Nasr East (Sahaba)

LOCATION: indicated on published maps as at, or near, rock drawing station 111, close to the hamlet of Sahaba.

DOCUMENTATION: No ASSN documentation. Otto and Otto 1993, 330, maps 36, 38; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 169; Taf.233.

DESCRIPTION: single New Kingdom inscription [16-U-3/1].

16-U-61* [16-U-4]

Melik en Nasr East (Sahaba)

LOCATION: downstream of hamlet of Sahaba. No associated rock drawing station, but approximate location indicated on published map.

DOCUMENTATION: No ASSN documentation. Otto and Otto 1993, 330, maps 36; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 168; Taf.231–233.

DESCRIPTION: cluster of five New Kingdom inscriptions [16-U-4/1–5].

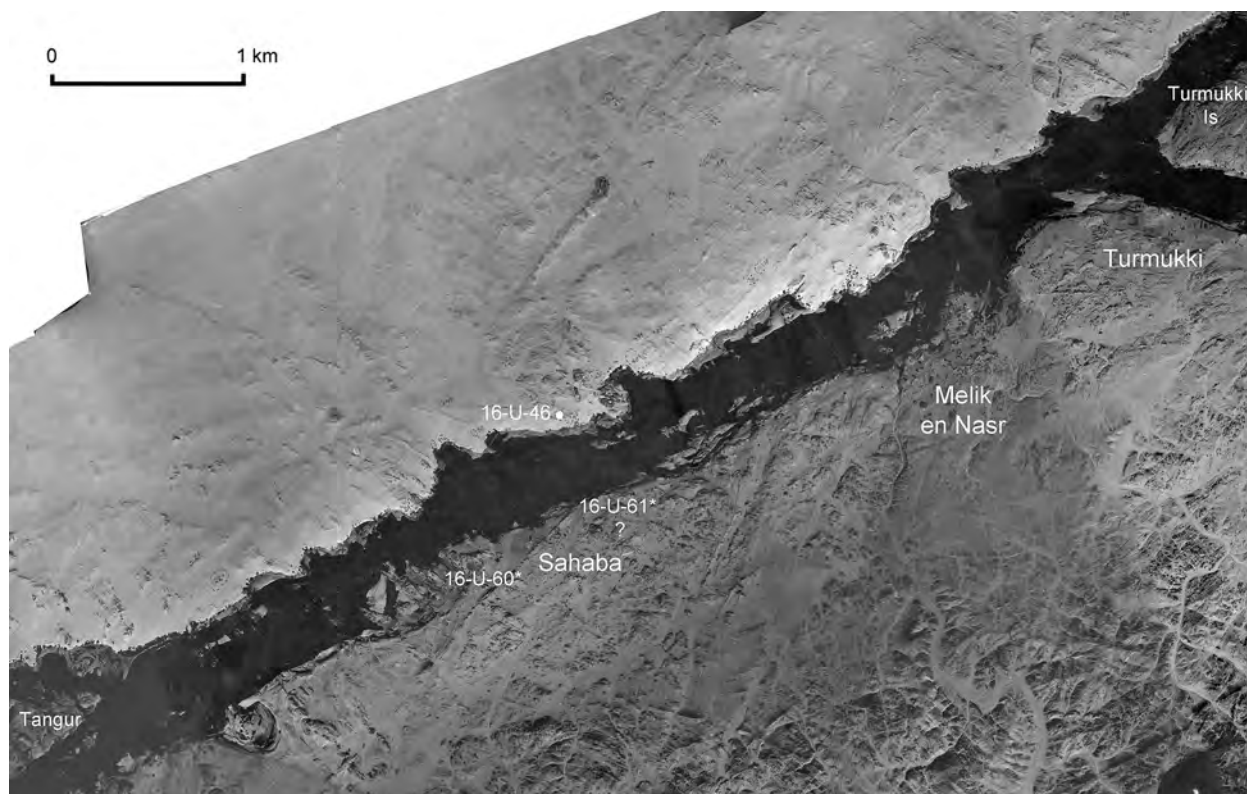


Figure 5.153 Melik en Nasr area between Tangur and Turmukki islands and approximate location of inscriptions [16-U-60*] and [16-U-61*] near Sahaba village.

Tangur – Sonki Inscriptions

A series of six inscription and/or rock drawing sites [21-E-1 to 21-E-6] were registered by the German Epigraphic Survey on the east bank above the Tangur cataract. As their published report noted (Hintze and Reineke 1989, 170), some previously recorded examples were referred to in the literature as being located at Tangur, although they in fact lay within the administrative district of Sonki (*Songzi*).

A further five sites [21-D-1 to 21-D-5] were registered, all within Sonki. These included inscriptions at one (known) site on the west bank [21-D-1], and another [21-D-3] c.2km upstream, on the east bank. The exact locations of sites cannot be determined on the basis of the published report, and these were not recorded on the aerial photographs

used to locate the other ASSN-registered sites. However, the maps published by Otto and Buschendorf-Otto (1993) recording the main rock drawing sites do indicate approximate locations of ‘Pharaonic’ sites (indicated with an ankh) most of which shared registration numbers with rock drawing stations. On this basis the approximate locations of most sites can be determined (fig.5.154).

It is not possible to confirm which inscriptions correspond with the four sites on the basis of the published records although project archives may be able to throw some further light on this. These require verification; in several cases it seems likely that the inscriptions might survive, and may be restudied.

21-E-11* [21-E-1]

‘Tanjur’/Sonki East

LOCATION: uncertain. No associated rock drawing station, but probable location indicated on published map (Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, map 36) opposite the south end of Tangur island.

DESCRIPTION: cluster of seven inscriptions in three groups registered as [21-E-1/1–3].

DOCUMENTATION: Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, map 36; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 170–171.

21-E-12* [21-E-2]

‘Tanjur’/Sonki East

LOCATION: indicated on published maps as rock drawing station 118, one of four sites indicated on published map (Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, map 36).

DOCUMENTATION: Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 333, maps 36, 40–41; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 171.

DESCRIPTION: single New Kingdom inscription (21-E-2/1).

21-E-13* [21-E-3]

‘Tanjur’/Sonki East

LOCATION: indicated on maps as rock drawing station 119, one of four sites indicated on published map (Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, map 36). On a high rock at the edge of the river.

DESCRIPTION: at least two New Kingdom inscriptions (21-E-3/2–3).

DOCUMENTATION: Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 334, maps 40–41; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 171.

21-E-14* [21-E-4]**Sonki East**

LOCATION: indicated on maps as rock drawing station 120, one of four sites indicated on published map (Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 36).

DOCUMENTATION: Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 334, maps 40–41; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 173–177.

DESCRIPTION: a group of at least 27 New Kingdom inscriptions.

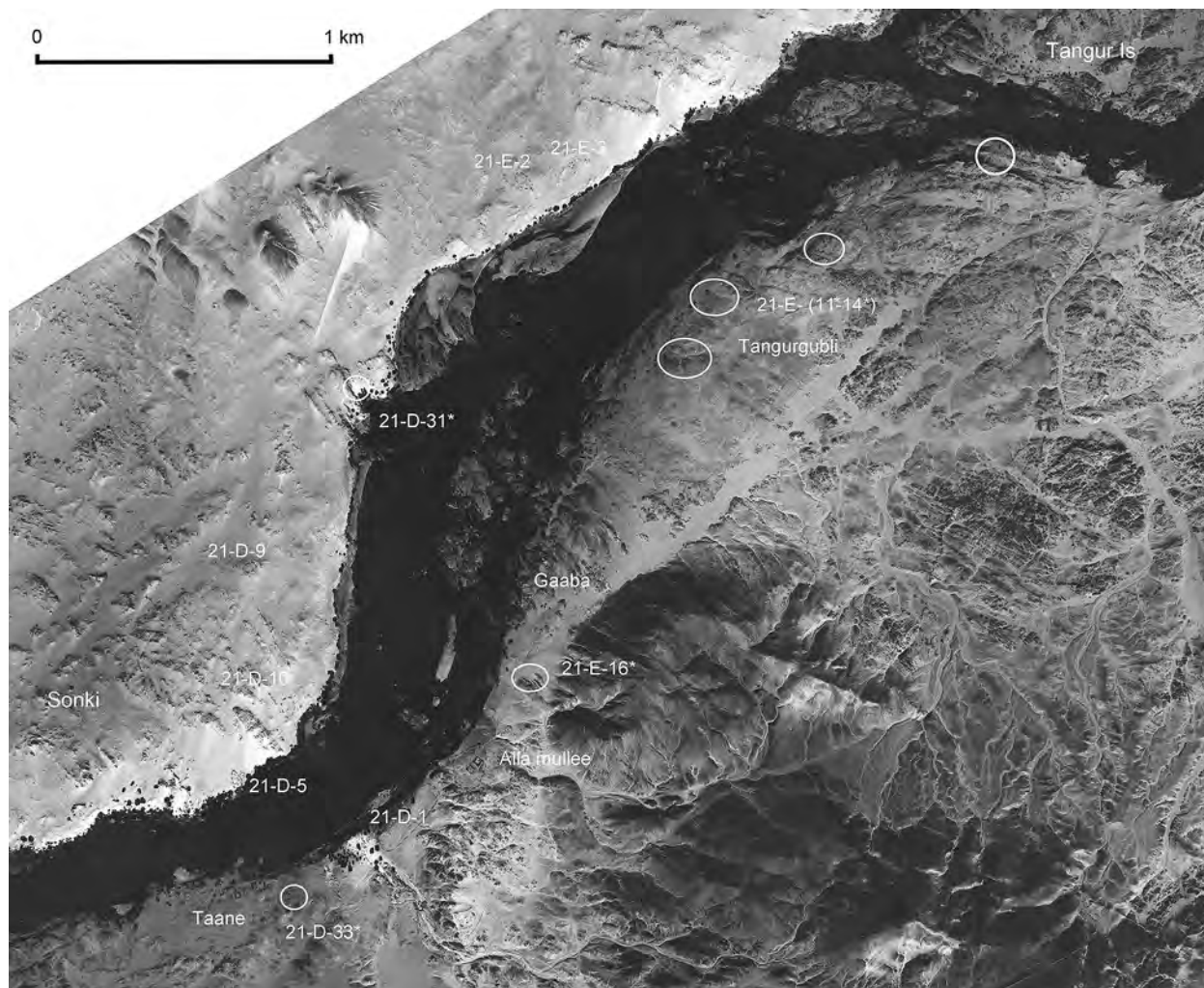


Figure 5.154 Locations (approximate) of four groups of New Kingdom inscriptions and graffiti in Tangur-Sonki area [21-E-11* to 21-E-14*] on east bank and [21-D-31*] on west bank, above the Tangur cataract. Other sites in [21-D] and [21-E] registered by ASSN also indicated.

21-E-16* [21-E-6]**Sonki East**

LOCATION: indicated on published maps as near rock drawing station 122, north of Allamullee.

DESCRIPTION: single inscription, possibly of Middle Kingdom date.

DOCUMENTATION: Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 336, maps 41–42; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 178.

21-D-31* [21-D-1]**'Tanjur'/Sonki West**

LOCATION: on west bank in northern Sonki (*Songi*) overlooking small embayment. 'On a brown granite rock above the highest Nile, its face showing south, about fifteen degrees west', and 'sixty feet above the water' (Birch 1885, 121). The second inscription [21-D-1/2] lay c.25m away from the first. One published map (Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, map 36) indicates two, more widely separated sites in this area.

DESCRIPTION: two texts, one [21-D-1/1] dated to year 2 of Tuthmosis I, and the second [21-D-1/2] to year 15 of Hatshepsut and Tuthmosis III.

DOCUMENTATION: Birch 1885; Breasted 1908, 105, fig.56; Porter and Moss 1952, 157; Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, maps 36, 41; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 171–172.

21-D-33* [21-D-3]**Sonki East**

LOCATION: indicated on maps as at or near rock drawing station 124, to the east of the settlement

DESCRIPTION: four inscriptions [21-D-3/1–4], including one [21-D-3/4] close to the hamlet of Tane (Taane).

DOCUMENTATION: Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 337, map 41; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 178–179; Taf.254–255.

6. Ukma – Akasha – Dal

Upstream of Duweishat, the omodiya of Akasha (*Aakasha*) comprised the districts of Sonki (*Songi*), Ukma (*Ukme*), Akasha (*Aakasha*), and Kulb (*Kulub*). The southern end of the survey area extended upstream of here into the omodiya of Kosha (*Koosha*) and included the villages of Dal (*Daal*) and Sarkematto.

The northernmost part was the thinly populated area of Sonki (*Songi*). The west bank had much blown sand, and the only modern settlements were near its southern end where there were a series of small hamlets close to the border with Ukma (*Ukme*), the first at Girtai (*Gette*). On the east bank, upstream of Tangur there was settlement at

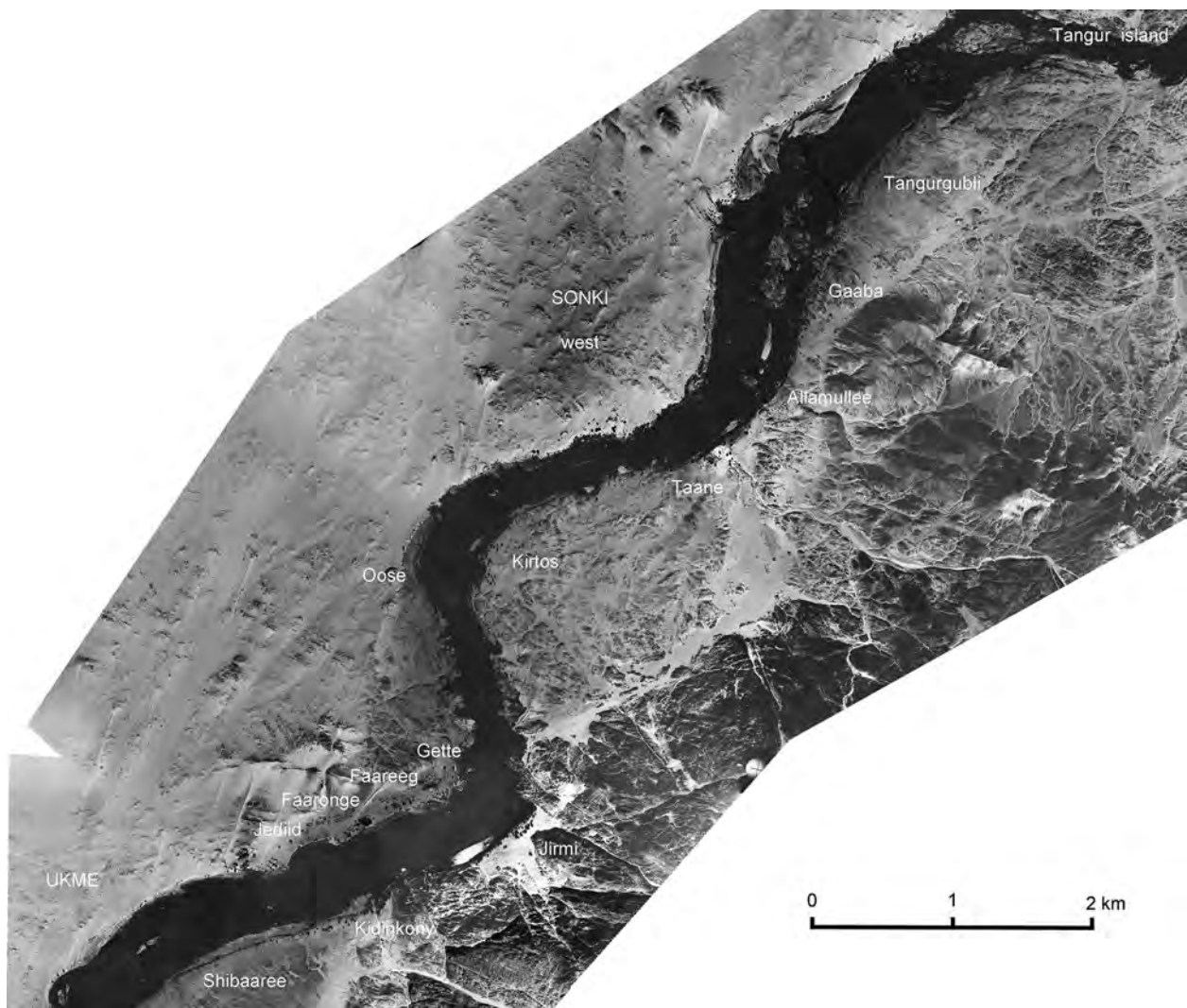


Figure 6.01 District of Sonki and northern end of Ukma and Akasha.

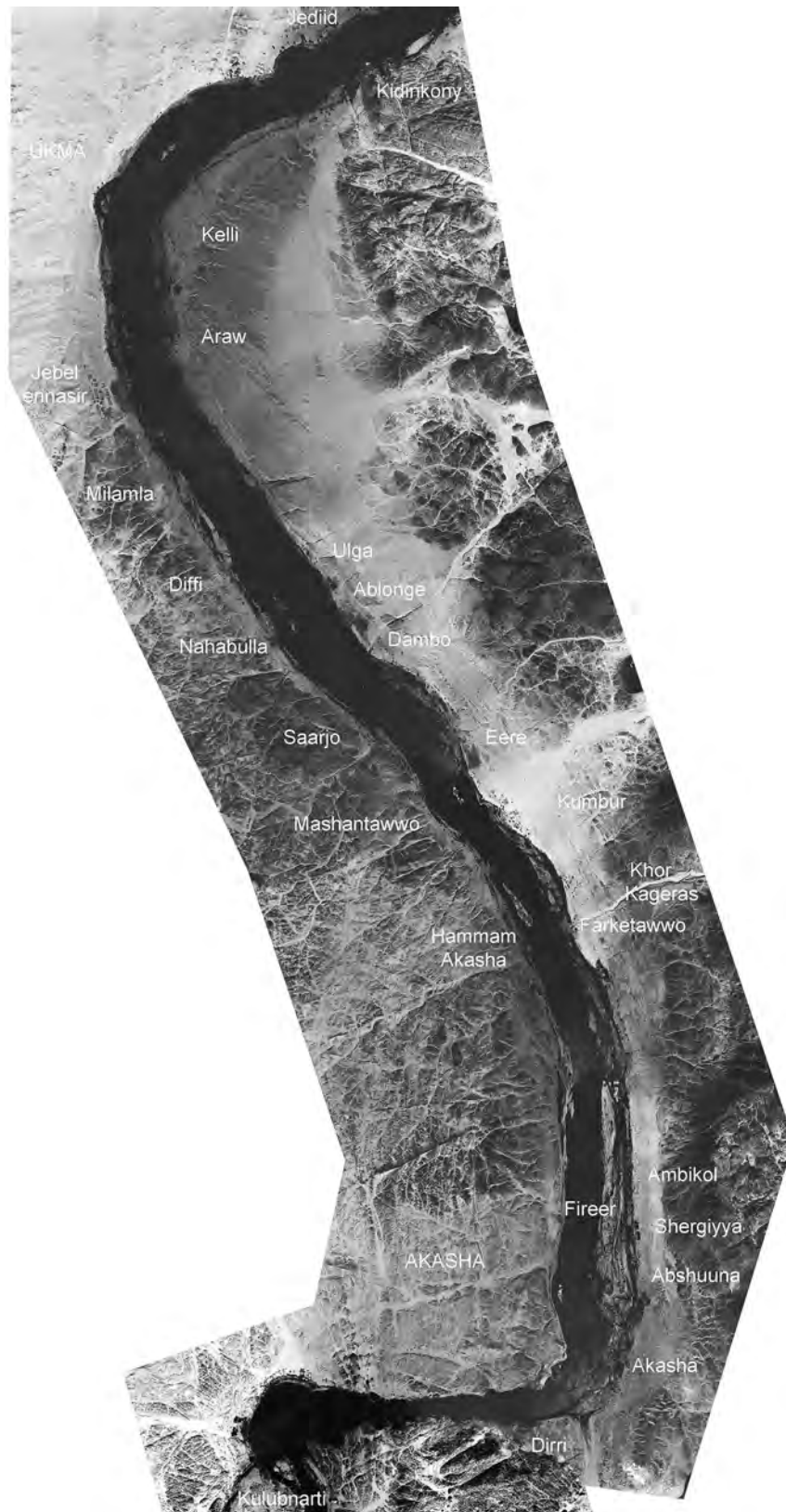


Figure 6.02 Districts of Ukma and Akasha.

Allemule (*Allamullee*), Tane (*Taane*), Kurtas (*Kirtos*) and Girmai (*Jirmi*), just east of the prominent mountain at Kidinkony. The latter is sometimes recognized as the southern boundary of the core of the Batn al-Hajar (*Kidin Tuu*) (Bell 1970, 45–46). Between Allamullee and Taane the main route along the eastern bank moved away from the river following a paleochannel cutting across the river bend inland of Kirtos (fig.6.01).

Within Ukma (Ukme) and Akasha (Aakasha) the main west bank settlements west (upstream) of Fareg (*Faareeg*) were Farungai (*Faaronge*) and Gedid (*Jediid*). Gebel el Nasr (*Jebelenasir*) lay just south of the river bend, then Milamu (*Milamla*), Diffi, Nahabella (*Nahabulla*), Sarigo (*Saarjo*) and Meshantauw (*Mashantawwo*). The southernmost settlement lay close to the hot springs of Hammam Akasha, opposite Firkatauw (*Farketawwo*). On the east bank upriver of Kidingkoing (*Kidinkony*), settlements were Kalla (*Kelli*), Irau (*Araw*), Ulga, Ablongai (*Ablonge*), Dambo, Er (*Eere*), Kumbur, Firkatauw (*Farketawwo*), Ambikol, Shergiyaeh (*Shergiyya*), and small island settlement of Firer (*Fireer*) facing them, Abushuna (*Abshuuna*), Akasha (*Aakasha*), and Dirri on the upstream (here west) side of the Wadi Akasha. The east bank of this area was latterly

assigned to a Swiss mission (Maystre 1980; 1996a, 1996b). Their concession extended from just downstream of the northern end of Akasha near the Khor Kidinkoing (*Kidinkony*), southwards as far as the river bend where the Wadi Akasha reached the Nile, a distance of c.16.5km along the river bank.

The river between the Akasha bend and the start of the Dal cataract was relatively clear of major obstacles for c.17km. Above the Akasha cataract the Nile changes direction through a series of bends with its course quite tightly constrained between often high rocky banks,. The river runs from south to north past Kulubnarti before turning east for c.3km before reaching the Akasha rapids (fig.6.03). Formed by a ridge or rocks crossing the river this rapid does not seem to have posed a major obstacle to river traffic in more recent centuries but the change in direction may have been significant for sailing vessels. The left (here north) bank between Kulb (*Kulub*) and Dal was exposed to blowing sand for much of this stretch of river. A narrow seasonal channel formed the west side of the rocky island of Kulubnarti, which had an area of c.160ha. The small island of Erbenarti lay at its downstream end. In modern times settlement on the island

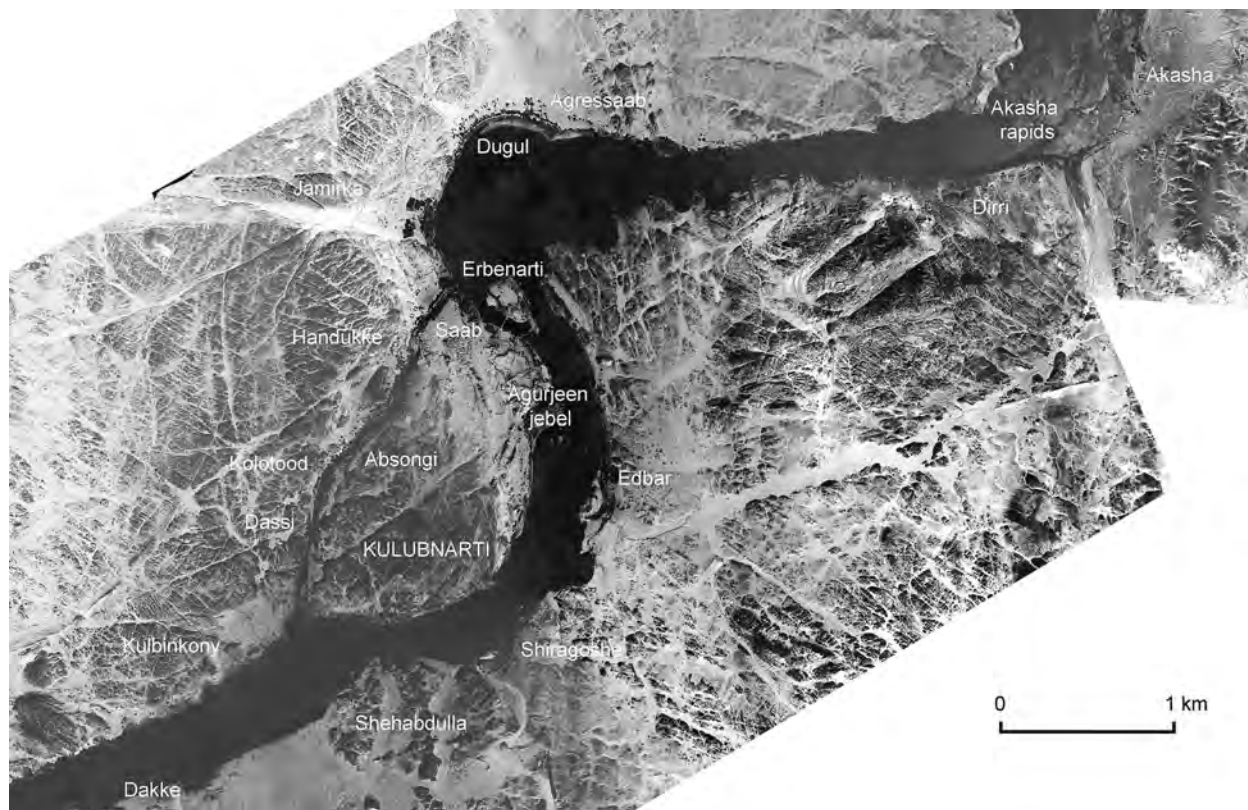


Figure 6.03 The area between Akasha and Kulub/Kulubnarti.

was concentrated on its northern end but was clearly more widespread in earlier periods (Adams 1994). There were some small settlements on the west bank opposite the island, at Dugul, Jamerka (*Jamirka*), Kolatod (*Kolotood*) and Kulbingcoing (*Kulbinkony*). On the right bank, here south of the island, were settlements at Sheragoshi (*Shiragoshe*) and Dakki (*Dakke*). On this bank communication routes moved away from the river following tracks through hills to southwest and south.

On the lower left bank there were small settlements at Kalfa, Kosmin (*Kosme*), Abdellando (*Abdullando*), Absiri (*Absire*). Below the Dal cataract proper seasonal islands formed around the outer (western) river bend (fig.6.04). The large rocky

island of Tina (*Tine*) lay at the northern end of the main cataract, the main channel passing down its east side. This lay at the southern end of the survey area, at latitude 21°N, the boundary between AMS grid square [21-V] and [3-B], at Sarkamatto (*Sarkematto*). Through the cataract zone the east bank continued as rocky broken ground while the west bank was much more open and low lying. In addition to the work of the ASSN some further excavations were carried out by the German Archaeological Institute at Kulb West during the spring of 1969 (Dinkler 1970, 1985), while W. Y. Adams and the University of Kentucky carried out a detailed study of Kulubnarti (Adams 1994).

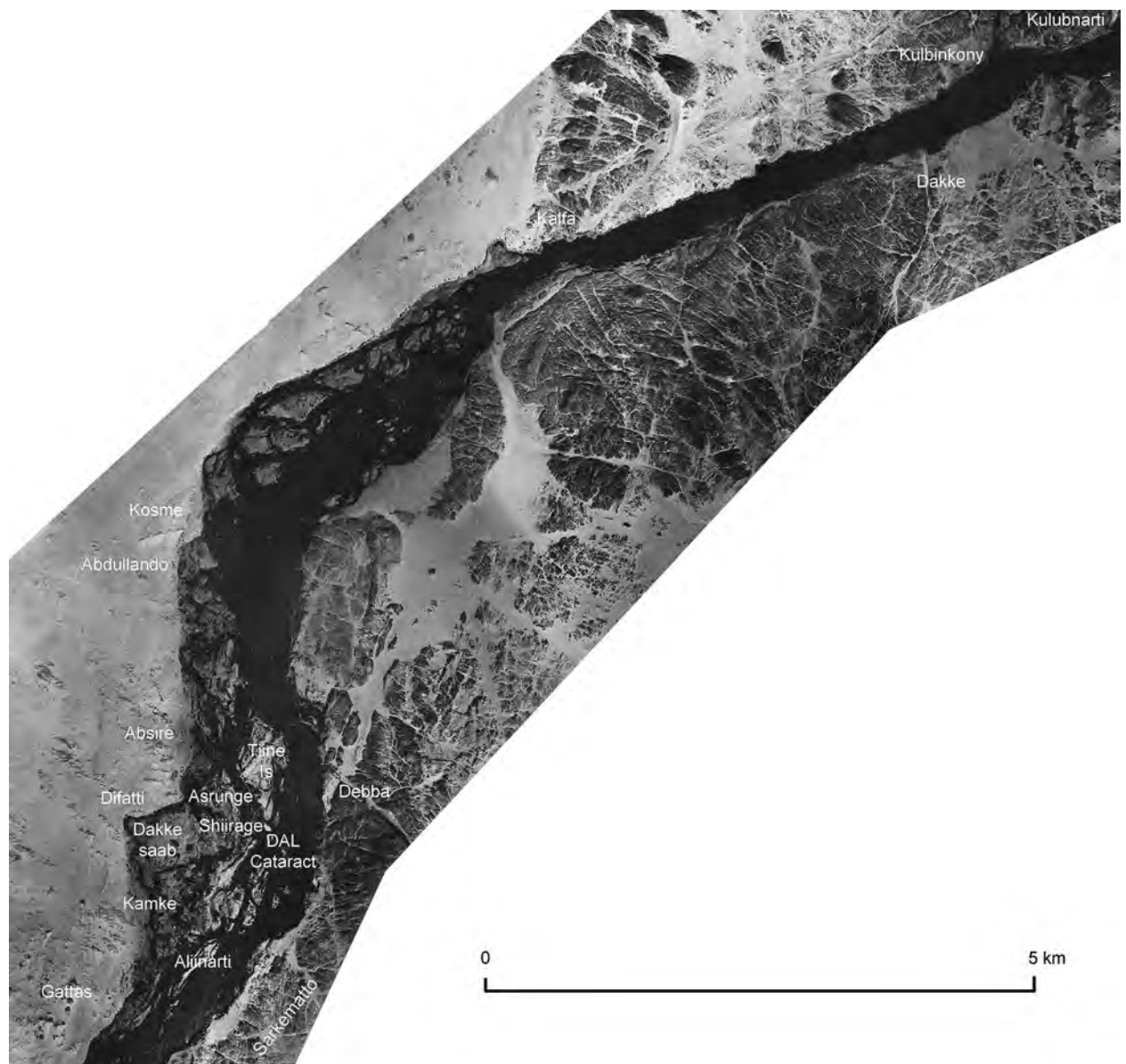


Figure 6.04 The southern end of the ASSN survey area, between Kulubnarti and Dal.

21-I-19 Cemetery

Sonki West

LOCATION: this site lay close to the hamlet of Gedid (*Jediid*) and some 300m north (local west) of the river bank, in an area where the river runs near west-east. It is situated within a small sandy wadi between two small outcrops of rock. This was located in an area sparsely populated in recent centuries and today facing encroaching blown sand from the north. The location is likely to have been more hospitable in the past and these graves lay c.120m from a 'C-Group'/Kerma cemetery [21-I-18], and c.400m west of another (largely medieval) cemetery [21-I-17], a site which also included a cluster of Meroitic graves. The site is c.2.5km down river from the Kerma cemeteries ([21-H-4], [21-H-5]) at Ukma West (Vila 1987). The location of this site seems likely to have remained above the highest flood levels.

DESCRIPTION: a small cemetery containing five graves as well as several round and oval magazine pits, in an area c.10m x 8m. Of the

graves, two were oriented (local) north-south and three east-west. There were also nine rectangular magazine pits; all excavated but 'empty'. The surface of the site was covered with blown sand. The graves were indicated by slight depressions but there was no bone or sherd material on the surface. All graves and pits were excavated in an area of fossil alluvium some 14m x 12m. The excavators considered the graves unusual in terms of orientation, shape and size and varied burial positions, while these pottery forms were also unfamiliar.

Grave 21-I-19/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence

GRAVE: a rectangular pit, 203cm x 95cm, cut in fossil alluvium to a depth of 76cm. There was no trace of blocking. Fill was loose rubble and sand.

BURIAL: The undisturbed body of an adult (male?), lying flexed on the right side, head northwest (local west); bones crumbly (figs 6.07–8).

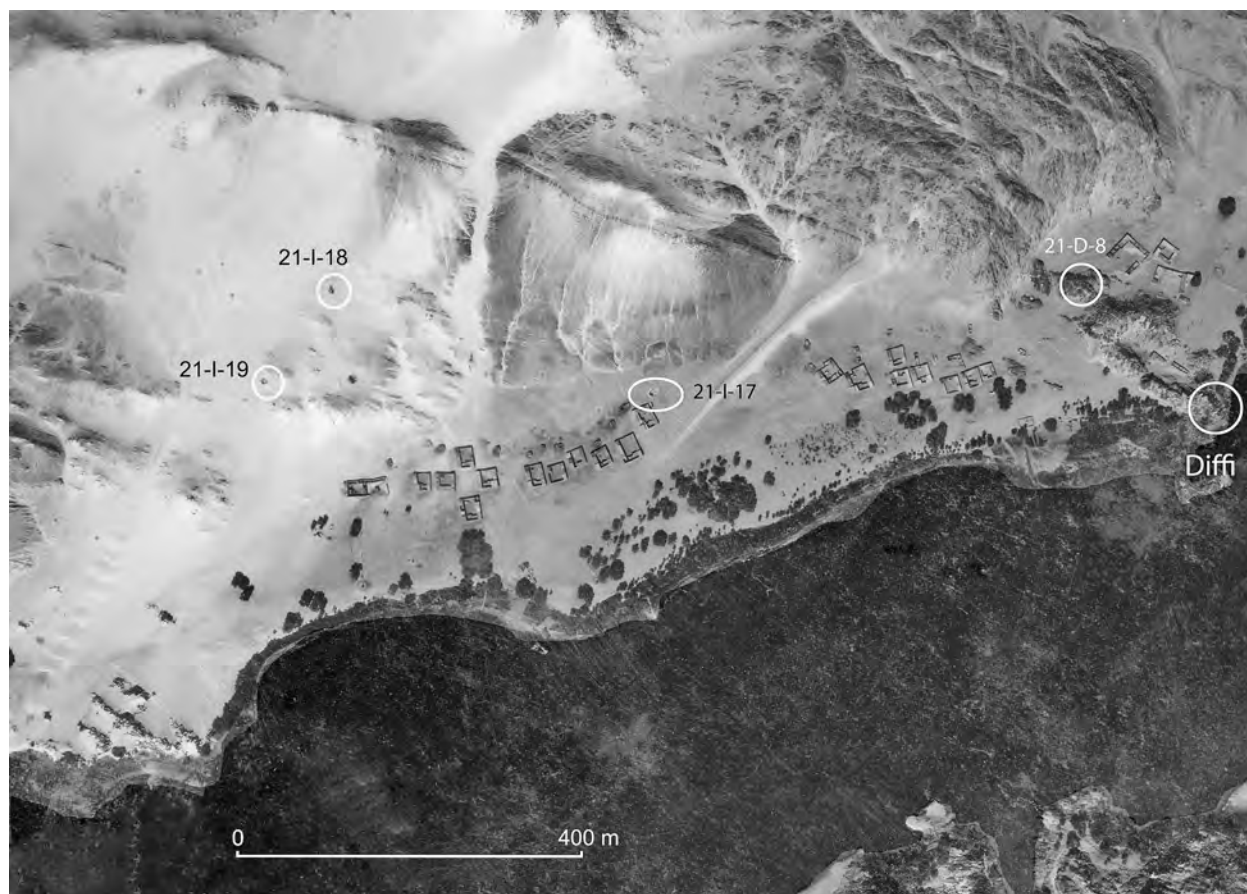


Figure 6.05 Location of [21-I-19] and nearby sites at Sonki West.

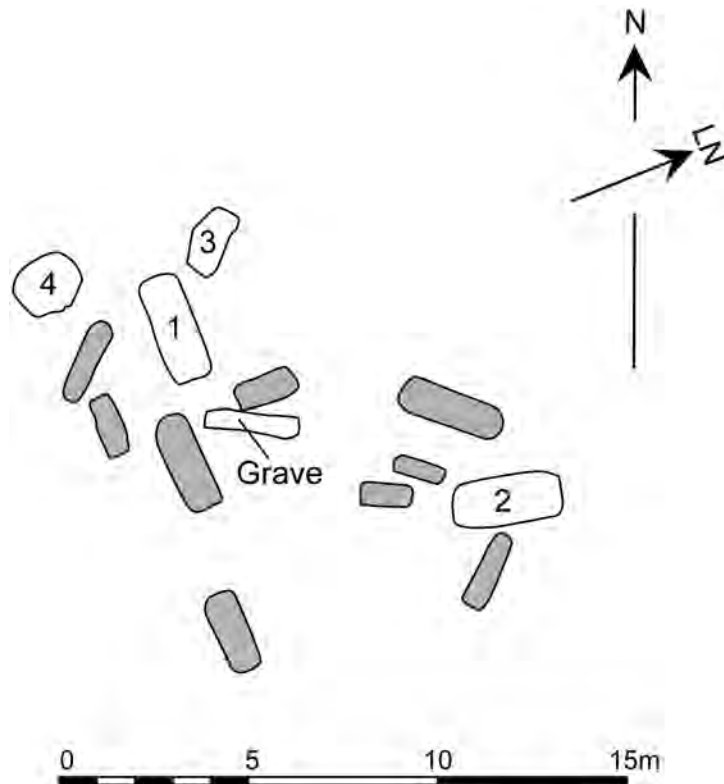


Figure 6.06 Site Plan [21-I-19].

CONTENTS: cup and jar (figs 6.09–10), probably in situ, at foot of burial.

21-I-19/1/1. Cup. Wheel-made, gritty and rather soft ‘Kena ware’ (Marl A3) cup with direct rim and

rounded base. Broken in situ. Kiln warped. D:92mm; H:141mm. Photo: C/083:9. SNM.19412.

21-I-19/1/2. Bottle. Wheel-made, gritty and rather soft ‘Kena ware’ (Marl A3). Broken in transit but mouth and neck missing in grave. Max. D:177mm; H:>261mm. Photo: C/083:10. SNM.19417.



Figure 6.07 Grave 1 [21-I-19] from northwest end Cup and jar in corner of grave.

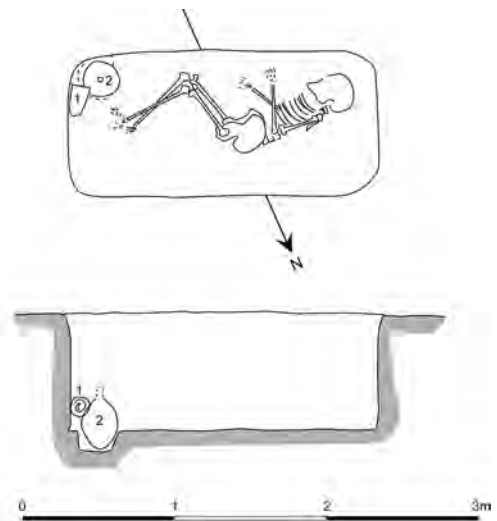


Figure 6.08 Plan and section of grave 1 [21-I-19].

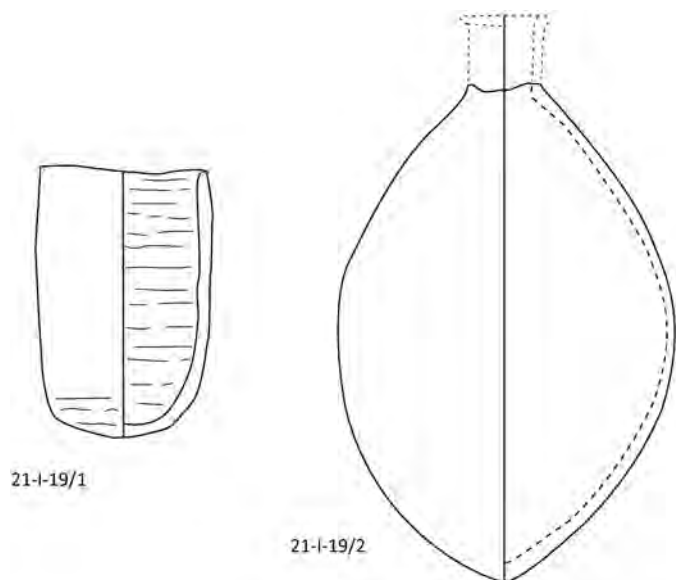


Figure 6.09 Cup and bottle from Grave 1 [21-I-19] (scale 1:4).



Figure 6.10 Cup and bottle from Grave 1 [21-I-19].

Grave 21-I-19/2:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence

GRAVE: a rectangular pit, 186cm x 100cm, cut in fossil alluvium to a depth of 55cm. There was no trace of blocking. Fill was blown sand and a little loose rubble.

BURIAL: the undisturbed body of an adult female, lying extended on the back, head west, facing north (figs 6.11–12).

CONTENTS: broken but near complete cup and jar in fill (figs 6.13–14).

21-I-19/2/1. Cup. Wheel-made, red ware tall cup with direct rim, simple contour and round base. The exterior has a horizontally polished dark red slip. Rim D:110mm; H:181mm. Photo: C/083:11. SNM.16468.

21-I-19/2/2. Bottle. Wheelmade, tall necked ovoid jar with direct rim in gritty and rather brittle (overfired?) ‘Kena ware’ (Marl A3). Smashed, one rim sherd missing. Max. D:174mm; H:315mm. Photo: C/083:12. SNM.19422.

Grave 21-I-19/3:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence

GRAVE: a shallow wedge shape pit, 140cm x 80cm, tapering to 60cm. Dug in fossil alluvium to a depth of 45cm. Narrow end is denuded; possibly a chamber grave originally? Fill is of blown sand and some rubble. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: remains of two adult bodies, overlying an undisturbed (?) adult, lying in flexed position,



Figure 6.11 Grave 2 [21-I-19] from east end. Further subrectangular pits around grave.

head south, facing west. Scattered remains of two infants lying underneath.

CONTENTS: part faience vessel and one sherd of ‘Kena ware’ in fill (fig.6.15).

21-I-19/3/1. Faience ‘sieve’. Half of a miniature conical blue faience vessel. H:27mm; Max D: 20mm. Photo: C/084:5. SNM.19513.

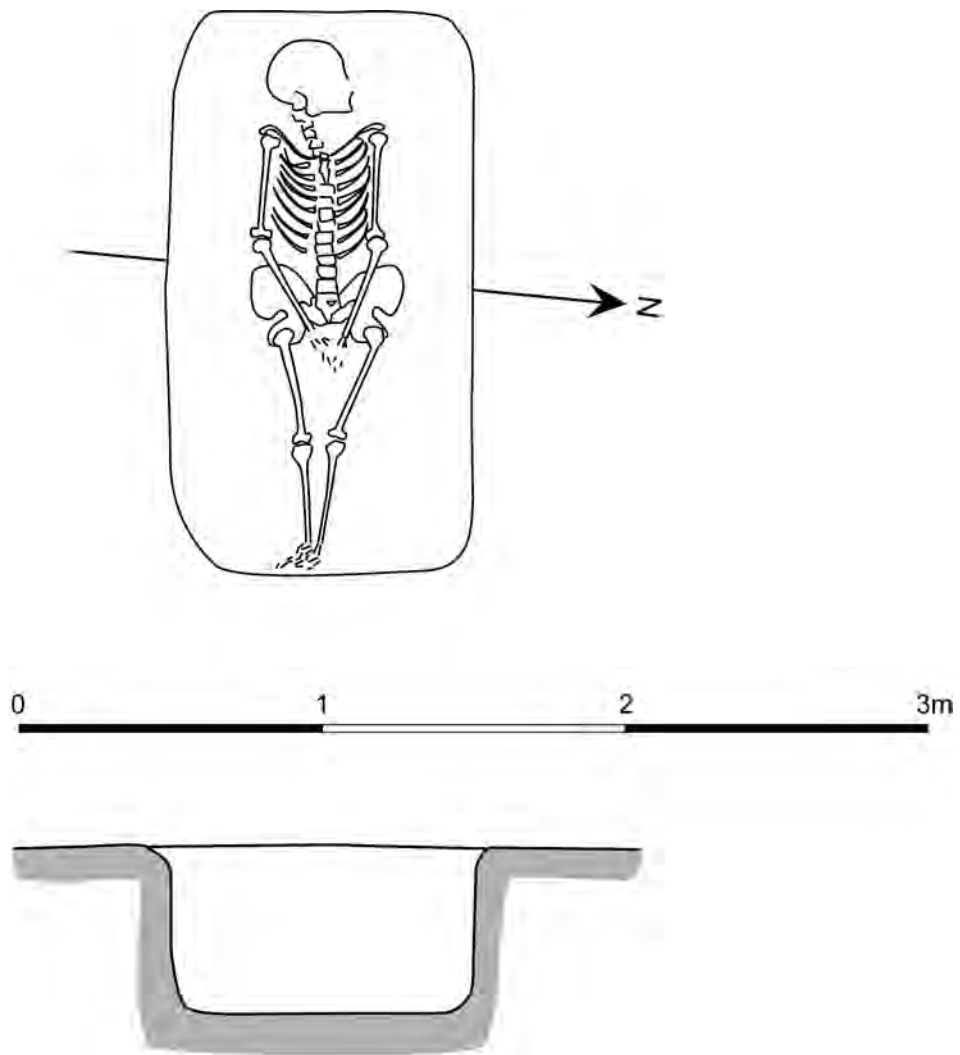


Figure 6.12 Plan and section of grave 2 [21-I-19].

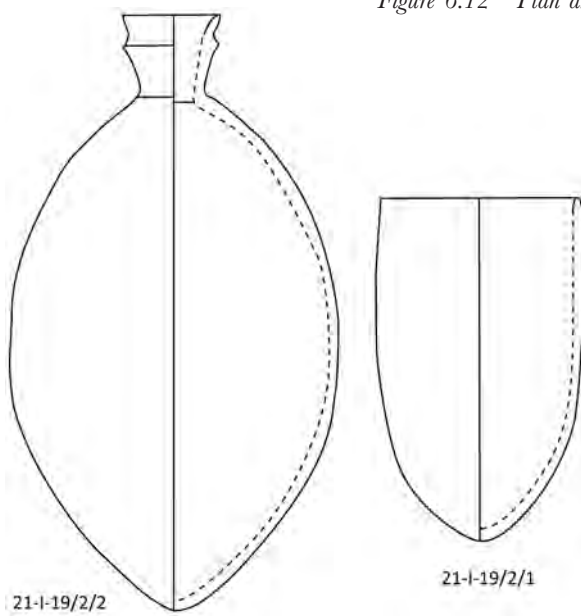


Figure 6.13 Cup and bottle from Grave 2 [21-I-19] (scale 1:4).



Figure 6.14 Cup and bottle from grave 2 [21-I-19].

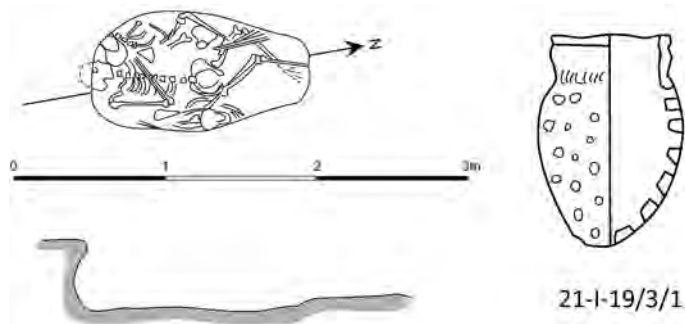


Figure 6.15 Plan and section of eroded grave 3 [21-I-19] and faience vessel from fill.

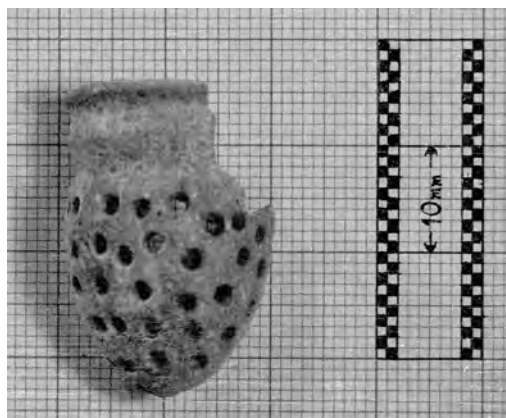


Figure 6.16 Faience vessel from fill of grave 3 [21-I-19] (SNM.19513).

Grave 21-I-19/4:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence

GRAVE: a round pit 125m in diameter, dug into fossil alluvium to a depth of 95cm. Denuded at one side to 50cm. Fill was of sand and rubble. No blocking (fig.6.17).

BURIAL: the undisturbed body of a small child, dorsally extended, head northwest.

CONTENTS: sherds in fill, include part of redware drop pot, wheelmade redware with polished interior (A), wheelmade soft brown ware (B) and redware plate with impressed decoration (C). A few bones of an infant high in fill.

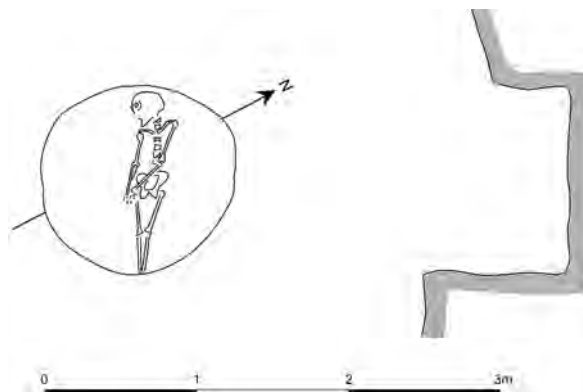


Figure 6.17 Child burial grave 4 [21-I-19].

21-I-19/4/C. Plate with modelled rim. Wheelmade red ware with impressed exterior decoration. D:426mm. H:>96mm. Not registered.

DOCUMENTATION: No previous record of the site. AJM XIV: 6-7. Site Photos F/531:7-10. Air Photo: 635085. Investigated: 15/12/1968 and 7/1/1969.

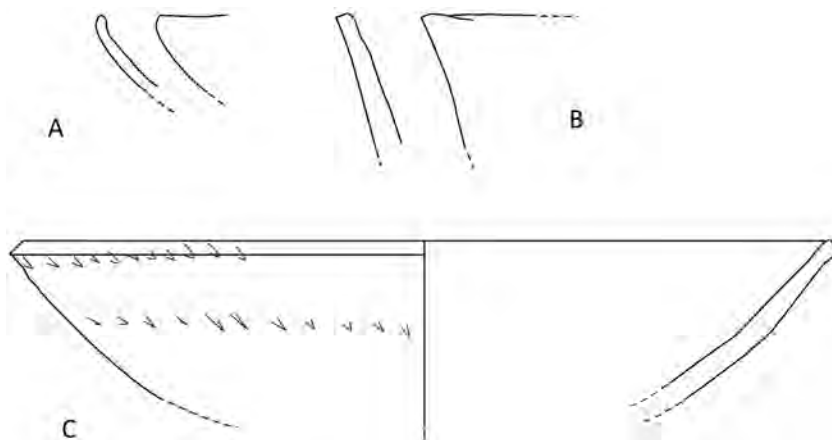


Figure 6.18 Pottery from grave 4 fill [21-I-19].

21-H-16 Cemetery

Ukma West

LOCATION: this site was located on the first rise of gebel, c.250m west of the river bank, between two khors; c.850m north of the hamlet of Gebel el Nasr (*Jebel en Nasir*). The large Kerma cemetery [21-H-4] excavated by Vila (Vila 1987) lay c.650m to the north. The location remains (in 2017) above flood levels.

DESCRIPTION: the cemetery had eight graves scattered over an area of c.21m (north-south) x 8m (east-west) on ground sloping gently up towards the west. The surface was blown sand over gravel and small stones. No bones or sherds were found on the surface. The graves on the lower east and south sides were quite small and rectangular but with varied forms. Their orientation varied. Grave 4 was constructed along the side of an exposed rocky shelf, the others excavated into very hard fossil alluvium. Those on lower ground (1) were shallower, probably due to greater surface erosion. Graves 2 and 3 are somewhat different: Grave 2

having had an excavated subterranean chamber, while Grave 3 was partly lined with mudbrick.

All the graves appeared intact and three contained multiple burials, Four graves excavated included 15 adults (all probably females) and eight children: Grave 1 held a woman and two children; Grave 2 had six adults, probably all women; Grave 3 had seven women and six children. Grave 4 was a single adult burial. The burials were, with a few exceptions, dorsally extended with heads west, commonly with one hand on the pelvis, and one at the side; or both on pelvis. Grave contents included many soft brown ware jars and bowls, carnelian and shell split earrings, scarabs and beads. Several bodies were buried in rough coffins made of dom logs, while burial D in Grave 2 was buried in a wooden sarcophagus with a painted mummiform gesso lid (badly damaged by the collapse of the tomb chamber roof). A possibly unrelated find of a carnelian arrow head (fig.6.70) was collected on the surface within the areas of graves.

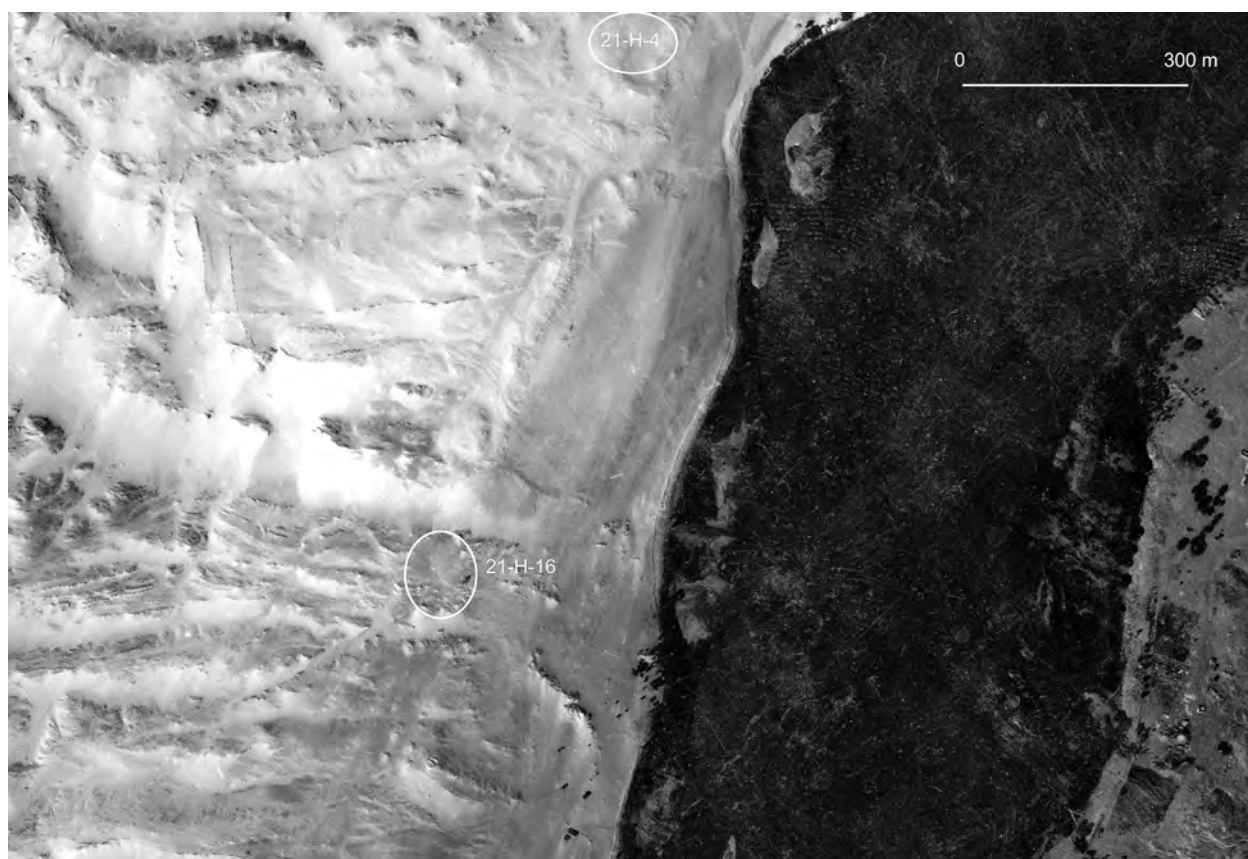


Figure 6.19 Location of [21-H-16], with cemetery [21-H-4] to north.

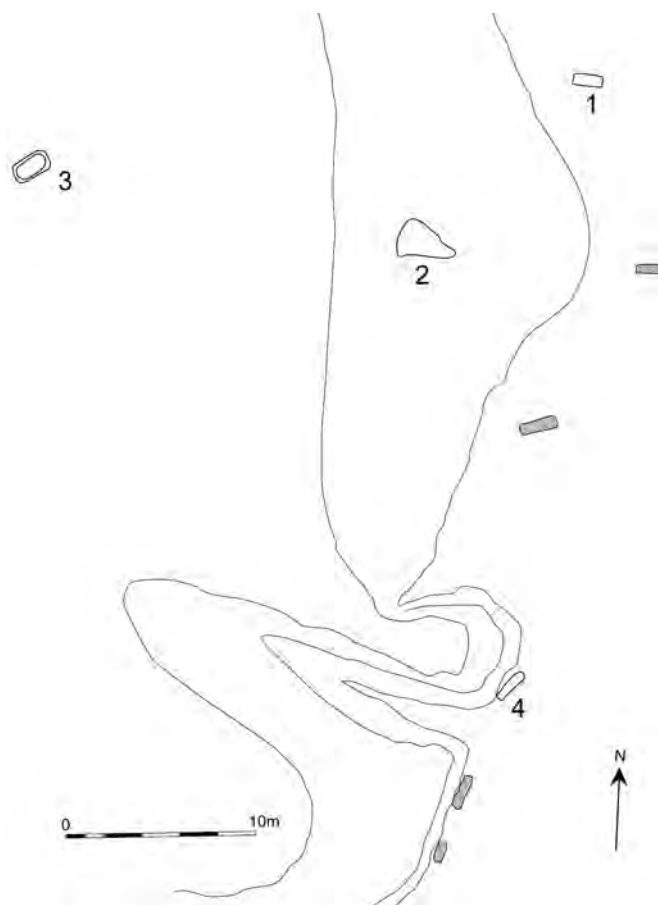


Figure 6.20 Plan of cemetery [21-H-16].

Grave 21-H-16/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a shallow narrow pit 170cm x 40cm, dug into soft fossil alluvium, surviving no more than 35cm deep. Fill of silt and some rubble. No trace of blocking. Shallowness of grave suggests considerable surface erosion.

BURIAL: upper burial of two young children (A, B) lying on right side, head west facing south; one slightly flexed. Both disturbed due to erosion to near surface level. These bodies overlie burial of adult female (C), dorsally extended, head west, facing north; hands crossed at pelvis. No clear indications that this triple burial was not a single event.

CONTENTS: four ceramic vessels, three (21-H-16/1/4-6) at west end of grave and one (7) overlying legs of body (B), all broken in situ; two pieces of another soft brown ware dish in fill near surface (21-H-16/1/A). Earrings, bead necklaces and rings associated with each individual burial.

21-H-16/1/4. Small Jar. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with red slipped exterior; poorly finished. Broken and incomplete. Max.W:96mm; H:135mm. Photo: C/082:33. SNM.19413.

21-H-16/1/5. Small Jar with direct rim and flat base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?); poorly finished. Broken in situ; part of rim missing. Uncoated. Max.W:84mm; H:99mm. Photo: C/081:16. SNM.19374.

21-H-16/1/6. Beer bottle with neck and flat base. No hole. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?); poorly finished with wheelmarks visible; blackened base. Broken but complete. Uncoated. Max.W:78mm; H:114mm. Photo: C/081:18. SNM.19379.

21-H-16/1/7. Tall, necked ovoid jar with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with red slip on upper exterior and rim. Incised figure of bird on body. Broken and incomplete. Max.W:156mm; H:207mm. Photos: C/082:34-5. SNM.19415.

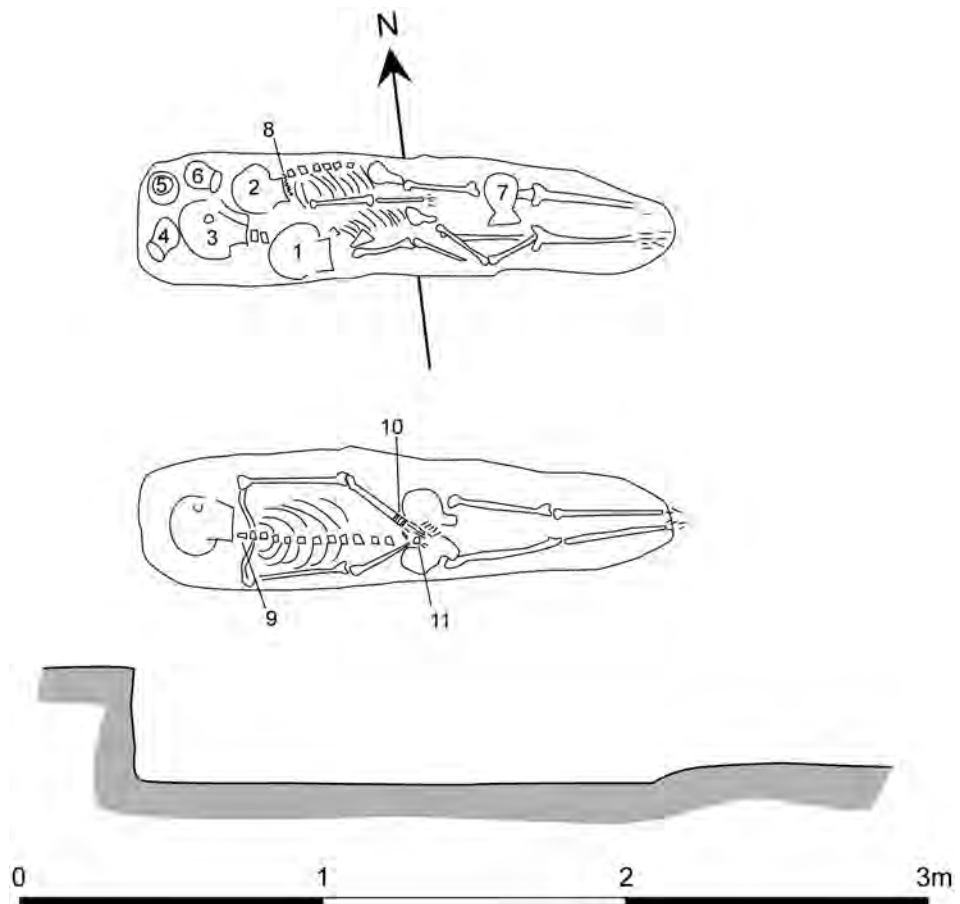


Figure 6.21 Plan of grave 1 [21-H-16] with upper burials (top) and lower adult (bottom) burial, and finds' locations.



Figure 6.22 Lower adult female burial in grave 1 [21-H-16].

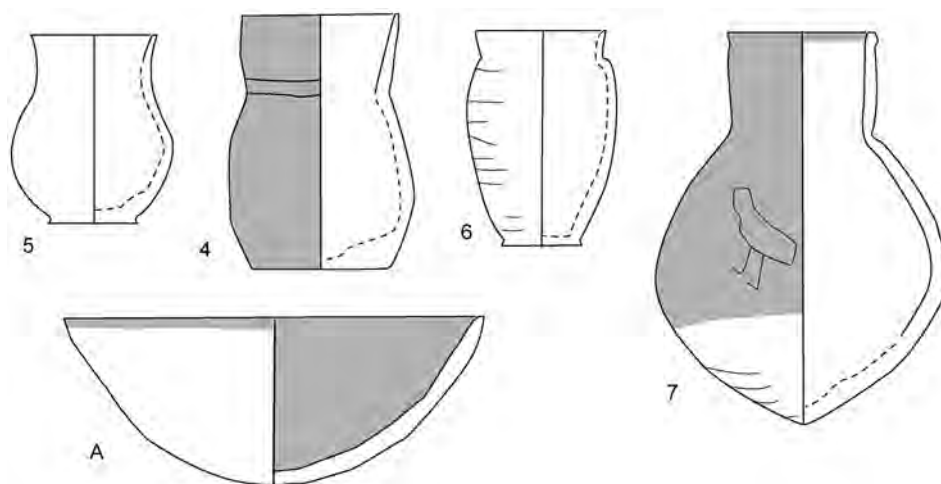


Figure 6.23 Pottery from grave 1 [21-H-16] (1:4)



Figure 6.24 Ovoid jar with incised potmark (21-H-16/1/7).



Figure 6.25 Jars and beer bottle (21-H-16/1/4-6).

21-H-16/1/A. Bowl with direct rim and round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with red slipped interior and exterior rim. Incomplete; two fragments only, near surface. D:c.222mm; H:c.90mm. Not registered.



Figure 6.26 Travertine (?) and carnelian earrings (21-H-16/1/1).

Burial A:

21-H-16/1/1. Two white stone (travertine?) and one carnelian ear rings, at right ear of child. D:c.15mm, Th:4mm. Photo: C/083:19. SNM.19387.

Burial B:

21-H-16/1/2. Ivory earring, at left ear of child. D:14mm, Th:3mm. Photo: C/083:20. SNM.19393.

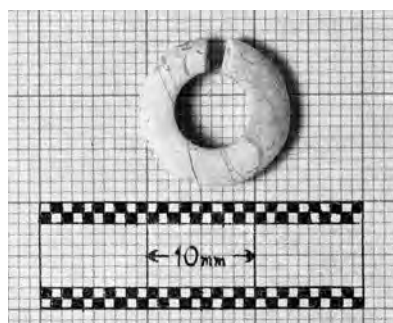


Figure 6.27 Earring (21-H-16/1/2).

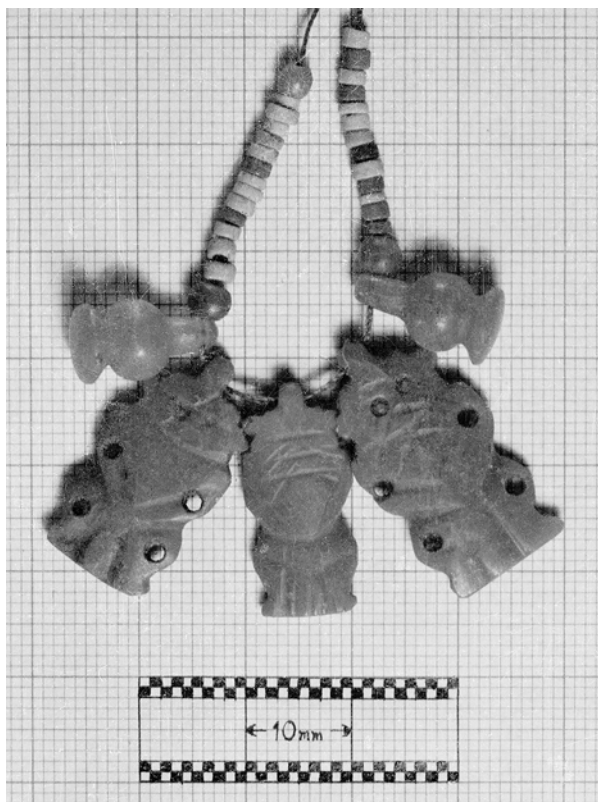


Figure 6.28 Necklace (21-H-16/1/8) with carnelian amulets and faience beads.

21-H-16/1/8. Necklace of three carnelian 'Bes' amulets, two carnelian cornflower beads, three carnelian ball beads and 27 faience disc beads (variable colours). Neck area of child. Photo: C/083:22. SNM.19391.

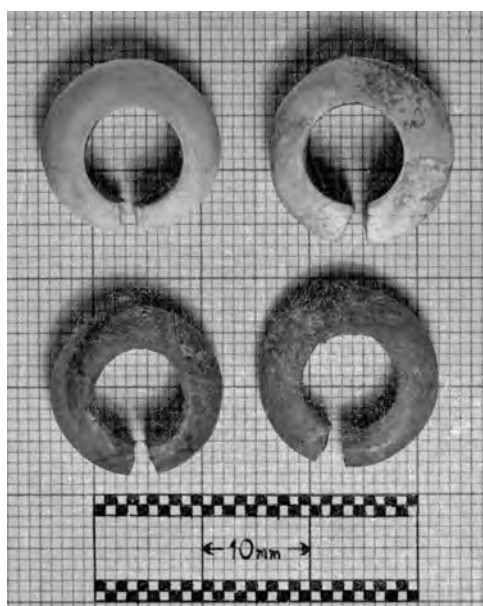


Figure 6.29 Carnelian and calcite earrings (21-H-16/1/3).

Burial C:

21-H-16/1/3. Two carnelian and two calcite earrings; one of each type at each ear of adult burial. D:c.16mm; Th:c.6mm. Photo: C/083:21. SNM.19394.

21-H-16/1/9. Necklace of four strands of beads (restrung in probable order). (1-2): red, green, blue and yellow faience disc beads. (3): red, green, blue and yellow faience 'flower' beads. (4): red carnelian ball beads (c.100), four dark blue (material uncertain), one speckled. Photo: C/083:23. SNM.19389.

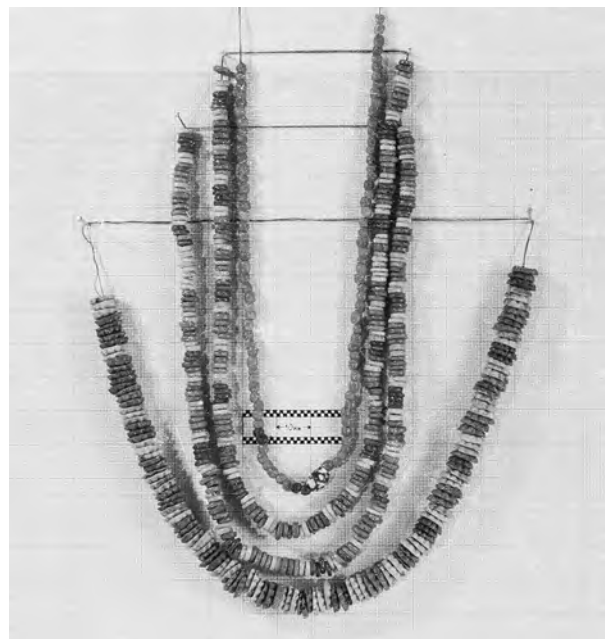


Figure 6.30 Necklace (21-H-16/1/9) of 4 bead strands – restrung.

21-H-16/1/10. Bracelet of seven strands of blue faience beads, some joined together. Seven carnelian beads (joined) used vertically as spacers. Each strand c.50 beads (restrung in probable order). Photo: C/160:28. SNM.22380.



Figure 6.31 Bracelet (21-H-16/1/10) of faience beads.

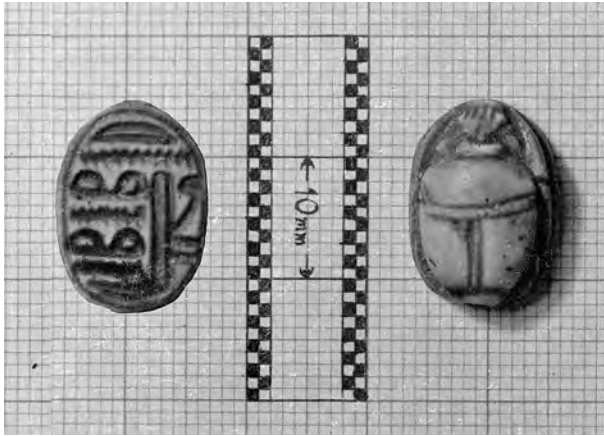


Figure 6.32 Green steatite scarab (21-H-16/1/11).

21-H-16/1/11. Scarab, green steatite. H:17mm; W:12mm; Th:7mm. Photos: C/092:16-17. SNM.19742.

Grave 21-H-16/2:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.
GRAVE: irregular grave chamber, c.35cm below modern surface, entered through shaft/entrance (c.100cm x 90cm) at east end. Chamber maximum dimensions c.300cm x 220cm and estimated at

c.57cm high, prior to collapse of chamber roof. Excavated in gravelly/sandy deposits. Blocking of mudbricks, c.31cm x 16cm x 10cm (location and configuration not clear from field records). Fill of loosely packed rubble.

BURIALS: six burials (A-F), all articulated and apparently undisturbed, although damaged by collapse of chamber roof.

Burial A: adult, possibly female, dorsally extended head west. Uppermost burial.

Burial B: adult, possibly female, dorsally extended head west. Directly beneath (A).

Burial C: adult, possibly male, dorsally extended head west. Below (A) and (B), above (E) and (F).

Burial D: adult female, dorsally extended head west, in sarcophagus, on chamber floor. Beside (F).

Burial E: adult female, dorsally extended head north, at west end of chamber. Below (C).

Burial F: adult female, dorsally extended head west. Beside (D).

CONTENTS: Sarcophagus: poorly preserved remains of a wooden mummiform coffin, 195cm x 40cm and 25cm high (fig. 6.40). Plastered lid with portrait in paint with some relief moulding (breasts, hands, face). This gesso cover

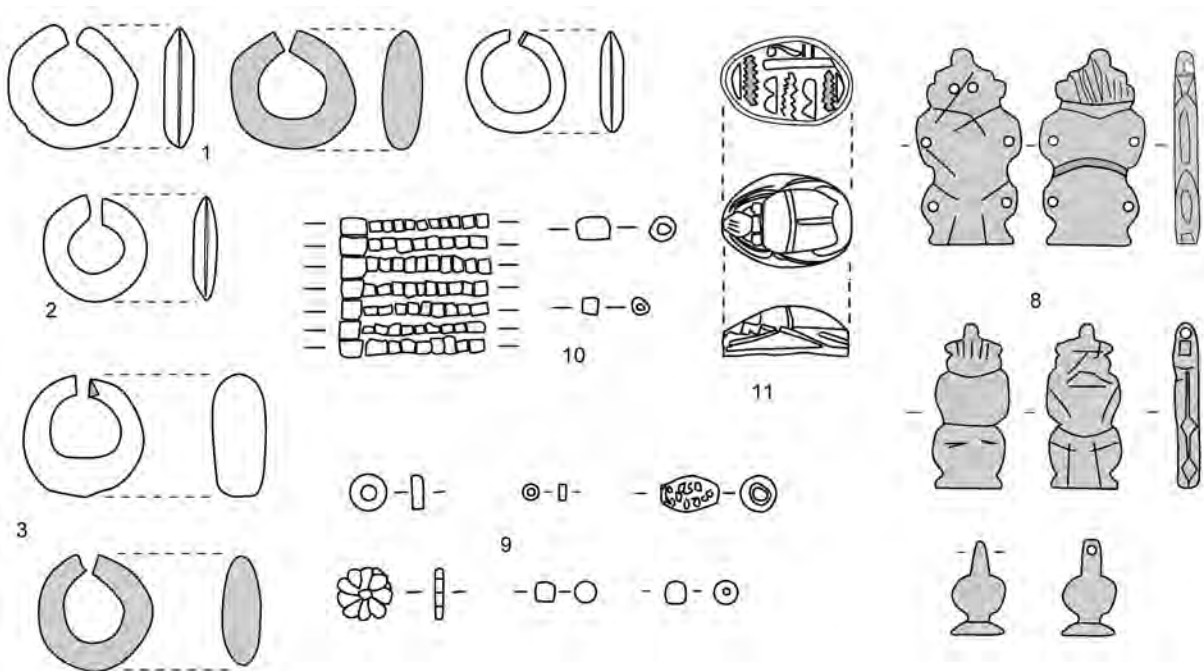


Figure 6.33 Earrings, beads, amulets and scarabs from grave 1 [21-H-16] (scale 1:1)

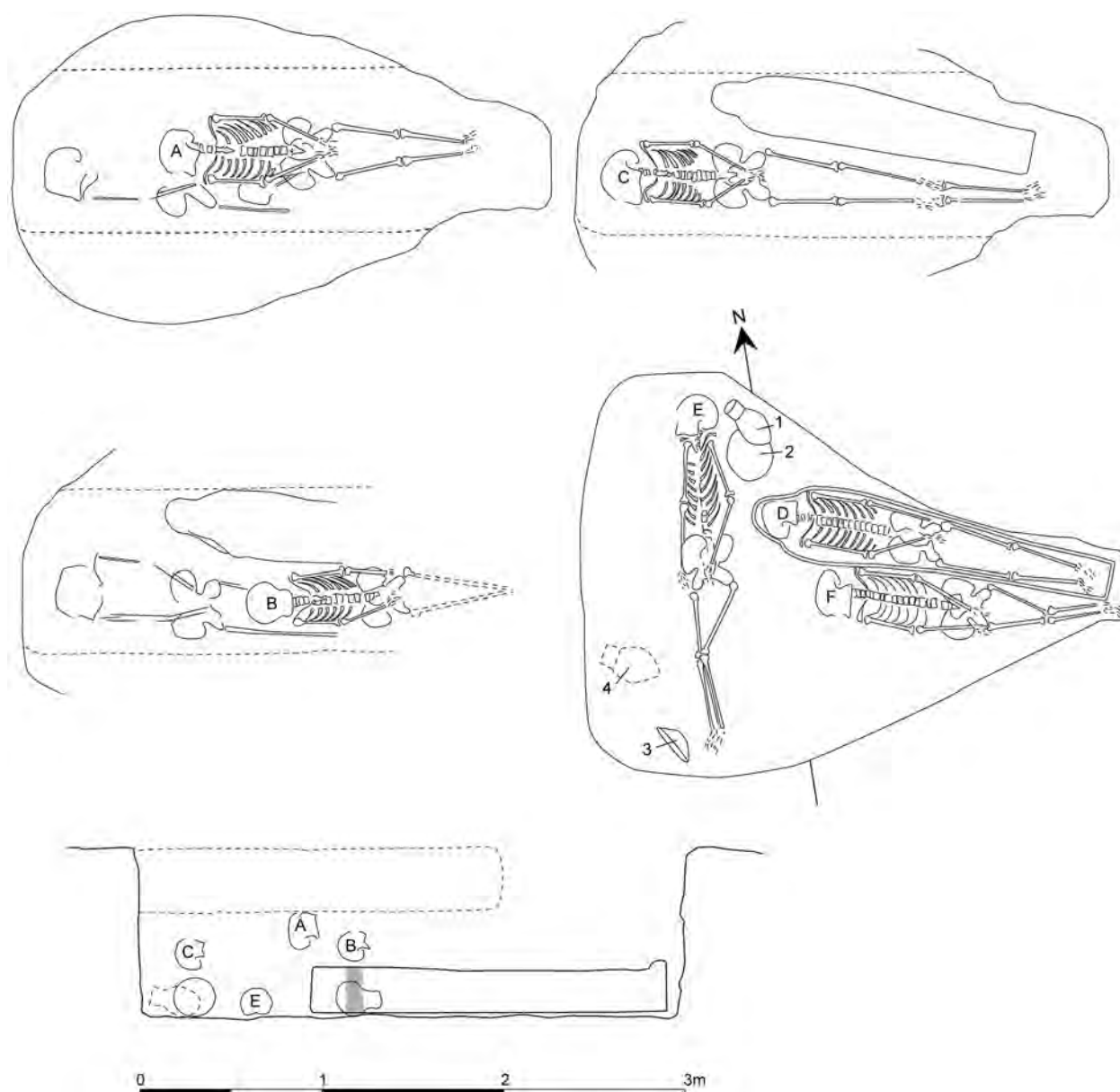


Figure 6.34 Grave 2 [21-H-16], plans of superimposed burials (A-F) and section.

was badly smashed by the collapse of tomb chamber roof.

Face: red; Eyebrow: blue; Eye: black/white; Wig: white (red lines); Hands: white (red lines); Dress: above hands: green and black pattern; below hands: blue, black pattern, red bands. Legs: yellow lines on black. Breasts: red/blue/green, blue/red on white.

21-H-16/2/1. Jar. Wheelmade, soft brown ware with red slipped exterior. Max.D:138mm; H:252mm. Photo: C/081:35. SNM.19419.

21-H-16/2/2. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware with red slipped interior and rim. Broken but complete. D:222mm; H:72mm. Photo: C/081:6. SNM.19378.

21-H-16/2/3. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware with red slipped interior and rim. D:222mm; H:95mm. Photo: C/088:1. SNM.19609.

21-H-16/2/4. Jar. Wheelmade, soft brown ware with red slipped exterior. Broken but complete. Max.D:162mm; H:264mm. Photo: C/081:34. SNM.19420.



Figure 6.35 Burials B and C.



Figure 6.37 Details of sarcophagus plaster fragments from burial D.



Figure 6.36 Burials C and sarcophagus of D, from west.



Figure 6.38 Burials D, E, F and pottery, from east.



Figure 6.39 Burials D, E, F and pottery, from west.

Grave 21-H-16/3:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: subrectangular/oval pit, 210cm x 120cm cut through 58cm of gravel/sand into hard fossil alluvium to total depth of c.130cm. Shaft was brick lined (bricks 30 x 16 x 8cm) to depth of 58cm, with internal pit dimensions 162cm x 80cm. Roof/blocking of stone slabs sealed with mud plaster. Fill of blown sand and some loose rubble.

BURIALS: 13 burials (A-M). Most are articulated although several of the heads of lower bodies were displaced. All the adults were female; most dorsally extended, head west. Excavators concluded that the grave has been reopened for the insertion of additional burials a number of times, but with a minimum of disturbance of previous burials.

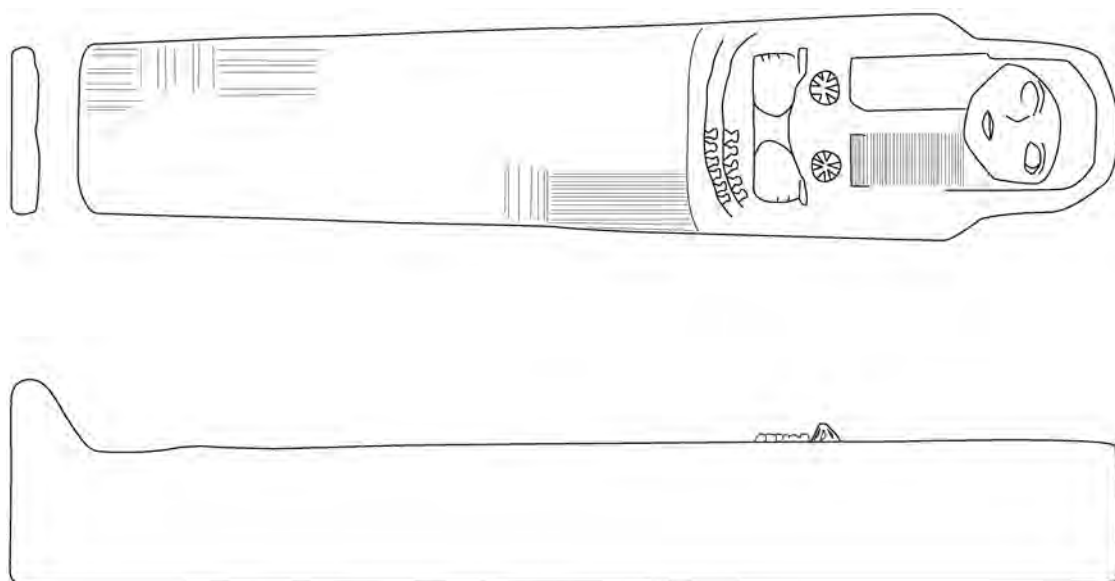


Figure 6.40 Sketch of wooden coffin with painted plaster lid holding burial D, (for colours of decoration, see above).

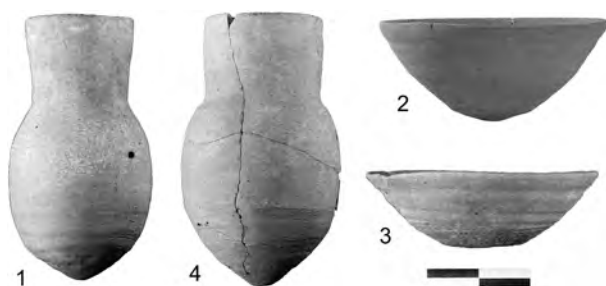


Figure 6.41 Jars and bowls from grave 2 [21-H-16].

Burial A: uppermost burial; dorsally extended, hands crossed on pelvis; in dom palm log coffin.

Burial B: directly beneath (A); extended on stomach, lower legs crossed.

Burial C: directly beneath (B); left arm by side, right arm over pelvis.

Burial D: directly beneath (C). Head displaced. Some remains of dom palm log coffin.

Burial E: beside (D); child burial in small dom palm coffin, slightly flexed.

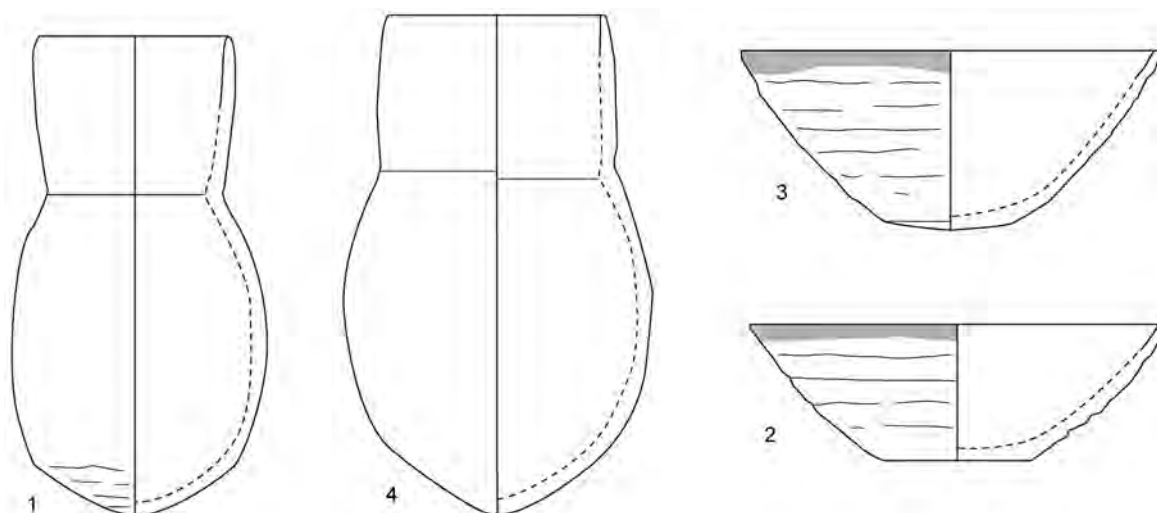


Figure 6.42 Jars and Bowls (1–4) from grave 2 [21-H-16] (scale 1:4).

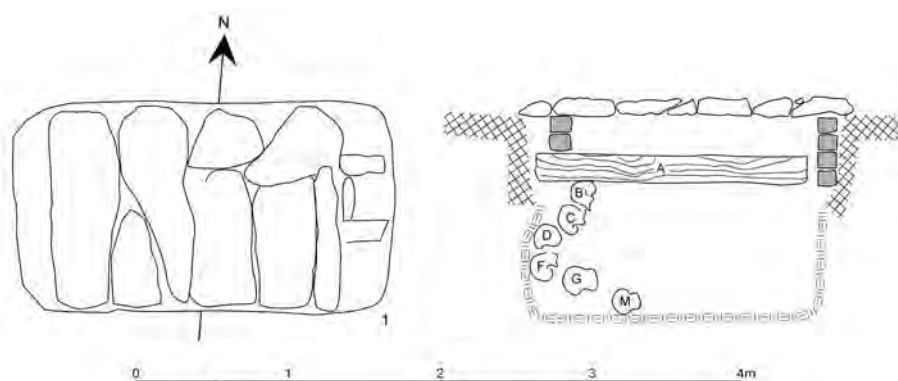


Figure 6.43 Plan of grave 3 [21-H-16] blocking and section, with successive burials.

Burial F: directly below (D). Head displaced.
 Burial G: directly below (F).
 Burial H: child/young adult (?), beside (G).
 Burial I: child, beside (G); slightly flexed on stomach.
 Burial J: adult, directly below (G); on right side, head displaced. On bottom of grave.
 Burial K: child, beside (J); flexed on right side, head displaced.
 Burial L: child, beside (J); head displaced.
 Burial M: sub-adult (?); beside (J).

CONTENTS: most, but not all of the 26 registered objects could be assigned to an individual burial; some only to one of the groups of burials.

Burial A:
 21-H-16/3/1. Jar. Wheelmade, soft brown ware with red slipped exterior. Broken but complete. Max. D:198mm; H:351mm. Photo: C/082:36. SNM.16988.
 21-H-16/3/2. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (hard fired) with red polished (burnished?) interior. Warped. Broken but complete. D:228mm; H:62mm. Photo: C/081:7. SNM.19386.
 21-H-16/3/3. Scarab. Green glazed steatite with very detailed design. H:22mm; W:15mm; Th:8mm. Photos: C/092:14–15. SNM.19711.



Figure 6.44 Dom palm coffin of Burial A, jar (1) and Bowl (2).

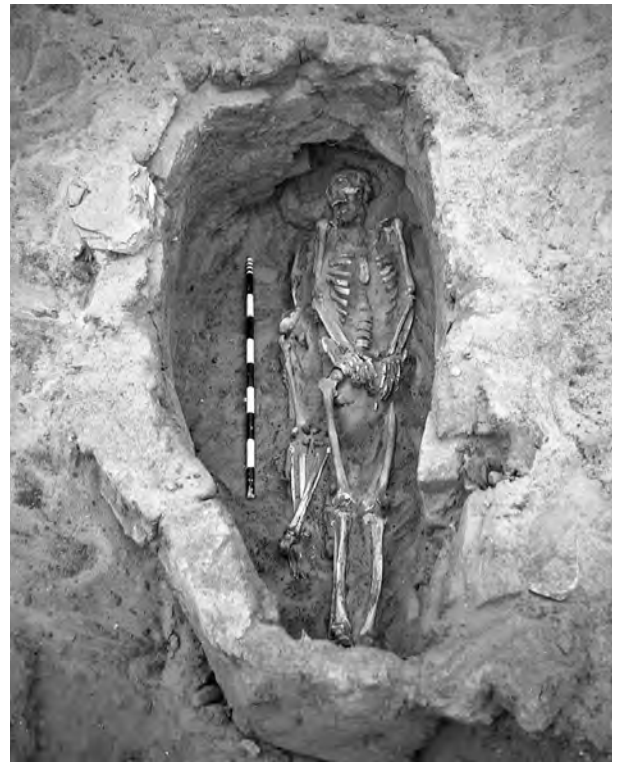


Figure 6.45 Burial A uncovered; burial B below.



Figure 6.46 Burial C and associated pottery (4,6) by head; (5) in mouth of jar (7).



Figure 6.47 Burial D with child burial beside it.



Figure 6.48 Burial G and lowest levels of pottery becoming visible

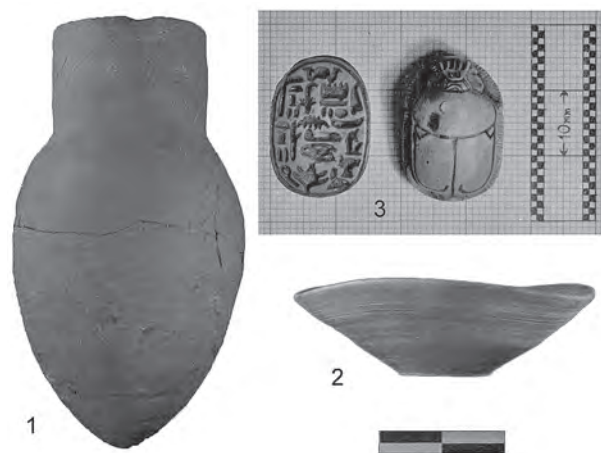


Figure 6.49 Jar, bowl and scarab with (21-H-16/3) Burial A.

Burial C:

21-H-16/3/4. Tall necked ovoid jar. Wheelmade, red ware (now grey). Despite closed context vessel wind-worn and much of neck missing. Max.D:148mm; H:177mm. Photo: C/082:37. SNM.19423.

21-H-16/3/5. Tall necked ovoid jar with flat base. Wheelmade, red ware (now grey). Despite closed context vessel wind-worn and part of rim missing.



Figure 6.50 Jars and bowl, with (21-H-16/3) Burial C.



Figure 6.51 Bottle (21-H-16/3/7) and black painted decoration. With Burial D or E?

Overlay mouth of 21-H-16/3/7. Max.D:115mm; H:162mm. Photo: C/081:17. SNM.19380.

21-H-16/3/6. Bowl with direct rim and flat base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with red slipped interior and outside rim. Broken, chipped rim. D:214mm; H:81mm. Photo: C/081:4. SNM.19377.

Burials D/E?:

21-H-16/3/7. Tall bottle with folded rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware; (Nile silt?); cord impressions on lower body; black painted decoration. D:189mm; H:295mm. Photos: C/083:1-3. SNM.19385.

21-H-16/3/8. Jar. Wheelmade, soft brown ware with soft red matte slip. Overlay mouth of 21-H-16/3/22. Could relate to lowest level of burials (J-M). Max.D:89mm; H:124mm. Photo: C/083:4. SNM.19384.



Figure 6.52 Jar (21-H-16/3/8); possibly with Burials D/E?

Burial G:

21-H-16/3/10. Necklace with scarabs (a,b), on neck-head of (G): c.245 green faience beads, 110 bone disc beads, 2 carnelian disc beads, 49 black/white diorite(?) ball beads and 2 glazed steatite scarabs (order unknown, restrung). Photos: C/129:33-36, C/133:8. SNM.20760.

21-H-16/3/21. Earring, shell. At neck of (G). D:14mm, Th:5mm. Photo: C/084:6. SNM.19512.

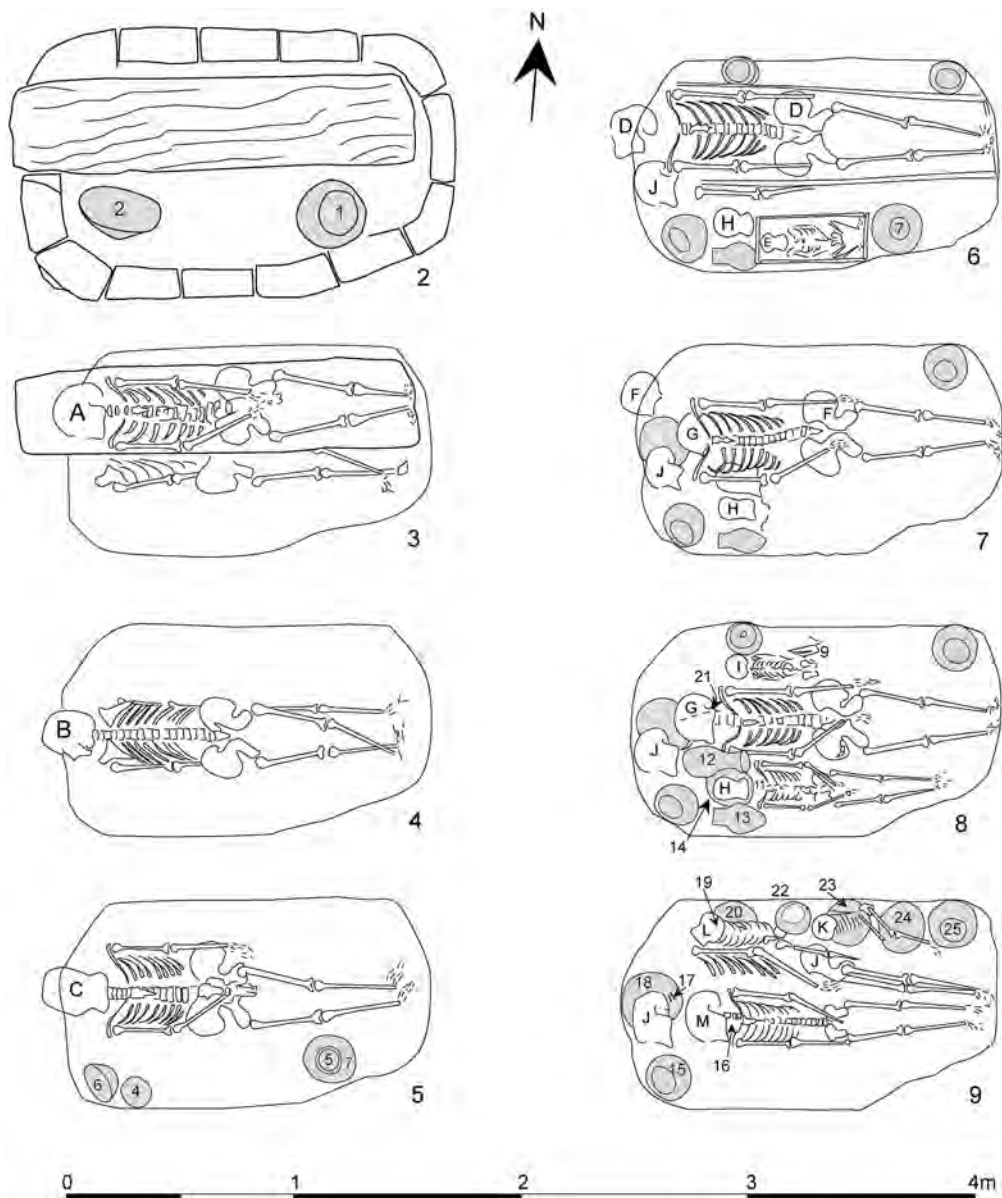


Figure 6.53 Plans of grave 3 [21-H-16] successive burials and associated artefacts.



Figure 6.54 *Restrung bead necklace (21-H-16/3/10) with scarabs.*



Figure 6.55 *Glazed steatite scarab (a) from necklace (21-H-16/3/10).*



Figure 6.56 *Glazed steatite scarab (b) from necklace (21-H-16/3/10).*

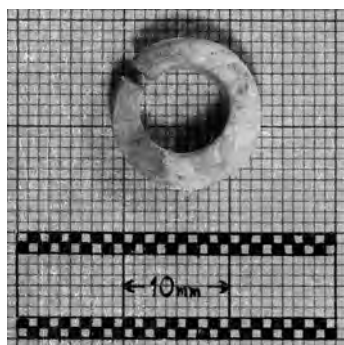


Figure 6.57 *Earring (21-H-16/3/21).*

Burial H:

21-H-16/3/11. Necklace, neck of (H). c.260 faience disc, 169 bone disc, 3 carnelian disc and 2 black/white diorite (?) ball beads (order unknown, restrung). Photo: C/123:19. SNM.20467.

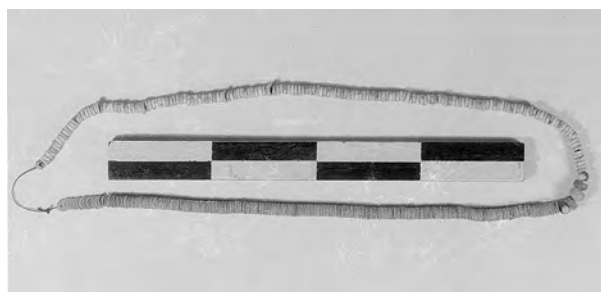


Figure 6.58 *Restrung bead necklace (21-H-16/3/11).*

21-H-16/3/26. Earring, shell. At neck of (H). D:12mm; Th:3.5mm. Photo: C/084:8. SNM.19516.

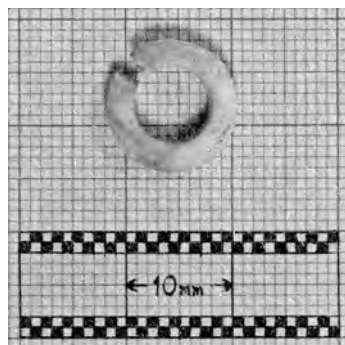


Figure 6.59 *Earring (21-H-16/3/26).*

Burial I:

21-H-16/3/9. Kohl stick. Wood. Beside legs of (I). L:124mm, Max D:5mm. Photo: C/095:11. SNM.19755.

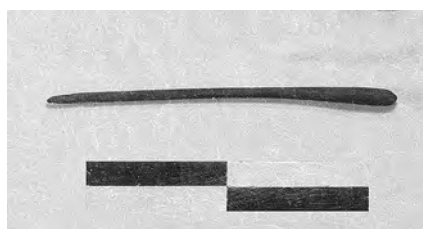


Figure 6.60 *Wooden kohl stick (21-H-16/3/9).*

Burials G/H/I:

21-H-16/3/12. Tall necked ovoid jar. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with soft matte red slip. Complete but rim broken. Max.D:175mm; H:255mm. Photo: C/081:33. SNM.19414.

21-H-16/3/13. Tall necked ovoid jar. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with soft matte red slip. Complete but rim broken. Max.D:142mm; H:198mm. Photo: C/083:5. SNM.19381.

21-H-16/3/14. Bowl with flat base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with soft matte red slipped interior and upper half of exterior. Warp crack and broken. Beneath head of (H). D:219mm; H:79mm. Photo: C/094:15. SNM.19765.



Figure 6.61 Jars and bowl with grave 3 [21-H-16], Burials G/H/I.

Burials J/K/L/M:

21-H-16/3/15. Tall necked ovoid jar with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with soft matte red slip with black painted decoration. Complete but rim broken. Max.D:154mm; H:277mm. Photo: C/083:7. SNM.19424.

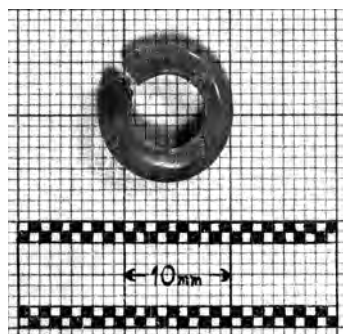


Figure 6.62 Carnelian earring (21-H-16/3/19).

21-H-16/3/18. Plate with round base. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with soft matte red slipped interior and upper half of exterior. Broken in half. D:246mm; H:120mm. Photo: C/081:3. SNM.19373. Beneath head of burial (J).

21-H-16/3/19. Ring. Carnelian earring. D:12mm; Th:3.5mm. Photo: C/084:7. SNM.19518. Beneath head of burial (L) within bowl (21-H-16/3/20).

21-H-16/3/20. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with red slipped interior and upper exterior. D:237mm; H:87mm. Photo: C/081:5. SNM.19376. Beneath head of burial (L).

21-H-16/3/22. Ovoid jar. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with soft matte red slip. Max.D:156mm; H:181mm. Photo: C/081:36. SNM.19418.

21-H-16/3/23. Plate. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with matte red slipped interior and upper exterior. D:246mm; H:66mm. Photo: C/088:4. SNM.19607. Beneath (K).

21-H-16/3/24. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with red slipped interior and exterior rim. D:222mm; H:64mm. Photo: C/089:28. SNM.19632. Beneath (K).

21-H-16/3/25. Tall necked ovoid jar with direct rim. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with soft red matte slip. Surface flaking. Max.D:168mm; H:285mm. Photo: C/083:8. SNM.19825.



Figure 6.63 Jars and bowls with grave 3 [21-H-16], Burials J/K/L/M.

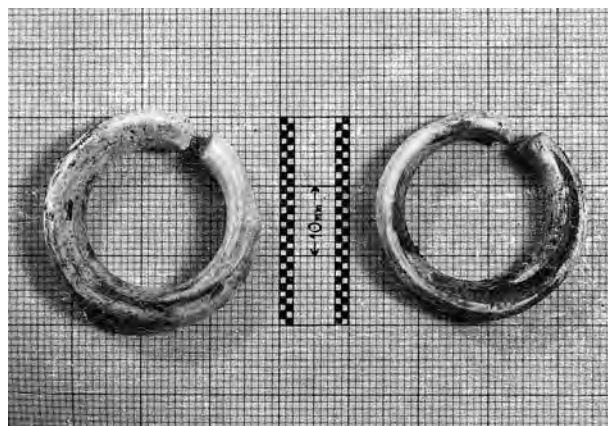


Figure 6.64 Shell earrings (21-H-16/3/17), Burial J.

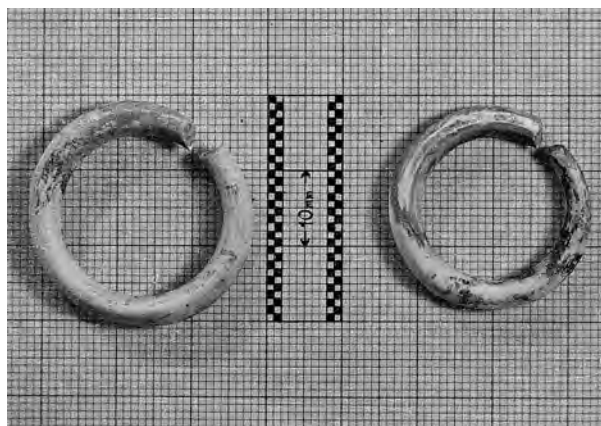


Figure 6.65 Shell earrings (21-H-16/3/16), Burial M.

Burial J:

21-H-16/3/17. Rings; pair of shell earrings, together at base of skull (J). Larger example: D:32mm; Th:7mm. (other slightly smaller). Photo: C/084:12. SNM.19508.

Burial M:

21-H-16/3/16. Rings; pair of shell earrings, at neck (fallen from ears) of (M). Larger example (broken): D:30mm; Th:7.5mm. (other slightly smaller). Photo: C/084:10. SNM.19514.

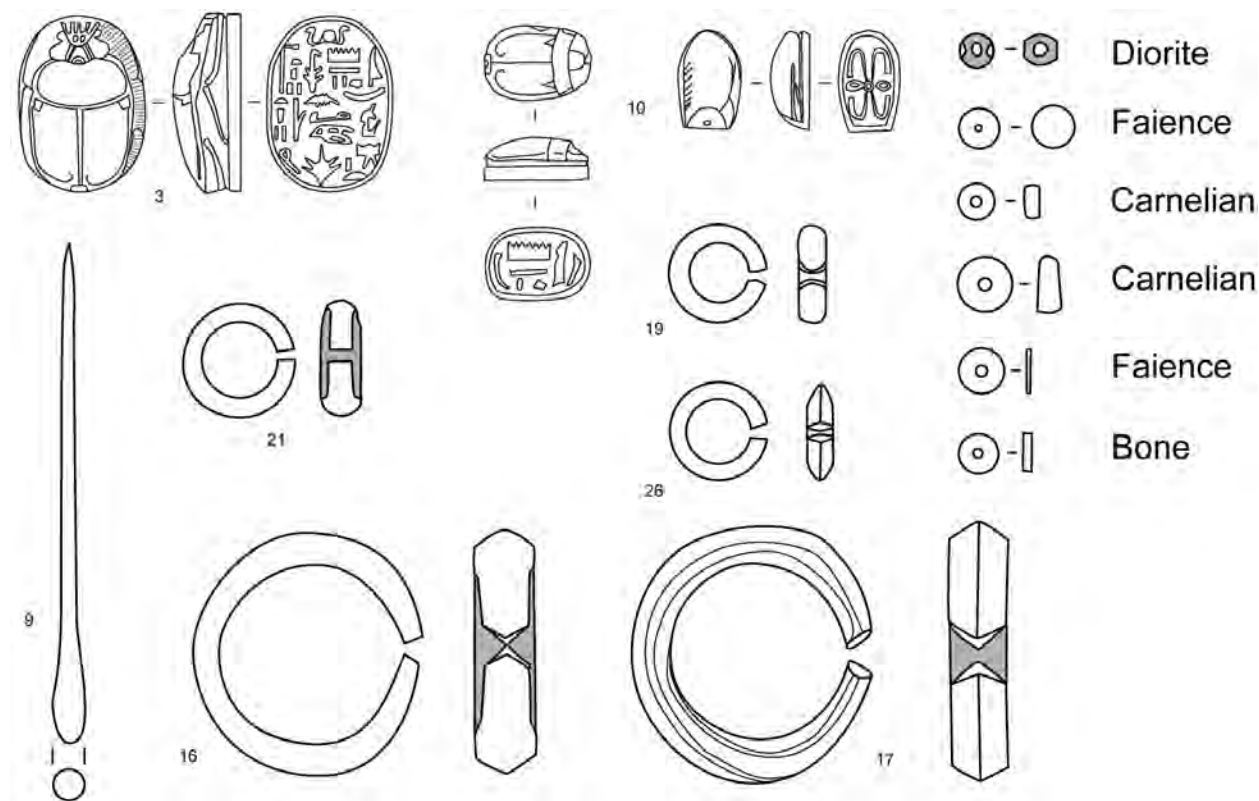


Figure 6.66 Beads, scarabs, earrings and kohl stick from grave 3 [21-H-16] (scale 1:1).

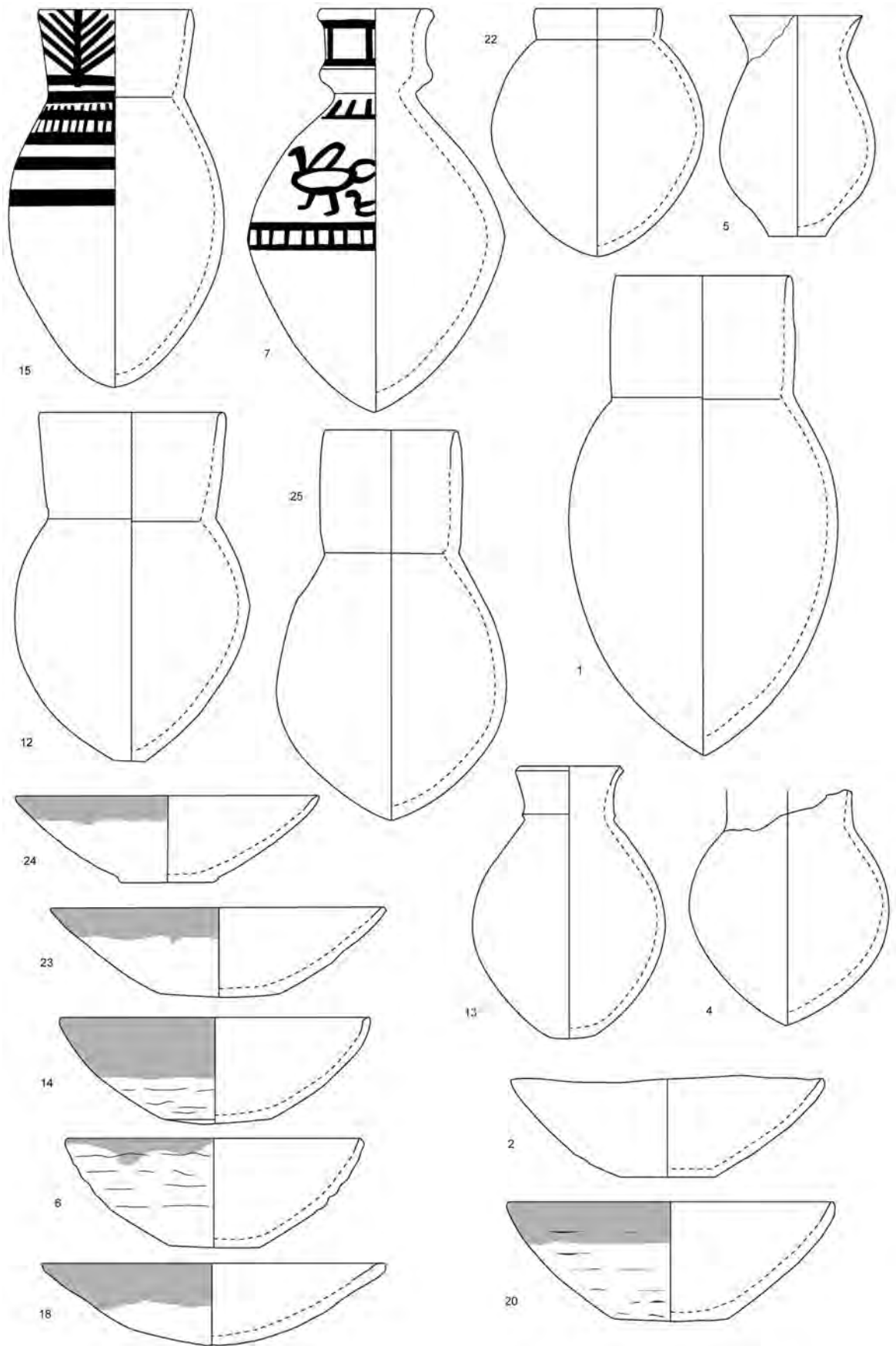


Figure 6.67 Pottery from grave 3 [21-H-16] (scale 1:4).



Figure 6.68 Grave 3 [21-H-16] before excavation.

Grave 21-H-16/4:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: a narrow rectangular pit, 190cm x 35cm cut in to fossil alluvium against bedrock; to maximum depth of 50cm. No trace of blocking; fill of rubble.

BURIAL: undisturbed burial of adult; dorsally extended, head west, facing south. Lower legs crossed; arms beside body.

CONTENTS: none.

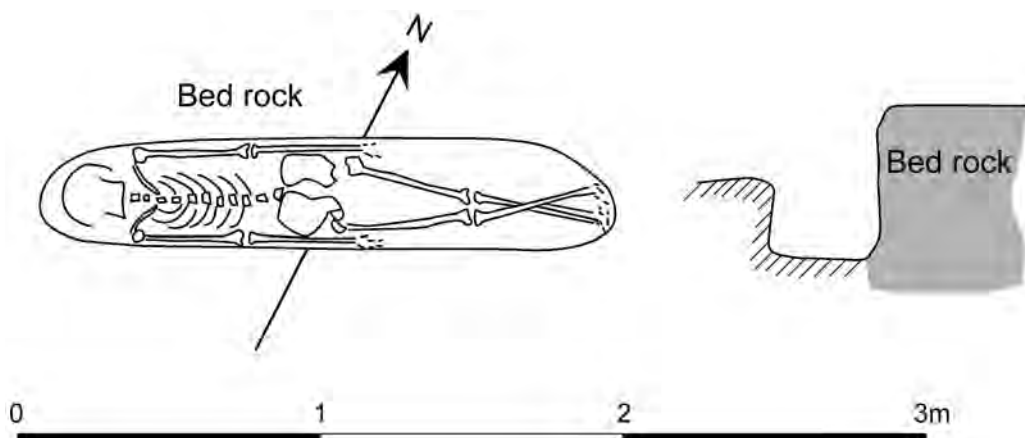


Figure 6.69 Plan and section grave 4 [21-H-16].

Surface find:



Figure 6.70 Carnelian arrow head (21-H-16/1/0);
surface find.

21-H-16/0/1. Arrow head. Lunate carnelian blade, 20mm long, embedded in a white substance (resin?) into which was set the remains of a wood/reed arrow shaft.¹ Photo: C/084:9. SNM.19511. (fig.6.70)

The more closely datable pottery may be dated to Dynasty 18 while some types are common through Dynasties 18 and 19. The two vessels with painted black decoration are noteworthy; such a design is typical of the middle of Dynasty 18. The design of a bird is very rare in Nubia. The quantity of necked jars in this assemblage is also notable. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: No previous record of this site. AJM XIV: 25–6; Site Photos: F/560: 1–6; F/561; F/562; F/566: 1–3. Air Photo: 634238. Investigated: 23/1/1969 – 4/2/1969.

¹ Similar arrows have been recovered from a Napatan burial at Tombos (Smith 2007, 351, fig.50).



Figure 6.71 Location of [21-H-11] and [21-H-10].

LOCATION: the site was located c.50m to the south of the wadi which runs down to the river between the hamlets of Gebel el Nasr (*Jebelelnasir*) and Milamu (*Milamla*) c.450m from the river bank and c.15m above the floodplain. [This location remains above water level].

DESCRIPTION: the site consists of three rock-cut graves on the rocky hillside on the south side of the wadi. Two of the graves (1 and 2) were situated on the rocky hillside above the wadi, while the third (grave 3) was located c.85m towards the southwest, higher up on the rocky slope. Graves 1 and 2 consist of deep rock-cut tombs, Grave 1 with a substantial square stone superstructure. Grave 3, which may not be directly related to the two larger tombs, was a more modest rectangular pit.

Grave 21-H-11/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: the tomb was marked by a well made, square structure (c.3m x 3m) orientated east-northeast– west-southwest. It was built of flakes and slabs of the local rock of varying sizes, the largest block measuring c.135cm. It was preserved to a height of c.50cm (c.5 courses of stone), but a single block in the centre indicates it originally stood higher. The mastaba was covered with a mound of stone debris, derived from further courses of stonework. It was built directly onto bedrock except on the east side, which overlay sand. A glass bead (1) was found on the east side of the superstructure along with two sherds of impressed handmade pottery (possibly A-Group?) and at least one sherd of a medieval (Classic Christian?) polished orange ware bowl (not drawn).



Figure 6.73 Grave 1 [22-H-11], from north.

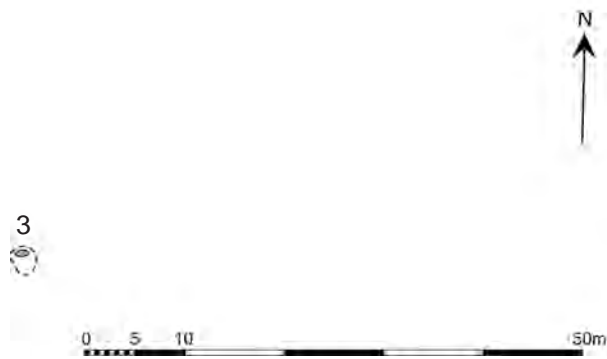


Figure 6.72 Location plan of three graves in [21-H-11].



Figure 6.75 Shaft and uncompleted chamber of grave 1 [21-H-11], from east.

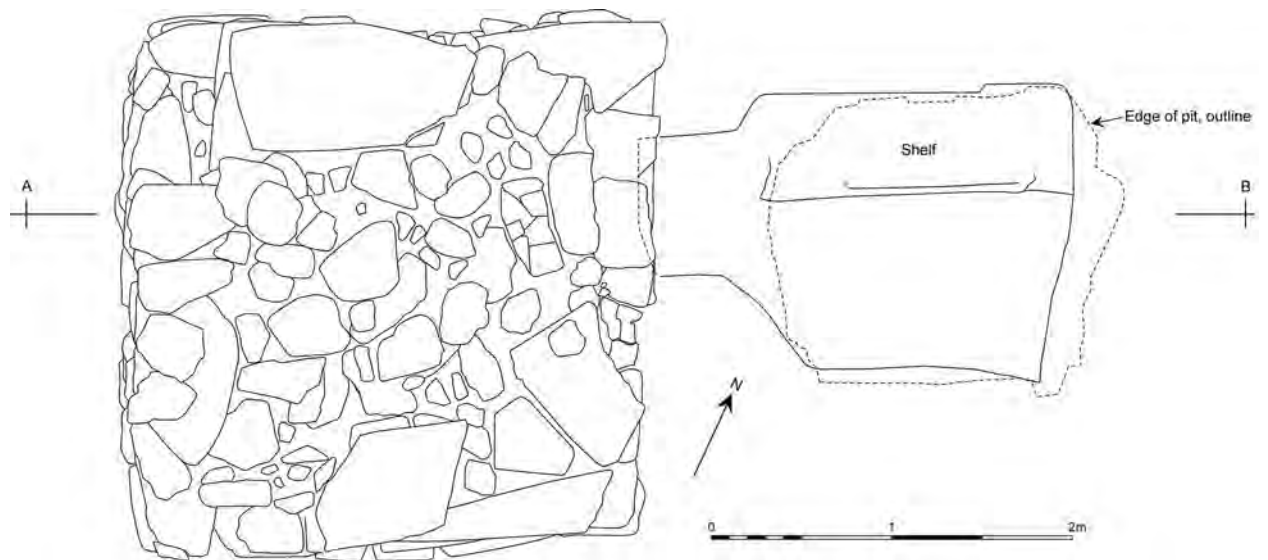


Figure 6.74 Plan of superstructure and shaft grave 1 [21-H-11].

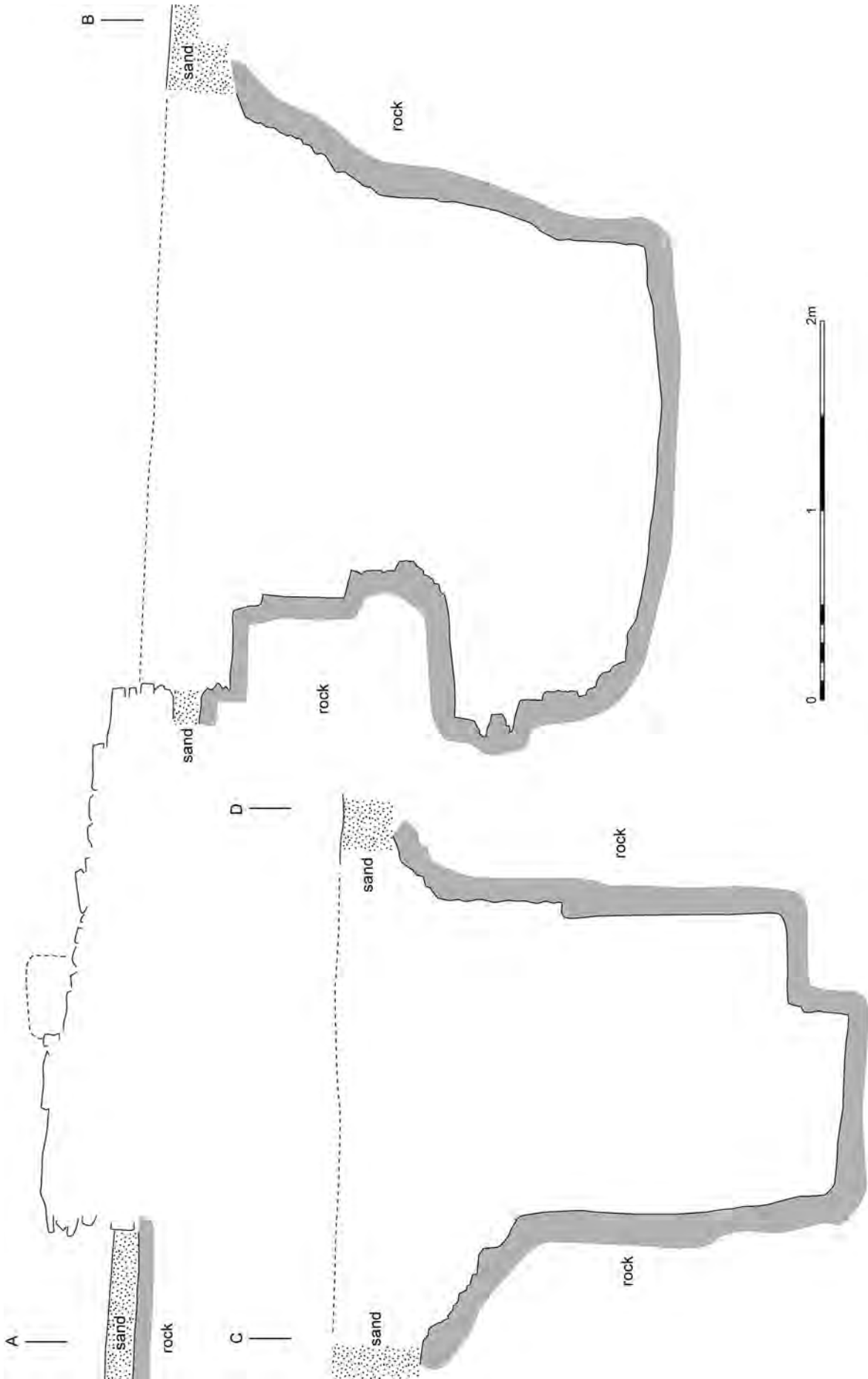


Figure 6.76 Sections across shaft and superstructure (21-H-11/1).

GRAVE: on the east side of the superstructure a pit (c.180cm x 190cm) was cut into the rock to a depth of 270cm. Along the north side of the shaft a rock cut bench remained, c.50cm x 170cm and c.30cm high. On the west side of the shaft was what appeared to be the part-excavated entrance to an uncompleted tomb chamber, which would have lain beneath the superstructure. On the basis of the finds it is presumed that the excavation of a separate burial chamber was abandoned and the burial(s) was instead deposited in the shaft.

CONTENTS: the grave was plundered and completely disturbed, some bones surviving scattered through the shaft fill. Sherd material in the shaft fill included at least 60 sherds of 'drab, buff and red, wheelmade wares' including an estimated c.15 bowls, some reconstructable (2, 3), also saucers with flat bases and 'coarse high jars with flat foot' (not drawn = beer jars?).

21-H-11/1/1. Bead; light green paste cylinder bead. (Medieval?) D:4mm; Th:3mm. Photo: C/092:13. SNM.19748.

21-H-11/1/2. Bowl. Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?) with red slipped rim, interior and exterior. Only part rim and half body recovered. D:240mm; H:75mm. Photo: C/175:17. SNM.22305.

21-H-11/1/3. Bowl. Wheelmade, drab brown ware with grey to drab core (Nile silt?). Red slipped rim, interior and exterior. Only a third of vessel preserved. D:198mm; H:78mm. Photo: C/083:14. SNM.19410.

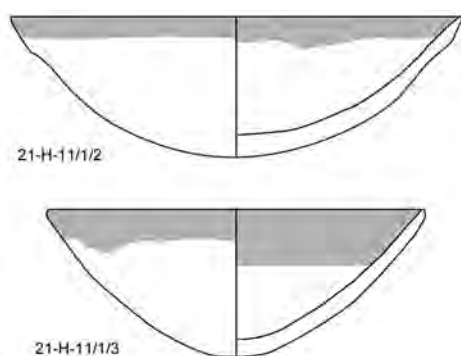


Figure 6.77 Reconstructed bowls from (21-H-11/1) (1:4)

Grave 21-H-11/2:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.

GRAVE: an east-west oriented rock cut pit, c.70–100cm x 200cm wide and c.200cm deep.

This led to an irregular rock chamber at its (west) end, c.240cm long and 120cm wide, with a rock threshold in the doorway. In the door and part of the chamber the roof has collapsed and further disintegrating rocks around the doorway had to be removed during excavation (fig.6.78).



Figure 6.78 Shaft and collapsed chamber entrance of Grave 2 [21-H-11], from east.

CONTENTS: the grave was thoroughly plundered. Only scattered bones and some ten sherds were found in the fill; amongst them part of a saucer with flat base.

A secondary find was a hand-made coarse qadus jar (A) found just below ground surface above the entrance to the grave chamber; its mouth was covered with a flat stone. The pit also contained some sherds of medieval pottery (not drawn).

21-H-11/2/A. Qadus. Handmade, rim not preserved; neck fracture smoothed to form secondary rim; otherwise complete. Knob decorated with incised cross. Extremely uneven walls and irregular shape. Coarse red ware with red to grey core. H:c.396mm; Rim D:180–189mm; Max.D:c.320mm. Photo: C/106:10. SNM.17018. (figs 6.80–81).

Grave 21-H-11/3:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.

GRAVE: consisted of an east-west oriented pit, c.55cm – 100cm wide and c.90cm deep pit cut into rock in a small concentration of stone slabs and flaked rock. Plundered.

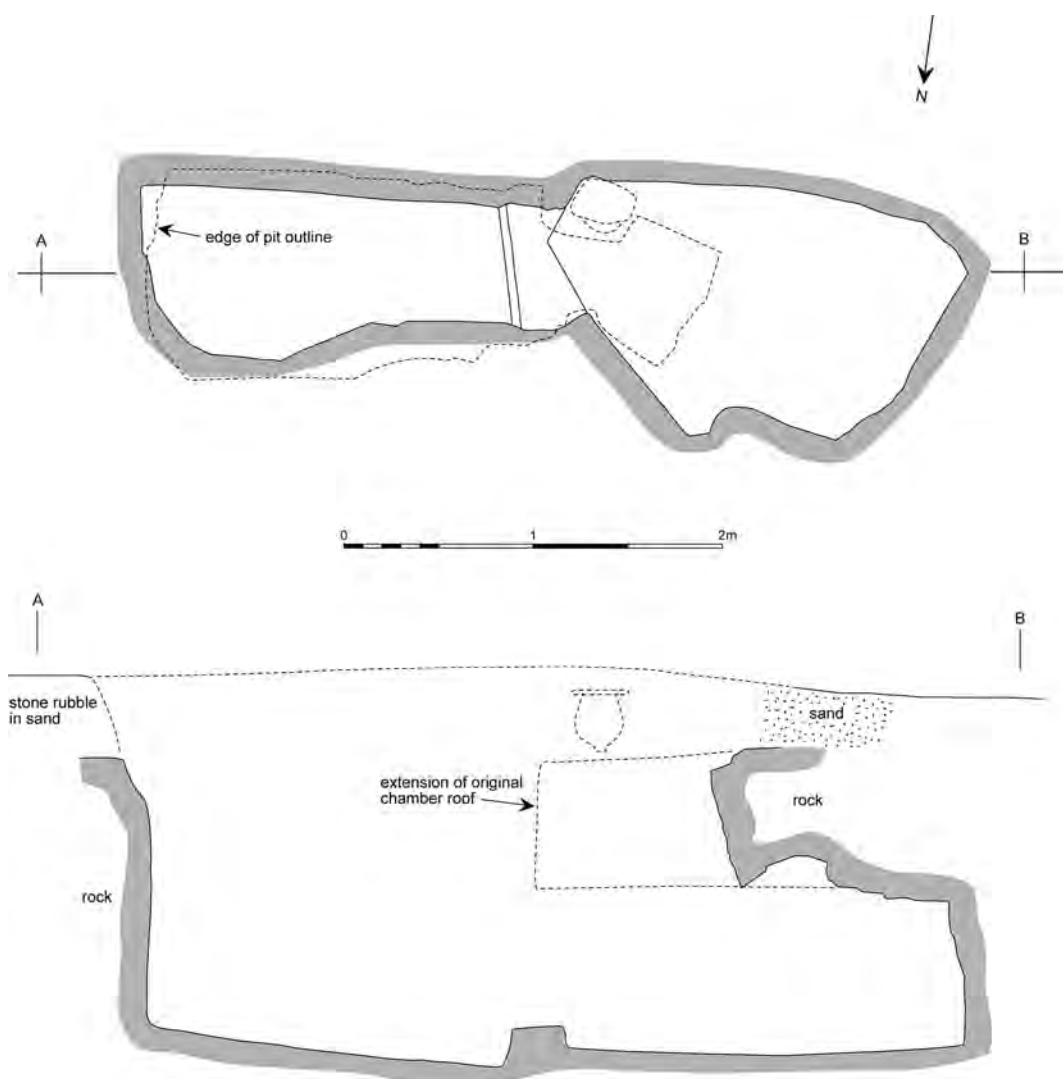


Figure 6.79 Plan and section of Grave 2 [21-H-11]; with location of qadus jar.

CONTENTS: the pit contained a large part of a broken pilgrim bottle and fragments of a Qena ware jar. There were scattered bones in the fill.

21-H-11/3/1. Pilgrim flask. Wheelmade Ballas red ware (Marl B) with white coated exterior. Found broken. One handle and c.25% of body missing. H:212mm; Rim D:73–76mm; Body D:c.153–168mm. Photos: C/084:14–15. SNM.19504. (fig.6.85)

21-H-11/3/2. Tall necked ovoid amphora with small flat base. Yellowish-white Qena ware (Marl A3). Uncoated. Cord impression. Reconstructed from sherds and profile uncertain. Incised potmarks around handle. H:>550mm; Neck D:c.195mm.

The imported amphora may be dated to the period of Ramesses II through Dynasty 20. Such pilgrim flasks occur from mid-Dynasty 18 to Dynasty 20. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: Gez III: 137–41. The site is not previously recorded. Sample of pottery collected. Site Photos: F/538:1, F/542:1–9. Air Photos: 635089, 328219. Investigated: 28/12/1968 – 1/1/1969.

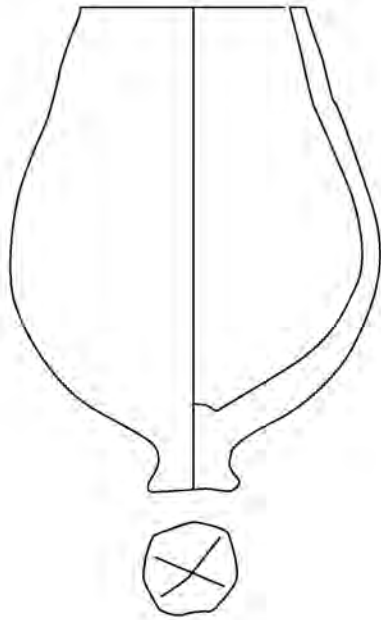


Figure 6.80 Qadus jar (21-H-11/2/A) (scale 1:6).

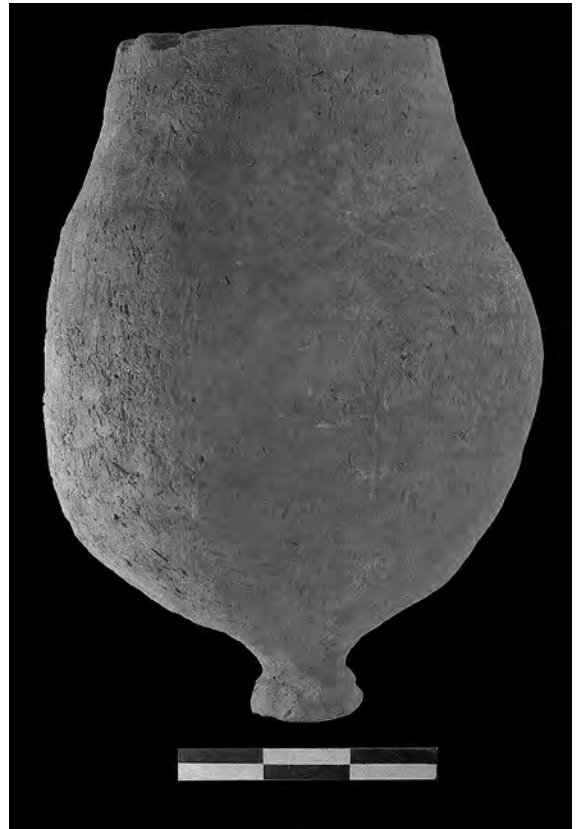


Figure 6.81 Qadus jar (21-H-11/2/A).



Figure 6.82 Grave 3 [21-H-11], from southeast.



Figure 6.83 View to southeast over area of grave 3 [21-H-11] towards river and hamlet of Milamla.

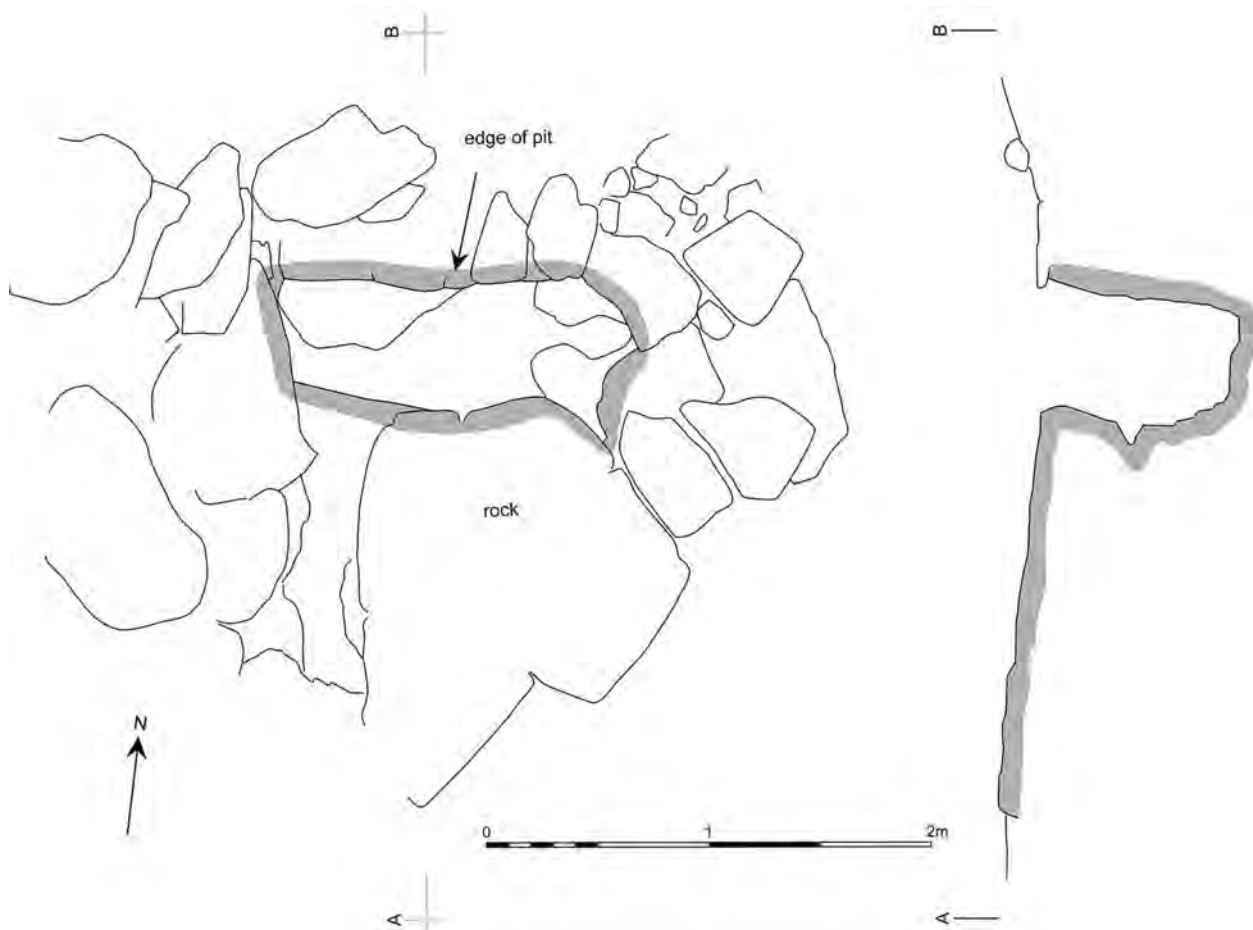


Figure 6.84 Plan and section of grave 3 [21-H-11].



Figure 6.85 Pilgrim flask (Marl B), reconstructed (21-H-11/3/1).

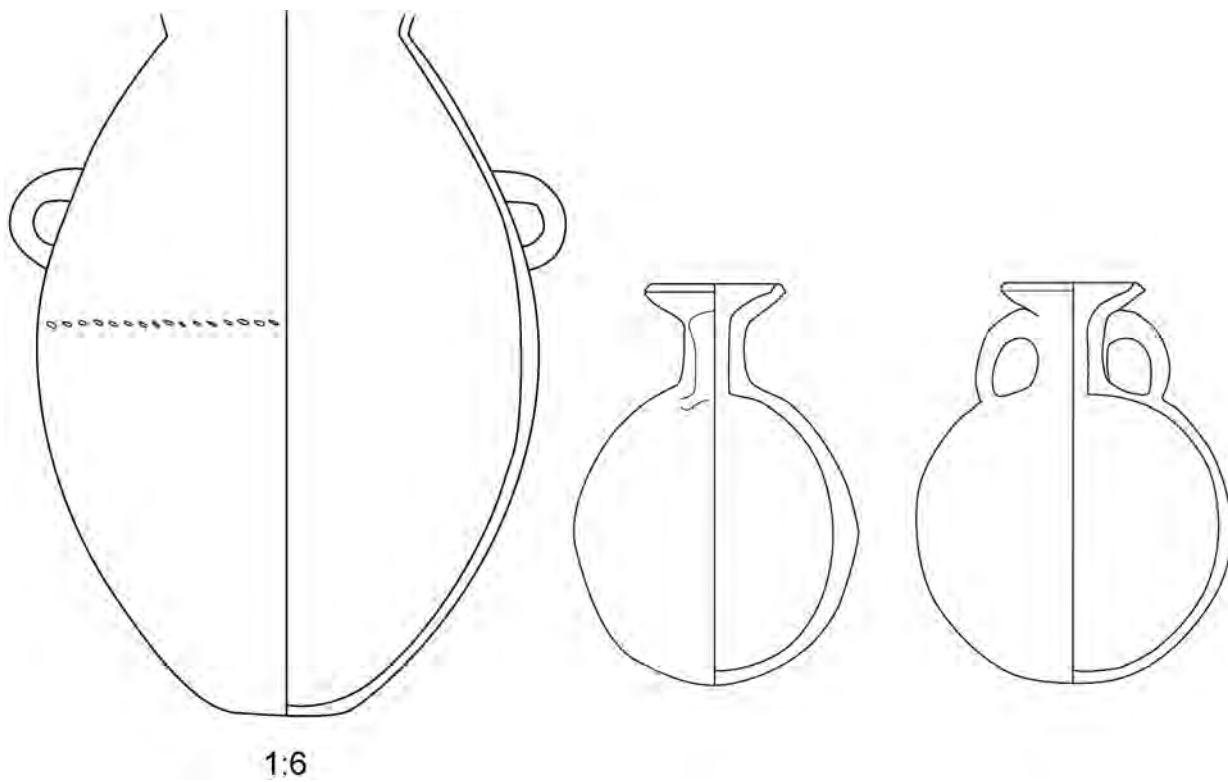


Figure 6.86 Reconstructed amphora (21-H-11/3/2) (1:6) and Pilgrim Flask (21-H-11/3/1) (scale 1:4).

21-H-10 Cemetery**Ukma West – Milamu**

LOCATION: the site is located c.420 m southeast of the village of Gebel el Nasr and c.285m from the river (fig.6.71). It lay c.300m southeast of the New Kingdom burials at [21-H-11].

DESCRIPTION: the site covered an area of about 72m (north-south) and c.50m (east-west). The main cemetery was situated on two neighbouring silt banks (fig.6.87). Some 20m to the west was a single rock-cut chamber tomb (Grave 1) in an area of rocky ground covered with stone chips in a loose silt. Along the south side of the site there is a narrow ravine cutting through the hillside running towards the river. Two small stone structures had been built between the wadi walls. Originally registered along with the cemetery site, this settlement (probably of quite recent date) will be published separately.

Grave 21-H-10/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: the grave had been plundered, also disturbing the superstructure. On the west side of the shaft above the chamber there was a c.1m high subcircular mound of smaller stones with a diameter of c.4.75m. Around the grave shaft itself there was an irregular low embankment of smaller stones, probably a result of plundering. The mound was thought likely to be largely original while the banks of stone represented material which had covered the roof of the shaft. Of the shaft roof two transverse stone slabs remained in situ (fig.6.89), while others were found on the bottom of the shaft.

GRAVE: the tomb consisted of a deep shaft with a chamber behind its west wall (fig.6.88). The rock cut pit measured c.1.2m x 3.2m wide at the top edge, and was c.3.6m deep. In the west end wall there was a 80cm high chamber entrance situated c.70cm above the shaft floor. This led into an irregularly shaped chamber whose floor was at approximately the same level as the entrance. This was c.330cm long and c.190cm-290cm wide. In its northwest corner was a small inner chamber c.190cm long and 130cm wide. The roof of the chambers varied in height between c.70cm and 95cm. Inside the threshold there was a 'pavement' filling a shallow and irregular excavation in the floor.

BURIAL: no information concerning the remains of any burials recorded.

CONTENTS: there were many 'Pharaonic' as well as medieval ('Christian') sherds on the surface around the shaft as well as within the fill. Several apparently quite modern tools were also recovered during excavation. These included iron knives, sickles and even table knives (of steel) with wooden handles. The excavator suggested that the tomb had been disturbed twice by plunderers, first in the medieval period, and again in the twentieth century. Sherds from a wheel-made red-coated jar with pointed bottom (G) was recovered from a exploratory trench cut into the stone mound/superstructure. Another large fragment of the lower part of a similar jar (H) was found at the bottom of the shaft. Excavation notes and subsequent studies of the pottery suggested the presence of c.10 wheelmade bowls with round bases and red-slipped rims (1, A-D). Part of a pilgrim flask (2) with painted black decoration was recovered; with a total of c.90-100 sherds of bowls and flat-based cups (E) and c.13 beer bottles (L), c.20 sherds of 'Kena ware' and c.15 sherds of wheelmade red ware 'with green/grey coated corrugated outside'. The presence of probably intrusive sherds identified as 'Christian qaduses and amphorae' was also noted.

Pottery (fig.6.92):

21-H-10/1/1. Bowl with direct rim, simple contour and round base. Wheelmade drab brown ware. Matte red slip on interior and exterior rim. Black spots on exterior surface. D:c.178mm; H:80mm. Photo: C/083:13. SNM.19421.

21-H-10/1/2. Wall sherd of Pilgrim flask. Wheelmade Ballas ware (Marl B) with yellowish-white coating and black-painted decoration. Photo: C/092:25. SNM.19636.

21-H-10/1/C. Bowl with folded rim, simple contour and round base. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nilt silt?). Matte red slip on interior rim. D:198mm; H:c.78mm.

21-H-10/1/D. Bowl with direct rim, simple contour. Wheelmade soft brown ware (Nilt silt?). Matte red slip on rim. D:207mm; H:c.88mm.

21-H-10/1/E. Cup, with direct rim and flat base. Wheelmade red ware. Exterior surface roughly slipped. Rim D:c.114mm; H:57mm.

21-H-10/1/F. Necked jar with folded rim (6 rim

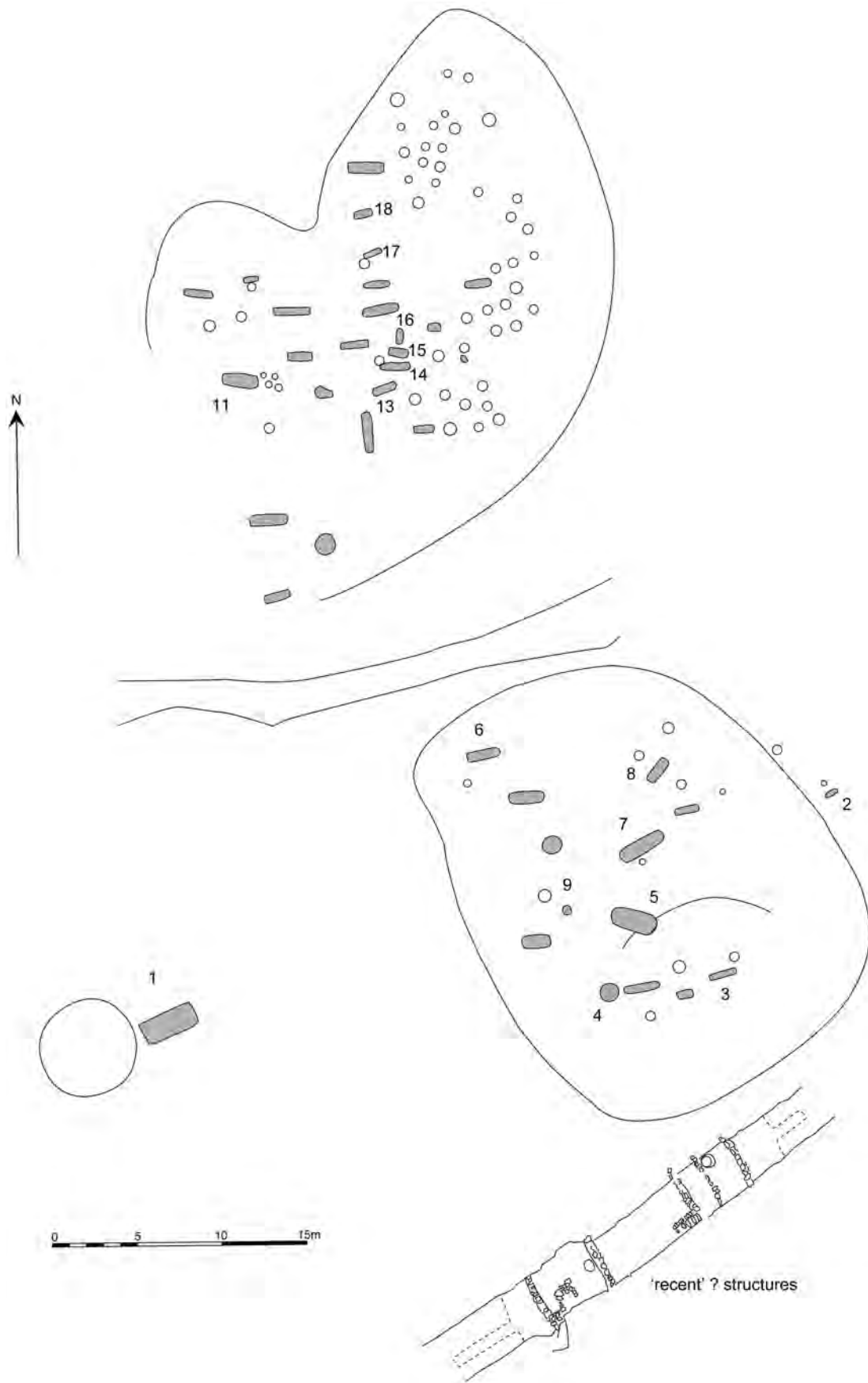


Figure 6.87 Plan of cemetery [21-H-10].

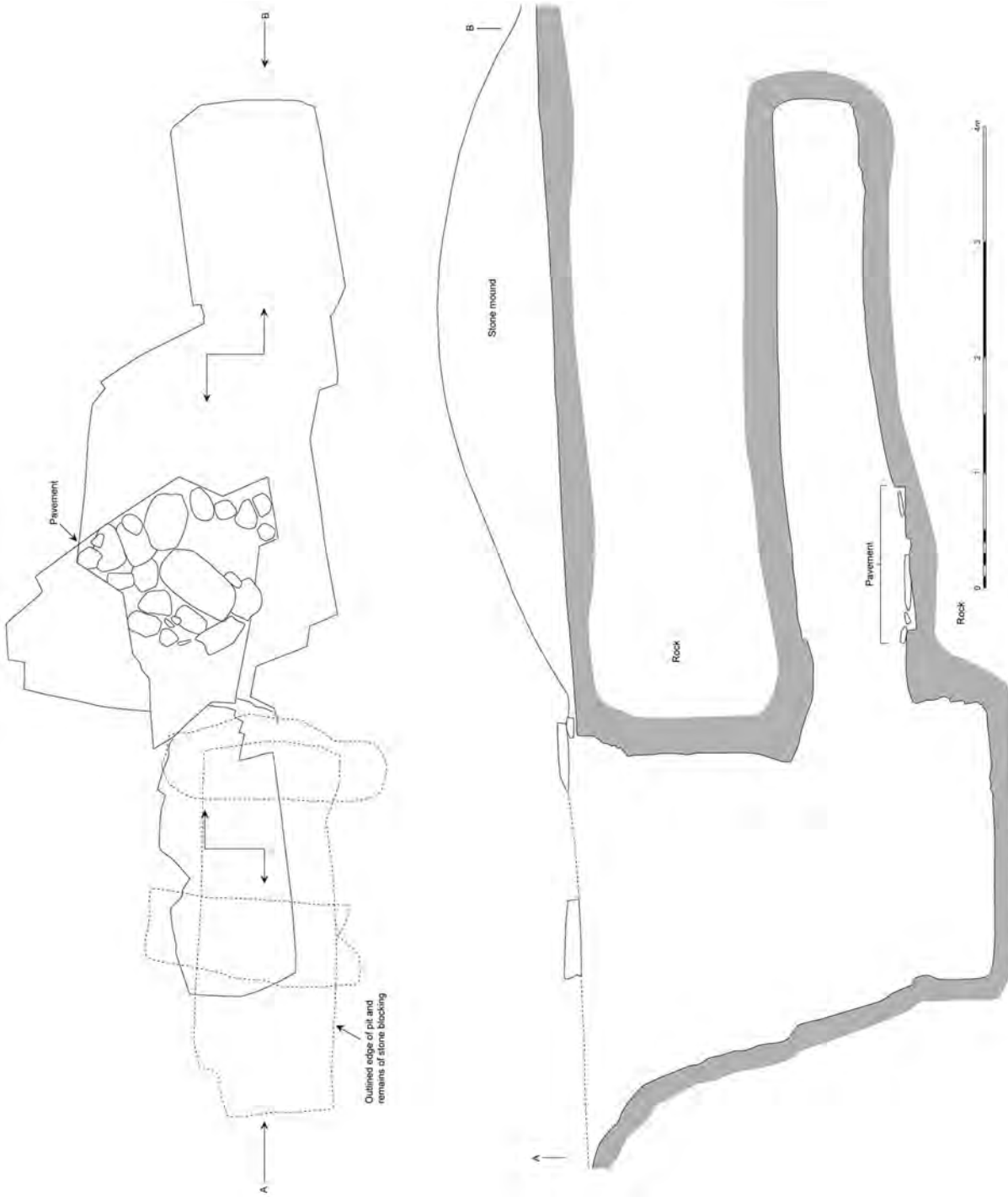


Figure 6.88 Plan and section of grave 1 [21-H-10].



Figure 6.89 Grave 1 [21-H-10] looking west, with rubble mound beyond.



Figure 6.90 View into shaft of grave 1 [21-H-10] covering slab in place



Figure 6.91 Entrance and chambers of grave 1 [21-H-10].

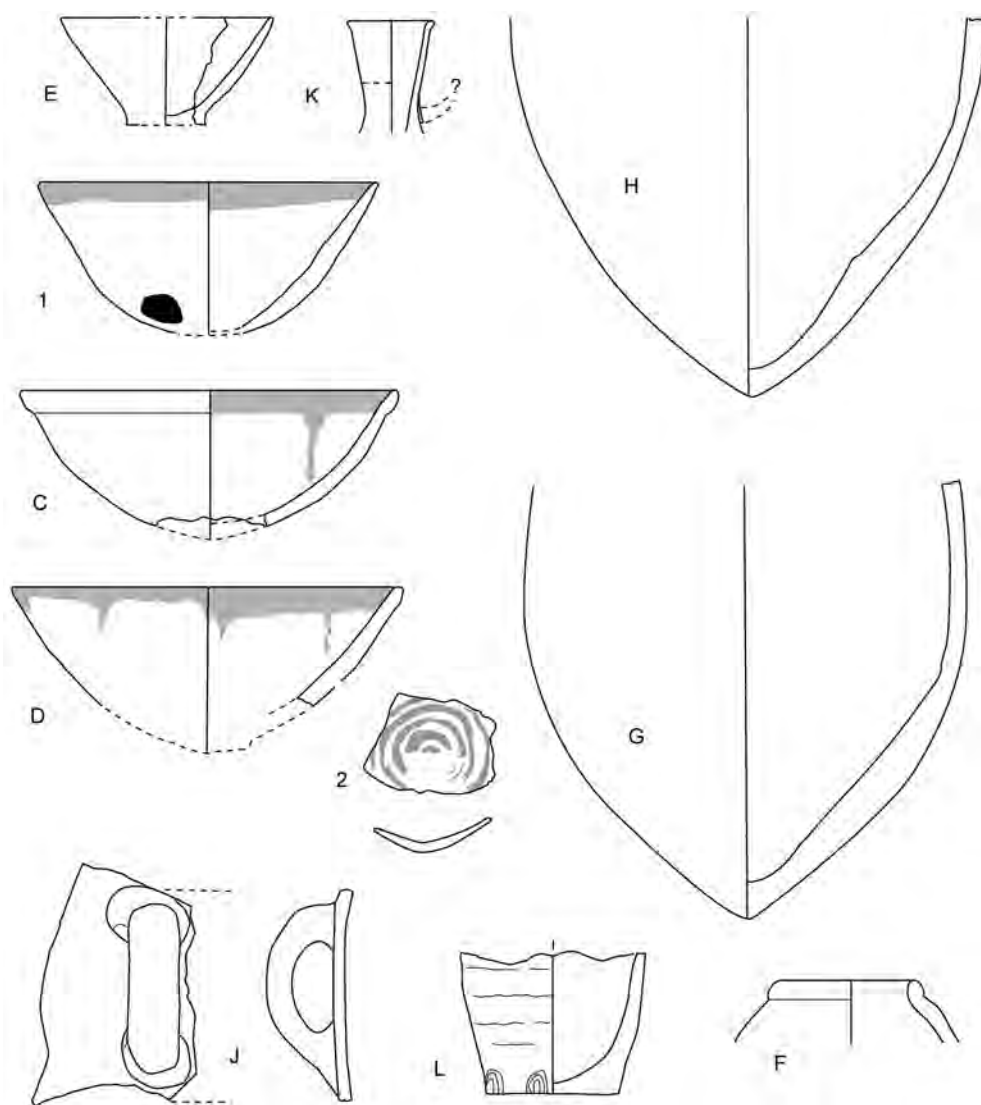


Figure 6.92 Pottery sample from grave 1 [21-H-10] (scale 1:4).

sherds). Wheelmade, soft brown ware (Nile silt?). Uncoated. Rim D:c.75mm.

21-H-10/1/G. Tall ovoid jar. Large fragment of base and other sherds. Drab light brown surfaces and black core. Red coated exterior. D:c.250mm; H:>199mm.

21-H-10/1/H. Tall ovoid jar. Drab brown-red ware, partly black core. Slightly polished(?) red coated exterior. D:c.235mm; H:>230mm.

21-H-10/1/J. Amphora. Wheelmade Qena ware (Marl A3). Uncoated.

21-H-10/1/K. Juglet/bottle, with folded rim and tall neck. Wheelmade. Drab brown ware with red coated exterior. Rim D:c.46mm. Possibly intrusive?

21-H-10/1/L. Beer bottle. Flat base, no hole. Red/brown ware (Nile silt). Uncoated. Roughly made, cut off base, with prominent finger marks. Base D:69mm.



Figure 6.93 Fragmentary bowl (21-H-10/1/1).

CEMETERY: the rest of the cemetery covering the two silt banks contained at least 33 graves and at least 67 pits. While the pits were thought likely to be all quite recent, the graves seem likely to include further 'Pharaonic' burials as well as a few medieval, or more recent burials. All graves except three were oriented approximately east-west; two had a north-south orientation, and one contracted burial was in a circular pit. All the graves were excavated along with five of the pits; other pits were superficially tested. Of the graves 16 appear to have contained the remains of burials and/or objects, the others were completely plundered or otherwise denuded.

Grave 21-H-10/2:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.

GRAVE: shallow subrectangular pit c.60 x 26 x 12cm deep, aligned near local east-west.

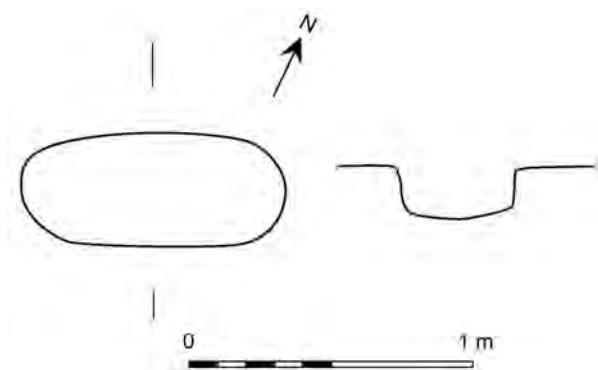


Figure 6.94 Grave 2 [21-H-10].

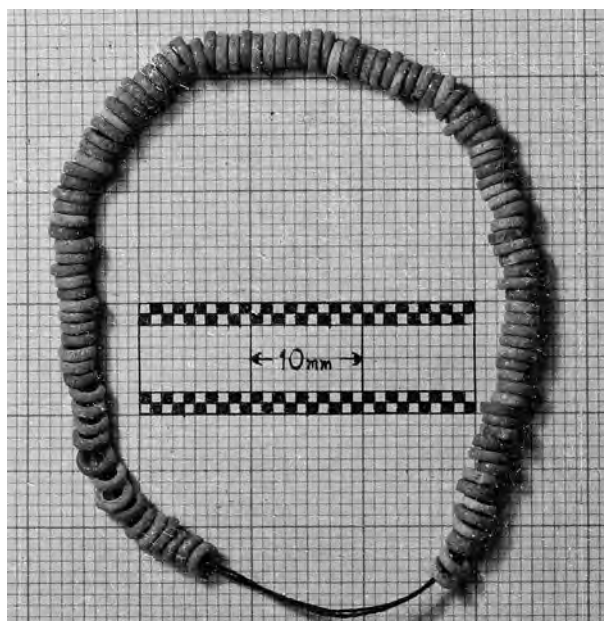


Figure 6.95 Beads (21-H-10/2/1).

BURIAL: very eroded child grave, only fragments of burial remain.

CONTENTS: faience beads (1).

21-H-10/2/1. 111 faience ring beads. D:c.3mm.

Photo: C/092:32. SNM.19752.

Grave 21-H-10/3:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.

GRAVE: subrectangular pit c.180 x 36 x 50cm deep, aligned near local east-west.

BURIAL: adult burial dorsally extended, head west. Some short hair and soft tissue preserved. One forearm was missing.

CONTENTS: above the head there was an upright, coarse hand-made pot (1).

21-H-10/3/1. Bowl. Coarse handmade, light brown to red-brown exterior black patches; light brown interior.

Very uneven walls and irregular shape. H:c.167mm;

Rim D:135–156mm. Photo: C/106:8. SNM.20035.



Figure 6.96 Grave 3 [21-H-10] under excavation with bowl in upper fill.

Grave 21-H-10/4:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.

GRAVE: a subcircular grave c.90cm diameter and no more than 20cm deep.

BURIAL: the body was disturbed by surface erosion. The skeleton was lying on its back with upwards bent knees, with head south of east.



Figure 6.97 Grave 3 [21-H-10].



Figure 6.98 Grave 3 [21-H-10], detail of head.

CONTENTS: none.
 Lacking finds, dating was difficult but on the basis of the burial form a later prehistoric date (third-second millennium BC?) was suggested.

Grave 21-H-10/5:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.
 GRAVE: irregular subrectangular shaft c.222cm x 90 x 84cm deep.

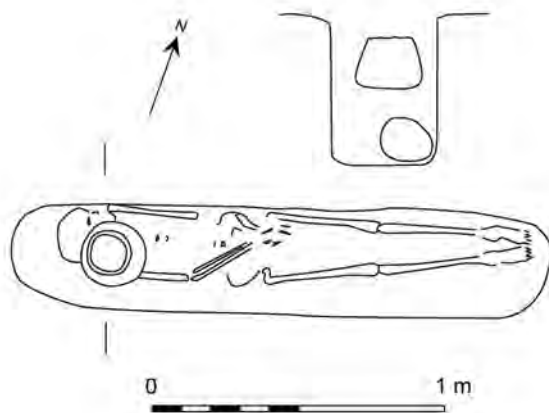


Figure 6.99 Grave 3 [21-H-10].



Figure 6.100 Handmade bowl (21-H-10/3/1).



Figure 6.101 Grave 4 [21-H-10].

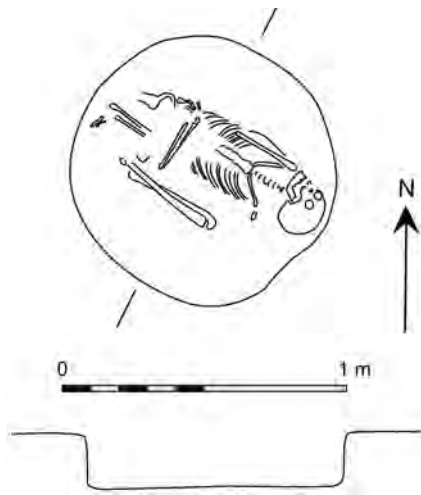


Figure 6.102 Grave 4 [21-H-10].



Figure 6.103 Grave 5 [21-H-10], from east.

BURIAL: dorsally extended body, head to west.
 CONTENTS: none.
 Date uncertain.

Grave 21-H-10/6:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.
 GRAVE: irregular subrectangular shaft c.190cm x 48 x 30cm deep.
 BURIAL: fragments only, skull near centre of shaft.
 CONTENTS: faience beads in fill (1).

Thought likely to be Pharaonic on basis of beads.

21-H-10/6/1. 2 faience disc beads. D:c.3mm. Photo: C/092:22. SNM.19751.

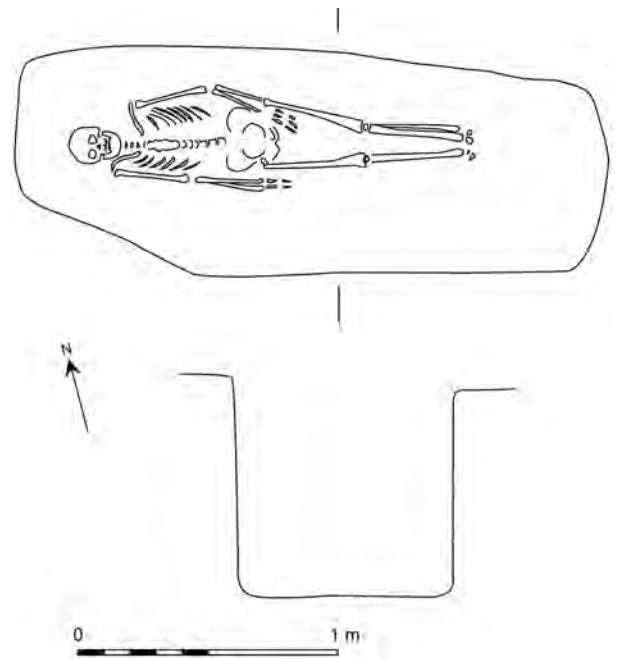


Figure 6.104 Grave 5 [21-H-10].

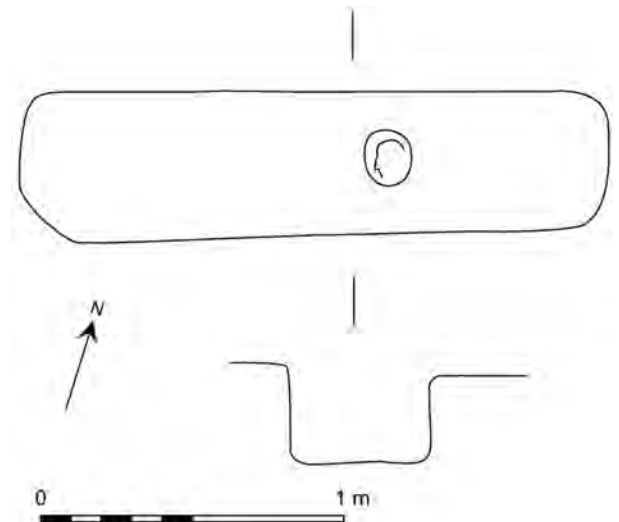


Figure 6.105 Grave 6 [21-H-10].

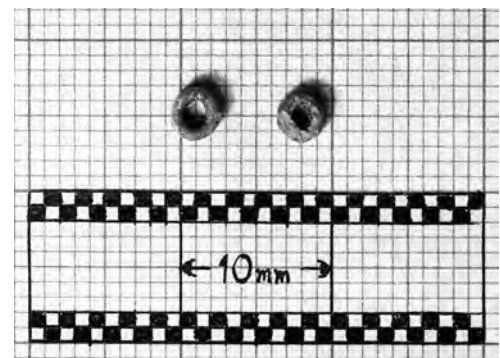


Figure 6.106 Beads (21-H-10/6/1).

Grave 21-H-10/7:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.

GRAVE: subrectangular pit c.208 x 52 x 35cm deep, aligned near local east-west.

BURIAL: dorsally extended body, head to west.

CONTENTS: none.

Thought likely to be ‘Pharaonic’ on basis of skull shape (sic).

Grave 21-H-10/8:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.

GRAVE: subrectangular pit c.160 x 38 x 66cm

deep, aligned near north-south.

BURIAL: child burial, laid on right side, head southwest.

CONTENTS: necklace (1) and bracelets of glass and bone beads (2-3), two probably on right arm and a possible third loose at base of grave.

21-H-10/8/1. Beads; c.190 orange glass paste (?); two strands twisted. D:c.2mm. Photo: C/092:34. SNM.19713.

21-H-10/8/2. Beads. At least two bead bracelets (57 and 58 beads), possibly a third of c.60 loose. D:c.3-4mm. Photo: C/092:33. SNM.19747.



Figure 6.107 Grave 7 [21-H-10].



Figure 6.109 Grave 8 [21-H-10].

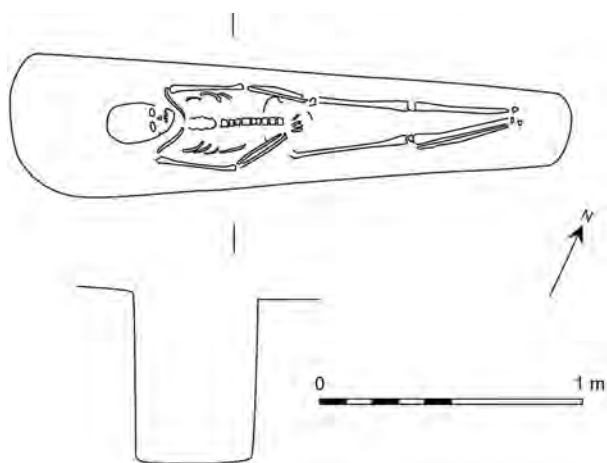


Figure 6.108 Grave 7 [21-H-10].

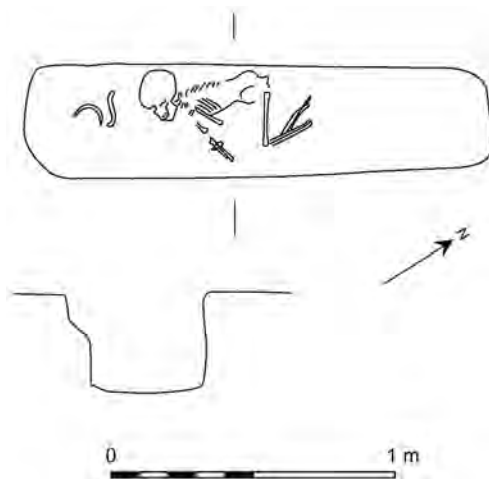


Figure 6.110 Grave 8 [21-H-10].

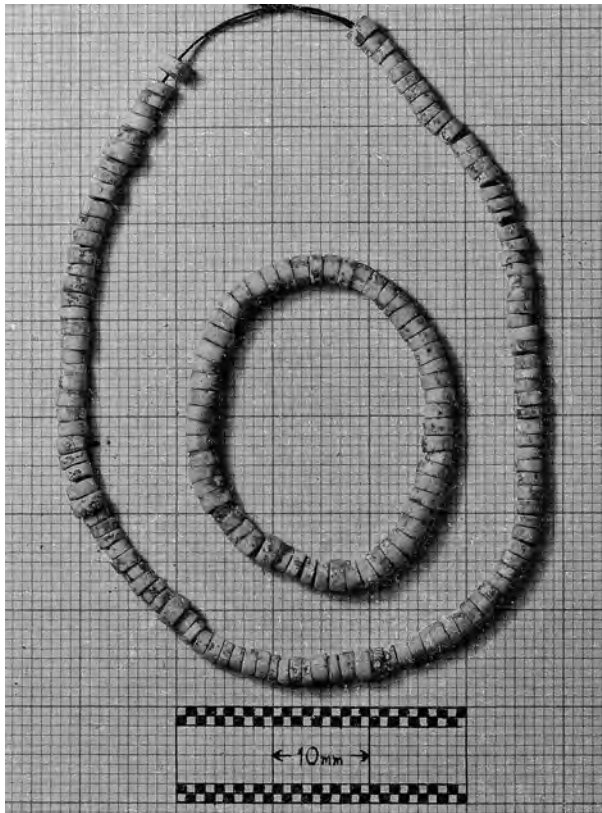


Figure 6.111 Beads (21-H-10/8/2).

21-H-10/8/3. Bead. Black glass paste (?). Photo: C/092:18. SNM.19735.
Probably medieval.

Grave 21-H-10/10:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.
GRAVE: subrectangular pit c.170 x 40 x 30cm deep, aligned approximately east-west.
BURIAL: dorsally extended burial, head west.
CONTENTS: none.
Date uncertain.



Figure 6.113 Grave 10 [21-H-10].

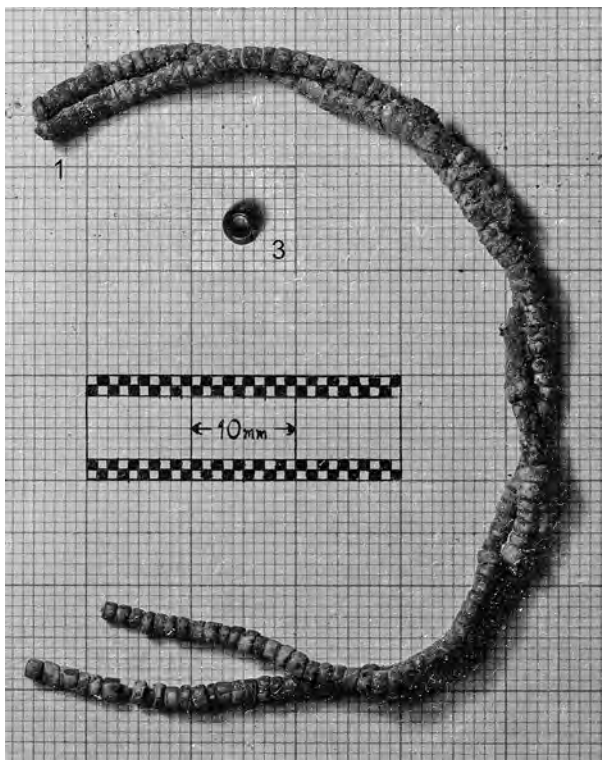


Figure 6.112 Glass beads (21-H-10/8/1 and 3).

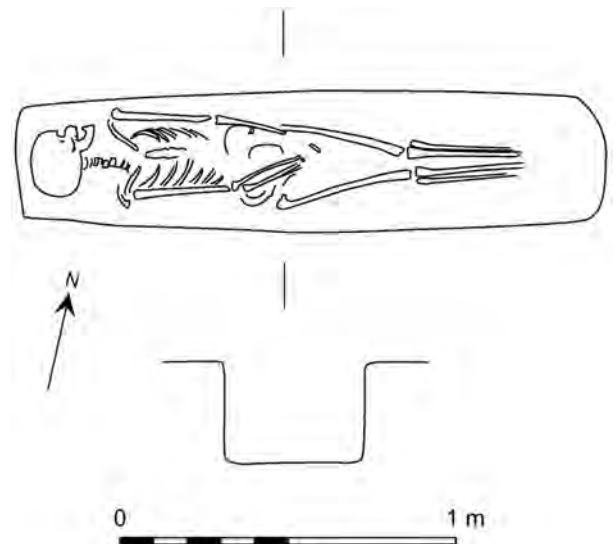


Figure 6.114 Grave 10 [21-H-10].

Grave 21-H-10/11:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.

GRAVE: wide subrectangular pit c.220 x 90 x 66cm deep, aligned approximately east-west.

Burial: adult burial dorsally extended burial, head west. Traces of a partly preserved robe.

CONTENTS: none.

Probably medieval.

Grave 21-H-10/13:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.

GRAVE: subrectangular pit c.114 x 40 x 66cm deep, aligned approximately east-west.

BURIAL: disordered bones of infant, thought likely to have originally been placed inside Jar (2) and covered by bowl (1).

CONTENTS: broken jar and bowl.

21-H-10/13/1. Bowl. Wheelmade 'drab brown soft ware' (Nile silt?) with red-slipped rim. Base and few pieces missing (lost in antiquity?). D:c.245mm; H: >88mm. Photo: C/084:13. SNM.19505.

21-H-10/13/2. Jar. Wheelmade drab brown ware, with red-coated exterior. Neck not preserved. Max.D:250mm, H:>381mm. Not registered.



Figure 6.115 Grave 11 [21-H-10].

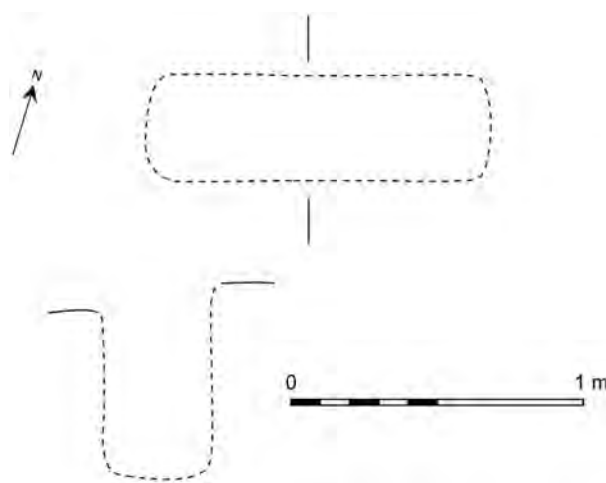


Figure 6.117 Grave 13 [21-H-10].

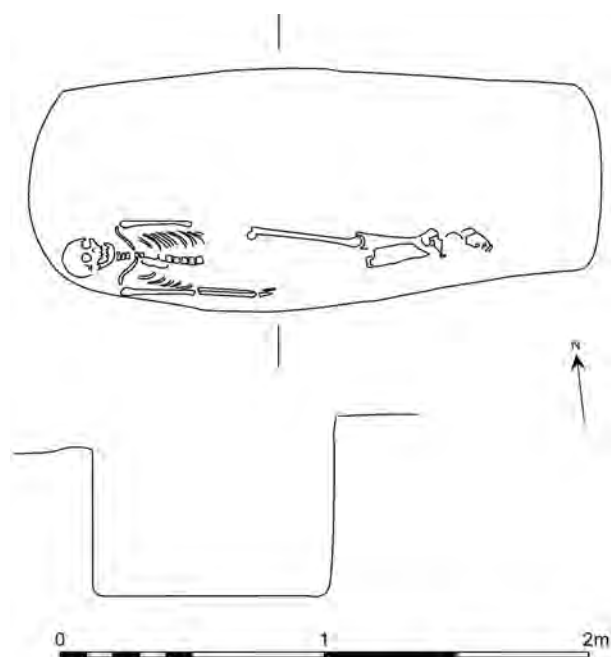


Figure 6.116 Grave 11 [21-H-10].



Figure 6.118 Bowl (21-H-10/13/1).

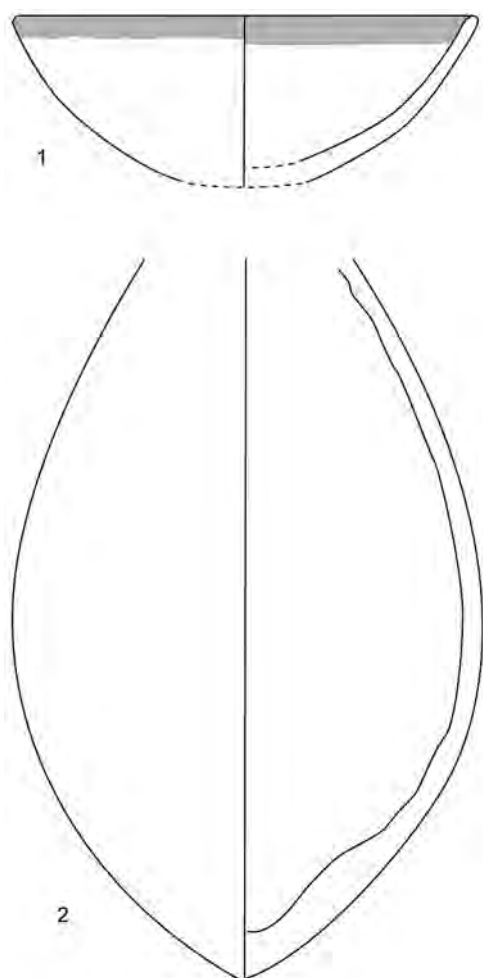


Figure 6.119 Bowl and jar (21-H-10/13/1-2) (scale 1:4).

Grave 21-H-10/14:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.

GRAVE: subrectangular pit c.206 x 44 x 64cm deep, aligned approximately east-west.

BURIALS: an adult and three children, all lying on back, head west.

CONTENTS: a faience ring (1) was found by right hand of child burial B. Other pendants and beads (2-3) of carnelian, faience and bone are found in fill of grave (figs 6.122-5, 133).

21-H-10/14/1. Ring, blue-green faience. D:22mm.

Photo: C/092:19. SNM.19750.

21-H-10/14/2. Pendant, carnelian. Top broken.

12mm x 8mm x 5mm. Photo: C/092:20. SNM.19738.

21-H-10/14/3. Beads. 1 large dark green faience (very worn surface). D:13.5mm; 2mm. + 4 of green and red faience and bone. Photo: C/092:21. SNM.19739.



Figure 6.120 Grave 14 [21-H-10], from east.

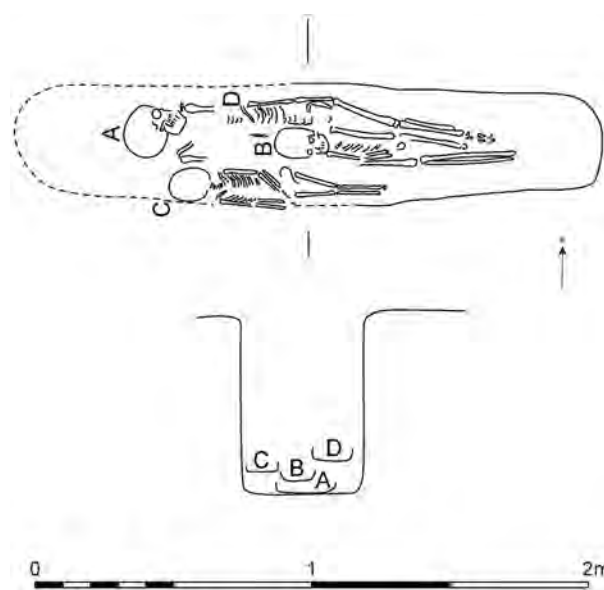


Figure 6.121 Grave 14 [21-H-10].

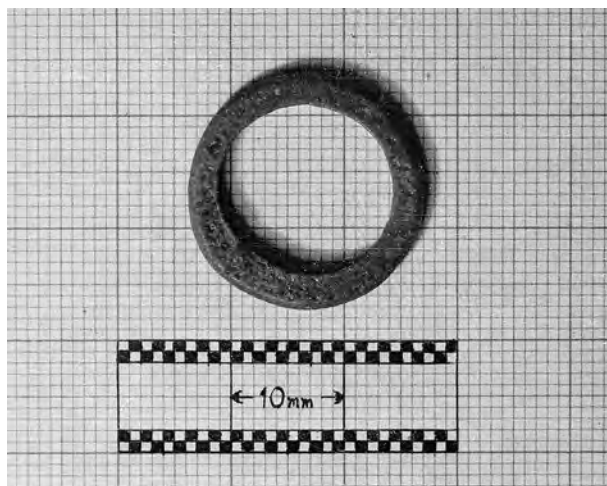


Figure 6.122 Faience ring (21-H-10/14/1).

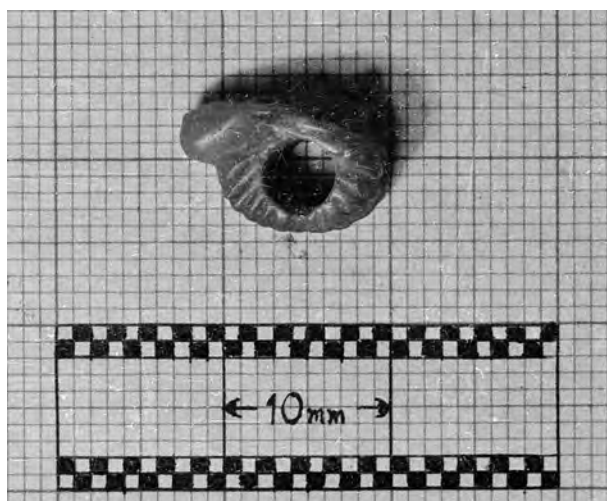


Figure 6.123 Carnelian pendant (21-H-10/14/2).

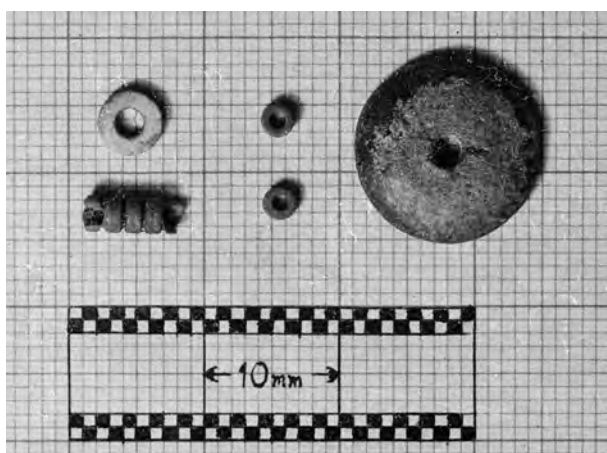


Figure 6.124 Beads (21-H-10/14/3).

Grave 21-H-10/15:
 SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.
 GRAVE: in a natural rock (sic.) in north side of pit, without preserved stone blocking
 BURIAL: child burial, dorsally extended, head west with partly preserved robe.
 CONTENTS: none.
 Probably medieval.



Figure 6.125 Grave 15 [21-H-10].

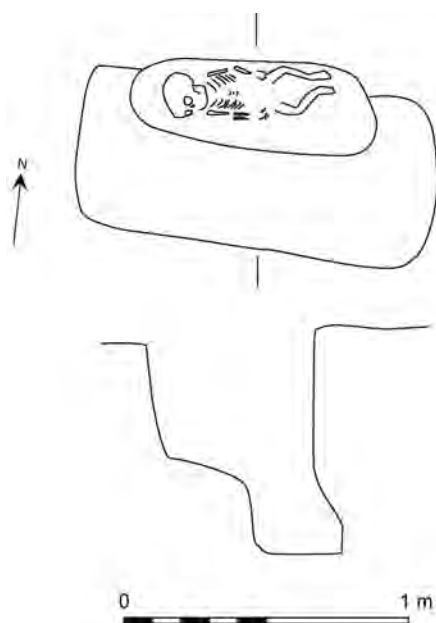


Figure 6.126 Grave 15 [21-H-10].

Grave 21-H-10/16

SUPERSTRUCTURE: a small subrectangular stone superstructure.

GRAVE: oval shaft c.90 x 40 x 62cm deep, aligned north-south.



Figure 6.127 Superstructure over Grave 16 [21-H-10].

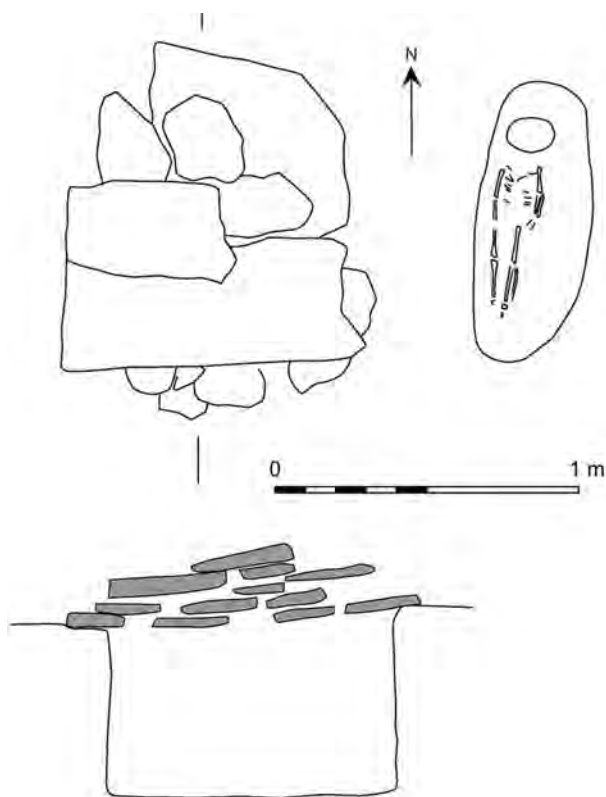


Figure 6.128 Grave 16 [21-H-10].

BURIAL: child burial, dorsally extended, head north and with partly preserved robe.

CONTENTS: none.

Possibly medieval.

Grave 21-H-10/17:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.

GRAVE: narrow shaft c.104 x 26 x 46cm deep.

BURIAL: dorsally extended child burial, head west.

CONTENTS: none.

Date uncertain.

Grave 21-H-10/18:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: none.

GRAVE: subrectangular pit c.92 x 40 x 68cm deep, aligned approximately east-west.



Figure 6.129 Grave 17 [21-H-10].

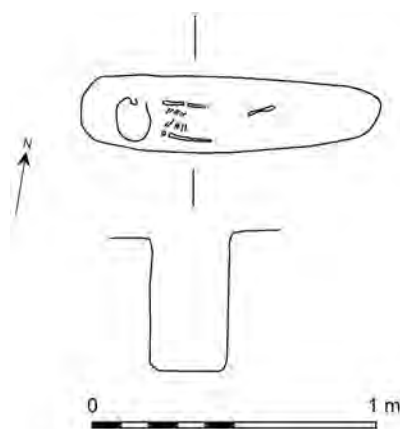


Figure 6.130 Grave 17 [21-H-10].



Figure 6.131 Grave 18 [21-H-10].

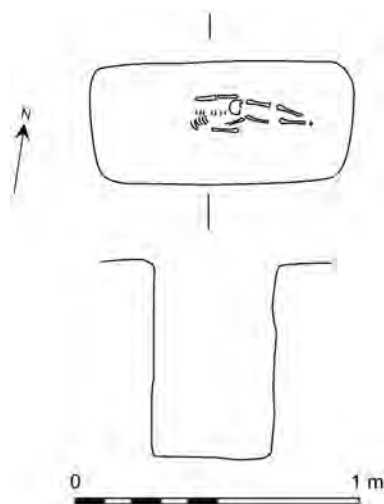


Figure 6.132 Grave 18 [21-H-10].

BURIAL: dorsally extended child burial, head west.
 CONTENTS: none.

Date uncertain.

A find which might belong to the cemetery is a fragment of an Egyptian calcite vessel (fig.6.133), found c.150m away down slope above the medieval cemetery [21-I-3].

21-H-10/x. Wall sherd of calcite vessel. c.30 x 70mm.
 Photo: C/168:20. SNM.22607.

21-H-10/9:

Subcircular pit D:c.52cm, 36cm deep. Contained a poorly fired (?) clay pot with an upward curved base. (similar to one recorded at site [21-H-7] = (21-H-7/1/3)).

21-H-10/12:

Subcircular pit: D:c.30cm, 24cm deep. Contained a stone tempered pot covered with a flat stone and containing various modern objects and grains.

Almost all other tested pits contain grains and often included pieces of modern cloth in fill. The function of these small pits remains unclear, although a relatively recent date seems likely.

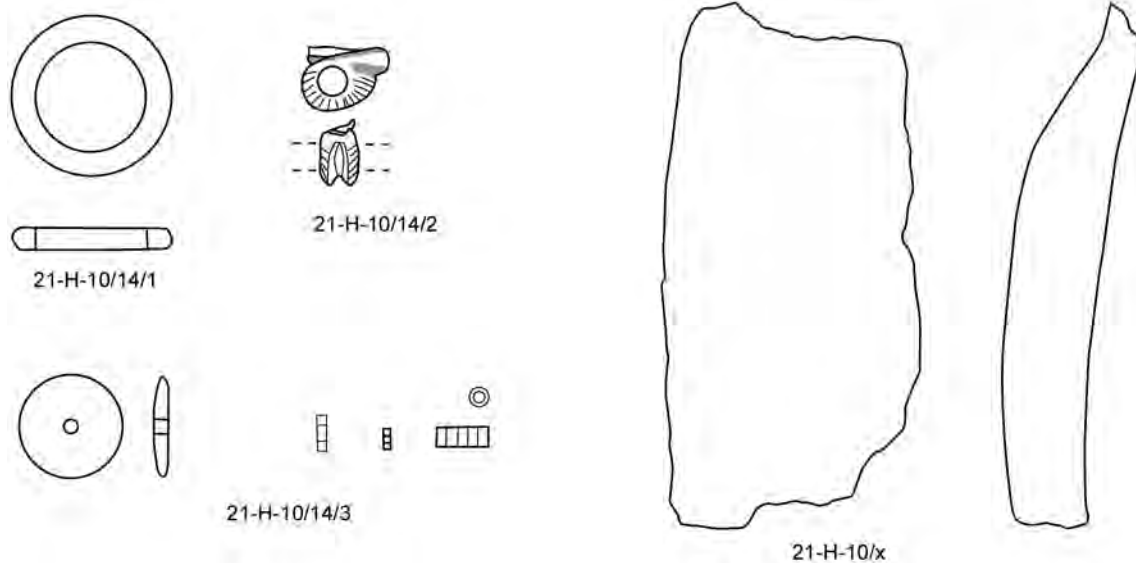


Figure 6.133 Ring, beads and pendant from Grave 14 (21-H-10/14/1-3) and calcite vessel fragment (21-H-10/x) (scale 1:1).



Figure 6.134 Calcite vessel fragment, (21-H-10/x); surface find



Figure 6.136 Pit 12 and jar with stone covering its mouth, [21-H-10].



Figure 6.135 Pit 9 and jar, [21-H-10] 21-H-10/12

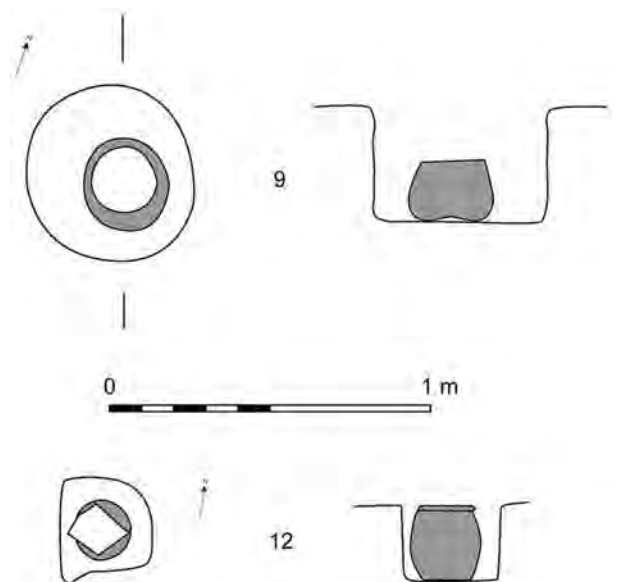


Figure 6.137 Pits 9 and 12 [21-H-10].

The pottery may be broadly dated to Dynasties 18 and 19, with types commonly found in Nubia. [LM]

DOCUMENTATION: Gez III: 143–153, No previous record. Site Photos: F/542:10–12, F/543:1–8, F/544:1, F/558:1–12, F/559:1–4. Air Photos: 635089, 328219. Investigated: 2–11/1/1969 and 4–6/2/1969.

21-I-34* [21-H-21] Inscription**Ukma West**

LOCATION: this site was located along the deep rock-cut wadi c.550m northwest of the hamlet of Diffi, with some additional drawings on a rocky outcrop and boulders in front of the wadi mouth (fig.6.138); this including the inscription and drawings recorded here. Since 1969 this part of the floodplain has been inundated at high Nile and significant accumulations of alluvium have been deposited. This outcrop lay c.650m south-southeast of the closest New Kingdom burials [21-H-10]. Originally registered within grid square [21-H] in error, this has been renumbered to the appropriate grid square.

DESCRIPTION: this site includes a substantial concentration of rock drawings, clearly of several periods. Most are located along the deep wadi.

Those along the wadi were recorded in four main groups (A-D), all likely to fall within grid square [21-I]. Outside the wadi mouth, in line with its south wall and c.85m from the river bank was an isolated rocky outcrop with some boulders and rocks around it. This contained another series of drawings (E1-33), mostly on the southwest and northwest faces of the rock. These included at least one inscription (E17) and some boats and ankh signs (E5,7), thought likely to be associated. Records of the other rock drawings, mainly prehistoric, will be published separately.

DOCUMENTATION: Gez IV: 17-55; Air Photos: 635089, 328219. Photos: F/544; F/597. Investigated 20-24/2/1969.



Figure 6.138 View over lower wadi and location of rock drawings on rock outcrop [22-I-34/E], originally registered as [21-H-21/E].*



Figure 6.139 Southwest face of rock outcrop with drawing groups [21-I-34*/E17-18].

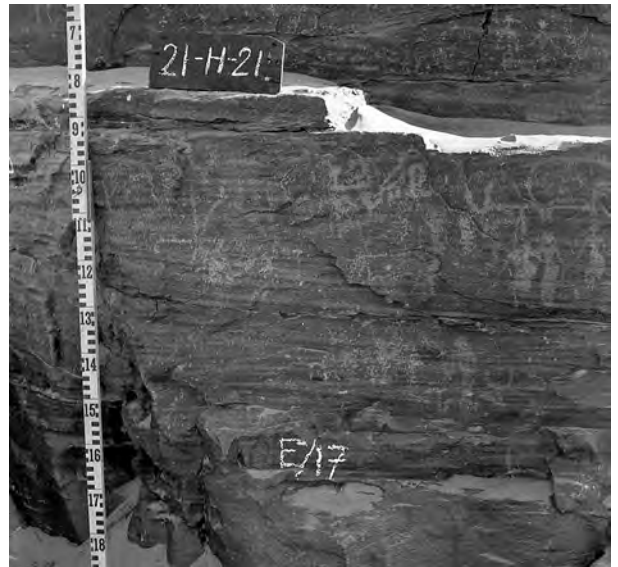


Figure 6.140 Detail of drawings and inscription on [21-I-34*/E17].



Figure 6.141 View east over location of [21-I-34*/E] below wadi, now masked by recent alluvium and vegetation (photo W.V. Davies 2015)

The Egyptian Rock-Inscription [21-I-34*/E17]

W. V. Davies

This location was revisited in late 2015, when it was found that the rock outcrop and inscription were no longer visible, having been buried in alluvial silt deposited by high flood levels (fig.6.141). The archive photograph is however legible.

For other scribes of this name from a Nubian context (Wadi Allaki), see Černý 1947, 53, no. 4, pl. ix, 1 (cf. Piotrovsky 1983, 54, no. 107; Hikade 2001, 240, 259, no. 234); Piotrovsky 1983, 59, no. 148; and for a very similar writing of the name from the Eastern Desert, see Davies 2014, 33, figs. 2–3 (all Ramesside in date).

1. Short horizontal line, reading right to left: 'Scribe Hornakht'.

21-S-29 Inscriptions

Akasha West



Figure 6.142 Location of inscriptions [21-S-29] and nearby sites.

LOCATION: the general area of this site lay c.400m from the bend of the river and c.200m from the nearest part of the bank. The main group of inscriptions (A-F) are on boulders on the rocky hillside, with a further station (G) c.250m to the southwest, in area of medieval settlement [21-S-8].

'Face A' lies on a south-facing rock high up the hillside, directly beneath a stone wall that runs along a terrace; about 75m south of the end of the hillside. 'Face B' lies just to the north of 'A', also a south-facing rock; part of the same rock as 'A' but set back in an alcove. 'Face C' was on the same rock as A, but faces southwest, close to A. 'Face D' is on the east face of a rock that lies up over the terrace above A, B and C, some 7m to the north. This rock is part of a small outcrop that stands above the remainder of the rising hillside. 'Face E' lies on the north face of the same rock that 'D' is on. 'Face F' lies within a stone walled 'room' on the east-facing wall running along the upper terrace. This face is about 10m to the west-north-west and above A, B and C, above it. 'Face G' stood apart from the main group, being located

on a small outcrop of rock on a sandy slope some 350m southwest of A-F, below an area of medieval settlement [21-S-8]. This outcrop also included a number of zoomorphic rock drawings, predating the inscriptions.



Figure 6.143 View up hillside towards inscriptions A-C [21-S-29].



Figure 6.144 Inscription A, of Ahmose recording presence of Amenmose, Year 2 of Thutmose I. Additional inscriptions to right.

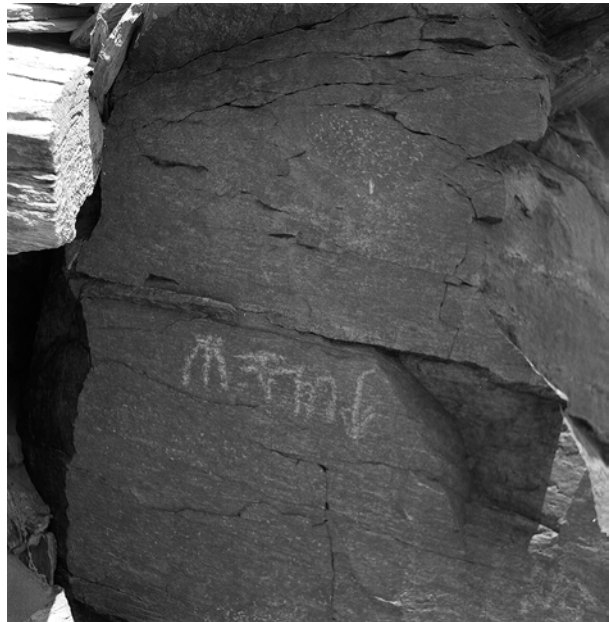


Figure 6.146 Inscription face C', [21-S-29].



Figure 6.145 Inscriptions face B', [21-S-29].

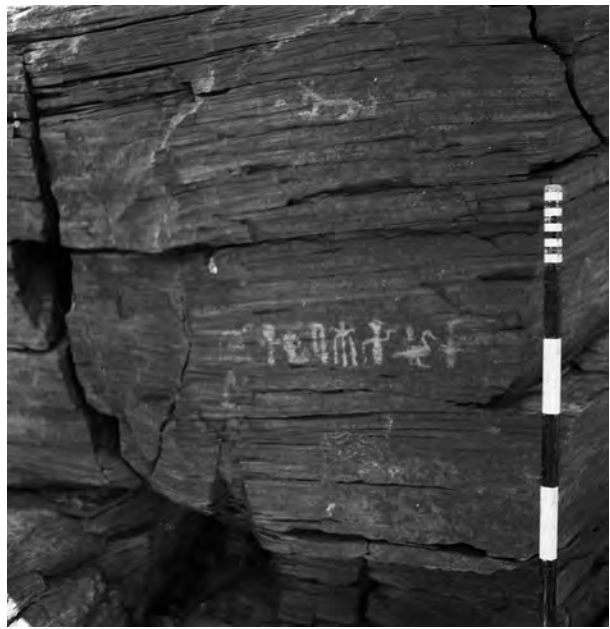


Figure 6.147 Inscriptions face D', [21-S-29].

DOCUMENTATION: AJM XV: 9–12. Site Photos: F/539: 2–10; F/608: 6–12. Handcopies made of A–G. Investigated: 1/4/1969.

These inscriptions have survived above river level and have since been revisited and more fully recorded, allowing in some cases significantly improved readings. In late 2013 W.V. Davies relocated the most substantial text (A) and

published a hand copy and translation of this important inscription (Davies 2014, 39–41, fig.14, pl.23). The most substantial of these texts, this records the scribe Ahmose and the presence of the crown-prince Amenmose, dated to Year 2 of Thutmose I. Additional recording was carried out by W.V Davies in 2014. A summary of his findings is presented below; for which we are very grateful.



Figure 6.148 Inscription 'face E', [21-S-29].



Figure 6.150 Inscriptions 'face G', [21-S-29].

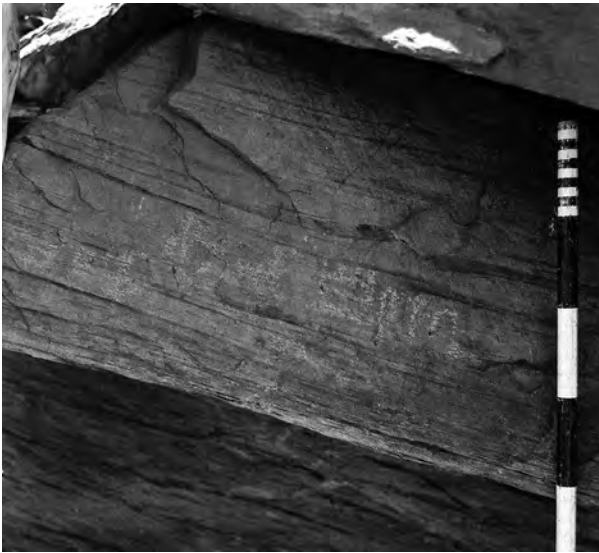


Figure 6.149 Inscription 'face F', [21-S-29].

The Egyptian Rock-Inscriptions [21-S-29]¹

(W. V. Davies)

The main inscriptions (Faces A-F), located close to each other towards the northern end of the main hill on the west bank (fig. 6.151), form a coherent prosopographic group, consisting mostly of the names and titles of some of the senior personnel involved in the Thutmose military campaigns of the early Eighteenth Dynasty (figs 6.152–11), many of them attested also on the Hagr El-Merwa at Kurgus and elsewhere. They include several members of the royal family.

Inscriptions A1, B1, D1, D2, and E1, are datable to the Thutmose I expedition of Year 2; A2, B2, and C1 to the Thutmose III expedition datable probably to Years 49–50. Others in the group remain to be assigned. The most important of the inscriptions is A1 (Edwards and Mills 2013, 14–15, pl. 13; Davies 2013, 17; Davies 2014, 39–41, pl. 23, fig. 14), which parallels the well-known text from Tanjur (Hintze and Reineke

1989, i, 171–2, no. 561, ii, pl. 238), marking the progress of Thutmose I's fleet southwards through cataracts of the Batn El-Hajar and featuring the same military scribe, named Ahmose (A1, line 7). It contains significant new information with its mention of the presence of the Crown-prince and General, Amenmose (A1, line 4). Also worthy of note are the inscriptions respectively of the latter's younger brother, Uadjmose (D1); of a great queen, almost certainly Tuthmosis I's senior wife, Ahmose (E 1); of the well-known contemporary administrator and soldier, Ahmose-Pennekhbet (B1); and of Thutmose III's senior officials, Viceroy Nehy (A2) and Royal scribe Minmose (B2 and C1).²

The three inscriptions on Face G (figs 6.162–5), left by different scribes, date to the New Kingdom (nos 1–2 probably Ramesside) but are not related to A-F (as is the case also with the single scribal inscription (fig.6.140) from Ukma West ([21-I-34*], previously [21-H-21/E17]). They are placed on a surface which already bore numerous indigenous



Figure 6.151 Northern end of main hill at Akasha West, viewed from near the river (2015).

- 1 The recent (2014) epigraphic work in the Batn El-Hajar was carried out under the auspices of the Sudan Archaeological Research Society with the permission and assistance of the National Corporation of Antiquities and Museums of the Sudan. In addition to the present writer, the team consisted of Bert Verrept and Ikhlās Abdel Latief (the latter representing NCAM). The photographs published here are by the present writer except where otherwise specified.
- 2 For fuller, more detailed discussion of these personnel and of the broader historical context of the group, see now Davies 2017a.



Figure 6.152 *Inscriptions of Thutmose I and others (Faces A-C).*

animal- and bird-drawings including notably the representation of a large giraffe, as well as figures of cattle, antelope, a falcon and ostrich, some of them very well done.

Face A

1. (figs 6.152–3) Slightly eroded in parts, the text consists of nine lines, the first five horizontal, the last four vertical. It reads:

‘(1) Year 2 under the person of the king of (Upper and)³ Lower Egypt, lord of the two lands, (2–3) Aakheperkare, may he live eternally. His person sailed southwards to overthrow vile Kush, (4) when the King’s eldest son, General Amenmose, (5) landed at this place, (and) (6) when scribe (7) of the army, Ahmose (8–9) counted the b[oa]ts which were emerging (from the cataract) at this place’.

2. (fig. 6.154) Single horizontal line, slightly eroded, reading right to left: ‘King’s son (vicero), Nehy’.

Face B

1. (fig. 6.155, left) Four lines, the first two arranged vertically, the others horizontally, reading right to left: ‘(1) High steward of (2) the great queen, Ahmose -(3) Pennekhbet, who follows the king, (4) who follows his person in the southern foreign country’.

2. (fig. 6.155, right) Two columns, hieroglyphs, slightly eroded, reading right to left: ‘(1) [Made?] by Royal scribe, Minmose, (2) Scribe Menkheper’.

3. (fig. 6.156) Single horizontal line, reading right to left: ‘Amenhotep’.⁴

Face C

1. (fig. 6.157, left) Single horizontal line, reading right to left: ‘Royal scribe, Minmose’.

2. (fig. 6.157, right) Single horizontal line, reading right to left, now incomplete: ‘Scribe, A...’.⁵

3 Mistakenly omitted by the scribe.

4 The name was probably preceded by a title, now weathered away.

5 Remainder of name eroded away.

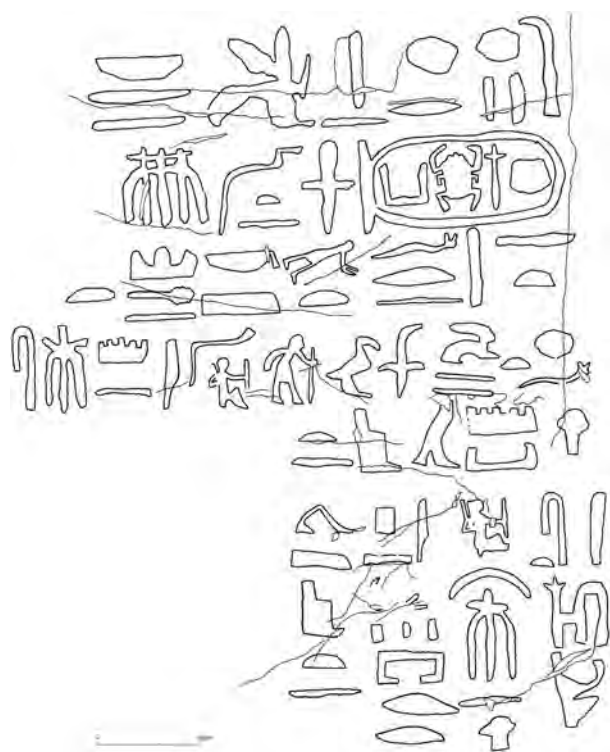


Figure 6.153 Copy of inscription of Thutmose I (Face A).

3. (fig. 6.159). Remnants of single horizontal line, reading left to right, ending with the name ‘Sutekh’, written with the distinctive animal-sign.⁶ Of the signs preceding the latter, only a *t* clearly survives, perhaps representing a phonetic element of the name or part of a title.



Figure 6.155 Inscriptions of Ahmose-Pennekhet (left) and Minmose and Menkheper (right) (Face B).

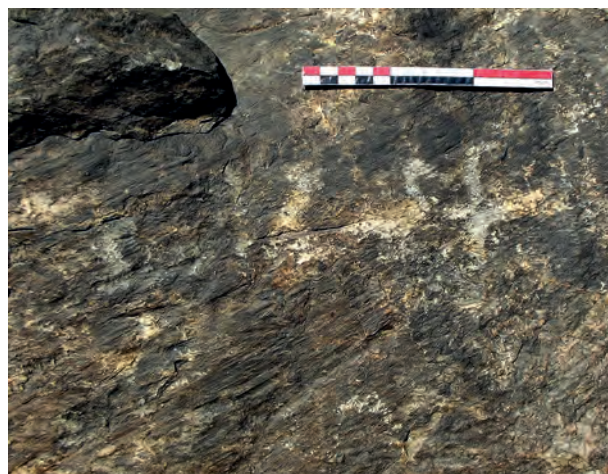


Figure 6.154 Inscription of Nehy (Face A).

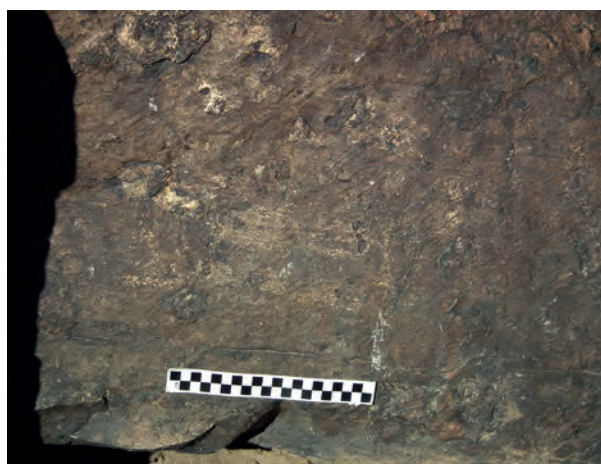


Figure 6.156 Inscription of Amenhotep (Face B).

Face D

1. (fig. 6.158, upper) Single horizontal line, reading right to left: ‘King’s son (Prince), Uadjmose, may he live for ever’.

2. (fig. 6.158, lower). Located directly under the end of D1, single hieroglyph in the form of a seated figure, possibly the determinative of a name now lost.

Face E

1. (fig. 6.160) Single horizontal line, reading right to left, much eroded: ‘Great king’s wife, [Ahmose?]’

6 For other examples of this name in Nubian rock-inscriptions, cf. Hintze and Reineke 1989, i, 34, no. 57, ii, pl. 27; i, 130, no. 461, ii, pl. 179; i, 175, no. 579, ii, pl. 247.



Figure 6.157 Inscription of Minmose (left) and a scribe (right) (Face C).



Figure 6.159 Inscription of Sutekh (Face D).

Face F

1. (fig. 6.161, centre) Single horizontal line, reading right to left: 'Scribe, Siamun'.⁷

2. (fig. 6.161, left) To left of F1, at a slightly lower level, short horizontal line, reading right to left, possibly a continuation of F1, signs unclear.

Face G

1. (figs 6.162–3) Horizontal line, reading right to left: 'Scribe of the district, Hatia...'.⁸

2. (figs 6.162, 164) Horizontal line, reading right to left: 'Scribe...'.⁹



Figure 6.160 Inscription of Great king's wife (Face E).
(Photo Bert Verrept).



Figure 6.158 Inscription (upper) of King's son Uadjmose;
(lower) remnant of inscription (Face D).



Figure 6.161 Inscription of Siamun and (left) unclear
inscription (Face F)

7 Cf. the possible 'Scribe of the army, Siamun' at Tanjur (Hintze and Reineke 1989, i, 177, no. 588, ii, pl. 251).

8 The final signs are unclear. For scribes of this name (with variant writings) in rock-inscriptions, cf., for example, Lopez 1966, 20, no. 14, pl. ix, 2; Žába 1974, 234, A 20, fig. 400 (Hikade 2001, 220, 255, no. 162); Piotrovsky 1983, 64, no. 186; Rothe et al. 2008, 116, BR06, 158, BR45; Müller 2013, 277, nos. 60, 62. For the somewhat cursive writing of *spst*, 'district', here, cf. Piotrovsky 1983, 46, no. 14).

9 Of the signs following the title, only the first, an *s*, is clear.

3. (figs 6.162, 165) Horizontal line (partly superimposed on an earlier cattle-drawing and adjacent to the drawing of a Horus-falcon), reading right to

left: ‘Royal scribe, *St(i)*’(?), or alternatively perhaps, ‘Scribe, *St-nswt*’(?). Neither name seems to be otherwise

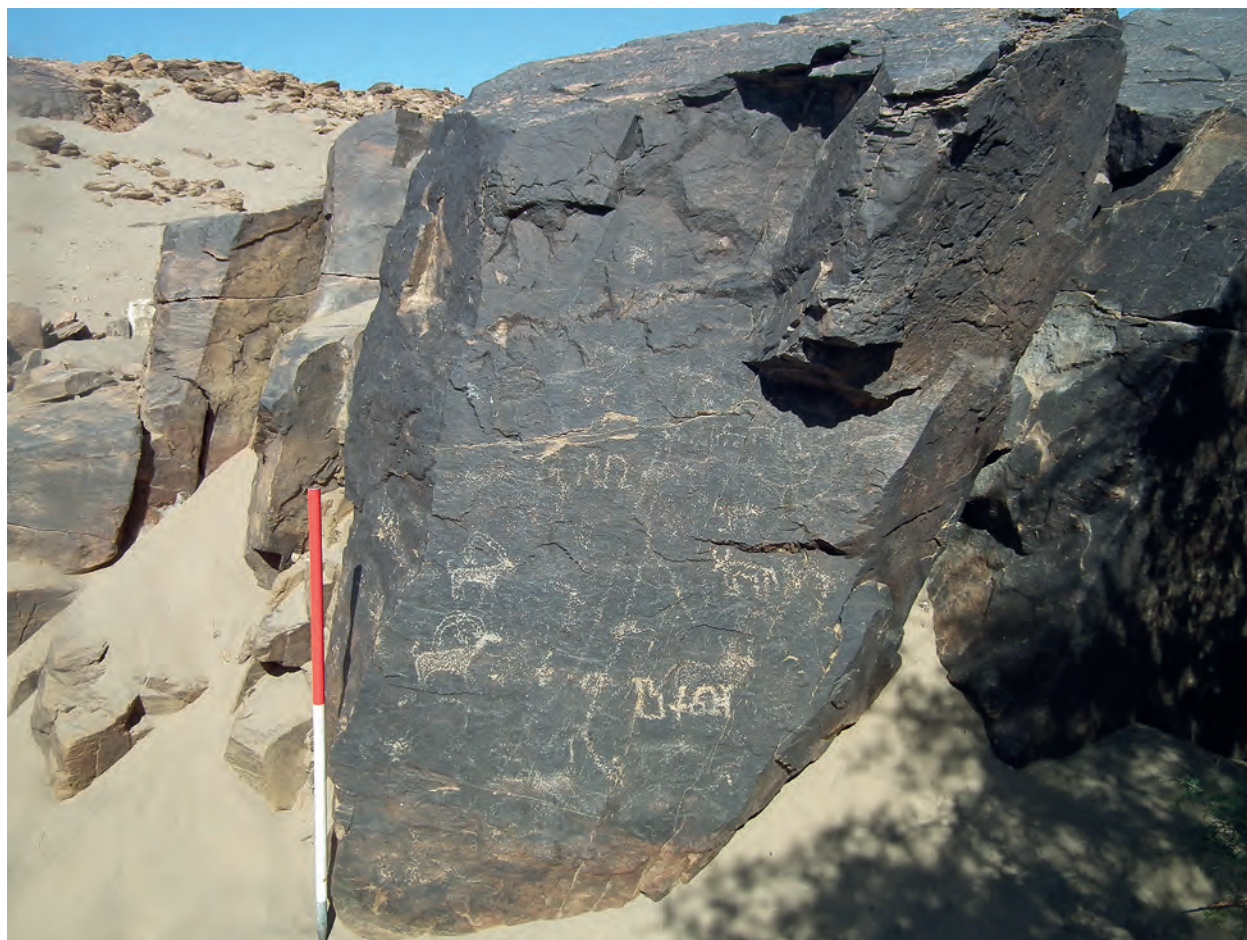


Figure 6.162 Rock with inscriptions and indigenous drawings (Face G).



Figure 6.163 Inscription of Hatia... (Face G).



Figure 6.164 Inscription of scribe, name unclear (Face G).



Figure 6.165 Inscription of scribe, name uncertain (Face G).

21-S-13 Graves

Akasha East

LOCATION: this site lies in the hills that flank the west side of the Khor Akasha. The site is some c.475m from the river bank. This area had seen much disturbance during the later nineteenth century with the construction of military fortifications; still quite well-preserved at the time of the ASSN survey.

DESCRIPTION: the site consisted of perhaps a dozen graves. They were in two groups c.40m apart, separated by a small khor. The ground

surface was exposed bedrock with pockets of blown alluvial sand and a large number of stones and boulders. The bedrock is angular and the graves were constructed in cracks and other suitable spaces. The graves, with the exception of (1), were all plundered. There were a few sherds and fragments of bone on the surface. The exact number of graves was difficult to determine without testing every possibility. The graves are all orientated roughly east-west. Dating was problematic due to the sparsity of finds; many of the (few)



Figure 6.166 Location of [21-S-13] on west side of wadi leading south from Akasha.

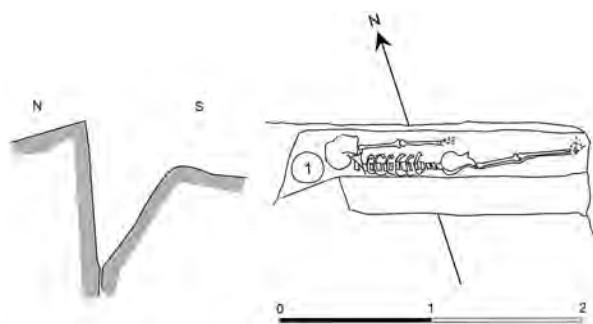


Figure 6.167 Grave 1 [21-S-13].

surface sherds being badly eroded. One light green faience disc bead (D:1mm) was also found.

Grave 21-S-13/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence

GRAVE: formed by a subrectangular cleft in the natural bedrock, wedge-shaped in section. Pit c.2.00m x 0.30m and c.0.60m deep. There was no trace of blocking. Fill largely of stones with some blown alluvial silt/sand (fig. 6.167).

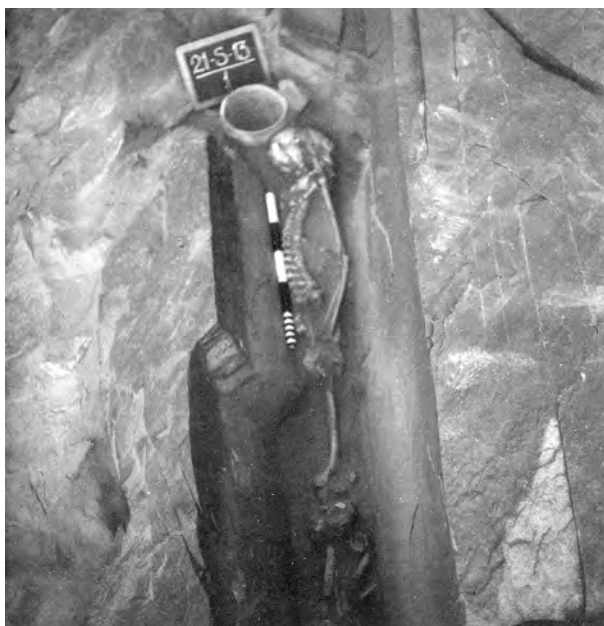


Figure 6.168 Excavated cleft/crevice Grave 1 [21-S-13], looking west.



Figure 6.169 Detail of upper part of burial in Grave 1 [21-S-13].

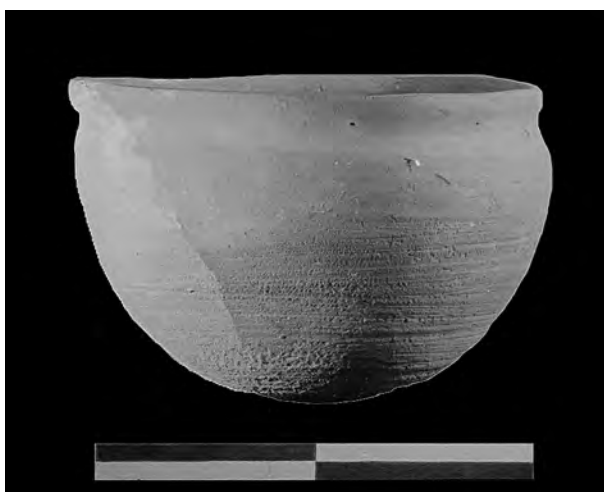


Figure 6.170 Bowl (21-S-13/1).

BURIAL: the undisturbed, but crushed body of an adult, lying extended on the left side, head west.
 CONTENTS: wheelmade red ware bowl by head. (figs 6.168–70)

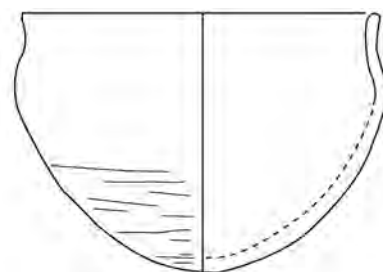


Figure 6.171 Bowl (21-S-13/1) (scale 1:4).

21-S-13/1. Bowl. Wheel-made red ware. Slightly warped but complete. D:199mm; H:139mm. Photos: C/070:30, C/088:6. SNM.19609.

DOCUMENTATION: No previous record. AJM XI: 62. No site plan. Site Photos: F/412: 1–2. Air Photo: 632058. Investigated: 20–21/1/1968.

The site will have remained above water levels and may survive today (2018).

21-S-32 Graves

Kulb West – Kolatod

LOCATION: the site was located in a small depression among the higher rocks c.440m west-south-west of the village of Kolatod (*Kolatood*) and c.430m from the passage between Kulubnarti and the west bank. These graves lie c.200m north-northwest of the cemetery [21-S-31], largely of medieval date but with some Meroitic graves. This location lies c.4.5km upriver of the Akasha bend in an area where riverside travel is easiest on the west bank.

DESCRIPTION: in this small depression covered with flaked rock and smaller stones were two plundered, probably ‘Pharaonic’, graves, apparently reused as storage pits in ‘early Christian’ times. The rock-cut pits seem to make use of and extend natural crevices. Both pits contain scattered bones and a great amount of pottery, mainly medieval (‘Christian’ sherds), with some sherds of ‘Pharaonic’ jars. Further features with drystone walling are visible built against rocks on west side of area (fig.6.172).

Grave 21-S-32/1:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: subrectangular pit c.200cm x 50cm. No trace of blocking.

BURIAL: occasional scattered bones only.

CONTENTS: abundant medieval (‘Christian’) sherd material. Beads and fragments of ‘Pharaonic’ saucer/dish in later fills.

21-S-32/1/1. Beads. 1 x agate, biconical; 2 x bone disc beads. Photo: C/092:12. SNM.19707. (fig.6.175)

21-S-32/1/2. Dish/saucer. Wheelmade, drab brown soft ware with red painted external and internal rims. Incomplete, parts of rim and sides missing. D:c.162–166mm; H:71mm. Photo: C/124:17. SNM.20553. (fig.6.177)



Figure 6.172 Location of [21-S-32] and medieval/Meroitic cemetery [21-S-31] to west of Kulubnarti island

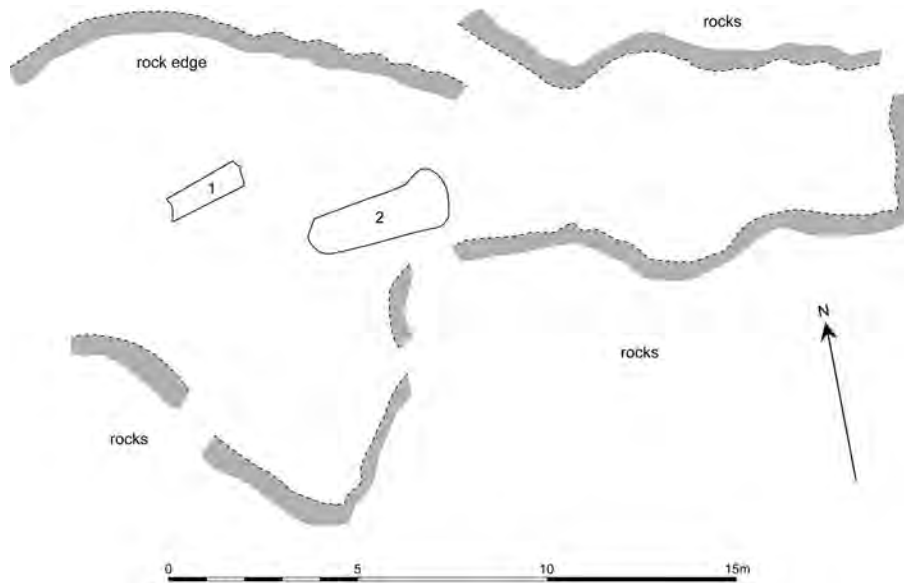


Figure 6.173 Location plan of two graves [21-S-32].



Figure 6.174 View west across area of [16-S-32] with burials; Grave 2 near centre.

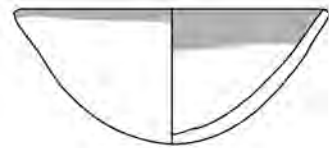


Figure 6.176 Saucer (21-S-32/1/2) (scale 1:4).



Figure 6.177 Saucer (21-S-32/1/2).

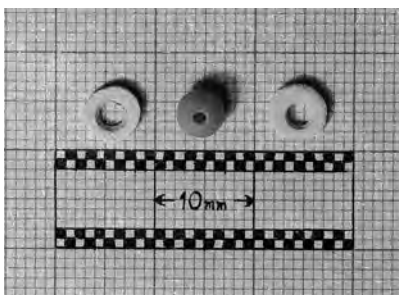


Figure 6.175 Beads (21-S/-32/1/1).



Grave 21-S-32/2:

SUPERSTRUCTURE: no evidence.

GRAVE: subrectangular pit cut in to rock, c.250cm x 100cm, with irregular sides and base. Parts of north and west side built up with stone and possible entrance cut in to gravel and sand at east side. One large stone of what may be the original blocking of transverse, flat stone slabs in situ at east end. No other finds than the mentioned sherds are made here.

CONTENTS: abundant medieval ('Christian') sherds and some possibly 'Pharaonic' jar sherds. Not drawn.

DOCUMENTATION: Gez IV: 125. The site is not previously recorded. Site Photos: F/576: 8-10. Air Photos: 624006, 328212. Investigated: 2-6/4/1969.

Figure 6.178 Grave 1 [21-S-32], from east.

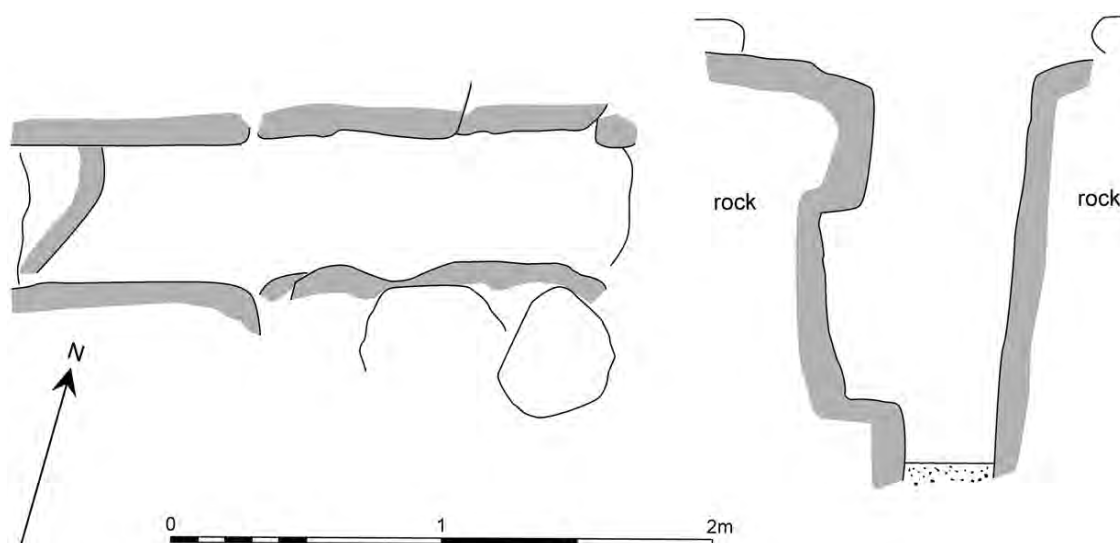


Figure 6.179 Plan and section of Grave 1 [21-S-32].

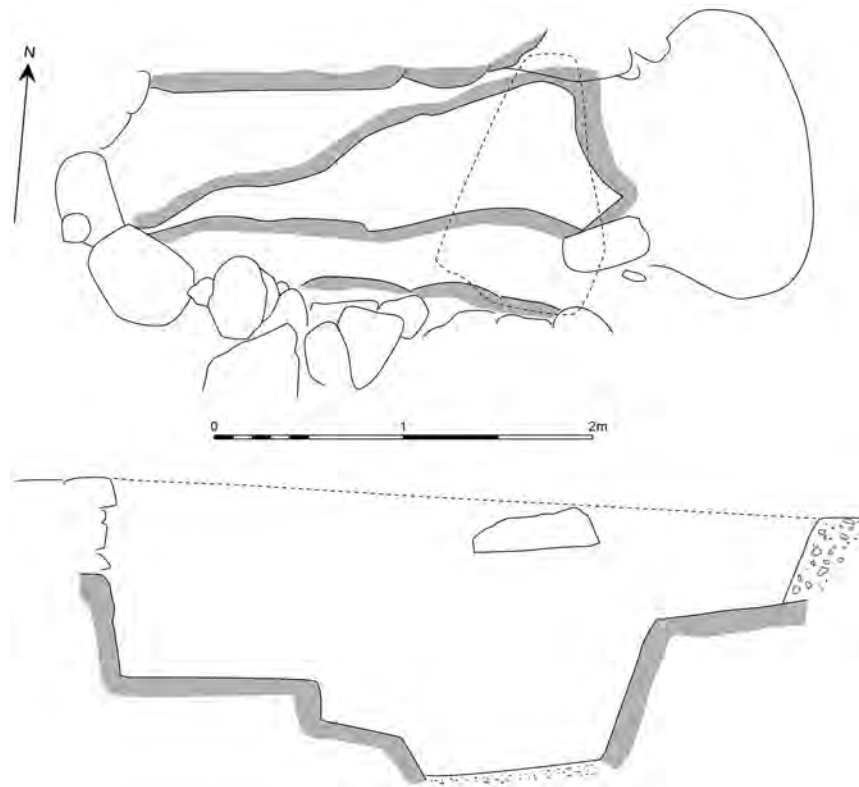


Figure 6.180 Plan and section of Grave 2 [21-S-32] One stone slab, possibly from original covering at east end.



Figure 6.181 Grave 2 [21-S-32], from east.

21-X-12* [21-X-1] Inscriptions**Kulb East (Shiragoshe)**

LOCATION: located on steep hillsides on south side of broad wadi along which ran the main track towards the southwest, here c.1km south of Nile, close to C-Group/Kerma cemeteries [21-X-8] and [21-X-4]. This area remains unflooded.

‘prospectors’; in vicinity of several groups of rock drawings (rock drawing station 128).

DOCUMENTATION: Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 344–349, maps 44–45; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 180, Taf. 256–59.

DESCRIPTION: group of three Old Kingdom inscriptions, registered as [21-X-1/1–3], recording



Figure 6.182 Location of inscriptions [21-X-12*] and [21-X-13*] and other sites in Kulb East.

21-X-13* [21-X-2]**Kulb East (Dakke)**

LOCATION: east of hamlet of Dakke, in area of rock drawing station 129 on west side of rocky hill; mainly groups of giraffe drawings. This area remains unflooded.

DOCUMENTATION: Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 349–351, maps 44–45; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 180, Taf. 256.

DESCRIPTION: single inscription, dated to New Kingdom, registered as [21-X-2/1].

21-V-26 Campsite?**Dal West**

LOCATION: this site was on the large plain of fossil alluvium that forms the north end of Dal West. It was c.2km downstream from the hamlet of Kosme and 80m from the river, below some outcropping granite. Blown sand is encroaching on this area today, as it was in the 1960s. The area of this site remains above water level. This area today overlooks a large low alluvial island (fig.6.183)

DESCRIPTION: this site covered an area c.100m x 40m in an area of fossil alluvium, lightly covered with blown sand and fine gravel. There are quite a few granite rocks scattered about which could be the remains of structures of some kind. It was possible to discern the outline of a single-room structure, roughly oval, built of rough stones with an alluvium floor, c.3.5m x 2.5m. It was suggested that there may have been c.15 similar structures. Archaeological deposits appeared very thin, but included 'a fair number of sherds'. These were predominantly (95%) wheel-made, including

soft-brown bowls with red slip as well as 'finer and thinner' buff, hard ware pieces (Ballas) and many other brown/red and grey sherds. That, as suggested, these may be 'Napatan' rather than New Kingdom, is possible. Surface sherds included small quantities (5%) hand made wares, described as 'soft domestic jars and pots'. No collections made or further records.

While the date and nature of this site cannot be confirmed on the basis of available evidence it may be noted that in second-first millennia BC the landscape in this area seems likely to have had significantly less sand cover. As such, two Kerma cemeteries [21-V-24] and [21-V-27] were identified to the northeast while another area [21-V-25] of ephemeral occupation (possibly Meroitic) was identified to the west-southwest.

DOCUMENTATION: AJM XII: 26. No site photos. Air Photos: 6342261, 328206. Investigated: 9/4/1968.

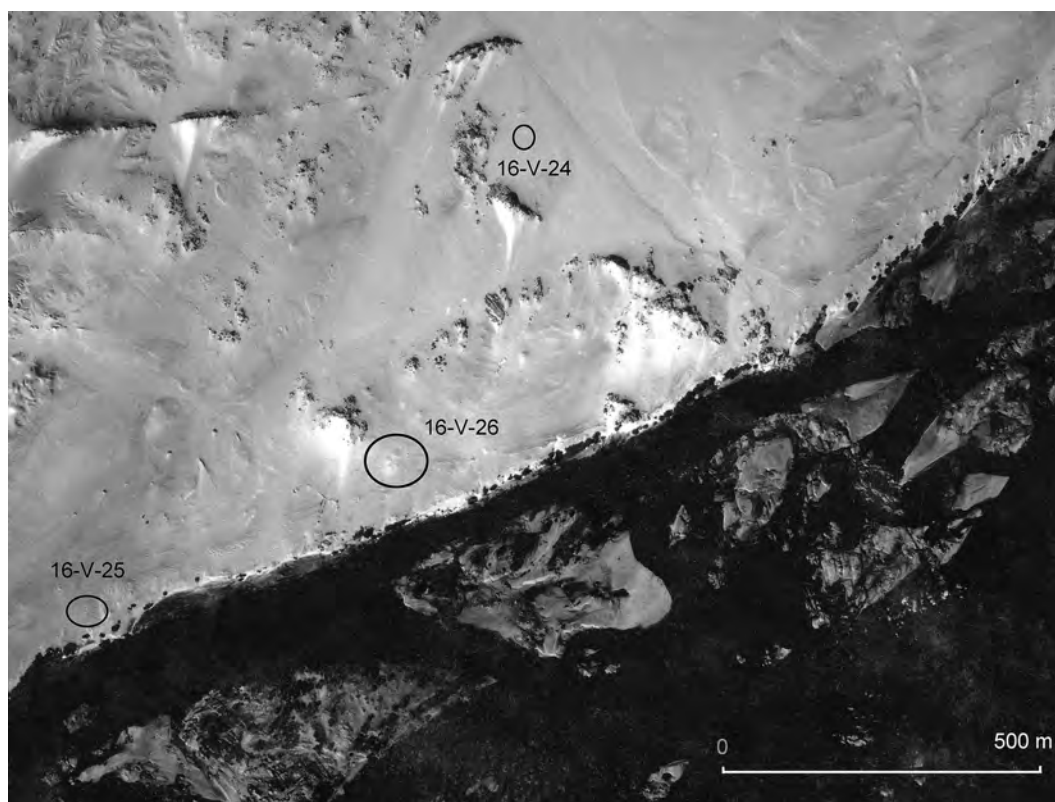


Figure 6.183 Location of site [21-V-26] and nearby sites on west bank at Dal.

21-V-20 Inscriptions

Dal – Tina

LOCATION: at the northeast corner of the uninhabited island of Tina (*Tine*) is a large rocky outcrop (fig.6.184). This site is among the fallen detritus and rocks at the northwest corner of this outcrop, facing downriver. In 1968 the site was close to normal inundation levels; the bottom line of text A was measured as lying 3.47m above Nile level on 16th April 1968.

DESCRIPTION: there are two separate, hieroglyphic inscriptions, both recording river levels. Both are cut and pecked on the flat northern face of a large well-patinated granite boulder. Inscription A is the eastern (left) one. B is on the west (fig.6.185).

Inscription A:

Consists of three lines, each about 6cm high x c.40cm in length (fig.6.186). It contained a date

and Senwosret III's name. It was quite clear for the most part. Letters were well formed, silhouetted.

Inscription B:

Consists of two lines, each about 3.5cm high x c.40cm long (fig 6.187). The first line partly parallels the first part of A, but only up to the date in line 2. The second line is worn but intact. This inscription is much less clear; the signs being smaller and less well cut.

DOCUMENTATION: no known record prior to their discovery in 1968. Subsequently mentioned in studies by Vercoutter (1966, 164; 1976, 154–5) and in Bell's discussion of Middle Kingdom climate data (Bell 1975).¹ Preliminary copies made of both inscriptions. AJM XII: 9–10. Site Photos: F/454: 1–10; Air Photo: 635191. Investigated: 2/4/1968.

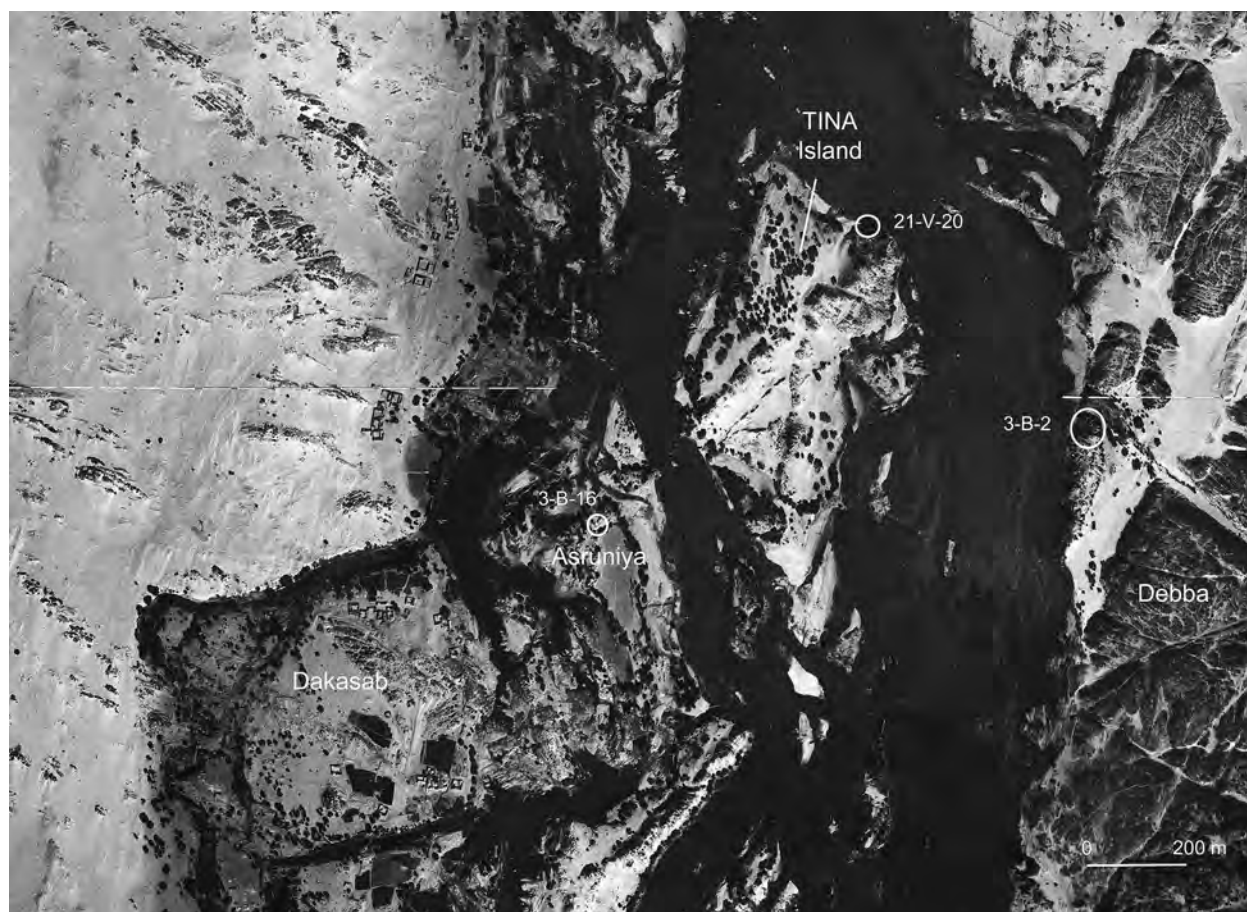


Figure 6.184 Location of [21-V-20] and nearby inscriptions on the east bank [3-B-2] and on Asruniya island [3-B-16]. The southern boundary of the ASSN survey crossed Tina island.

¹ Vercoutter's first reference to this text appears in a paper dated 1966, but its final publication was delayed, with the note on the text added in December 1968.



Figure 6.185 Two inscriptions (21-V-20/A-B) on boulder face, from north.

This site was relocated in November 2014 by W.V. Davies, providing an opportunity for further examination and recording. It may also be noted that two other sites with Egyptian inscriptions lie

close by, at the immediate southern end of the ASSN survey area, since further studied by W.V. Davies.

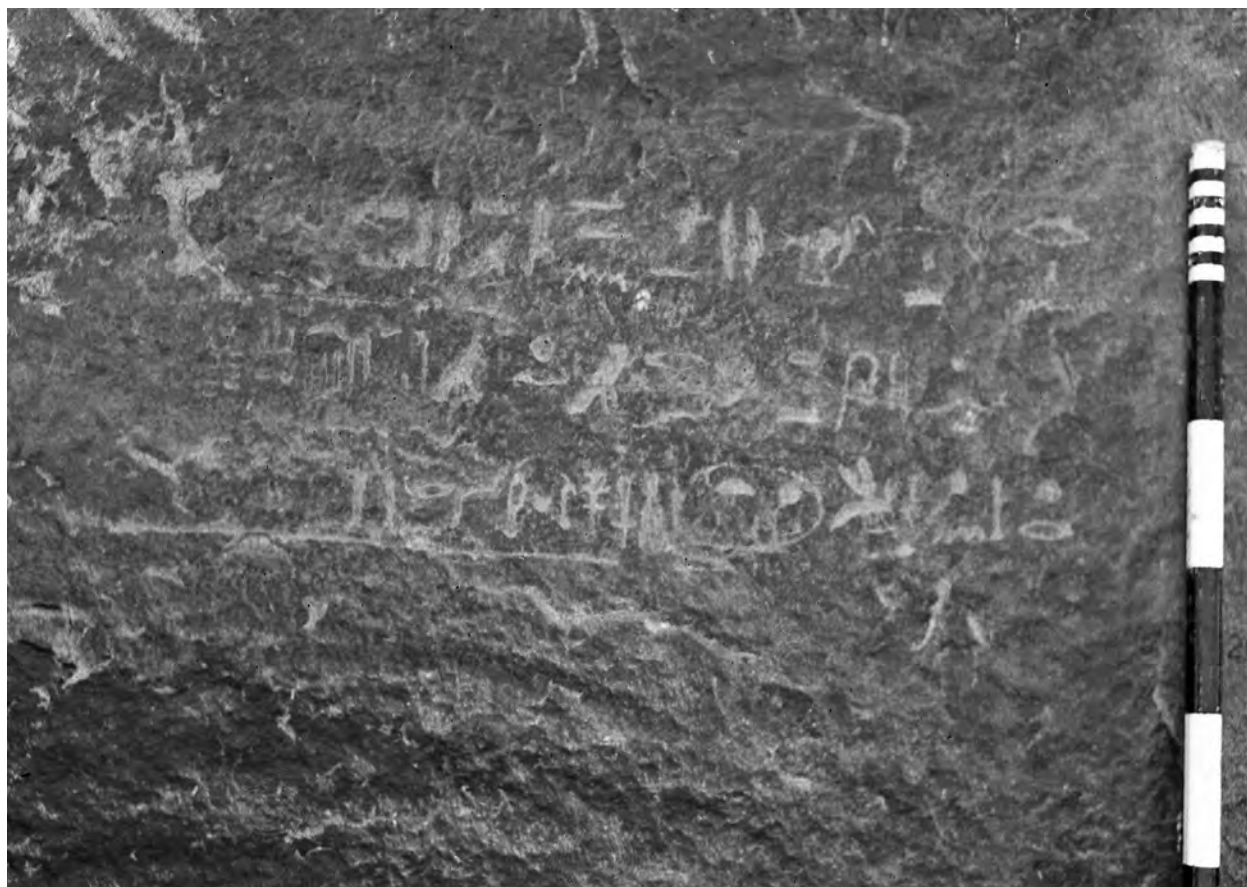


Figure 6.186 Detail of (21-V-20/A) (photo A. J. Mills, April 1968).

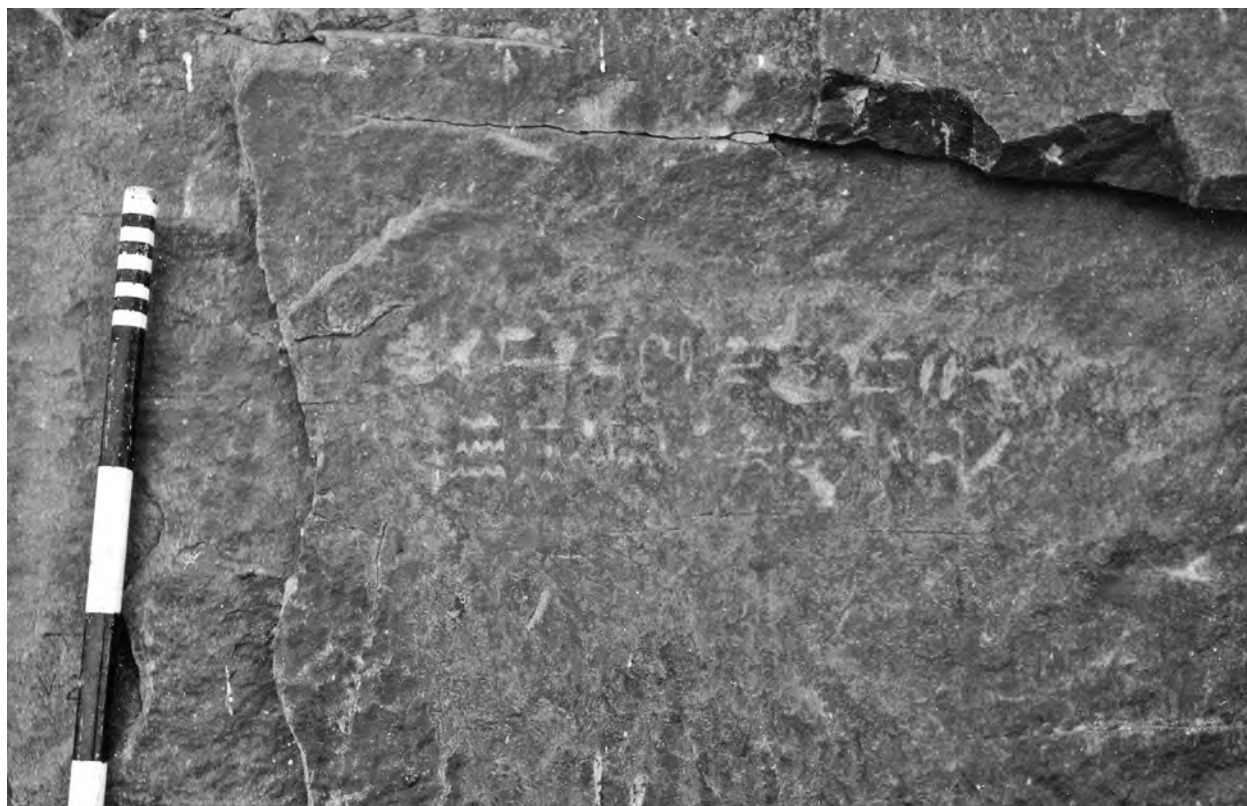


Figure 6.187 Detail of (21-V-20/B) (photo A. J. Mills, April 1968).

3-B-2 (= 21-W-4) Inscriptions**Sarkematto – Debba**

LOCATION: on east bank opposite Tina (*Tüne*) island (fig.5.184), at north end of rocky ridge on which medieval settlement [3-B-3] is located; c.600m southeast of [21-V-20].

DESCRIPTION: group of New Kingdom inscriptions consisting of at least ten inscriptions in six panels. Originally (mistakenly) registered by German Epigraphic Survey in grid square [21-W] as site [21-W-4/1-10]). Further recorded with

sketch map of location by Vila; re-registered and published as site [3-B-2] (Vila 1975).

DOCUMENTATION: Vila 1975, 26–28, figs 12–17; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 181–183, pls 260–264; Davies 2014, 41–2; pls 24–5; Davies 2017b, 65–67, pls 11–13, fig. 5; Davies 2018, 52–5, figs 10–11, pls 10–13.

3-B-16 Inscriptions**Dal – Asruniya Island**

LOCATION: on south face of isolated granite boulder on raised ground on the (seasonal) island of Asruniya (*Asrunge*), c.850m southwest of [21-V-20] (fig.5.184).

DESCRIPTION: single inscription within group of rock drawings recorded by Vila (Vila 1975);

registered as [3-B-16]. As observed by Davies this seems likely to be of Middle Kingdom date (Davies 2017b, 66–67).

DOCUMENTATION: Vila 1975, 52–53, fig. 55; Davies 2017b, 66–68, fig.6, pl.15.

The Egyptian Rock-Inscriptions [21-V-20], Tina Island

W. V. Davies

Nile-level inscriptions of Year 10 of King Senwosret III



Figure 6.188 View of Tina island from east bank. Inscriptions are at north (right) end of island (photo W.V. Davies, 2014).



Figure 6.189 Boulder with two inscriptions, from river (photo W.V. Davies, 2014).

There are two related inscriptions, carved next to each other, on the flat northern face of a granite boulder located at the northern end of the island (figs 6.189–90). They are arranged in horizontal lines, three on the left (A), two on the right (B), each eroded in parts by weather and water but wholly legible.¹ The hieroglyphs in each case read right to left. A is the primary text. It is longer, the hieroglyphs are larger (the carving of varying quality), and it includes the name of the king (the *premenon* of Senwosret III). B is mostly an abbreviated copy of A and less surely done (including a couple of errors), though it contains valuable supplementary information in that it records the actual depth of the water. They read as follows:

- A. ‘(1) Level of the inundation found upon the banks² of Ishmyk (2) when passing by it going northwards in Year 10, month 3 of Akhet, day 9 (3) under the person of king of Upper and Lower Egypt Khakaure, given life, stability, dominion, like Re eternally and for ever’. It is unclear whether the narrow line carved underneath the inscription marks the inundation-level in question.³
- B. ‘(1) What was found upon the banks⁴ (of Ishmyk) when passing by it going northwards (2) in Year 10, month 3 of Akhet, day 3⁵ under the person of this god: four cubits of water’.

1 The inscriptions were relocated and recorded by the SARS/NCAM epigraphic team in late November 2014, when they were well above the prevailing level of the river (fig.6.189). A local informant confirmed that they are still seasonally submerged. The water has scoured away the light-coloured internal patina of a number of the signs in line 2 of B, making them difficult to see in a photograph, though they are clearly visible on *in situ* inspection (see further Davies 2016).

2 Taking the three narrow horizontal strokes as a simplified writing of *idbw*, ‘banks’ (*Wb.* 1, 153, 2ff), a meaning which makes good sense in the context. The inscriptions are actually located on a bank (the northern bank of Tina Island).

3 Cf. the similar line under the Nile-level inscription (of Amenhotep III) on Tombos Island (Davies 2012, 33–4, fig. 4, pl. 8), and see further Davies 2016, 14, with nn. 5–6.

4 Four horizontal strokes were carved here, by mistake, instead of the three of A.

5 The numeral is written with three short horizontal strokes one above the other, the ‘three’ here presumably a mistake for the ‘nine’ of A.



Figure 6.190 Tina Island, two Nile-level inscriptions of Senwosret III (photo W.V. Davies, 2014).

The inscriptions are of significance for a number of reasons and have been much cited and discussed though not fully published until recently (partially in Edwards and Mills 2013, 15, pl. 14; Davies 2016; cf. Vercoutter 1966, 164; Bell 1975, 238, 244–6, 258; Vercoutter 1976, 154–5; Delia 1980, 39–42, 78–9, 99; Obsomer 1989, 60, 99; Vercoutter 1994, 325, n. 30; Obsomer 1995, 327–8; Seidlmayer 2001, 76, n. 52; Tallet 2005, 43–4; Obsomer 2007, 67; Tallet 2014, 145; Valbelle 2014, 106–7). Situated in the Dal Cataract over 80km upstream of Semna and dating to the late Twelfth Dynasty, they are the southernmost known pre-New Kingdom inscriptions of their kind. They were

inscribed during the fleet's return northwards from a campaign into Kush in Year 10 during a time of year (the equivalent of January) when, although the river-level had receded, navigation through the cataract was still possible (see Vercoutter 1976, 155: 'l'eau était alors très basse: quatre coudées, soit 2m 09, juste assez pour que les bateaux puissent passer'; cf. Vercoutter 1994, 325, n. 30; Tallet 2005, 44; Obsomer 2007, 67). Importantly, these *in situ* inscriptions confirm that the region called *Ishmyk* in Egyptian texts refers to, or at least includes, the area of Dal.⁶

⁶ As is well known, the toponym *Ishmyk* (cf. Zibelius 1972, 155–6; Obsomer 1995, 326–8, fig. 49; El-Sayed 2011, 261–2, L. 327) is mentioned also in the same king's Year 19 quay-inscription from Uronarti (Dunham 1967, 33–4, pl. xxv), which records the difficulties encountered by the king's fleet (returning a little later in the year, during February, from another campaign into Kush) in traversing a cataract, which can now be firmly identified as that of Dal (cf. Vercoutter 1976, 155; Delia 1980, 77–9; Obsomer 1989, 60, 61, fig. 4, 63, 99; Obsomer 1995, 327–8, 331, fig. 50; Vogel 1998, 262–6; Tallet 2005, 48–50, fig. 6; Obsomer 2007, 68–9, fig. 11, 75, n. 97; Valbelle 2014, 107).

7. The Pharaonic Presence in the Batn al-Hajar

The ASSN data provides a basis for new discussions of a range of issues concerning the Egyptian presence in this region over several centuries. The material may also contribute to larger-scale investigations of the ebb and flow of Pharaonic interests south of the Second Cataract, and indeed in Nubia as a whole. Some issues may briefly be addressed here while also presenting an overview of this new evidence for a range of sites, concerning their chronology, distribution and roles. Doubtless, more comprehensive studies of many types will be possible linking this material with the diverse data sets accumulated over more than a century of fieldwork in Nubia. Further studies of artefacts collected by the ASSN and now in the collections of the Sudan National Museum will also doubtless have much potential to refine and extend our understanding of these sites. While a relatively small number of sites, they include many of considerable interest. That, for much of the region, this body of information is unlikely to be added to following its flooding may also focus our attention on what can be learnt from this data. It is also important to acknowledge the different forms of activities represented by such sites, which may have been operating at different scales and indeed with different temporalities, some perhaps relating to more sustained longer term presences, while others more transient.

The majority of what may be categorized as 'settlements' in fact seem to relate to workshop sites, most apparently linked to mining activities within the region. Very little evidence was found for other types of settlements in the region. Unlike the well-known monumental fortress sites of the Middle Kingdom and the 'temple-towns' of the New Kingdom, these represent a hitherto largely undocumented form of vernacular architecture in Nubia. With very little evidence for any significant use of mudbrick at any sites investigated by the ASSN, the stone buildings also represent a still unfamiliar form of an 'Egyptian' presence. Their

unfamiliarity in a research field so dominated otherwise by the monumental also gives them a particular interest. Their apparently quite specific functional associations are also of interest, again representing industrial installations hitherto unexplored in Nubian contexts. Most current field work continues to focus on the central places of New Kingdom Nubia (e.g. Sesibi, Sai, Amara West), providing us with more complex and nuanced understandings of these urban spaces (e.g. Adenstedt 2016; Budka 2017c; Spence 2017; Spencer 2015, 2017). By contrast the records of these very different forms of settlements in the Batn al-Hajar provide a first glimpse of New Kingdom colonialism from a quite different perspective. As will be further discussed, notwithstanding the limitations of the data recovered by the ASSN, there is much here that may inform on the logistics and other practical engagements with everyday lives, in an often challenging landscape.

The general distribution of sites may also provide some indication not only of the main foci of settlement but also of possible routes used in traversing a region which separated Egyptian centres of in the Abri-Delgo Reach (Middle Nubia) from those of Lower Nubia and Egypt proper. As found in other periods it seems likely that use was made of both river transport and well as land routes. The vagaries and challenges of river travel through the often dangerous waters between Gemai and Dal experienced by Egyptians are evident in the location of many of the Egyptian (primarily New Kingdom) inscriptions within the region, generally close to those rapids and other obstacles to river transport. In addition to these, a small number of other inscriptions dispersed through the region may relate to other activities. Some at least may relate to the passage of land-based travelers.

While the circumstances of the ASSN salvage work necessarily constrained the scope of site excavations, the value of the material recovered from these should not be underestimated. Where

at least a few sites seem likely to survive above current reservoir/river levels, there is clearly still some scope to re-investigate a few of these, also bringing to bear current field techniques, many of which have been employed in recent urban excavations in the region. Further work would also be valuable to better understand the records of the ASSN. Where, for example, the representativeness of the ASSN pottery samples cannot be determined, some new fieldwork may be able to provide much needed quantified data. More detailed ceramic studies may be expected to provide much new information, not just in allowing closer dating of sites but also in understanding the lived experience at such sites. Their unusual ‘industrial’ character gives their associated pottery/finds assemblages a special importance, from contexts very different to the urban centres we are more familiar with. That some may not have undergone much post-abandonment disturbance/robbing also gives them a further special interest. In many cases, their often isolated locations in otherwise inhospitable terrain will also have assisted their survival.

If the ‘settlement’ sites may provide new insights into aspects of the Egyptian presences about which we still remain poorly informed, the burial sites within the region also have much of interest. While we are more familiar with the often quite large formal cemeteries (if themselves

containing discrete groups of burials) associated with major ‘urban’ centres, the existence of more widely dispersed burials raise numerous questions concerning their construction and use (Spencer et al 2017, 48), and the cultural expectations associated with them. With the current interesting outcomes of some innovative studies both in Nubia (e.g. Binder 2017; Smith and Buzon 2017) as well as Egypt proper (e.g. Stevens 2018), such different burial contexts again have considerable interest. Recent studies of the Amarna cemeteries, for example, have been able to identify subtle variations in grave shapes which may relate to the use of different burial containers (Stevens 2018, 117, fig.15). In this region, that some coffins seem to have made use of dom tree logs may represent a slightly different local practice.

Again it may be reiterated that prior to the analysis of all the archaeological material which may be contemporary with the ‘Pharaonic’ sites identified by the ASSN, these observations are necessarily preliminary and partial. This is likely to be especially the case in relation to our understanding of the burial landscapes of the region. The extent to which these were transformed by the Egyptian presence, as part of more general cultural transformations, must await the full study of the large corpus of ‘C-Group’ and/or ‘Kerma’ sites recorded by the ASSN.

Gemai-Murshid

The evidence for an Egyptian presence at the south end of the Second Cataract, at what may be presumed to have been a significant location, remains limited. Within the cataract zone the west bank around Mirgissa would seem to have been central for those traversing the series of rapids along the main (western) channels. The work of the West Bank Survey within the cataract zone also suggests a predominantly west-bank focus for most New Kingdom activity (Nordström 2014, 156–57). However the upstream end of the cataract zone around the islands at Gemai might also be expected to have been of some importance. The early Harvard excavations did identify a few New Kingdom burials on the east bank in ‘Cemetery 500’, although the origin of an architectural block also found there remains to be determined, if perhaps unlikely to be local. In more recent centuries the east bank provided a convenient landing/mooring for boats while also often serving as a

point of departure for those taking a land route around the eastern side of the cataract. That this more recent activity may also have contributed to the masking/erosion of older sites in the vicinity must also be borne in mind here.

Two rather ephemeral sites at Gemai West, an occupation scatter [11-D-36] and the ‘campsite’ [11-D-37] c.500m upriver remain of uncertain significance. The limited dating evidence might suggest these date to Dynasty 18 although the record of the test excavations makes it difficult to confirm a direct association between the furnace/kiln structure and the New Kingdom pottery finds. Some of the ‘soft brown ware’ pottery (fig.2.07) could be of local manufacture although the majority seems likely to be Egyptian-made. A few sherds were recovered in the ashy deposits around it, but there was no more direct evidence for pottery manufacture here (for a pottery kiln at Mirgissa, see Vercoutter 1970, fig.57).

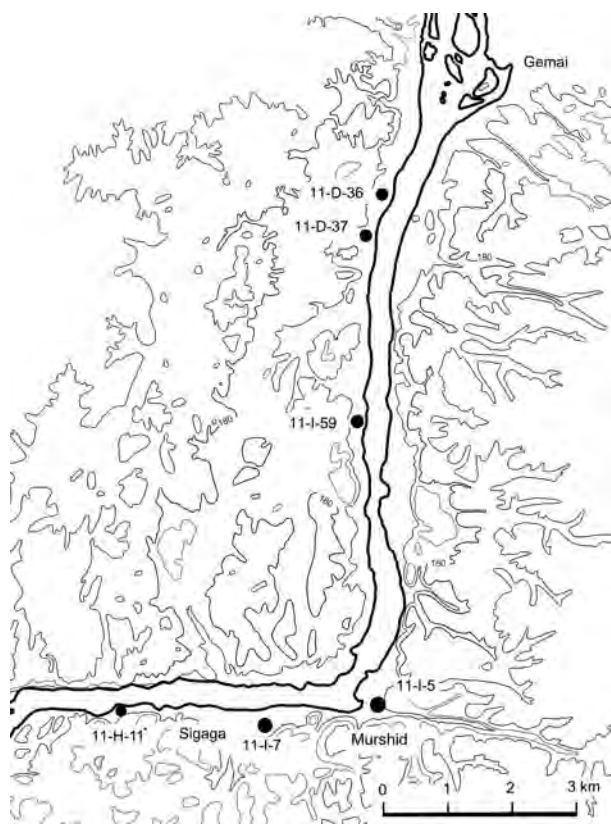


Figure 7.01. Sites in Gemai-Murshid area (180m contour approximates to flood level).

Saras

Two particular aspects of the Pharaonic presence have dominated past discussions of the Saras region. Early attention focused on its place within the Middle Kingdom military frontier system, constructed around the chain of forts between Semna and the Second Cataract. Prior to the 1960s the then known forts at Semna, Uronarti, Shelfak and Mirgissa, were understood through a military lens as an interlinked network of sites: “that a system of visual signaling existed between the various forts .. from Semna to Halfa seems certain: its advantages are so obvious that one cannot imagine the ancient Egyptians failing to make use of it” (Wheeler in Dunham 1967, 4). Wheeler thought visual signalling might be possible between Uronarti and Shelfak, and that Askut was directly visible from Shelfak (Wheeler 1932, 255–6; Dunham 1967, 115). Such speculations were known to the ASSN, but they found no new evidence for such a system on prominent hilltops at either the south and north end of Saras. As explicitly recorded, no evidence for an Egyptian

The east bank was further explored by the Finnish Nubian Expedition, building on the results of the original ASSN reconnaissance. Of the sites initially identified as possibly ‘Pharaonic’, the most significant of these proved to be a small cemetery [11-I-5 = FNE 32] at Murshid East, for which an early Dynasty 18 date may be suggested. The only inscription in this area was the single New Kingdom example added to a group of rock drawings [11-I-59*] on the west bank north of the Murshid bend. A ‘Pharaonic’ date attributed to the drawings of boats at [11-H-11*] above the Murshid bend remains to be confirmed.

presence was found on the west bank hilltop above the medieval settlement [11-Q-15], the only point from which both Askut and Shelfak were visible (fig.2.02).

Using data from Badawy’s excavations of Askut in the early 1960s, Smith has begun to explore the site both within its local landscape as well as its role within the larger-scale dynamics of Egyptian colonialism in Nubia (S.T. Smith 1995). An apparent abundance of C-Group and/or Kerma sites in the Saras Reach, first identified by the reconnaissance survey of the ASSN, was for example understood as indicative that this was a relatively productive part of the Batn el-Hajar. Suggestive of the existence of a significant local population, the Egyptian ‘fortress’ might then be seen as a focus for exploring a variety of (colonial) interactions between ‘Egyptians’ and ‘Nubians’ through the later Middle Kingdom and beyond. The new information concerning ‘Egyptian’ sites presented here will undoubtedly prove useful in further developing the debates initiated by Smith, although a

full reassessment must necessarily await the full study of the ‘C-Group’ and ‘Kerma’ sites.

The extent to which the ASSN archive also provides us with an opportunity to better appreciate the landscape of this interesting micro-region may also be highlighted and more focused work would seem likely to be productive. The mid-twentieth century aerial photographs certainly suggest that the relatively wide alluvial plain of Saras of modern times, interspersed with low rocky ridges and outcrops, may anciently been rather a more complex and dynamic environment. That elements of this may have been susceptible to flooding at high Nile certainly seems likely. That in places this may have been a much more densely wooded riverine landscape is perhaps also not unlikely. While this appears to have been almost treeless beyond the river margins by the twentieth century this may have been a relatively recent development. In 1821 Linant Bellefonds had commented on the abundant vegetation and (mimosa) trees in the Saras area “pour ce pays c’est un paradis” (1958, 4). The military occupation of this area by both Mahdist and Anglo-Egyptian forces in the last decades of the nineteenth century (Colville 1889, Wingate 1891) is certainly likely to have had a major impact on the local landscape.

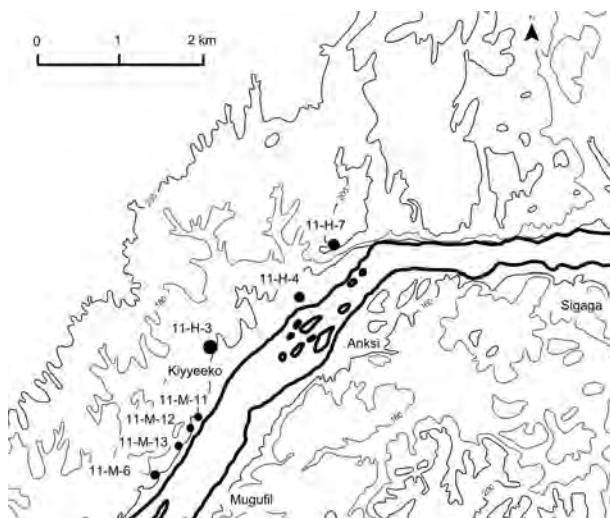


Figure 7.02. Sites in northern Saras (180m contour approximates to flood level).

The northern focus of occupation of the larger Saras area was on the west bank, downstream of Askut island. Conceived of in terms of a ‘site catchment’, this area of alluvial plain was defined

by Smith as ‘Village A’ (S.T. Smith 1995, 36–8). Some further elaboration of the scale and character of Pharaonic presence in this northern area is now possible. The hilltop outpost [11-H-7] cannot be closely dated, and if assumed to have been used in the Middle and/or New Kingdoms, its ephemerality should perhaps also be emphasized. Its similarity to a series of other sites along the west bank of the Second Cataract zone (at Gemai West, Mirgissa and Abu Sir) may also be noted; there identified as ‘sentinel huts’ (Adams and Nordström 1963, 23; Nordström 2014, 157, fig.74).¹ That these were only encountered on the west bank of the cataract zone was also highlighted. Due to its prominent location, if not its archaeological remains, this site has figured in discussions of Middle Kingdom Egyptian military frontier following Wheeler (e.g. S.T. Smith 1995, 25, 41). However, its ephemeral character should perhaps raise some doubts that such a site could have played any significant role in a Middle Kingdom military system, beyond the very short term. An association with the Middle Kingdom presence is itself difficult to confirm. That this and similar sites within the Second Cataract zone may in fact relate to a New Kingdom presence might perhaps be equally possible.

Evidence for burials in this locality was limited to the single rock-cut tomb [11-H-3] on the west bank. Unfortunately with no artefactual evidence beyond a few surface sherds of cups and bowls (thought likely to be of New Kingdom date), its significance remains unclear. The only other cemeteries in the vicinity were a small (early?)



Figure 7.03. Sites in area of Askut (180m contour approximates to flood level).

¹ The sentinel huts upstream of Mirgissa were registered as sites [5-X-25] and [5-X-33] along with three sites downstream [5-T-11], [5-T-22] and [5-S-8].

C-Group cemetery [11-M-8] close by to the south, and a larger one of some c.50 graves [11-H-5], also likely to be 'Early C-Group', to the north-east. A little upstream south of Kiyeeeko the small settlement [11-M-13] seems likely to date to Dynasty 18, again with evidence for fishing. The cached finds of pots and a grindstone [11-M-11] a little to the north could relate to this. The three graves found c.500m further upstream [11-M-6] seem however to be significantly later, quite possibly post-New Kingdom.

The seasonally linked islands of Askut and Kajnarti were the focus of another small cluster of sites (fig.7.03). The burials [11-L-26] on Kajnarti seem those most likely to relate to the fort of Askut. Only a sample of these were excavated and most of those that could be dated would seem to relate to the Dynasty 18 re-occupation, perhaps linked to an episode of gold-extraction in the area? During the course of the fieldwork the ASSN excavators speculated that its use, rather than a mainland location, might have been determined by concerns for security.

The presence of other burials on the west bank at [11-L-22] and [11-L-18] do however suggest that such concerns did not exclude the use of that area, if perhaps also indicating the existence of a number of different 'burial communities'. If, and where amongst these sites any of the Middle Kingdom inhabitants of Askut may have been buried remains uncertain.

The landscape setting of Askut and Kajnarti as, at least seasonally, linked islands is also worth considering further. While Smith attempted to establish some wider local context in terms of 'site catchments', the actual setting of the 'fortress', as with all island sites also imposes considerable constraints. On the east bank the overlooking hills were in places only c.300m away, and this was a relatively 'open', if secure position. While gaining security through its island location, that this necessarily brought a measure of separation, and potentially isolation, cannot be ignored, where all activities beyond the island would require transport to the mainland. The choice of an island location would seem to impose considerable constraints

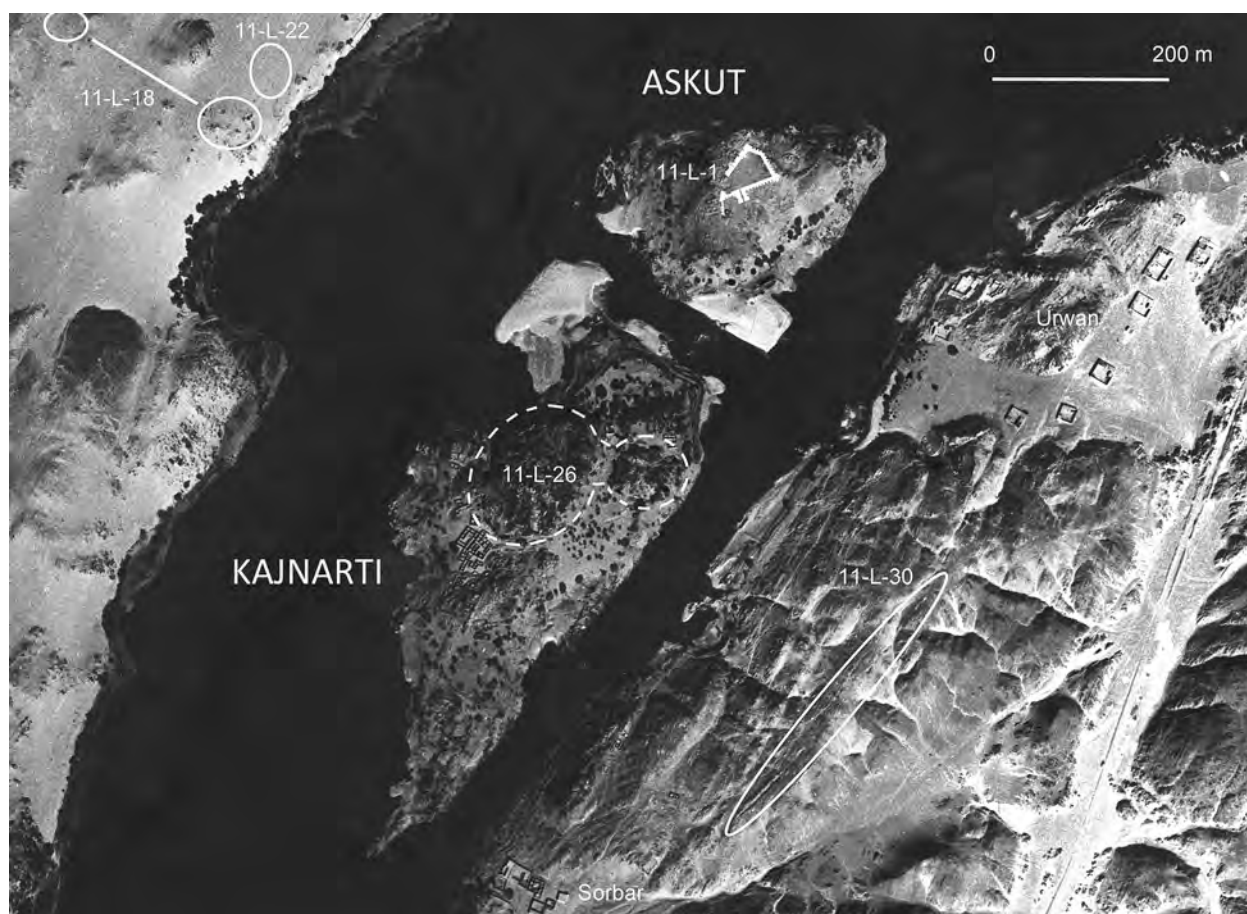


Figure 7.04. Askut, Kajnarti and nearby sites.

on access to/from off-island locations, and these perhaps merit further consideration in discussions of the function of the Askut site.

Within the main ‘Saras plain’, the area identified by Smith as a notional ‘village B’, demonstrating direct relationships of the numerous ‘C-Group’ and ‘Kerma’ sites to the Middle Kingdom or later Egyptian presence on Askut island must await their full study. The contemporaneity of some with the later Dynasty 12/Dynasty 13 occupation on the island is possible, while a limited ‘Kerma’ presence is also matched in and around the fort in later phases of use/reuse (Smith 1995, ch.4). If the island had maintained a population of ‘Egyptian expatriates’ through the Second Intermediate Period (Smith 1995, 173; cf. Troy 1997) no further traces of their presence were found by the ASSN.

At the south end of Saras, near the hamlets of Alifenti and Maiso/Maasho was the interesting cluster of workshop sites [11-Q-59], [11-Q-61], [11-Q-62] and [11-Q-63]. These four sites were spread over c.350m and seem likely to be closely related, if not just elements of a single activity area. All would appear to be in locations sheltered from the northwest winds, in the lee of rock outcrops. In addition to the workshops a substantial rock cut tomb and at least three other scattered graves [11-Q-65] were located on rising ground to the east (fig.7.05). Confirmation of a Middle Kingdom phase of use of these workshops remains difficult.² A few sherds might suggest some pre-New Kingdom presence in or around some of the sites. No pottery collections seem to have been made at site [11-Q-59], although the field notes record a perception that the pottery there may have been some differences from what was seen on other sites nearby, but the archive records do not allow further clarification of such impressions. The limited ceramic material from the graves [11-Q-65] does not allow them to be closely dated but the siltware bowls found there appear to be of New Kingdom date. If, as would seem likely the workshops and burials were associated, the fact of the construction of at least one quite substantial two-chamber tomb here, as well as other simpler burials, is of interest. Here, as elsewhere, the construction of such a large tomb suggests some expectations that such an investment here was both appropriate and necessary. The presence of at least 10 burials, including at

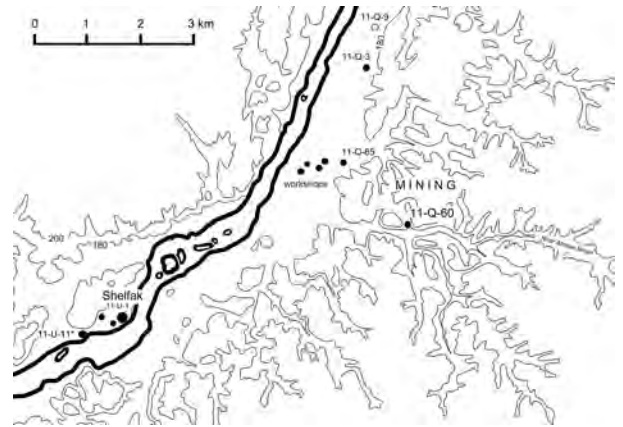


Figure 7.05. Sites in southern Saras area. Most of the fort at Shelfak [11-U-1] and the areas of mining in the hills north of the Khor Ahmed Sherif remain above flood level (180m contour approximates to flood level).

least one child, demonstrates that this expectation was in fact justified.

In an area with many sites of many periods, it may be noted here that this rising ground also held a number of small C-Group/Kerma cemeteries a little to the south, while there was a large cemetery [11-Q-36] c.300m to the northeast of [11-Q-61]. Test excavations there suggested this may have held as many as 320 graves, probably spanning several centuries including a ‘Kerma’ component (Mills 1973, 203–205), but with no clear evidence for its continued use into the New Kingdom. Contemporary occupation sites seem to have been located closer to the river. On this basis, there may well have been quite complex local occupation histories prior to Dynasty 18, the one large cemetery [11-Q-36] developing as the main focus for burials in the locality. The emergence of a smaller number of such larger cemeteries in the Classic Kerma period has previously been identified as a chronological trend in the Third and Fourth Cataract regions (Osman and Edwards 2011, 62; Näser 2007, 124).

The workshops can be assumed to relate to the mining sites immediately to the east, allocated a single registration number [11-Q-60]. These lay on higher ground and, as such, outside the primary survey area of the ASSN. However, as noted above, a brief reconnaissance in late 1965 over a few square kilometres was able to confirm the presence of numerous diggings as well as the presence of some temporary structures likely to be associated

2 A re-evaluation of the Saras gold-workings favouring a New Kingdom dating was presented by A.J. Mills at the International Conference for Nubian Studies in Boston, 1998.



Figure 7.06. Workshop sites [11-Q-59], [11-Q-61], [11-Q-62] and [11-Q-63] and nearby cemeteries/burials [11-Q-36], [11-Q-57] and [11-Q-65] with 'late C-Group'/'Kerma' and/or New Kingdom burials.

with them. While quantified data for the scale of mining/processing is lacking, the large spreads of quartz tailings and the large quantities of grinding and crushing equipment at the workshops suggest quite extensive operations. While their use was not of a character to lead to significant accumulations of occupation debris, the indications, if frustratingly slight, of two distinct phases of occupation at [11-Q-62] are suggestive. The recorded material could allow for some pre-New Kingdom activity, but most of the excavated remains seem to relate to one of more phases of New Kingdom use.

Here it may be appropriate to emphasize the close proximity of the small 'late C-Group' cemetery [11-Q-57], included in the site gazetteer (fig.7.06). Attention was drawn to this unusual site in the interim report on the 1965–1966 field season, a site thought likely to relate to 'the period during which C-Group peoples were becoming Egyptianised' (Mills 1973, 203). An early Dynasty 18 date seems reasonably clear. The prominence of tall ovoid jars within the small body of material may be compared with earlier burials of phases

I-II at Fadrus/Debeira East (SJE Cemetery 185 = 24-R-34) just downstream of the Second Cataract. There, Säve-Söderbergh and Troy portrayed such 'Transitional' populations as: "Middle Nubian in burial customs and partly Egyptian in funerary goods, [who] may be the conservative "cousins" of the group which established the Fadrus cemetery" (Säve-Söderbergh and Troy 1991, 248). The contracted burial forms present here at Saras are also notable. At Fadrus c.7% of the burial were classified as contracted, predominantly those of children (Säve-Söderbergh and Troy 1991, 213). That [11-Q-57] was directly linked to the workshops seems likely, if impossible to confirm. The varied burial forms encountered there are also suggestive of cultural changes similar to those documented in the Second Cataract region, while the local funerary landscapes, and practices, may also have been changing. The 'Kerma' component of [11-Q-36] might suggest it remained in use to near the beginning of Dynasty 18, but a full study has yet to be completed. There may however be a small number of burials of an early New Kingdom

date amongst some other 'Kerma' sites in the Saras area. Such may be the case at another small 'Kerma' cemetery [11-Q-2], c.250m from [11-Q-9] near Awlaiko (Awleeko) (see fig.2.3.1), as well as another [11-Q-50] c.1km north-northeast of [11-Q-36]. Along with the burials [11-Q-57] close to the workshop sites, some further graves [11-Q-73], probably of this period, were located c.1.25km to the southwest close to Gortintai (*Gurtinte*). The establishment of new cemeteries, if such they were, may have been elements of a more widespread reordering of burial communities during the early New Kingdom.

The impacts of the nineteenth century military activities on the archaeology of the Saras area remain difficult to determine, but may have been significant. This presence was perhaps not fully appreciated in initial assessments of some sites, such as the stone enclosure at [11-Q-9], which seems likely to date to the 1880s. A large cleared space (fig.7.06) visible in the open plain just to the east of [11-Q-61] running towards the area

of the cemetery [11-Q-36] also seems likely to have a more recent military origin. The date and significance of two other sites identified in this area, [11-Q-10], [11-Q-3], remains uncertain. No further sites were found in the southern end of Saras and no additional evidence of sites that might be associated with the Middle Kingdom outpost at Shelfak, which lay c.4.5km to the southwest of the New Kingdom workshops. The rock-cut tombs [11-U-13*] excavated by Wheeler outside the south gate at Shelfak remain the only Middle Kingdom burials which can confidently be identified in the Saras Reach. While known sites around Uronarti were integrated with the AMS registration system, little additional information was gained by the ASSN. The enclosure [10-Y-24] on the west bank opposite the north end of the island remains undated and may well relate to a later period. Ongoing research on the surviving parts of Uronarti may however yet throw new light on aspects of the Middle/New Kingdom 'Pharaonic' occupation of that island and its environs.

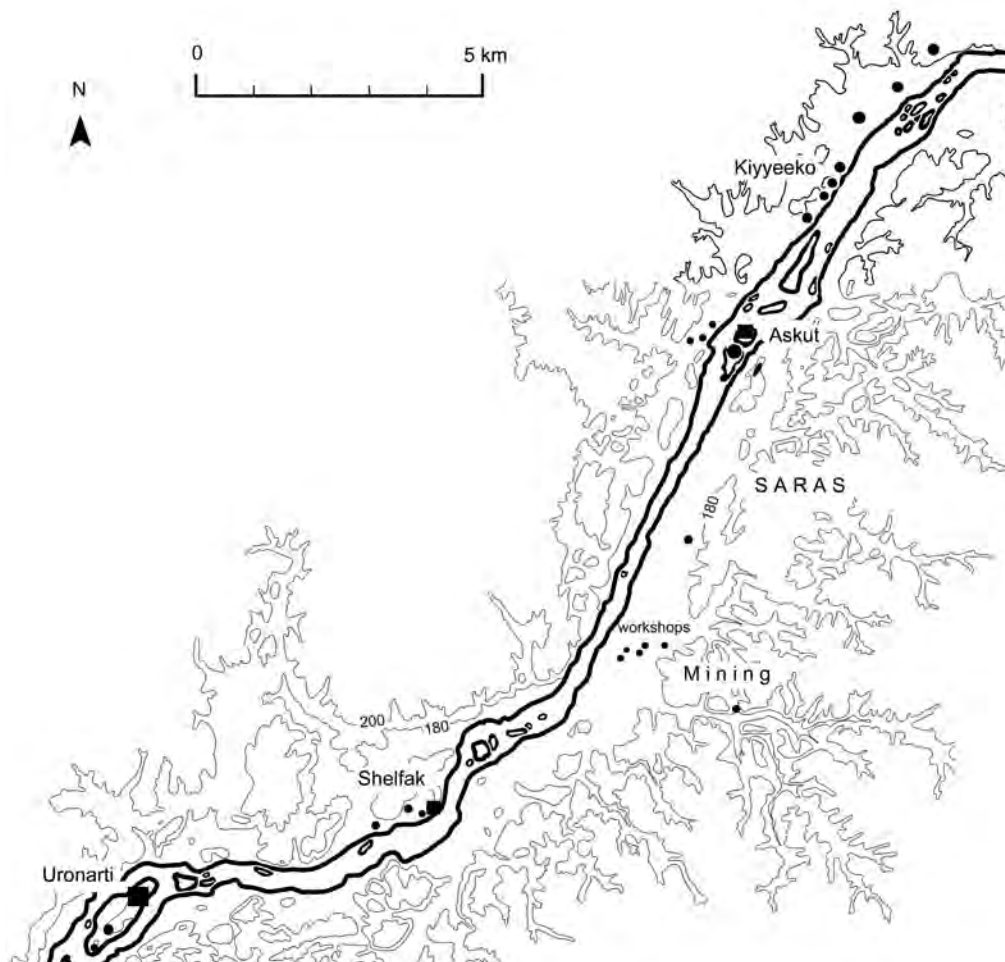


Figure 7.07. Site distribution within Saras region (180m contour approximates to flood level).

Semna

A small but interesting group of sites (fig.7.08) can be identified upriver of Uronarti towards Semna and may also raise further questions concerning the interrelation of Uronarti and Semna-Kumma in the Middle Kingdom. Here again, maintaining an awareness of their wider landscape context may on occasions be both useful and suggestive. While apparently not known to the ASSN surveyors in the 1960s, the Uronarti-Semna wall [10-Y-12] had been noted early in the twentieth century by Borchardt (1923, 23–24) who identified this wall and a possible road line associated with it. A century earlier Cailliaud also appears to have recognised this structure near ‘Ourounarti’ and ‘Kag-Engirah’ islands (1826, Vol.I, 337).

Links with a potentially similar wall which ran for 7.5km linking Aswan and Philae area have been noted. As currently understood that wall seems likely to have served to protect a portage route connecting harbours at the two ends of the First Cataract, perhaps datable to the reign of Sesostris II (Jaritz 1993, 114). Some other general comparisons may be made. On the basis of the small sections surviving the Semna wall may have had a width of 5–5.5 cubits, compared with up to 10 cubits at the Aswan-Philae wall. The Semna wall did not survive to a sufficient height to show whether reed mats (as used at Aswan) or other additional bonding materials were used. The bricks also appear to have been rather smaller than those (9 x 18 x 36cm) used in the Aswan wall and the Middle Kingdom town wall at Elephantine (Jaritz 1993, 113). As at Aswan, where granite blocks were used in the foundations where the wall was crossing sandy ground (Jaritz 1993, 111), some use of stone was also apparent in the Semna wall foundations.

While some parts of the wall may be traced on the aerial photographs, in places the line of more than one linear feature can be seen. That more recent tracks along this stretch of the river may on occasions be confused with ancient features must also be borne in mind. There are also a number of features visible on air photographs which could well relate to nineteenth century military activity in the area, or indeed other attempts to create a passable road along the west bank. As at Aswan, it seems likely that the wall was accompanied by

a trackway, as also suggested by Borchardt. As also discovered by early archaeological expeditions, the west bank was also most easily traversed between this area and the Second Cataract; in the 1920s: “no difficulty was found in bringing a car on this side from Halfa and Mirgissa” (Wheeler in Dunham 1967, 3).

As far as can be determined from the mapping, and as also suggested by observations in the ASSN field notes, the wall seems to have maintained a relatively level path, running along the contour. As mapped for most of its length it seems to have run close to the 180m contour, and hence not far below the expected flood level. As current satellite imagery indicates, all but a few short sections of the wall has been submerged and lost. Some 300m of its line appears to survive above water in its central section, with some hint of another short section surviving c.250m to the northeast, and another closer to Semna West fort. The surviving section has the appearance of a band of cleared ground c.10m wide, with traces of the line of the wall visible running down its centre. Assuming this was indeed completed and raised to a significant height, this structure raises many questions. As it would seem that most of the line of the wall ran along the contour, the wall was so located as to have had limited military value beyond its actual physical presence. Throughout much of its length it would have been overlooked by higher ground to the west. The resources required for its construction would also have been considerable.³

The east bank approaching Semna East/Kumma was very different with a belt of broken ground c.500–750m wide east of the river bounded by the more continuous rocky terraces to the east, along which ran the stone wall [16-E-40]. The aerial photographs show the presence of several other ‘game-drive’ type walls within this area as well as small stone enclosures and other structures, of unknown date. A later prehistoric date for many of these seems likely, in a period where this area may well have had some tree-cover and vegetation. Very little evidence was found for more recent settlement in this general area below the Semna cataract.

Within this more general context, the isolated building at [16-E-21] has a number of puzzling

³ In this respect it might be noted that a 2m high wall of this scale extending over 4.5km would require approaching 4 million bricks; in the same order of magnitude as the material required to construct Uronarti fort, for example.

features. Architecturally, its rectilinear form and style of construction is not easily paralleled elsewhere within the ASSN survey area. The stonework was bonded with mud mortar, and the building had laid mud floors, at least in part. It may be suggested that the location, distant from the river, might account for the choice of stone rather than mudbrick, although quantities of water would still have been required for preparing the mortar used and laying floors. The function of some of its internal stone features, which puzzled the excavators, are also uncertain although these may represent mastaba benches, or similar. The quantities of stone cleared by the excavators also suggests that the walls may not have originally been substantially higher than preserved. As understood by the excavators, this appeared not to have been a domestic structure but rather to have served as a workshop of some kind. The presence of a crucible amongst a varied assemblage of pottery, tools and pigments would seem to support this suggestion. The choice of location, and exact date of this unusual site remains uncertain however. That it dates to early in Dynasty 18 might be suggested.⁴ That it appears to have been abandoned with much of its contents left in situ raises further questions, as does the presence of an (unburied?) body at or near floor level.

As we have seen, the ASSN did not further investigate the major monumental sites of this area.



Figure 7.08. Site distribution within Semna region (180m contour approximates to flood level).

No further information was recorded concerning the fort on Uronarti, or the possible ‘campaign palace’ on Uronarti, possibly related to another structure at Buhen South/Kor (Vercoutter 1955; Moeller 2016, 197; fig.8.37). Notwithstanding their substantial architectural presence, it is interesting that the latter, at least, may have been occupied relatively briefly, perhaps relating to a more ephemeral and transient presence and use. The area of Semna West itself was further investigated within the Chicago concession, where work focused largely on the Semna South fort [16-E-3] and a large (later) cemetery of [16-E-15], still only known from preliminary reports (Žabkar and Žabkar 1982).

The presence of three distinct cemeteries excavated by Reisner/Wheeler ([16-E-61*], [16-E-62*], [16-E-63*]) close to the Semna West fort raises interesting questions concerning their use, and re-use. Further detailed studies may be able to throw some further light on their various phases/episodes of use through the second millennium BC and later. The largest of these [16-E-61*], cemetery S500, would seem to have been the main Middle Kingdom cemetery. Scarabs of Tuthmosis III are also not uncommon while later burials of Dynasty 18 can also be identified. Some Ramesside use is also apparent, as well as possibly several post-New Kingdom/Dynasty 25 burials (Williams 1990, 36), also the likely date for the establishment of a new cemetery [16-E-63*].

The apparently Middle Kingdom enclosure at Semna South [16-E-3], set within an embayment just upstream of the Semna gorge also remains poorly understood, notwithstanding attempts to incorporate it into more general models of the ‘Semna frontier’ (e.g. Kemp 2006, 239). As suggested by the Sudan Antiquities Service test excavations in 1956 the ditch and glacis enclosing the site seems to have been buried to a considerable depth by later silt deposits. This might perhaps suggest a lack of appreciation of the potential of high flood levels when constructed, while also prompting later debates on changing Nile levels (Vercoutter 1966; Žabkar and Žabkar 1982; De Putter 1993). The lack of reliable evidence for its construction date, or indeed its likely purpose, does however make it difficult to relate to the larger site of Semna West [16-E-1]. That relationship is perhaps now unlikely to ever be satisfactorily

4 I would like to thank Christian Knoblauch for helpful advice and suggestions concerning this and other sites.

resolved,⁵ although the unpublished excavation archives may be able to throw more light on its function. It would seem for example that early in its use it contained a structure that in size and plan resembles the ‘workshops’ with sunken basins (“libation places”) recorded at both Semna West and Kumma (Dunham and Janssen 1960, Maps IV, XVI) as well as several other Nubian and Egyptian sites, as discussed by Liska (2008, 61–62).⁶

On the east bank, no additional work was carried out at Kumma [16-E-2] or in the area of burials [16-E-65*] c.400m east of the fort, Reisner’s Cemetery H200. The latter seems to have contained clusters of burials which may also relate to a number of different periods of use, as on the west bank. The significance of the sites recorded on the hill slopes c.1.5km to the east-southeast remain less clear. Some quarrying activity seems likely in the area of [16-E-31], but the significance of the isolated cairn [16-E-30] and the group of cairns [16-E-32] on an east-facing slope c.400m beyond, remain unclear. That these were of more recent date seems not unlikely, not least in view of their often quite good state of preservation. They have some features in common with cairns known from the eastern deserts of Egypt, with a range of ritual associations. An example recorded in the

Wadi Iqna was associated with celebrations of the Prophet’s birthday : “seven feet high, this cairn is encircled halfway up by a row of niches in which incense is burned and candles lighted” (Murray 1935, 194–5, Pl.XXI, lower). Here it may also be noted that aerial photographs provide no clear indication of any mining activities in this area, the Saras mines being c.15km distant.

Beyond these sites, a scatter of inscription/graffiti sites to the south of the Semna-Kumma forts generally seem to relate to Middle Kingdom activity, with most of those of New Kingdom date close to the forts and their temples. The construction of the Dynasty 18 temples and some later modifications would seem likely to have seen significant episodes of activity in the vicinity, including local burials. From textual sources it is known that this involved direct links to Sai island, at least during the reign of Thutmose III, including the importation of sandstone from its quarries, c.110km upriver (Caminos 1965, 76; 1998a,b). With the occurrence of inscriptions/graffiti in the vicinity of other rock drawings, we are also reminded that a (small) number of C-Group/Kerma sites in the locality may also have formed part of the wider context for the ‘Pharaonic’ presence, in both periods.

Duweishat

Upstream of Semna the next site recorded was at Sorki (fig.7.09), close to the modern gold mining centre of Duweishat, c.13km upstream of the Semna forts. The Pharaonic presence in this area was dominated by New Kingdom workshop sites and a few scattered burials, likely associated. The possibly large site [16-O-12] was the northernmost of a series extending along at least 9km of the river; [16-S-9] being the southernmost of the larger workshop sites on the east bank. Nearby denuded sites such as [16-S-2] may also be of New Kingdom date but, in view of the presence of what look to be ‘Kerma’ workshops closeby (see below), an earlier date cannot perhaps be excluded. Whether or not such Egyptian activity extended further upstream remains uncertain. Aerial photographs show some surface disturbance as well as small structures (of

unknown date) which might also relate to mining activities outside areas surveyed in the 1960s. These might warrant further investigation in areas surviving above river level. Modern prospection does not seem to have entered this area, which could perhaps suggest that the auriferous deposits did not extend this far.

That only a small sample of likely workshop sites visible on aerial photographs was excavated must be emphasized and it would be premature to attempt to quantify the scale of activity on the basis of the ASSN data. The mid-twentieth century aerial imagery provides a valuable record of the remains then surviving, although it is impossible to differentiate the New Kingdom sites from stone-built settlements of other periods. Some of the registered sites, or at least elements of them,

5 The enigmatic early New Kingdom enclosure within the townsite of Sesibi (Spence 2017, 456-8) may perhaps pose similar challenges of interpretation

6 This is described in a preliminary report (Žabkar and Žabkar 1982, and Žabkar 1982, 11); a photograph appears in the Oriental Institute Annual Report for 1968-1969 (Žabkar 1969).

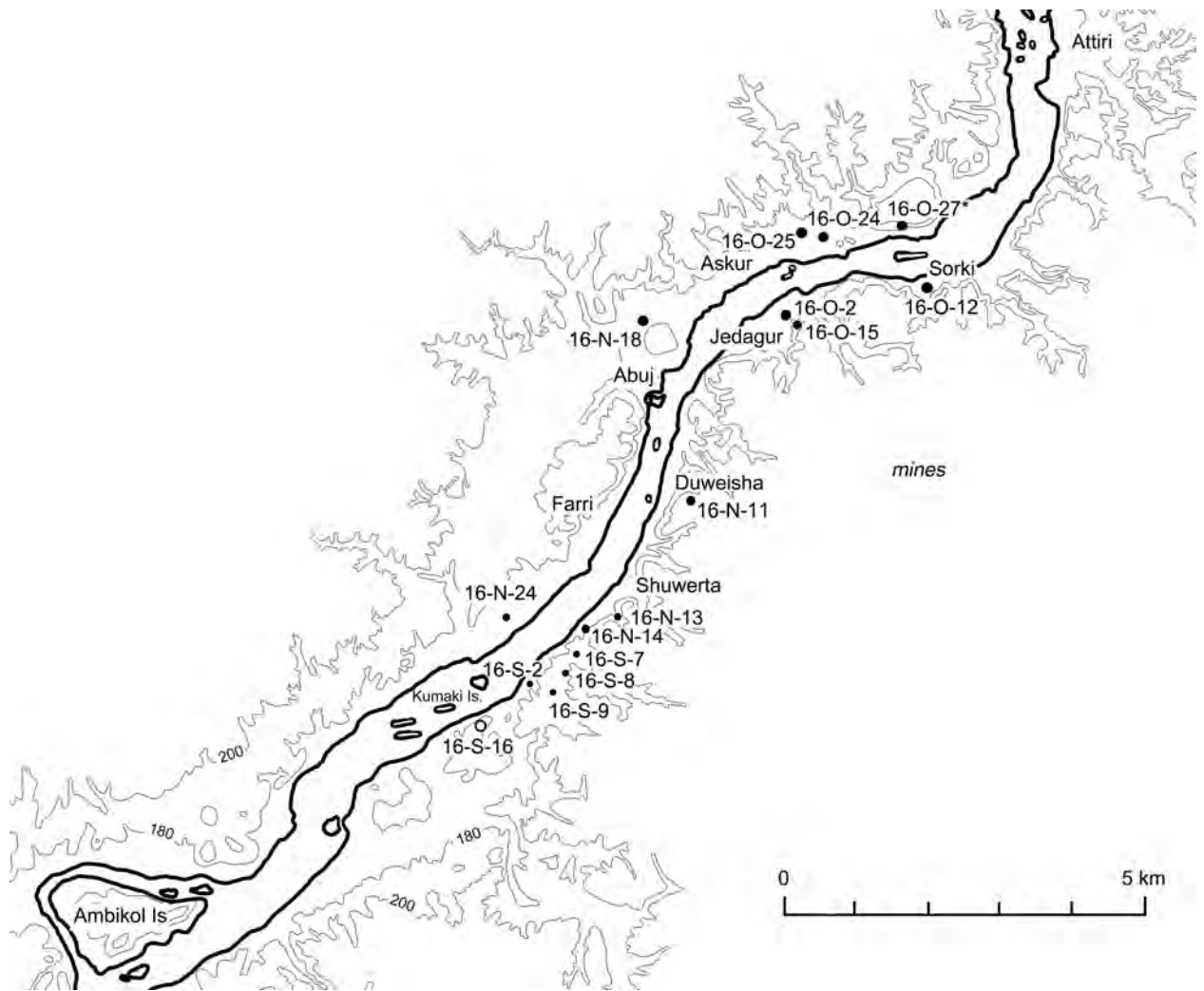


Figure 7.09. Site distribution within Duweishat region (180m contour approximates to flood level). Some sites survive above flood levels to southwest of Shuwerta and in (unsurveyed) areas away from river. Location of 'Kerma' workshop site [16-S-16] also indicated.

may still survive above current flood levels. Aerial photographs as well as more recent remote sensing also shows the presence of further unrecorded sites, both mining sites and possible workshops, some with clustered stone structures further inland.

No comparable mining/workshops sites were identified on the west bank. Aerial photographs also do not suggest the presence of mining there, which may well have been confined to the east bank. As in much of the larger region, sand encroachment commonly masks the ground surface. However, a scatter of sites suggest some presence in this general period. Most seem to be small settlements and groups of burials, continuing a presence already evidenced in a number of C-Group/Kerma sites. A Middle Kingdom graffito [16-O-27*] on the west bank opposite Sorki is one of a very small number

of inscriptions between Semna and Dal. Scattered settlements of New Kingdom date [16-O-25] and associated burials [16-O-24], and some further rather ephemeral settlement remains at [16-N-18], appear rather different from those associated with east bank mining sites.

Upstream of Duweishat very few other indications of Pharaonic presence were found in Melk en Nasr (fig.7.10). Another isolated Middle Kingdom inscription [16-V-22] could relate to movement along the west bank, rather than riverborne transport. Another possible settlement [16-U-46] lay c.9km upriver. As the site appears to contain material from a number of periods, its attribution appears uncertain, although some copper alloy sheathing found there is similar to examples found at other New Kingdom sites. Some of the pottery

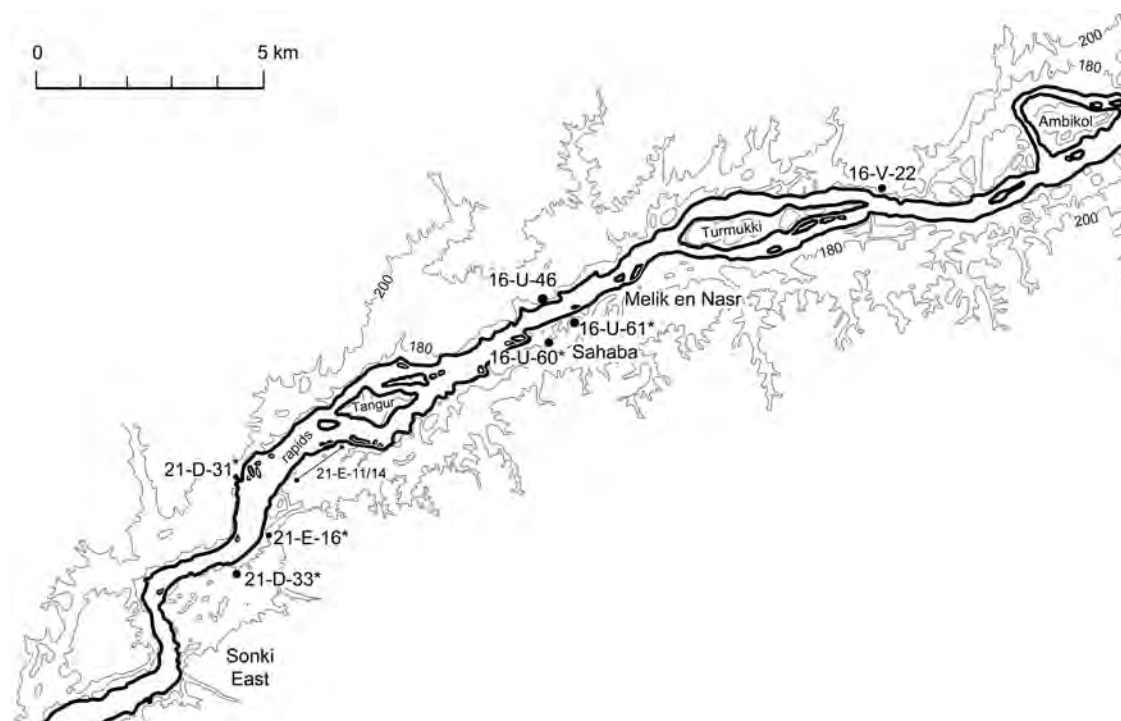


Figure 7.10. Site distribution within Melk en Nasr – Tanjur – Sonki region (180m contour approximates to flood level).

has similarities to material from Hillat el-Arab while some handmade pottery might be paralleled at Fadrus cemetery 185 (Säve-Söderbergh and Troy 1991, Pl.3.14) but these comparisons remain tentative. On the east bank, at Sahaba, there were two further sites with New Kingdom graffiti/inscriptions [16-U-60*] and [16-U-61*]. Larger groups of inscriptions were found between Tangur and Sonki, most relating to the Tuthmosid campaigns, but also including another possible

Middle Kingdom example in Sonki East [21-E-16*]. Here again, the west bank is quite exposed to mobile sand, which may have masked sites, although the ASSN surveyors did locate a number of sites of other periods, including both late prehistoric (A-Group/C-Group/Kerma) as well as more recent (X-Group/Christian) in this area.

Ukma-Akasha-Dal

The northern end of the Ukma-Akasha Reach around Kidinkony marks the upstream border of the most inhospitable part of the Batn al-Hajar (fig.7.11). South of there, movement along the river was relatively unproblematic into more open riverscapes of the Abri-Sai region. The numerous islands and rapids around Dal presented the most substantial of the obstacles to river travel. No major sites were found in this southern part of the survey area with only a few scattered burials or inscriptions being recorded. A few comments may be offered on their distribution however. Within the Ukma-Akasha Reach, an apparent preponderance of sites on the west (left) bank is perhaps noteworthy where the bulk of productive land was probably

to be found on the east bank. The east bank also had access to an eastern hinterland, which again had significantly greater resources than deserts west of the Nile at this latitude. The Wadi Akasha, which approaches the Nile from the south near the eponymous village is likely to have been one important route to the east, in this as other periods. The east bank concession of Akasha/Ukma East was explored by the University of Geneva mission (Maystre 1980; 1996a, 1996b). Notwithstanding a significant Kushite and medieval presence, only a handful of potentially New Kingdom 'Pharaonic' burials were identified on the east bank. There was one large and long-lived Kerma cemetery in Ukma East-Kumbur [21-N-50] on lower terraces

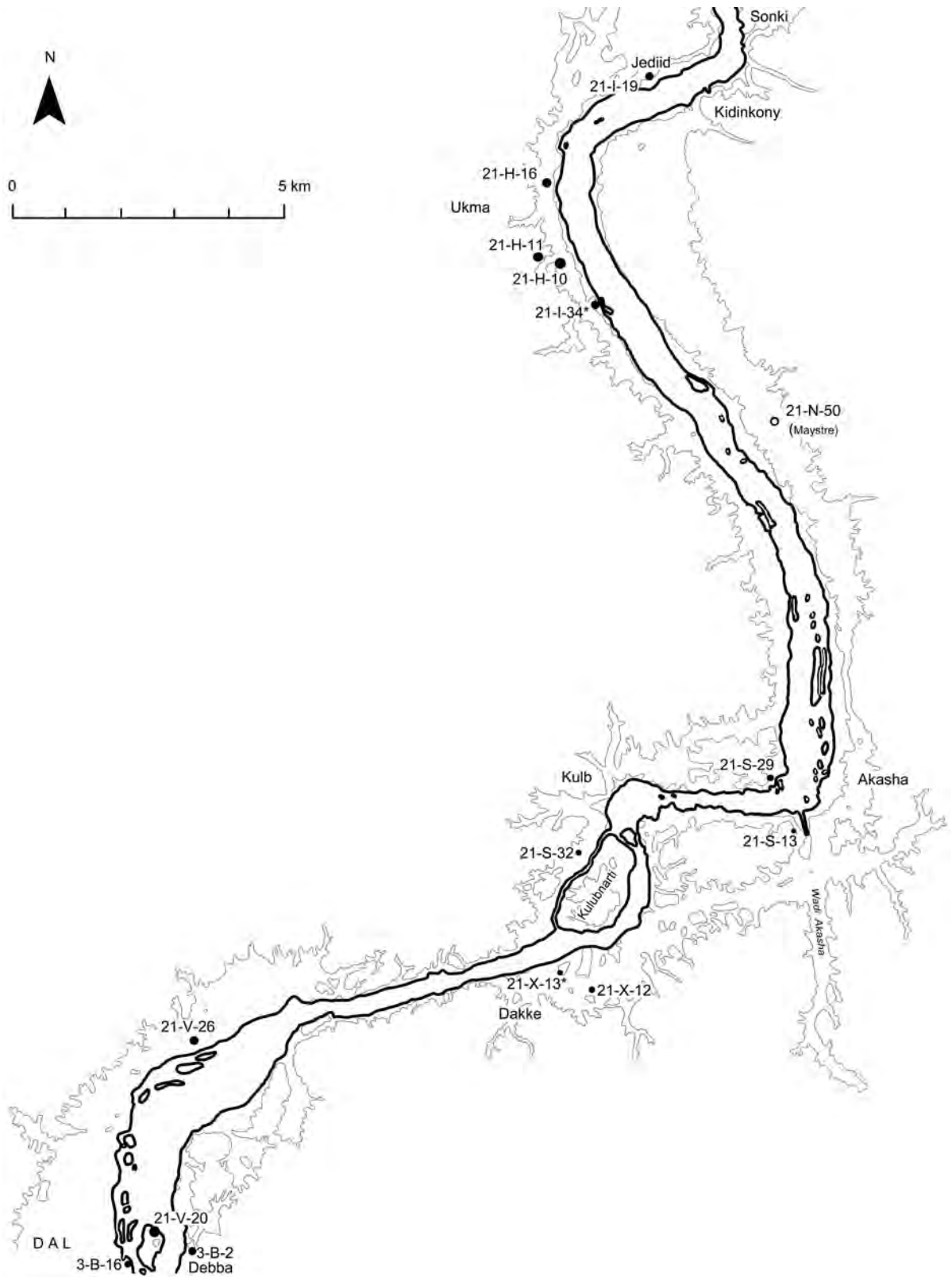


Figure 7.11. Site distribution Ukma –Akasha to Dal (180m contour approximates to flood level). Two sites with inscriptions ([3-B-16] and [3-B-3]) recorded by Vila lay just to the south of the ASSN survey concession.

c.650m from the river (Maystre 1980). In addition to this, smaller groups of third-second millennium burials were found at a number of locations (Maystre 1996b). These included a few crevice/cleft-graves, covered with stone cairns, some probably datable to the later New Kingdom on the basis of the small quantity of pottery, which included some pilgrim flasks (e.g. Maystre 1996b, Pl.XXIII, CXX,2; CXXVI,2). How late the Kumbur cemetery remained in use perhaps merits further consideration.

On the west bank, an isolated group of what seem likely to be Dynasty 25 burials [21-I-19] was identified in Sonki West, while a further small cluster of sites was found in Ukma West, spread over c.2.5km. Their siting in this location, in view of the lack of other New Kingdom sites or activity in the vicinity remains to be explained. A significant Kerma presence in the locality is marked by cemeteries [21-H-4] and [21-H-5] close to the river bend, excavated by the ASSN and latterly André Vila (Vila 1984). The northernmost New Kingdom burials [21-H-16] probably date to Dynasty 18. These include multiple burials in the largest grave, unusual both in its form, the presence of at least one decorated coffin and the predominance of women and children. Those at [21-H-10] may be later while [21-H-11] seems more likely to date to Dynasties 19–20. The variability of grave structures, with some uncompleted chambers, as well as the rare survival of some small superstructures are noteworthy. With no settlement sites identified in the locality there are however some indications on aerial photographs that suggest the presence of otherwise unrecognised mining activities in the Ukma/Akasha West hinterland. That some at least of the scattered burials may be connected with these seems possible. The known sites remain

about flood levels and it is also possible that further burial sites may await discovery in this area.

In addition to these, this area also has a number of inscriptions. One isolated Ramesside inscription [21-I-34*] was recorded at Ukma West, c.650m southeast of [21-H-10]. This was at the mouth of a wadi in a location already heavily marked by earlier rock drawings. A more substantial cluster of texts [16-S-29] lay c.12km upriver, overlooking the Akasha rapids. As made clear by W. V. Davies' recent studies (Davies 2013, 2014), one group of these can be closely dated to the military campaign of year 2 of Thutmose I, and a second to the Thutmose III expedition, probably years 48–50 (see also Davies 2017b). A third group would then seem to represent a later episode(s) which brought officials to this location just above the Akasha rapids, again reusing a location already bearing a number of rock drawings.

Further upriver approaching the Dal cataract, the only occupation site identified was a poorly defined 'campsite' [21-V-26] on the west bank, if with some possible stone structures, of uncertain date, possibly Napatan/Dynasty 25. This area has much blown sand and survives above water levels. The Old Kingdom prospectors' inscriptions [21-X-12*] were on the east bank, opposite Kulubnarti, and presumably relate to land-based travel. On the cataract other sites are limited to inscriptions/graffiti, notably on Tina island [21-V-20]. Outside the ASSN survey area, others were recorded closeby, on another of the seasonal islands of the cataract [3-B-12] as well as on the east bank at [3-B-2]. Those on Tina remain the southernmost Middle Kingdom inscriptions, while others may relate to a number of episodes during Dynasty 18 as well as the Ramesside period (Davies 2018).

Chronological perspectives

No new evidence for an early penetration of Egyptians into this region was found by the ASSN, the earliest known remaining the three Old Kingdom graffiti [21-X-12*] at Kulb East left by Egyptian 'prospectors' (Hintze and Reineke 1989, 180, Taf. 256–59; [21-X-1/1–3]). That location may be noted as an area with several groups of rock drawings as well as a tangible C-Group/Kerma presence in two cemeteries [21-X-8] and [21-X-4]. Such prospecting activities may perhaps be linked to the Old Kingdom outpost at Buhen,

likely abandoned before Dynasty 6, following a recent re-evaluation of that site (O'Connor 2014, 327–331). It may well be, as suggested by O'Connor that gold rather than copper was a significant mineral resource being exploited from Buhen (O'Connor 2014, 337). The presence of copper/malachite at potentially early mining sites in the eastern hinterland of the Batn al-Hajar (Umm Fahm) has been identified by Klemm and Klemm (2013, 564–568), but this requires further investigation and verification. Other direct

evidence for the passage upstream of Egyptians at this early date remains limited, although some are known as far south as Kerma itself, for example in a stele recording two ‘boat captains’ (Bonnet 1990, 95–97; fig.93). With our growing knowledge of the Early Kerma/Kerma Ancien period in the

Dongola Reach, the often substantial quantities of Egyptian imports reaching that area (Honegger 2018, 26–28) provides further evidence for such contacts, even if the mechanisms through which they reached Kerma remain to be determined.

Middle Kingdom

That the ASSN did not identify any further Middle Kingdom sites beyond the known fortified settlements between Semna and the Second Cataract is an important, if negative outcome of the ASSN fieldwork. As already noted, the extent to which contemporary ‘Nubian/Kushite’ settlements (classified by the ASSN as C-Group and/or Kerma) may have existed/co-existed with the Middle Kingdom outposts must await the full analysis of that data. However, such negative evidence may prompt further consideration of the likely dependence of the sites on imported supplies. Such a dependence would in turn necessarily have important implications, not least in requiring the successful maintenance of transport links to external sources. The survival of significant communities within the Batn al-Hajar outposts into the less certain political conditions of the Second Intermediate Period (e.g. Smith 1995, Ch.5), would also seem likely to require effective external support for such communities.

While much attention has been paid to their military roles and garrisoning once completed (e.g. Smith 1995, 39–50; Williams 1999), other aspects of their histories perhaps merit further attention. As the first major mudbrick structures ever built in this region many questions may be raised about such processes, not least in the chaîne opératoire of their construction (see Homsher 2012). The logistical challenges of what would have been massive building projects in a thinly populated and poorly resourced region will have been considerable, if presumably supported by existing sites on the Second Cataract. That rations and other supplies for potentially quite large labour forces would have been required to set such construction projects in motion may merit more consideration. Substantial granaries in some form would have been necessary to support the builders of the ‘fortresses’ as much as any later garrisons. That camps associated with the construction of the forts might have left some traces would indeed seem likely, and perhaps a possible interpretation of the

late Dynasty 12 ‘stone village’ (Knoblauch et al. 2013, 128) on Uronarti? Later reorganization of the internal layouts of the forts may however also provide evidence for a shift away from their original conceptualization to other uses and occupancy (Knoblauch and Bestock 2017).

A further significant outcome is a revised interpretation of gold-working/processing at Saras South, suggesting a rather different history of Egyptian interest in this locality beyond that previously recognized (Mills 1973, 204–207; but also Mills 1998). The lack of systematic sampling, as well as lack of well-stratified collections necessarily limits the chronological interpretation of the recorded pottery. There are certainly a small number of vessel types which could be of Middle Kingdom date, including a few for which a Middle Kingdom date can be suggested with more confidence. Occasional ‘Nubian’ sherds encountered might also perhaps be linked with an earlier occupation phase. It must however be acknowledged that even if contemporary with the Middle Kingdom presence at Askut, we have little evidence on which to suggest the nature of the relationship between the mining/workshops and the establishment at the fortress. As has been seen, much of what was exposed in the workshops sites at Saras seems likely to relate to the New Kingdom period, if intermixed, to an uncertain degree, with earlier occupations. That the excavations at [11-Q-62] identified two distinct building phases, if only within a limited area, does allow for a more extended history of occupation, but that these relate to different episodes of New Kingdom activity is quite possible. Little may be said of the original construction phase of that site, which seems likely to have been only partially exposed.

A lack of further identifiable Middle Kingdom cemeteries in the region is worth highlighting, also emphasizing the limited Egyptian impact on this aspect of the regional landscape in this period. If the main Middle Kingdom burial activity at Semna-Kumma was in the west bank cemetery

500 [16-E-61*], and to a lesser extent on the east bank at cemetery H200 [16-E-65*], that it seems to have remained at a modest scale is worth noting. Notwithstanding the often large estimates for the size of the military garrisons, the limited number of tombs, even if once holding multiple burials, suggests few came to be buried there, or indeed in the vicinity of Shelfak, Uronarti or Askut. The majority of identified burials of this date were pit graves, some single-chamber tombs, and a smaller number of larger examples with multiple chambers. The larger tombs were accessed through shallow stairways, with a few examples close to the fort at Shelfak [11-U-13*] (Dunham 1967, 123) and on Uronarti [10-Y-22*] (Dunham 1967, 31–32, pls XX–XXIII). No tombs with such stairways were found around Askut and any late Middle Kingdom burials amongst the scattered graves on Kajnarti [11-L-26] seem likely to have been of the simpler forms.

The sparse burial record around the Batn al-Hajar forts, and the appearance of small burial communities of some elaboration does seem to suggest the limited development of more permanent communities around such sites in the later Middle Kingdom or into the Second Intermediate Period (as envisaged at Askut, see Smith 1995, ch.3 ff). As recent studies of Middle Kingdom burials practices elsewhere, at both Mirgissa (Knoblauch 2017) and Aniba (Näser 2017) have suggested, interpreting often poorly preserved sites presents many challenges. However, the data we do have may still provide some interesting insights into the making, and unmaking of communities within such colonial contexts. It does however seem likely that individual sites within the Batn al-Hajar also need to be understood as part of larger settlement and social landscapes of the Second Cataract, and indeed Lower Nubia more generally.

The patterns detected at Mirgissa suggest developing practices wherein burials shifted from individuals to more communal forms, as suggested likely relating to changes in the nature of the

permanent community at Mirgissa (Knoblauch 2017, 586), through the later Dynasty 12 and 13, and indeed the following centuries. How burials (and burial communities) from the Batn al-Hajar outposts might relate to those larger cemeteries of Dynasties 12 and 13 at Mirgissa and Buhen, at the Second Cataract, for example, might be asked? One feature of the development of more elaborate burials at Mirgissa cemetery MX was the increasing complexity of such multi-chamber tombs (Knoblauch 2017, 584) of which there are few examples in the Batn al-Hajar. As in later periods, that the experiences of living (and dying) in Nubia also varied considerably within the ‘Egyptian’ population might be worth emphasising. Amongst the higher ranking, more choices may have been available, not only while living in Nubia, but also in where they were buried, choices that were perhaps commonly unavailable for most.

Notwithstanding the common assumption of a military frontier limiting Egyptian activity to north of the Semna Cataract, the ASSN data does provide useful confirmation of this, with limited Egyptian activity identifiable further south in this period. However, that this was an area about which some knowledge had been accrued by earlier generations might be borne in mind. That any frontier here may also have been rather more permeable in practice that perhaps envisaged at its inception (if that was indeed ever its reality) would also seem likely. As we have seen, the occasional occurrences of rock inscriptions/graffiti, remind us that Egyptian interests had on occasions extended significantly upstream of Semna in the Middle Kingdom period. The common finds of Egyptian imports found far to the south would seem to require that mechanisms existed for such materials to be passing upriver in some quantities. The extent to which this was river-borne or made use of land-based transport remains uncertain, although the inscriptions of Senwosret III on Tina island at Dal suggests a royal attempt to navigate this region by boat.

New Kingdom

The major contribution of the ASSN to our understanding of the New Kingdom settlement of the region has been in documenting types of sites previously unknown. Where habitation sites were recognised these were largely forms of stone-built ‘huts’. In this period they included

both quite indeterminate ‘settlement’ sites as well as the apparently more specialised ‘workshops’, in both Saras and Duweishat. That surviving examples were commonly found in more isolated locations, away from more recent (mainly medieval/modern) settlements, must raise questions

about the representativity of the sample of sites identified. In some locations, for example at the workshop/settlements at Sorki [16-O-12] at the north end of Duweishat, the construction of more recent settlements may have reused large quantities of materials extracted from ancient sites. The extent to which other sites may have been entirely destroyed by more recent activities remains hard to gauge.

The very limited evidence for the use of mudbrick, notwithstanding its often spectacular abundance in the major fortress and ‘temple-town’ sites in the region may also be stressed. As is evident in some later periods the use of mudbrick as a building material in a landscape of abundant stone would seem to represent a very particular cultural choice. Here, as elsewhere in Nubia (see for example Liszka 2016) such choices, and who might be making them, merits further consideration. In this period, it is perhaps of interest that there are examples of rectilinear mudbrick structures being constructed in the region, if alongside a more widespread use of undressed stone. By the mid-second millennium BC, the use of mudbrick in domestic structures was also more widespread, if still perhaps a novelty in this region. At least one ‘Kerma’ settlement [11-Q-52] with mudbrick buildings was recorded c.1.5km north (fig.2.3.4) of the area of New Kingdom workshops in the Saras plain. It appears very similar to a number of examples found in the Abri-Delgo Reach (Osman and Edwards 2012, 63–64) as well as in the Kerma region itself (Gratien 1998, 2003).

That many settlements may have been constructed in lighter materials seems likely, as indeed in Egypt itself, beyond those who resided in mudbrick housing (Stevens 2017, 122). Where sherd scatters were encountered without any surviving structural remains, it is very possible that such sites had included more lightly-built structures, subsequently lost to the forces of surface erosion/deflation. A number of sherd scatters initially thought indicative of ‘Pharaonic’ sites could not subsequently be confirmed as such. That some such surface scatters might originate in the frequently much-disturbed C-Group/Kerma/New Kingdom burials also remains a possibility. However it may be noted that none of the excavated sites produced much evidence for wooden/post-built structures or indeed the use of timber components in association with stone. Exploratory excavations of some small sites near Amara West (Stevens and Garnett 2017) provide examples of how sparse archaeological

traces may be amongst lightly constructed structures, with limited durable material culture.

Many uncertainties still remain concerning the workshops sites, their construction and use. As recorded by the ASSN most were considered to have been of drystone construction. Whether this was in fact always the case might merit further investigation. If mud mortar had been used, it certainly seems likely that natural erosion, especially wind action, would have removed it, contributing both to the collapse of walls, and a progressive infilling of the standing remains until a reasonably stable state was reached. The presence of laid mud floors and other working surfaces and internal features is perhaps also suggestive, on occasions, of more robust mortared construction. The rather enigmatic (early Dynasty 18?) structure at Semna East [16-E-21] was unusual in having mud-mortared walls, and perhaps (as suggested by some site photographs) some mud plastering.

As has been seen, the available data often makes it difficult to closely date most sites. How long, or perhaps how often, they were used also remains uncertain. The often limited ceramic repertoires represented within collections also tend to include few chronologically diagnostic forms. That there can now be little expectation of ever constructing a full settlement history of the region must perhaps be recognized, although further studies of finds collections may allow some refinement of the chronologies offered here. Some general chronological patterns may however be identified. In general terms, the prominence of earlier New Kingdom activity in the region, especially in Dynasty 18, is noticeable. This also accords well with the presence of a number of more ‘Nubian’ sites, for example at Murshid [11-I-6] and Saras South [11-Q-57] which allow comparisons with the Fadrus Cemetery 185 (Säve-Söderbergh and Troy 1991, 220–251). As seen there, occupation does not seem to persist into the later New Kingdom. Other sites cannot be closely dated. For example the settlement [16-O-25] and associated (?) burials [16-O-24] at Duweishat West, which could however relate to a later New Kingdom presence. The date of the scatter of burials at Kulb West [21-S-32] remains uncertain.

Some Ramesside or later presence in the Kajnarti cemetery [11-L-26] and some later New Kingdom use of the Semna West cemetery [16-E-61*] can also be recognized. Amongst the Duweishat workshop sites, some Ramesside activity is again indicated at [16-S-8], but the very limited sampling

of the many workshops in this area does not allow the creation of a more definitive chronology of gold-working in this area. Some material from the test excavations nearby at [16-S-9] could also date to Dynasty 19. It may be suggested that the small

group of Ramesside burials in Ukma West [21-H-11] represent a distinct episode/presence, separate from those of the Dynasty 18 burials closeby at [21-H-10]. The nearby inscription of the ‘Scribe Hornakht’ at [21-I-34*] is also of this period.

Napatan/Dynasty 25

Amongst the sites classified as ‘Pharaonic’ there were a small number which can now be dated to later periods, while a few, such as the settlement [16-U-46], remain difficult to date. Some may fall into the Dynasty 25/Napatan period, where we know there was at least some limited activity in the Batn al-Hajar. The addition of the ASSN data does however further emphasize the very limited scale of a Kushite presence in Lower and Middle Nubia in this period, a presence that is first recognizable during the reign of Taharqo (Pope 2014, 153). As he has also shown, some other recent reconstructions of Dynasty 25 state activities in the north which have argued for its administrative unification with Upper Egypt have been flawed (Pope 2014, 174). Apart from a few burials, the Dynasty 25 presence at Semna is most evident in the small mudbrick temple of Taharqo, excavated by Budge and later Reisner, with a dedication to Senwosret III. This was one of a series of small temples in Lower/Middle Nubia established within ancient sites, many centuries old.

Some Napatan/Dynasty 25 burials may also be identified at Semna in a phase of use/reuse of tombs in [16-E-61*]. While it has been suggested that some of the cleft/crevice graves on Kajnarti [11-L-26] might be of this period (Williams 1990, 39) such evidence as we have from the ASSN excavations would suggest most were in fact ‘poorer’ graves of New Kingdom date. These may

relate to a more widely encountered form of New Kingdom burials, as also recognized, for example, in the Faras area (Nordström 2014, 157), as well as south of Dal (Vila 1979, 36). However, there do seem to have been a number of small sites, including small groups of burials of this date, at for example [11-M-11] and [11-M-6] on the west bank in northern Saras, as well as at Sonki West [21-N-19]. No evidence was found however for any more elaborate Dynasty 25/Napatan burials of the kind found south of Dal, most prominently in the necropolis of Abri-Missiminia (Vila 1979, 37–9; 1980). The very sparse evidence for a Dynasty 25/Napatan presence in the ASSN survey area may be contrasted with the growing evidence further south, at sites such as Sedeinga (Labrousse 1994; Rilly and Francigny 2012, 2013, 2018), as well as around Kerma (Ahmed 1992) and at Kawa in the northern Dongola Reach (Welsby 2014). Evidence for continued use/reuse of cemeteries of the later New Kingdom cemeteries at Amara West until the eighth century BC (Binder 2011) may alert us to the possibility of continued cemetery use unrecognized in settlements. However in the case of Semna it seems more likely that the activity which required new burials related to more episodic reoccupations, perhaps to be linked with Taharqo’s construction projects? It is also worth emphasizing that no evidence was found for Dynasty 25/Napatan gold mining in the region.

Mortuary landscapes and burial communities

The burial evidence from this region may also provide an interesting counterpoint to research with an urban and monumental focus. No evidence was found in the region for more elaborate burials of local elites comparable with those of the Serra-Debeira region (‘Tehkhet’) or Toskka (‘Mi’am’) below the Second Cataract (Simpson 1963; Säve-Söderbergh 1991; Trigger 1996). If a point worth emphasizing, the interest commonly placed on the (elite) tomb, should not narrow our

perspectives, to the exclusion from our narratives of the vast majority of the population who were buried otherwise. In this region, as well as adjoining areas, the construction and use of both substantial chamber tombs, prepared for multiple burials, but also many simpler graves (for individuals), raises many interesting questions. Where found in more isolated locations rather fundamental questions might also be asked as to the identity of those buried in these, and indeed how they came to be buried

where they were? The locations of some burials, often amongst rocky outcrops some distance from the river, might suggest that they do not relate to a settled presence in the region. On occasions, the chosen locations might even suggest a deliberate attempt to place them away from inhabited areas. How might we distinguish the burials of itinerants ‘out of place’, amongst whom we might include many of those drawn into mining, as well as other enterprises of the colonial state?

This new evidence concerning the interstices between the larger ‘urban’ cemeteries also raises more questions concerning the social organisation of funerary practices, not least in terms of who got to be buried where, and how those choices were arrived at? Recent more fine-grained studies, such as those at Tombos and Amara West (Binder 2017; Smith and Buzon 2017) are making clear the often complex composition of the populations being buried together in single cemetery areas. Similarly complexities may also be found in long-occupied Lower Nubian sites such as Aniba (Helmbold-Doyé and Seiler 2012; Näser 2017). On occasions there appears to be considerable intra-site variability in practice. Where we are encountering more ‘non-urban’ cemeteries such as these, to what extent may they provide proxies for other forms of differentiation amongst New Kingdom populations? As appears to be the case at Amara West we may have some evidence for the separation of different population elements in a number of different cemeteries/tombs outside the main settlement, most obviously in the presence of a single multi-chamber ‘Nubian tomb’ G244 (Binder 2017, 509ff). Elsewhere we may have comparable examples, for example the isolated chamber-tomb at Ginis West [3-P-50] (Vila 1977, 145–60), suggested to relate to ‘Nubian’ local elites, but in that case located some distance (10km) from the main regional centre. We may see here choices being made relating to perceptions

of inclusion, and perhaps exclusion (Binder 2017, 606), of different ‘burial communities’. Similar decisions may be found amongst the upper levels of the provincial hierarchy, like other elite groups (Auenmüller 2014), perhaps also to be detected in the ‘extrasepulchral’ funerary objects found at Aniba relating to the viceroy’s deputy Rwjw affirming ‘his belonging to Aniba on a communal level’, if ultimately buried at Thebes (Näser 2017, 566–72). At the other end of the social scale we may perhaps also wish to consider the choices made for others who came to require burial within this region.

The distinction between tombs in more formal cemeteries and less formal burials encountered through the region is quite striking, although it must be accepted that more of the latter may have passed unrecorded. That further examples may still await discovery, especially on higher ground in the southern part of the region, is also not unlikely. In this barren and rocky area, the majority of burials took place in areas of exposed bedrock where simpler forms of cleft/crevice graves were created. Practical requirements may well account for the often variable orientation of such burials, as noted elsewhere in Middle Nubia (Vila 1979, 36). Similarly expedient practices have also been identified in the non-elite metropolitan cemeteries at Amarna (Kemp 2007, Stevens 2018). The number of more formal tombs cut into the bedrock remain very few. The apparently ‘unfinished’ form of some may also draw attention to the practicalities of performing burials in such locations, and the potential challenges of completing their construction. The tomb at [21-H-11], one of three apparently separate burials (perhaps not associated), was one example of a tomb apparently not completed as originally planned, with the burial placed in the shaft (see fig.5.74), if still being marked by a small stone superstructure.

Larger-scale perspectives

Changes in our perceptions of Middle Kingdom and New Kingdom Nubia make it increasingly difficult to maintain clear distinctions between ‘Egyptian’ and ‘Nubian’ as a primary frame of reference, as any lines between these seem increasingly blurred (see also Spencer et al 2017, 49). As such we may wish to reflect further on the likely diversity amongst ‘Egyptian’

populations, challenging sometimes over-homogenised presumptions of ‘Egyptian’ experiences of and attitudes to ‘Nubia’. Over the longer term, the complexity of such relationships may have been considerable through the ebb-and-flow of complex political histories. If with a deeper time-depth in Lower Nubia reaching back to, and beyond the Middle Kingdom, the New

Kingdom presence in Middle Nubia also came to span many generations. Notwithstanding the comforting frameworks provided by dynastic histories and the accumulation of monuments, the scattered remains within the Batn al-Hajar hint at a rather more discontinuous and potentially episodic character of much lived experience on the ground. As we are reminded at Amara West the foundation of major new settlements at the start of Dynasty 19 represented only the most ambitious of new state initiatives in a region with a 200 year Egyptian presence (Spencer 2017). The ‘great men’ who claimed responsibility for such projects and the hierarchies of administrators who delivered them may in turn have had to establish themselves not just amongst ‘Nubian’ but also long-established settlements such as at Sesibi and Sai, and whatever communities still inhabited them. As encountered in other imperial and colonial contexts, that these had already acquired their own ‘degree of locality’ (Colley 2002, 313) may be assumed. Amongst such centrally-driven episodes of state activity in Nubia, and their expeditionary nature, we may perhaps expect to find evidence of varied ‘Egyptian’ communities in Nubia. Whatever the genetic relationships of such populations, cultural practices and communal identities, both in life and in death, may have varied considerably. Exploring such variability more explicitly may perhaps provide a means of

better incorporating such interstitial regions into our larger narratives.

The settlement evidence beyond the New Kingdom urban centres may also have some relevance to existing questions concerning the nature of the towns and their impact on surrounding regions and their populations. Populating such centres, and acquiring labour for specific tasks associated with them, (such as gold extraction/processing) necessarily implies the reshaping of lifeways of existing populations. To what extent local populations provided pools of labour, and how they were considered (as prisoners?) remains a moot question (see Eyre 1987, 188–90). Maintaining such populations over generations will in turn have created further issues. In a larger region where population densities remained low and demographic reproduction must have always been problematic real challenges may be envisaged in sustaining such communities. Where many of the demands of the state may have been very unwelcome, we must also allow for some measure of local agency in attempts to evade demands for labour, or more indirect tribute extractions of the kind glimpsed in contemporary texts. That much of such work in Middle Nubia will have been dangerous as well as unpleasant may be borne in mind, as was the case in the eastern deserts, where it might on occasions claim the lives of many labourers (Eyre 1987, 181–82).

Gold mining and processing

Here we may focus more closely on the contribution of the ASSN fieldwork to our understanding of gold mining and processing around Saras and Duweishat. However incomplete the data recovered in the 1960s, this adds a new dimension to our knowledge of Egyptian interests in the ‘gold of Kush’ and its development. Well-established in both academic and popular perceptions of Nubia, if mainly on the basis of textual sources, much remains to be learnt about the ‘on-the-ground’ realities of gold extraction in its various regional manifestations. A southern component extending to the Third Cataract region is also known through references to ‘gold washers’ in the Nauri stele of Sety I (Griffith 1927; Edgerton 1947). It is also evident in the surface archaeology of the region, especially in the hills northwest of Sesibi (McLean 2017), and indeed evidence for gold-processing within the Sesibi settlement (Fairman 1938, 153; Osman

and Edwards 2012, 82–3; Spence et al. 2009, 38–9). Since the ASSN surveys some significant further studies of Egyptian/Nubian gold mining have also been undertaken, some directly relating to areas explored by the ASSN. Grundmann (1989) provides information on modern workings both at Saras and Duweishat, the latter restarted in 1903 (Whiteman 1971, 217ff, table 27). Some additional fieldwork by Klemm and Klemm visited these areas following their flooding, as part of their much more extensive research programme (2013, 557–67), providing additional information on the Duweishat area and its mines (fig.7.12) in the later 1990s.

The extraction sites lay largely beyond the ASSN survey area, mainly on higher ground in the eastern hinterlands of Saras and Duweishat. As discussed by Klemm and Klemm, workings seem to have taken two forms, with the direct



Figure 7.12. Buildings of modern mines at Duweishat Manjam, from north. (1964)



Figure 7.13. Aerial photograph detail of Duweishat area including some mining areas (Duweishat 2 and 7) of the interior (cf. Klemm and Klemm 2013, fig.6.209).

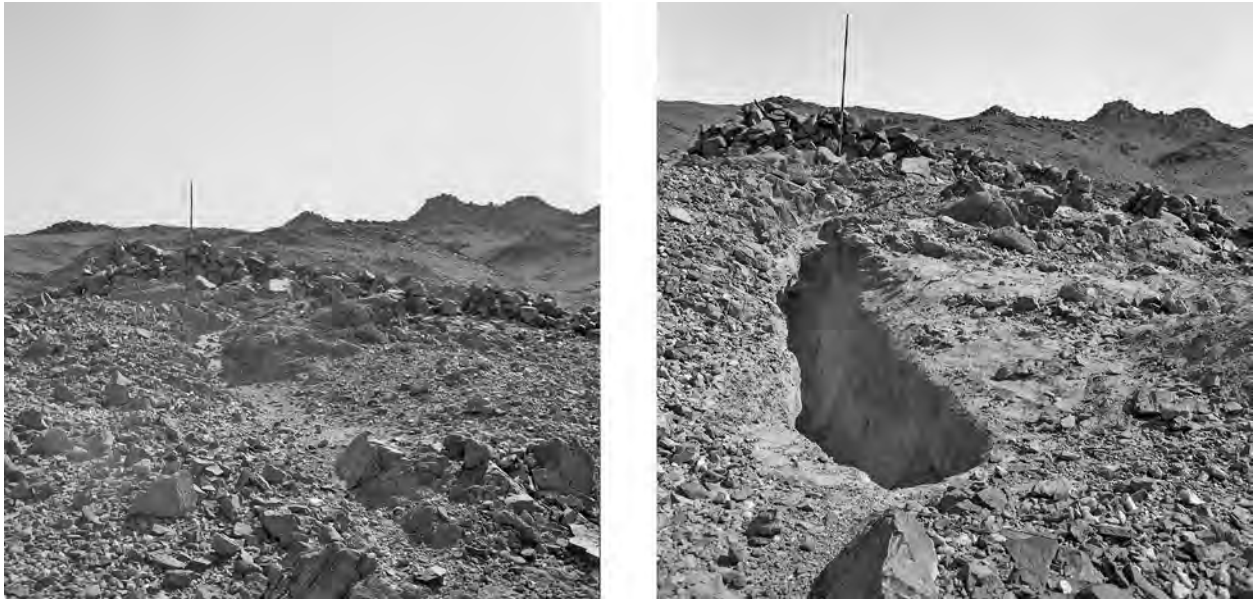


Figure 7.14. Area of quartz mining, before (left) and after (right) test excavation; [11-Q-60] in Saras East (1965).



Figure 7.15. Mine adit in Duweishat interior, probably near mining areas 1 or 2 (1964).

mining of gold-bearing quartz veins as well as the exploitation of placer gold from weathered deposits within wadi beds (Klemm and Klemm 2013, 2). While we have some useful evidence for mining operations in both Saras and Duweishat, little detailed information exists about placer gold extraction. Remote sensing imagery allows us to identify many potential mining areas along the wadis, often with associated structures, but such operations await systematic study.



Figure 7.16. Grindstones and rubbers/grinders, Duweishat site [16-O-2]. Several mortars/anvils in walls behind.



Figure 7.17. Varied grindstone forms, Duweishat site [16-O-2].

Of particular value is the evidence relating to the workshops as working, as well as living spaces. The records provide insights into sites which show some variety, some likely to have served primarily as workshops, while others having a less pronounced 'industrial' character, for example (16-S-9). The record is however, necessarily complicated by its palimpsest nature. At Saras, and perhaps Duweishat, the investigated structures may relate to different episodes of use and reuse, making it impossible to reconstruct a single model of workshop organisation. The evidence does however provide some useful additional detail concerning the range of processing activities discussed by the Klemms.

In workshop sites, the large numbers of grinders, mortars and various forms of grindstones and pounders is very striking (figs 7.17–19). No detailed records were made however of the full number of such tools at any of the sites. At some of the sites, numerous large grindstones were found, some examples mounted on stone stands (figs 7.19–21), while others, of different forms seem to have been set in the floors (fig.7.22). The presence of 'leather-like' residues (fig.7.18) on the surfaces of some may also be noted. The former may be distinguished from the more familiar kind of domestic grinding emplacements (fig.7.23) of which there was at least one well-preserved example at Saras [11-Q-62].

As well as the larger grinding stones, numerous mortars/anvils (fig. 7.24) were found, likely to relate to an earlier stage of quartz crushing. Exactly how these were used perhaps requires clarification, as relatively few were recovered in positions where they may have been used. That they may often have been set in the floors seems likely, as for example an example at [11-Q-63], where parts of a laid mud surface survived around it, with a larger grindstone alongside (fig.7.25). Some more regular shaped mortars could however have been suitable to use as freestanding portable tools. That many of them showed use on several faces is also evident. This perhaps suggests that when heavily used the deep depressions worn into their surfaces became unusable and required the creation of a fresh working face. Similar practices have been noted in mining sites of other periods (e.g. Meyer 2011 *et al.*, 153, pl.94b).

On the basis of photographic records the majority of mortars may have been found in secondary contexts, often built in to the fabric of walls (fig.7.26). That this is definitely the case is not always certain, as it is not impossible that in some

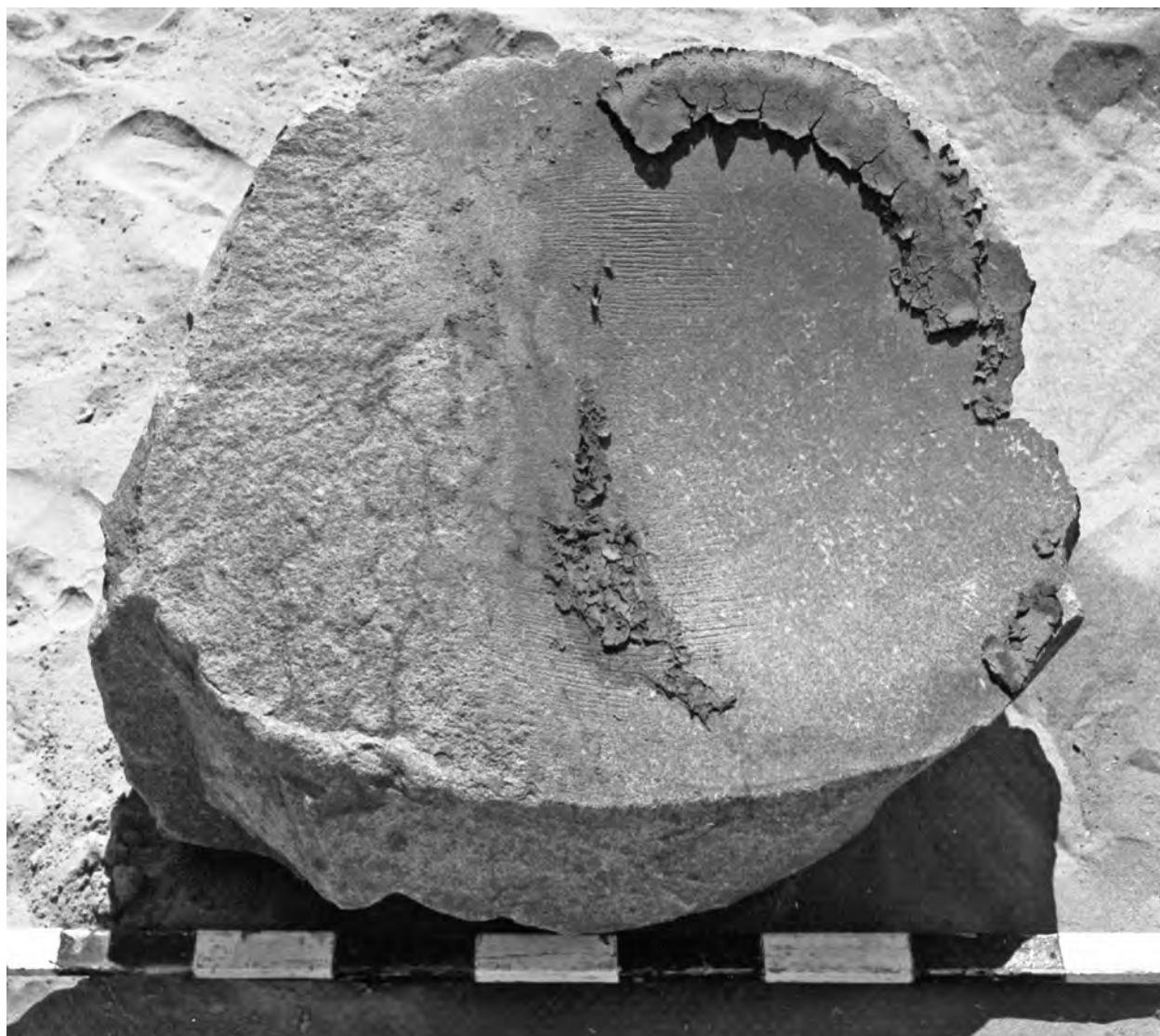


Figure 7.18. Large grindstone with prominent (here horizontal) striations and 'leather-like' residues on the surface. This example is also identified as (11-Q-62/1) in photographic records.



Figure 7.19. Large grinder on one of two adjoining stone stands, Saras site [11-Q-62].



Figure 7.20. Stone stand for larger grindstone, Saras site [11-Q-61].



Figure 7.21. Stone stand for larger grindstone, Duweishat site [16-S-9].



Figure 7.23. Detail of grinding emplacement, Saras [11-Q-62].

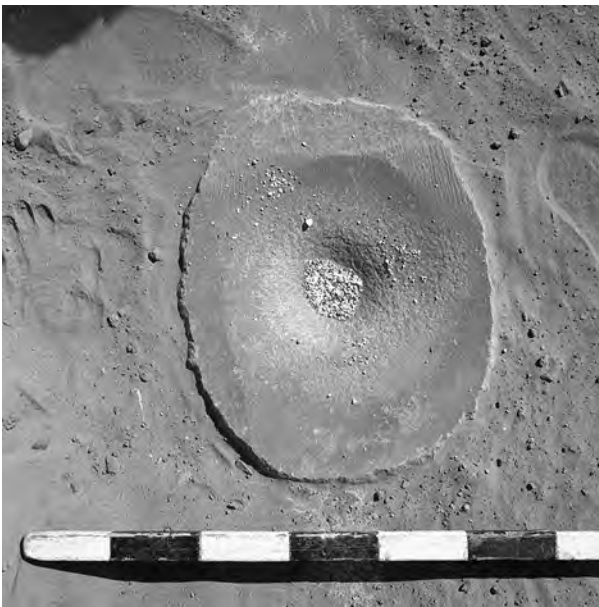


Figure 7.22. Rounded mortar (?) also used for grinding set in floor level, Saras [11-Q-61].

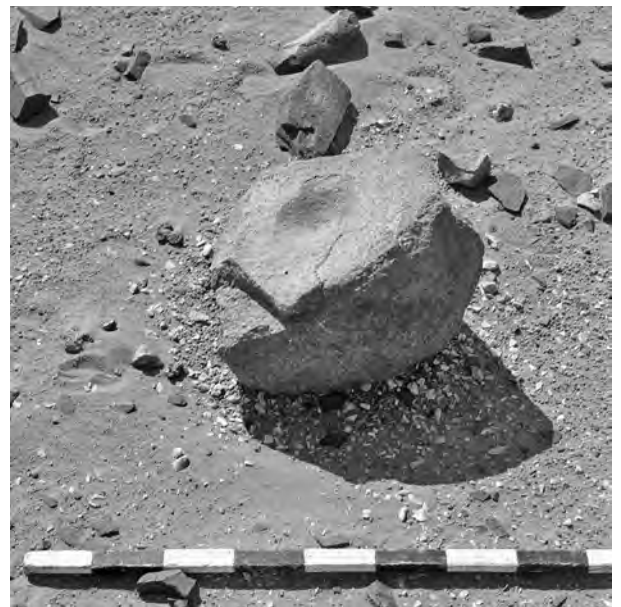


Figure 7.24. Mortar/anvil amongst quartz chippings, Saras [11-Q-62].

cases the mortars could still have been used while set in the walls. Where some were found at ground level on wall lines (fig.7.27) at site [11-Q-62], whether these were used in such positions remains unclear, not least due to the existence of at least two building phases, not clearly distinguishable. Where the excavated structures mainly represent the latest phase of site use, it is certainly possible that most of those found had been discarded.

Similar practices have been recorded at more recent mining sites in both Egypt (Meyer *et al* 2011, 153) and Yemen (Mallory-Greenough *et al* 2000, 226–7).

To accompany the many grindstones and anvils/mortars, numerous grinders as well as hammerstones/pestles were also found. Similar finds were recorded at various sites in Egypt and Nubia by Klemm and Klemm, including around

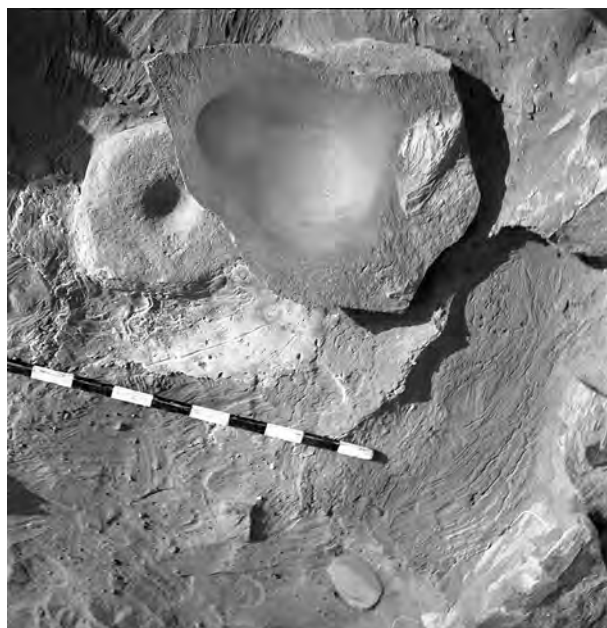


Figure 7.25. Example of mortar/anvil set in floor levels with some surviving laid mud surface beside it and a larger (associated ?)grindstone, Saras [11-Q-63], room 11.



Figure 7.27. Mortars/anvils set beside wall fragment in uncertain context, Saras site [11-Q-62]. These examples could relate to an earlier phase of the workshop's use.



Figure 7.28. A cluster of pounders/grinders and partially preserved floor surface, Saras site [11-Q-62].



Figure 7.26. Mortars/anvils in wall fabric of Saras site, [11-Q-62].

the Duweishat mines of the interior (2013, 8–11, fig.6.214).

As noted above, while most structures are described as being of drystone construction, it seems possible that mud mortar was used, subsequently eroded by long exposure to blowing sand, and indeed occasional rains. Many of the structures had laid mud floors, if often poorly preserved.

The bases of mud-lined bins were also sometimes preserved, as well as what may be lower surfaces of grinding installations of various types. Other examples of bins/tanks (figs 7.29–30) had a more regular construction with linings of stone slabs. Some at least, were apparently linked to processes using water, containing accumulations of fine water-laid crushed quartz. Quite similar structures, also dated to the New Kingdom have previously been identified at sites in the Abri-Sai region, if generally more poorly preserved than those found by the ASSN. Many examples were found at Tabaj East (site [8-C-3]) near the south end of Jebel Abri, site [8-C-6] on the terraces closer to the



Figure 7.29. Stone-lined tank/bin.



Figure 7.30. Stone-lined tank/bin.

river (Vila 1978a, 127–30, fig.72,133) and also at Koyekka [8-H-3], c.6km upstream, where quartz deposits were also noted (Vila 1978b, 42). Other stone-lined pits, if undated, were also recorded on the west bank at Hamid-Auolego [8-G-24] (Vila 1978b, 89, figs 39–40). As suggested by Klemm and Klemm this is also an area in which much evidence for wadi-workings thought likely to relate to gold extraction, although no processing sites were identified (2013, 568–70). However, it may well be that these sites recorded by the Vila survey in fact represent some of these workshops, if much



Figure 7.31. Work-station and storage pit at Duweishat site [16-S-8].

more poorly preserved than those within the Batn al-Hajar.

Other internal stone features within rooms, often poorly preserved, remain more difficult to interpret. That some may represent parts of washing tables would seem possible. Other stone alignments could perhaps be the frames for mastabas, or perhaps foundations for raised mud storage bins. The workshop excavated at Duweishat [16-S-8] has a number of other interesting and unusual features (fig. 7.31), in what appears to have been an unusually well-preserved site. The pierced orthostat beside a small pit perhaps suggests the presence of a workstation of some kind, the pit perhaps the setting for some tool? Close by was a large subfloor storage pit with a small entrance in one corner. That other forms of processing may have been undertaken at some sites is possible. Hearths and similar installations were not common, but the example (fig. 3.3.106) from Saras [11-Q-63] is noteworthy.

Notwithstanding the many uncertainties concerning these sites and their use-histories, the circumstances of their abandonment also invites some comment. Practical constraints within this harsh environment would perhaps suggest that many activities were organised on a seasonal basis, while aspects of the work taking place in the mines and wadis of the eastern hinterlands may have taken a more expeditionary character. In such circumstances that much of the heavy industrial equipment remained permanently at the sites may

be expected and items cached on site for use when required; reoccupations that ultimately failed to take place. In some of the sites we encounter abandoned complete pottery vessels, and perhaps tools and equipment, potentially of some value. The potter's turntable at Saras [11-Q-62] is an unexpected find, as yet unparalleled elsewhere in Nubia (see also Hope 1981; Doherty 2015). If its origins remain obscure, that it came to be abandoned at the Saras workshops, presumably relates to the specific circumstances surrounding the end of one workshop, where such an item was also no longer considered worth removing. Where such an item would have been manufactured and how this turntable arrived at the Saras workshops are perhaps also interesting questions for understanding the organisation of local potting in the region. There is some evidence for both Middle Kingdom and New Kingdom pottery manufacture at Askut relatively closeby (Smith 2017), although no examples of turntables were recovered there. This turntable however suggests that production

could on occasions be more dispersed, beyond the fortress/temple-towns.

If an Egyptian interest in gold is evident since the pre-Dynastic period, little hard evidence is available relating to the early sourcing of gold. The earliest exploitation of sources in Middle Nubia is also uncertain although some indications of quartz extraction have been found in the Third Cataract region adjoining a pre-Kerma site on Arduan island (Edwards and Sadig 2012, 47–50). Egyptian prospectors had also left their mark in the southern Batn al-Hajar during the later third millennium BC. The ASSN data does however suggest the possibility of more complex histories of gold-workings in the Duweishat area, including a more active role for the Kushites in the exploitation of these resources. As seen above, the predominance of 'Nubian' pottery in the northern test excavation at Sorki [16-O-12] was noted at the time of its excavation. While assumed to have been part of a rather larger single site, it is however possible to suggest that this might in fact relate to an earlier presence



Figure 7.32. 'Kerma/C-Group' workshop site [16-S-16] under excavation, 1967. Several large grindstones are visible at floor level, in the nearest structure.

in the same locality. Some of the more distinctive types, such as the bowls with incised decoration below the rims (fig.4.17, MM, HH) would seem likely to be more Middle Kerma date rather than later. Located at least 75m away from the only other area of the site tested, a direct connection between the two areas was not demonstrated, and should perhaps not be assumed.

Elsewhere in the ASSN archive we do have evidence for a ‘Middle Kerma’ presence on the Duweishat area including at least one site clearly linked to gold processing. Located c.1km upriver of the southernmost ‘Pharaonic’ workshop sites (around [16-S-9]) an extensive settlement/workshop site [16-S-16] was identified, close to the modern boundary between Ambikol and Duweishat. Within its stone structures (fig.7.32) numerous grindstones were found set at floor level, with large quantities of crushed quartz debris in the vicinity. The excavator (Bengt Schönback) confidently identified this as a ‘workshop’ site. As there is no reason to suppose this site was unique, it would seem likely that other sites in the Ambikol-Duweishat area could also date to this period, if also on occasions having a New Kingdom phase of use, as at Sorki [16-O-12].⁷ The existence of such a site opens up larger questions about early Kushite gold extraction in areas of gold-bearing geology both in the Batn al-Hajar as well as further south, not least the Sesi-Delgo area. More direct connections may well be possible.⁸

A further report of some ‘Kerma bell-beaker’ sherds in this area, apparently recovered from some excavated rectangular graves (Klemm and Klemm 2013, 558), cannot in fact be easily linked to the ASSN records. No graves of this period were registered in the area of the modern mining buildings (Manjam) and while Kerma sherds were found in the workshop site at Sorki [16-O-2], the next nearest Kerma site [16-O-14] was a small settlement area (marked by a sherd scatter with a few surviving mudbrick walls) located on the hillside above the workshops of [16-O-2].

There the pottery was described as including “‘beaker ware’, hand-made rough black/red ware with incised decoration and a few wheel-made orangeware pieces”.⁹

Here it may be reiterated that within the Duweishat hinterland many potential sites may still survive, if increasingly under threat by modern mining activities. Further fieldwork may be able to throw more light on extraction and possible primary processing sites of the ‘interior’, relating to both placer gold and gold-bearing quartz veins. That close to the modern river bank at least some examples of workshop sites also survive is also apparent. The potential to examine some of these using modern excavation techniques would also seem considerable. More fine-grained micro-stratigraphic studies would seem to have considerable potential for investigating the occupation histories of such sites. That, as might seem likely, these were occupied intermittently, and quite possibly seasonally, might be suggested. Might the very few indications of discrete re/building phases (if not entirely absent) be suggestive of settlements used for years rather than decades? The (limited) evidence that at least some sites saw significant re-buildings, for example at Saras [11-Q-62], are however suggestive of potentially more complex histories of use and re-occupation.

Where many appear to have had laid mud floors, close examination of surviving examples may be expected to be very informative, as has proved to be the case within more formal Egyptian architectural forms (Dalton 2017). Whether such sites were roofed also remains a question of interest. That shelter from the elements was desirable, and probably necessary, seems likely. The most obvious absence at the sites investigated in the 1960s is evidence for the use of wooden posts which might have supported roofing. Where floor levels were better preserved it might be expected that the presence of postholes/settings would have been detected, although more subtle evidence for roofing may well have not been detectable.

7 A large flat grindstone found reused in the church [16-S-1], very close to the likely workshop site [16-S-2] is similar to examples seen at the ‘Kerma/C-Group’ workshop [16-S-16]. The dating of [16-S-2] should perhaps be left open.

8 Recent identification of likely gold-working sites in the Fourth Cataract region (Emberling and Williams 2010; Harrell 2010; Meyer 2010) should also be noted here. While suggested as being potentially of early date and linked with a Kerma presence, such remains of processing activities seen there show little similarity to what has been seen in the Batn al-Hajar.

9 No sherds seem to have been collected or drawn from the site. My thanks to Julien Cooper for information relating to the pottery collections made by Klemm and Klemm.

Material repertoires

The range and quantity of artefacts recovered from these sites remains relatively limited. The collection strategies used in the 1960s, with the lack of sieving of excavated deposits and lack of systematic sherd recording, necessarily constrain interpretations of the ceramic data collected then. This is a particular issue at the Saras workshops where it seems possible that were a number of distinct phases of occupation, some possibly prior to the New Kingdom. In the Duweishat area further uncertainties must surround the interpretation of 'Nubian' pottery present at sites otherwise linked to a New Kingdom Egyptian presence. As suggested above (e.g. at site [16-O-2]), that such material could in fact derive from an earlier Kushite/Nubian presence must be considered. Where we may now expect 'Pharaonic' ceramic assemblages in the region to contain both 'Egyptian' and 'Nubian' components, satisfactorily disentangling these requires much better characterization of such assemblages than the ASSN records allow. Where it is also clear that local Kushite/Nubian groups commonly had access to much Egyptian pottery (as evident in their cemeteries), more complex approaches to ceramic assemblages which look beyond 'Egyptian'-'Nubian' categorisations are clearly required. During the New Kingdom, the growing predominance of 'Egyptian' pottery and disappearance of 'Kushite/Nubian' products, in turn poses further interesting questions, if ones our still limited understanding of 'Nubian' pottery production leaves us poorly equipped to address.

Nonetheless, notwithstanding the limitations of the ASSN data, some useful insights may still be gleaned from these records. Such sites may, for example, provide evidence for the availability/penetration of both locally-made 'Egyptian' siltwares as well as imports from Egypt (or beyond) into the Batn al-Hajar, in contexts very different to the urban centres from where most of our data currently comes. The potter's turntable at Saras also indicates that some level of manufacture could be transferred to such locations, presumably to fulfill local logistical requirements. The occasional occurrences of more specialized vessels such as amphorae and pilgrim flasks may also contribute to our understandings of the

larger networks which brought them to their final destinations.

Another interesting feature of the settlement sites relates to their finds assemblages. Largely workshop sites, places of work with limited architectural elaboration, these represent types of sites still relatively poorly documented, so lacking ready comparanda in Nubia or Egypt, although some comparisons may be drawn with sites such as the Amarna Stone Village (Stevens 2012). A number of scarabs and seals (fig.7.33) may be added to the quite large body of such material recovered from Nubian sites, of various kinds, many examples also being found in 'C-Group/Kerma' sites of various periods (e.g. Randall-MacIver and Woolley 1911, pls 56–59; Säve-Söderbergh and Troy 1991, pls 9–19; Andreu in Vila 1987, 225–45, pls V–VIII). These were often associated with personal jewellery such as bead strings, the most abundant of the often limited 'grave goods' (cf. Stevens 2018, 106). Carnelian earrings in various forms were also quite common, also occasionally found on living sites. More elaborate bead groups were found in the burials at Ukma West [21-H-16], along with an interesting group of Bes amulets (fig.7.34).

In relation to lived experiences some of the small objects point towards the possible role of fishing in the region, a practice discussed by Smith in relation to Askut (S.T. Smith 1995, 35). Notwithstanding the riverine context, all such evidence is useful where, over the longer term, fishing would appear to have a quite variable significance in many parts of Nubia, across time and space. Some eastern desert dwellers such as the Ababda are known to have long-established taboos concerning fish consumption (Riad 1963, 134), and that such practices/avoidances may have, for some groups, deeper histories cannot be excluded. The prevalence of fishing amongst Kushite/Nubian groups,¹⁰ as yet remains poorly understood, if perhaps likely to have been variable. The first preliminary reports of the ASSN also drew attention to the presence of fish bones and net-sinkers/weights at [11-H-4] in the northern Saras area. At Askut itself there were also finds of fish hooks, net sinkers as well as fish bone, shell-fish and at least one turtle carapace (S.T. Smith

10 Examples of copper alloy fishhooks have been found in a Middle Kerma burial at Ukma West [21-H-4] (Vila 1987, 214, fig.241/2), and at Kerma itself (e.g. Bonnet 1990, 195, n.193). Net fishing is also depicted in wall paintings at Kerma (Bonnet 2000, fig.62).

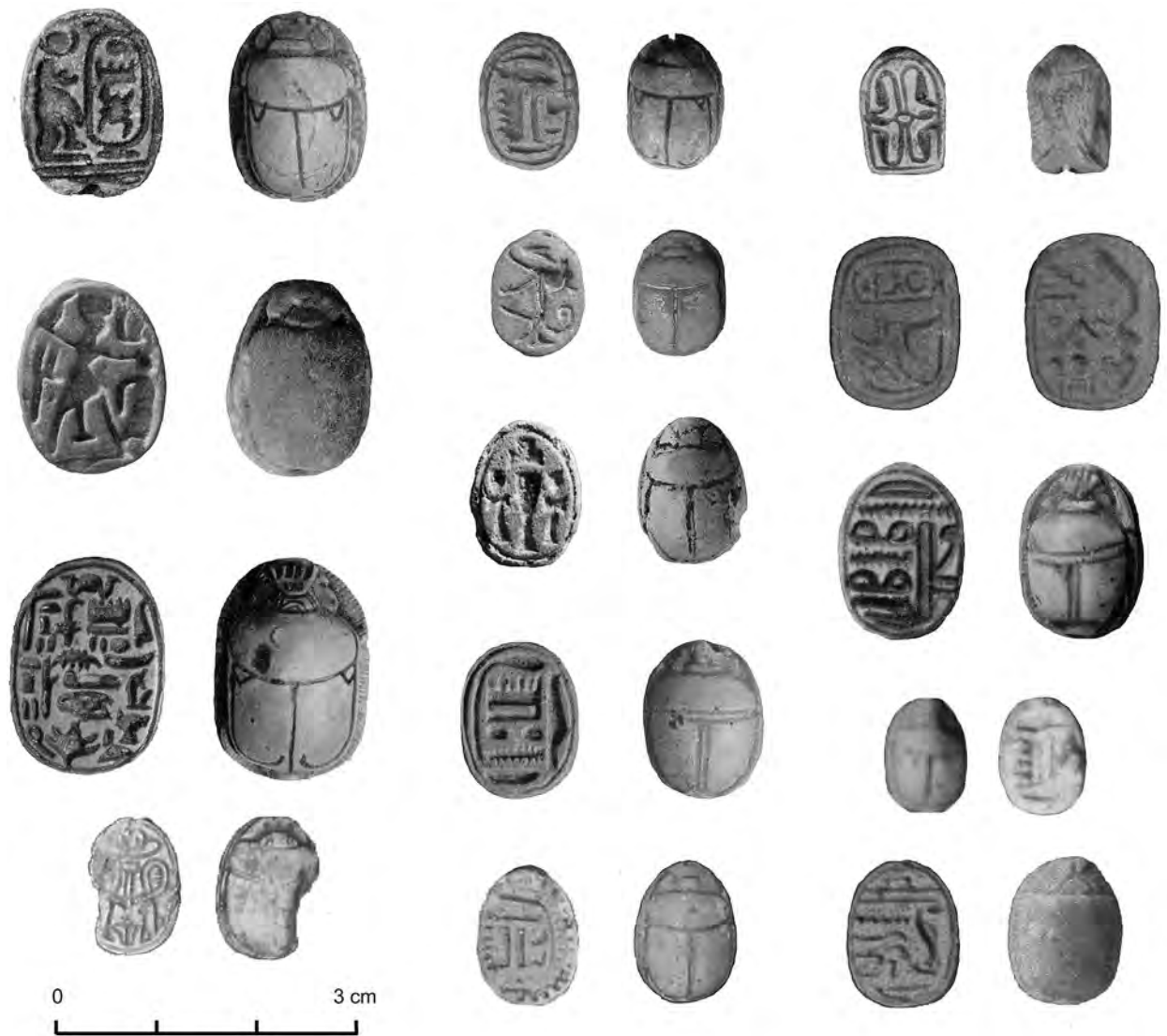


Figure 7.33. Scarabs and seals.

1995, 35). Other examples of fish hooks are known from both cemetery and settlement contexts, for example at Fadrus 185/268 (Säve-Söderbergh and Troy 1991, 175; pl.44: 10), Semna (Dunham and Janssen 1960, fig.62) and Buhen (Emery *et al.* 1979, 158, Pl.59).

What seem likely to be fishing weights are most widely encountered, including examples identified as steatite (e.g. 11-M-13/2) as well as other materials. Examples made from sherds were found at the north end of Saras (e.g. 11-H-4/1), and what may be baked mud weights at both Saras (11-M-13/3) and Duweishat (16-S-7/1), the latter perhaps to be compared with examples from Uronarti (Dunham 1967, Pl.XXXVI.D). The steatite examples are also of interest in the use of this material which, over the long term, has a varied presence in the region.

In general such steatite weights, and indeed other steatite objects are encountered in this region only in the later medieval and post-medieval periods. These may well be linked with greater access to, and connections with, Egyptian sources of steatite in the eastern desert. There do however seem to be locally-made versions within Middle Nubia using locally available schists, as noted by Shadia Abdu Rabo at Amara West (in Spencer *et al.* 2014, 56–7).

Few examples of worked lithics were recovered, but the occasional finds draw attention to the presence of possibly non-local raw materials as well as a non-local technology. The example (fig.5.116) from [16-S-8] near the southern end of the Duweishat workshops may, for example, be compared with a similar ‘caramel-coloured flint’

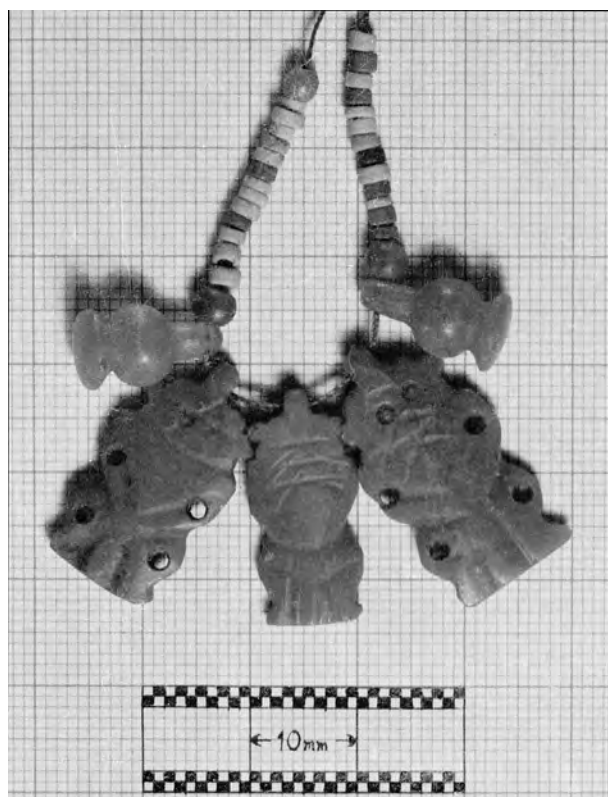


Figure 7.34. Faience beads and carnelian Bes amulets (21-H-16/1/8).

blade from Amarna (see Miller 1987; Stevens 2012, 235, nr.37368, fig.17.7; Pl.175). How unusual such items were remains unknown, but lithic assemblages may also prove useful indicators of the spatial networks within which such sites operated, on occasions perhaps reaching back to Egyptian sources of raw materials?

There is also a small but interesting collection of metalwork (fig.7.35) from the two adjoining workshop sites [11-Q-59] and [11-Q-62] in southern Saras. A range of needles, awls and blades and other items are not dissimilar to material found elsewhere in the region, for example at Uronarti (Dunham 1967, Pl.XL, A-C). While those have yet to be studied in detail, the existence of such collections serve to demonstrate that the loss and/or abandonment of such items, including tools, was not necessarily unusual. The extent to which essential tools may have been issued and maintained by the state/officials (see for example Eyre 1987, 175) in such contexts would seem likely to be significant in determining the presence/absence of such items. It will however be interesting to see how such finds compare to material found in more recent excavations, at Sai or Amara West, for example. The, as yet, unpublished finds from the Sesibi excavations of



Figure 7.35. Copper alloy tools and other artefacts from the Saras workshops.

the 1930s seem to have included little metalwork.¹¹ Few metal artefacts were found by the ASSN in burials, a copper alloy ‘cup’ (11-Q-26/3/1) from Kagnarti, perhaps a cap for a wooden item, being one rare find, a pair of tweezers (11-L-22/6/2) in one of the simple graves at Saras West, another.

Some items invite some further comment. What may be a ‘set’ of two different types of razors was found in Room 1 in the workshop [11-Q-59] at Saras. This included one large handled example (11-Q-59/6) and one smaller notched razor (11-Q-59/2) (see Davies 1977, Pl.XVIII, 2). Similar tools, (sometimes interpreted as linen/leather-cutting knives) are known in both Egypt and Nubia; most often found within the context of Dynasty 18 toilette equipment (Säve-Söderbergh and Troy 1991, 161–2). This example may also be compared with ones found at Uronarti (Dunham 1967,

50, Pl.XL, C4 =28–12–357), Buhen (Randall-MacIver and Woolley 1911: H66, p.159) and Aniba (Steindorff 1937, Pl.64). The recovery here of what may be a pair of razors is suggestive that these finds may not be separate losses, but at least some may be linked.

What may perhaps be the most unusual find at Saras was the menat necklace counterweight (11-Q-59/3) inscribed with the Anuket figure. While a small number of beads were found at the site, there is no indication that this was lost/deposited except as a detached piece of metalwork. Its presence at such a site is also unusual in view of the common associations of such menats with burials, if also in other ceremonial contexts (Säve-Söderbergh and Troy 1991, 146).¹²

A possible military association is perhaps suggested by a single copper alloy arrowhead



Figure 7.36. Abandoned pottery within Senna East workshop [16-E-21].

11 The object cards from these excavations, now accessible online provide an overview of such material. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/egyptexplorationsociety/albums/with/72157657634156168>

12 Attention may be drawn here to part of ‘bronze counterpoise from mmit’ found at Sesibi in the 1936–37 excavations (no.31.12.36). <https://www.flickr.com/photos/egyptexplorationsociety/20869052058/in/album-72157657634156168/>

(11-Q-59/1); a type uncommon in Middle Nubia, if not unknown. Comparisons may be drawn with examples from the Second Cataract area, from two burials at Fadrus cemetery 185, including one large group of 34 arrowheads in grave 541, some perhaps deposited together in what may have been a wood and leather container (Säve-Söderbergh and Troy 1991, 172–4). More enigmatic are several examples of copper alloy sheathing/plates, recovered from sites at Saras [11-Q-62] and also Melik en Nasr [11-U-46]. Similar objects have been found elsewhere in Nubia, mainly from funerary contexts, but these finds suggest more general use. Two examples of such ‘convex shield-formed plates’ were found in the Fadrus cemetery 185 (Säve-Söderbergh and Troy 1991, 177–8, fig.43; pl.44: 4–5) and others in the Second Cataract area in the New Kingdom cemetery at Mirgissa (Cemetery MX-TD) (Vercoutter 1975, 413, fig.48; 474, fig.77). The latter were more specifically associated with the military garrison of Thutmose III. Other known examples from upstream of the Second Cataract seem limited to finds from Semna cemetery S500 [16-E-61*] (Dunham and Janssen 1960, 75, fig.31). Further north, examples are known from Aniba (Steindorff 1937, 150, pl.99:5, 6), there apparently attached to wooden objects, although at Fadrus they were found associated with leather and cord fragments (Säve-Söderbergh and Troy 1991, 177–8). None were recovered from

New Kingdom cemeteries in the Qustul-Adindan area (Williams 1992).

Perhaps the most unique assemblage is perhaps that from the rather enigmatic ‘workshop’, of a different kind, at Semna East [16-E-21]. The site has a number of unusual features both in its architecture, the associated artefacts, and indeed the presence of a skeleton. The site seems likely to date to mid-Dynasty 18, and there is little to suggest that it was occupied for any length of time. The range of finds recovered from its floor levels (fig.7.36) also perhaps point to an abrupt abandonment, and that it was subsequently not much disturbed. Located c.1km from Kumma and the Semna ‘gate’, its association with Dynasty 18 activity at what may be expected to have been, at least at times, a key location remains unclear. Its more substantial mortared stone construction, and rectilinear plan, appears very different to that seen in the gold-working workshops. The quantity of stone rubble recovered (see fig.3.30 for example) suggest that the stone walls may originally not have been significantly higher, although no evidence of how it might have been roofed were recovered. The presence of a crucible is of interest, with a similar form to a slightly smaller example from Buhen (Emery *et al.* 1979, Pl.69, n.188), but not apparently represented amongst finds from Semna and Kumma.

Inscriptional evidence

The ASSN made a few, if important, epigraphic discoveries in the region. While few in number compared to the large groups of mainly Middle Kingdom inscriptions (Hintze and Reineke 1989; Yvanez 2010) previously recorded at Kumma (16-E-58*=16-E-1) and Semna (16-E-57*=16-E-2), their distribution invites some further comment. The lack of correlation of most with other manifestations of an Egyptian presence in the landscape relates them to more transitory presences, passing through rather than inhabiting the region. As has long been recognized, a high proportion of these relate to the New Kingdom military campaigns. Their locations were in turn commonly determined by physical challenges of navigating the various rapids and reefs of the region. These include groups at Melik en Nasr-Sahaba ([16-U-60*] and [16-U-61*]) between Tangur and Turmukki islands and at Tangur-Sonki ([21-D-31*],

[21-E-11* -- [21-E-14*]) near the cataracts above Tangur island, and those overlooking the Akasha rapid [21-S-29]. Many can be related to specific expeditions of early Dynasty 18, ultimately reaching Kurgus (Davies 2017a).

Other more isolated inscriptions include those of Middle Kingdom date, as at Duweishat [16-O-27*], [16-V-22] on the west bank below Turmukki island, and at Sonki [21-E-16*], as far south as the Dal Cataract. The survival of the more southerly inscriptions has allowed further study to be made of some including examples just south of the ASSN Survey at [3-B-16] and [3-B-2] (Davies 2017b, 2018). The first is of Middle Kingdom date (Davies 2017b, 66), and likely to be associated with the nearby Senwosret III inscriptions on Tina island [21-V-20]. If associated with that ground-breaking royal enterprise, it is interesting to observe potentially rather different dynamics

of inscription-making associated with the Middle Kingdom and New Kingdom military expeditions into Nubia. While both apparently had significant river-borne elements might their different locations suggest rather different experiences of traversing the Batn al-Hajar? We may perhaps also be seeing rather more self-conscious attempts by some participants to physically mark the landscape during the course of the Dynasty 18 royal expeditions. The pair of names at Turmukki [16-V-22] are some of the more common of those encountered between Serra and Semna (Smith 1972, 53).

The ‘prospectors’ graffiti [21-X-12*] at Kulb East recorded by the German Epigraphic Expedition (Hintze and Reineke 1989, 180) relates to an earlier, and presumably land-based exploration of the region. Here one must wonder whether

further remembrances may await discovery in Middle Nubia. However, the apparent lack of inscriptions associated with the gold-working sites in the Saras and Duweishat areas is perhaps also striking. The potentially quite numerous camps linked to mines and wadi-workings of the eastern hinterlands might also be locations where graffiti are to be found. Datable Ramesside graffiti in the region also remain few, such as the isolated inscription amongst the group of rock drawings at Ukma West [21-E-34*]. More generally, the rarity of Egyptian inscriptions is especially striking when compared to their abundance in many (more travelled?) parts of Lower Nubia downstream of the ASSN survey area (e.g. Hintze and Reineke 1989; Lopez 1966; Peden 2001; Žába 1974), or indeed the Eastern Desert (Davies 2014).

Landscape transformations

While the ASSN remained site-focused, some elements of the often insightful survey records invite additional reflections on the impact of the ‘Pharaonic’ presence in the region. The varied presences of Egyptians, military and latterly colonial, clearly had the potential to transform the landscape of Middle Nubia in a number of ways. The rhetoric of Egyptian rulers and their officers not uncommonly celebrated the violence and destructive capacity of Pharaonic forays, commonly ‘taking people’ and ‘cutting down trees’, as indeed was the case within Wawat (e.g. Wegner 1995, 154–55). The apparent sparsity of ‘Pharaonic’ sites is itself perhaps suggestive of generally negative impacts on the region.

The construction of the Middle Kingdom forts themselves also seems likely to have had significant impacts on local environments. As has long been appreciated, “immense quantities of timber” were required for their construction (Clarke 1916, 178).¹³ Apparently undressed timber with bark attached, there is little reason to believe this was not locally sourced; requiring massive felling of trees. At Mirgissa an estimated 3,700 logs (varying in diameter between 10cm and 18cm) were included in the main walls (Dunham 1967, 157), along with much other structural timber. That more than 10,000 trees could have been required

for constructing the fort seems quite possible. The implications of such tree felling are hard to assess in the absence of palaeoenvironmental reconstructions for this period, but certainly seem likely to have significantly transformed local landscapes. Comparable resources will have been required for the other fortresses within the Batn al-Hajar. Other materials such as large quantities of halfa-grass matting also had to be provided, perhaps likely to have been manufactured locally, bearing in mind the difficulties of bulk transport in the region. The current re-examination of the surviving site of Shelfak (Näser *et al.* 2018) may be able to throw some further light on such aspects of construction.

In terms of the landscape history of this region, one likely absence, the date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) may be emphasised. For the last two millennia this has been a staple of Nubian agricultural communities, as both ‘superfood’ and provider of wood and fibre. As appears to have been the case more generally amongst Saharan oases, its introduction was transformational in making more settled agricultural communities viable (Horden 2012, 35). This seems also to have been the case in the otherwise unproductive landscapes of the Batn al-Hajar, where it was a crucial element in the spread of saqia-supported agriculture in the

13 Somers Clarke suggested that use of timber and halfa-grass mats was necessary ‘to check the tendency of the bricks to move or spread in still soft mortar’ (1916, 178). Drawing attention to the fact that the often massive brick constructions might be expected to take many months if not years to acquire their final dry and solid forms, such a technique might also be required where the pace of construction was unusually rushed, which may well have been the case at such sites.

first millennium AD. The history of its establishment in Nubia still remains far from clear, however. Preliminary archaeobotanical studies at Amara West do not suggest it was locally abundant by the Ramesside period (Ryan *et al.* 2012, 104–6; Cartwright and Ryan 2017) and good evidence for its earlier cultivation south of the Second Cataract remains lacking. Occasional reports of date stones in the Batn al-Hajar (e.g. Žabkar and Žabkar 1982, 12; Smith 1995, 35) commonly relate to poorly contextualized material, while such finds may of course relate to imported fruits. Notwithstanding possible finds of date palm wood in the northern Dongola Reach in the third millennium BC (e.g. Cartwright 2018, 208), little hard evidence is yet available for their early history in Middle and Upper Nubia; archaeobotanical evidence for dom nuts is much more common. Further considerations of the implications of such an absence is perhaps important in assessments of the regions' subsistence resources, or lack of them, in this period.¹⁴ That the New Kingdom may have been a period which saw a more deliberate attempt to promote date cultivation to support its new foundations may also perhaps merit further consideration.

The most striking and long-lived impacts of the 'Pharaonic' presence here would however remain the monumental constructions, quite new forms of 'places' of a kind which had not existed previously. Their massive construction in turn made these extraordinarily long-lived, surviving as major landmarks into modern times. As later seen with the construction of the temple-town foundations of the New Kingdom they may also have imposed new understandings of space (and its control?) on their hinterlands. Introduced from an agricultural world these were implanted into one where pastoral imperatives seem likely to have been much more important in structuring space and place. Here again, as in later periods the inhospitable landscapes of the Batn al-Hajar seems likely to have offered much less potential for cultivation of the suite of crops (emmer wheat/hulled six-row barley and other staples such as lentils) we encounter in urban centres (e.g. Cartwright and Ryan 2017). The very sparse settlement evidence within the Batn al-Hajar might also raise questions whether any attempt was in fact made to develop a settled agricultural base in this region. The extent

to which existing life-ways, small-scale settlements, likely with a strong pastoral element, may have persisted through the later second millennium BC merits further examination, although the apparent disappearance of significant cemeteries in the region early in the New Kingdom perhaps suggests not.

The rather different kind of presence represented by the mining enterprises at Saras and Duweishat still remains poorly understood, in many respects. The workshops have a considerable interest as examples of unusual forms of quite short-lived settlements. While the workshop areas of Saras are now flooded, some extraction sites may survive in the hills to the east. Further study of these may throw further light on mining technologies and practices, although such sites may be less able to contribute to the construction of more detailed chronological narratives for the history of mining in this area. More studies of ASSN collections in Khartoum may however be able to throw some further light on whether or not such operations were initiated in the Middle Kingdom. In the Duweishat region remote sensing imagery suggests that a number of potential workshop sites survive quite close to the current water edge, with further examples in the interior in areas not investigated by the ASSN. The main mining sites of the interior are now (2019) again active. That in fact these could have developed within a Kushite milieu, looking southwards to Sai and Kerma as much as Egypt, would also seem a possibility to be further investigated.

Their wider interest remains considerable. While some research has begun to explore the varied socio-political imperatives as well as logistics behind Egyptian mining expeditions (e.g. Shaw 1998; Bloxam 2015) little attention has as yet been paid to the social realities of mining communities, their composition and origins. The presence of a possible 'labour prison' at Askut (and Mirgissa) (Smith 1995, 44–8) might for example suggest one source of workers, as also known in other more expeditionary forms of Egyptian mining and quarrying (Shaw 1998, 246–8). Whether these drew on local populations remains an interesting question. The presence of the small ('Nubian') cemetery [11-Q-57] close to the Saras workshops, potentially containing both adult males and females as well as children/infants, raises interesting

¹⁴ The common reference to the tomb decoration of Djehutyhotep (Säve-Söderbergh and Troy 1991) north of the Second Cataract as evidence for a more general cultivation of date palms in Middle Nubia may also perhaps be queried. As with other aspects of tomb decoration it may relate more to an idealized vision of (Egyptian?) daily life than lived reality.

questions concerning one possible component of a New Kingdom ‘mining community’ here. Such evidence of course also opens up more general issues, not least the potential for more explicitly gendered archaeology (Knapp 1998, 17–8). If we may also suggest the likelihood of earlier traditions of mining in this region, the extent to which these may have originated as more informal activities, perhaps interlinked with other agro-pastoral activities is perhaps possible (see Herbert 1989, 141–9). But there may well have been more complex histories, not least connected with the expansion of Kushite polities, especially Kerma. That, however,

the mines do not seem to have persisted beyond the New Kingdom is also of interest. Whether this reflects the exhaustion of readily accessible sources or a more general marginalization of an increasingly inhospitable region cannot currently be determined. Whatever their ‘economic’ rationale for the Kushites or Egyptians, they do not seem to have again attracted attention until the twentieth century.¹⁵ The very sparse evidence for a Dynasty 25/Napatan activity and only limited Meroitic presence in the region (summarised in Edwards 1996) is perhaps also now reasonably certain.

15 Carol Meyer provides an interesting discussion of the practicalities of late antique mining in the Egyptian eastern desert Bir Umm Fawakhir (Meyer 2014, 130–39).

Appendix

Appendix A – The ASSN Archive

As noted in section 1 above, the ASSN archive contains a range of records. To better understand the character of these records and their overall potential, as well as their relationship to their published form, a sample of different forms of records are included here. These include a range of field diaries and 14 volumes of notebook records compiled by A. J. Mills and other staff (notably J. E. Knudstad, B. Schönback, L. Gezelius, H.Å. Nordström and W.Y. Adams), site and objects drawings and finds registers.

The primary sites records were compiled in a reasonably standardised format in the site notebooks, structured in a format as envisaged

for published. This is similar to the format subsequently adopted in the SFDAS survey continuing south of Dal. These notebooks commonly include site sketch plans as well as object drawings and explanatory notes (fig.8.01). On occasions additional observations and comments, including notes on pottery collections, may also be found in these.

Site plans, commonly made at a scale of 1:50, 1:100 or 1:200 were drawn on various forms of materials, many on prepared proforma record sheets and/or A3 paper, latterly filed in large envelopes identified by AMS site registration. The limited time available meant that most remained

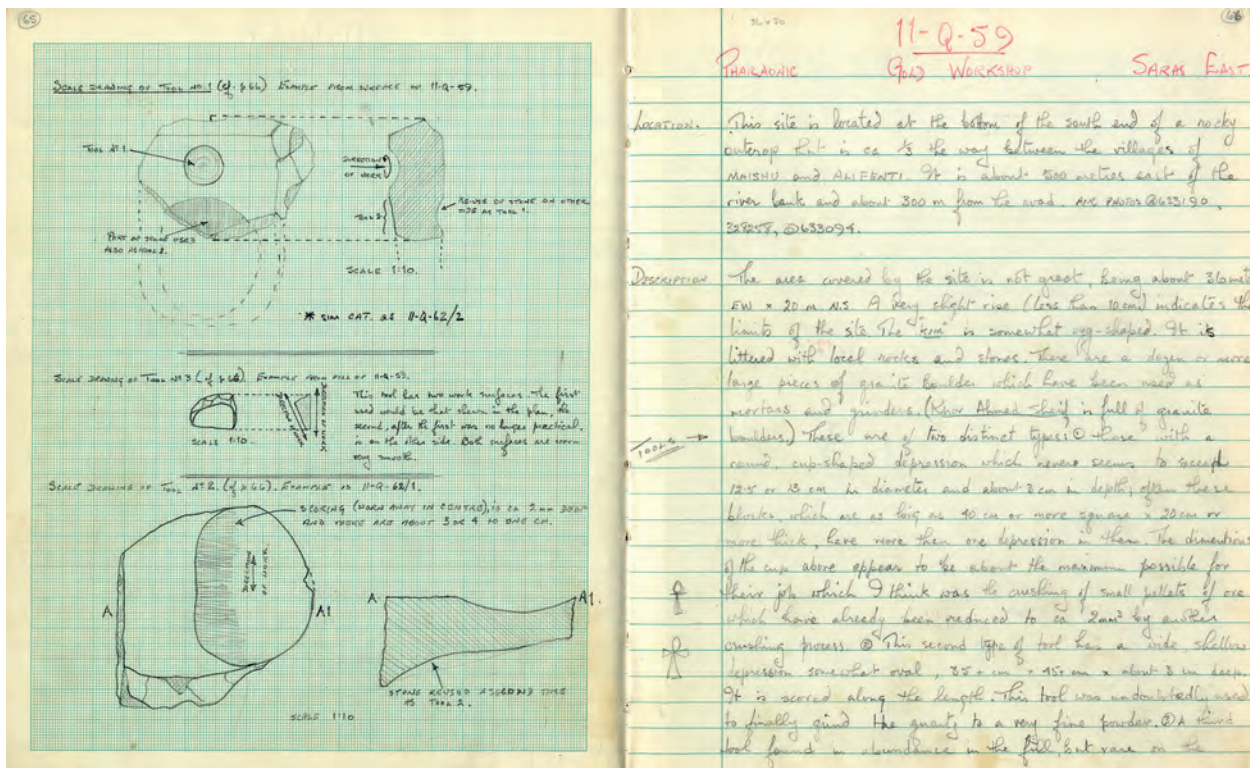


Figure 8.01 Example of field notebook record for site [11-Q-59], from November 1965 (notebook AJM VII, for 1965–1966).



Figure 8.02 Details of annotated site plan (scale 1:50) of initial test excavation at site [11-Q-59]. Stone construction was represented schematically.

at a reasonably schematic level and only rarely were detailed drawings of stone and/or brick construction made (fig.8.02).

Registered finds were recorded on a card index, with key information on specific finds and their documentation, including details of photographic records and Sudan National Museum (SNM) registration numbers. Most object cards have a photograph attached (fig.8.03).

The records of cemetery sites commonly made use of individual grave sheets recording grave structures and grave contents. Records of excavations of the (small number) of graves tested during the reconnaissance survey of 1963–1964 were

largely included in the field notebooks. With more complex multiple burials (fig.8.04) sketch plans and notes provide records of their structure, in useful detail (fig.8.05).

Pencil drawings of small finds/artefacts were commonly made within the field notebooks, at various scales. Pottery drawings were almost all made at a scale of 1:3, so necessarily lacking much detail. In common with then current practice, only general information was recorded on pottery fabrics and other aspects of manufacture. Where more substantial collections of material were recovered, additional record sheets were prepared (fig.8.06).

11-Q-63 151 ✓ 1
9

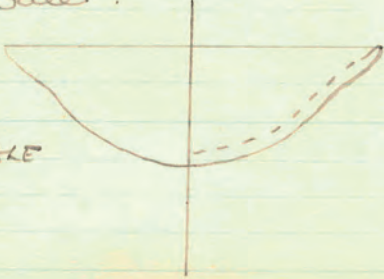
DESCRIPTION: A wheel made, soft brown ware bowl. (Max. w 22.5 cms x h 6.9 cms)
Cracked in places.

PROVENANCE: 11-Q-63, floor.

REFERENCE: A.J.M F.N No 7 p. 81 (2) 18319 c/056/2. |

TREATMENT: Washed in water.

NOT TO SCALE



Fand A.J.M 24/xi/65.

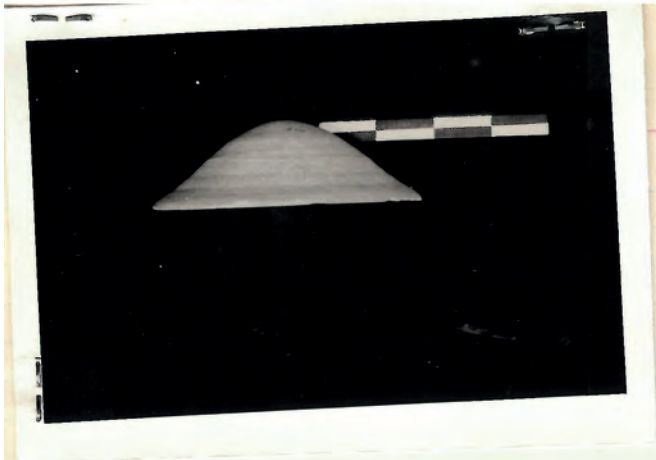


Figure 8.03 Example of object finds card: dish (11-Q-63/1), registered as SNM.18319.

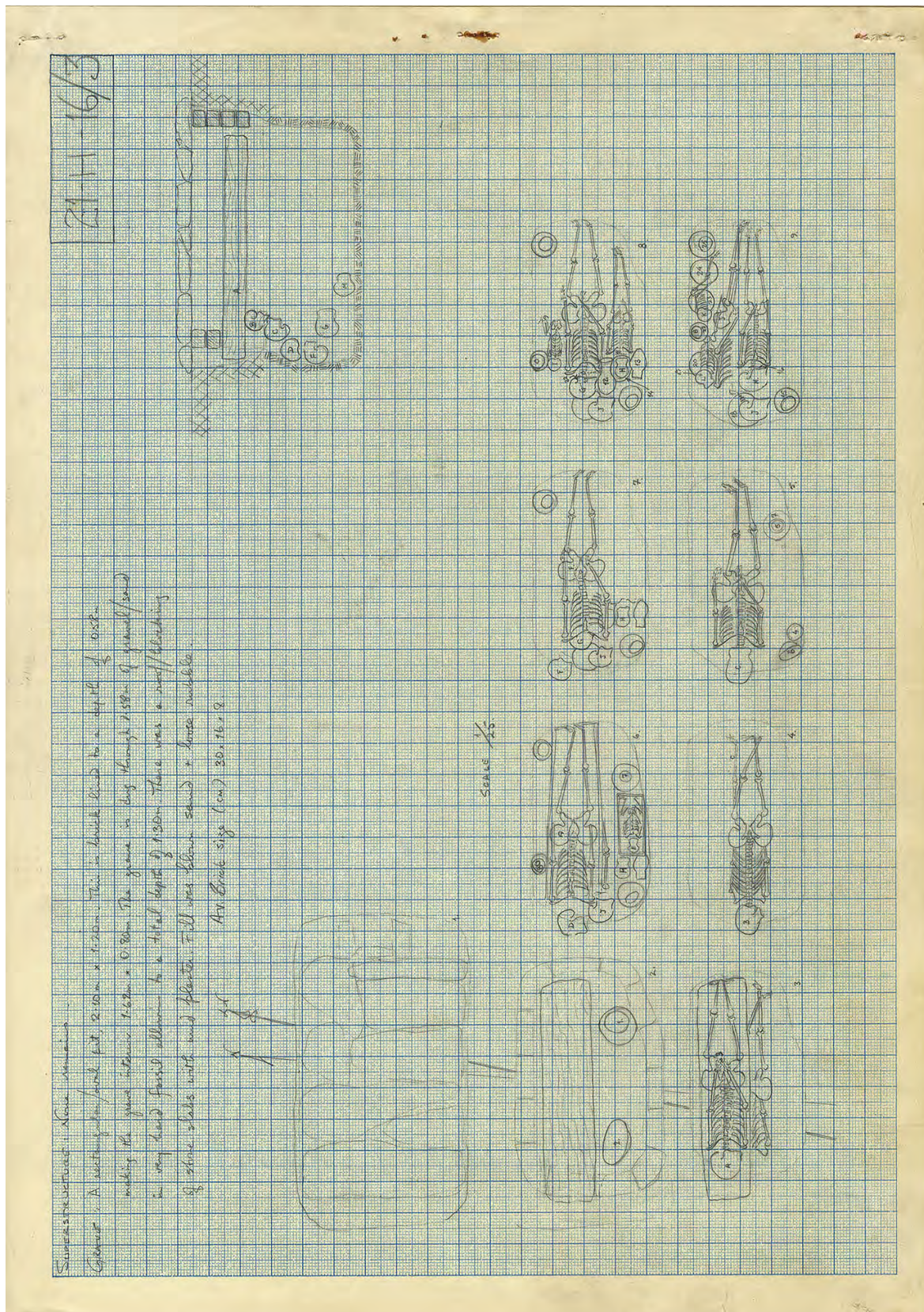


Figure 8.04 Record sheet for Grave 3, site [21-H-6] showing arrangement of multiple burials.

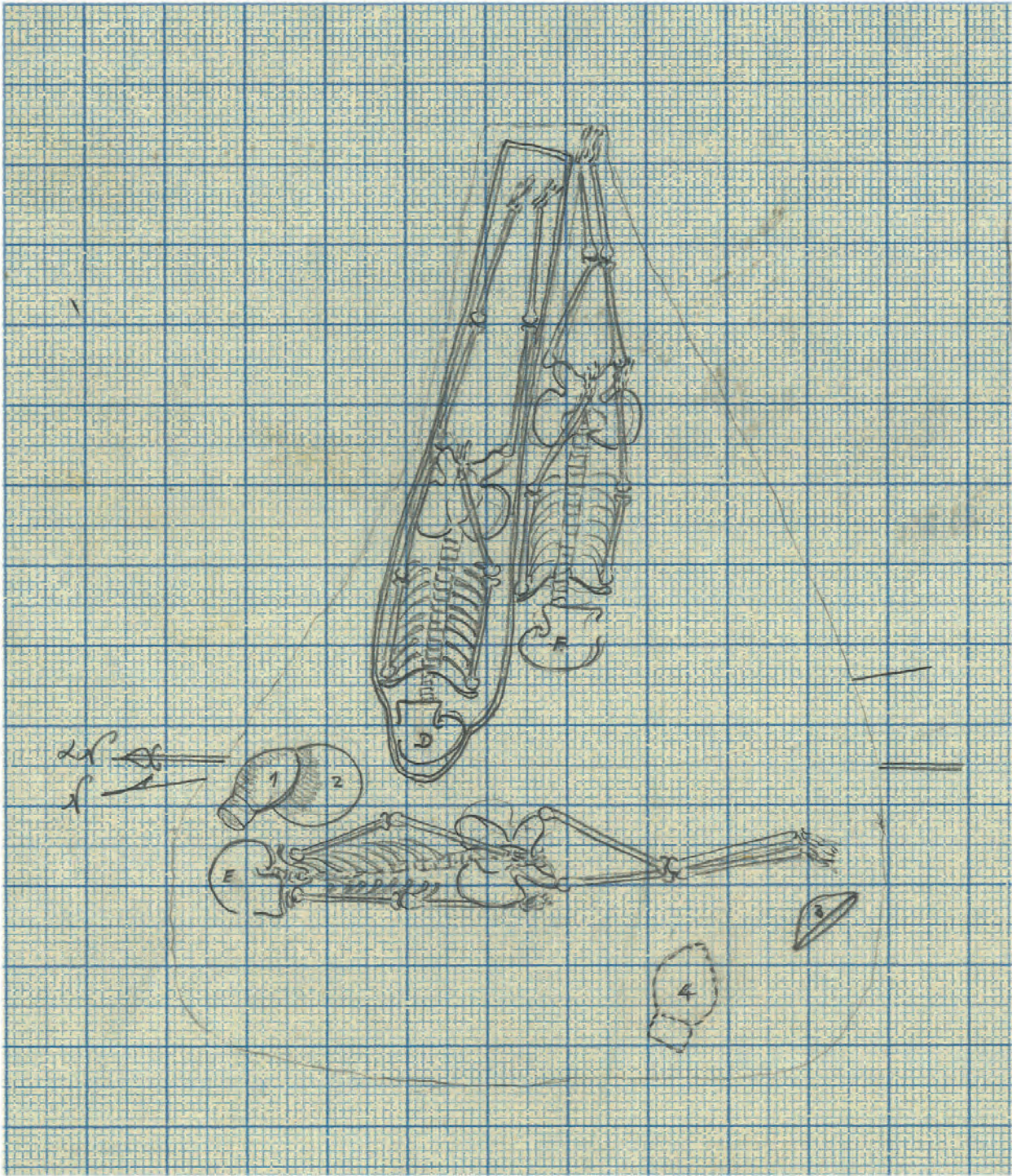


Figure 8.05 Detail of record sheet for Grave 3, site [21-H-6].

APPENDIX B – Site Registration Concordance

One element of this publication project will be to contribute to the creation of a definitive site registration record for this region within the structure of the Archaeological Map of Sudan (Hinkel 1977). As part of this process the current work has identified a number of instances where sites have been mis-located and consequently assigned incorrect registration numbers. Where this has occurred these errors have been corrected. A more substantial task remains the integration of site registers of other projects working in the region, most importantly those of the Epigraphic Expedition of the German Academy of Sciences (Nubien-Expedition 1961–1963 der Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin, DDR). As was recognized at the time there was some duplication of site registration numbers in the early stages of the ASSN. As noted in preliminary reports, it was initially sought to avoid renumbering of sites where there has been duplication of ‘epigraphic’ site numbers and those assigned to archaeological sites (Mills 1965,

2; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 10–11; Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 13). However it was later recognized that this would be necessary and this process was begun, although not fully completed.

At least one card index concordance was prepared by A. J. Mills, referring to 11 volumes of records prepared by the Rock Drawing survey registering 757 field files (Feldakte). Many of these had been assigned registration numbers which duplicated those of the main ASSN site register. Where such sites are relevant to the ‘Pharaonic’ material presented in this volume, new numbers have been assigned adding to the existing number series. To highlight these occurrences these new numbers are identified with an asterisk *. In addition the AMS registrations numbers for other projects are also identified, mainly those in studied by the Finnish Nubian Expedition (FNE), but also sites identified by the earlier work by the Harvard-Boston Expedition, notably around Semna.

Table B.1 Concordance of Site registration numbers

AMS Number	Previous number	References
11-D-5	FNE15	Donner 1998, 123–127
11-D-36		
11-D-37		
11-I-59*	11-I-23	Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 88; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 185.
11-I-5	FNE32	Donner 1998, 97–99
11-I-7	FNE39	Donner 1998, 139–163
11-I-32	FNE41	Donner 1998, 127–129
11-I-34	FNE44	Donner 1998, 95–96
11-H-11	FNE46	Donner 1998, pl.216,1
11-H-7		
11-H-4		
11-H-3		
11-M-11		
11-M-12		
11-M-13		
11-M-6		
11-L-1		
11-L-6		Badawy 1965, 52–53; Vercoutter 1966, 139–40
11-L-7		Hintze and Reineke 1989, 88–89
11-L-24		
11-L-22		
11-L-18		
11-L-26		
11-L-30		
11-Q-9		
11-Q-3		
11-Q-10		
11-Q-65		
11-Q-61		
11-Q-59		
11-Q-62		

AMS Number	Previous number	References
11-Q-63		
11-U-1		
11-U-12*		Dunham 1967, 121–123;
11-U-13*		Dunham 1967, 121–123;
11-U-11*	11-U-2	Hintze and Reineke 1989, 90–91;
10-Y-24*		
10-Y-1		
10-Y-22*		Dunham 1967, 31–32
10-Y-2		Dunham 1967, 22–31
10-Y-23*		Dunham 1967, 31
10-Y-3		
10-Y-20*		Hintze and Reineke 1989, 92
11-Q-57		
10-Y-12		
16-E-28		
16-E-1		
16-E-2		
16-E-21		
16-E-30		
16-E-31		
16-E-32		
16-E-57*	16-E-1	Hintze and Reineke 1989, 148–262
16-E-58*	16-E-2	Hintze and Reineke 1989, 93–147
16-E-59*	16-E-8	Hintze and Reineke 1989, 163
16-E-51*	16-E-9	Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 279–280; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 164–166
16-E-56*	16-E-9	Otto and Buschendorf-Otto 1993, 287; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 165–166
16-E-61*	S500	Dunham and Janssen 1960
16-E-62*	S700	Dunham and Janssen 1960
16-E-63*	S800	Dunham and Janssen 1960
16-E-15	S1000	Dunham and Janssen 1960; Žabkar and Žabkar 1982
16-E-64*	South Cemetery	Dunham and Janssen 1960
16-E-65*	H200	Dunham and Janssen 1960, 127–28
16-O-1	16-N-1	
16-O-12		
16-O-27		
16-O-24		
16-O-25		
16-O-2		
16-O-15		
16-N-18		
16-N-1	see 16-O-1	
16-N-11		
16-N-13		
16-N-14		
16-N-24		
16-S-7		
16-S-8		
16-S-2		
16-S-9		
21-S-47		Adams 1994, 283–9 (Rock Drawing site)
21-S-48		Adams 1994, 283–9 (Rock Drawing site)
21-S-55		Adams 1994, 283–9 (Rock Drawing site)
21-S-56		Adams 1994, 283–9 (Rock Drawing site)
21-S-57		Adams 1994, 283–9 (Rock Drawing site)
21-S-58		Adams 1994, 283–9 (Rock Drawing site)
16-V-22		
16-U-46		
16-U-60*	16-U-3	Hintze and Reineke 1989, 169
16-U-61*	16-U-4	Hintze and Reineke 1989, 168
21-E-11*	21-E-1	Hintze and Reineke 1989, 170–171
21-E-12*	21-E-2	Hintze and Reineke 1989, 171
21-E-13*	21-E-3	Hintze and Reineke 1989, 171
21-E-14*	21-E-4	Hintze and Reineke 1989, 173–177

AMS Number	Previous number	References
21-E-16*	21-E-6	Hintze and Reineke 1989, 178
21-D-31*	21-D-1	Breasted 1908, 105; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 171–172
21-I-19		
21-H-16		
21-H-11		
21-H-10		
21-I-34*	21-H-21	
21-S-29		
21-S-13		
21-S-32		
21-X-12*	21-X-1	Hintze and Reineke 1989, 180
21-X-13*	21-X-2	Hintze and Reineke 1989, 180
21-V-26		
21-V-20		
3-B-2	21-W-4	Vila 1975, 26–28; Hintze and Reineke 1989, 181–183
3-B-16		Vila 1975, 52-53,

APPENDIX C – Registered Finds in Sudan National Museum

Specific finds kept for accession and registration in the Sudan National Museum collections are listed here.

Table C.1 Register of finds and Sudan National Museum (SNM) numbers.

	Description	Material	SNM Nr	Photos
11-D-36/1	Bowl	ceramic	19503	C/084:32–33
11-I-7	earring, carnelian	stone	18633	
11-I-32	Jewellery, disk pendants (16)	faïence	18646	
11-L-34	Jewellery, pendant	faïence	18636	
11-H-7/1	Bowl	ceramic	16955	C/081:15
11-H-7/2	Bowl	ceramic	16956	C/082:1
11-H-4/1	weights ?	ceramic	22377	C/159:25
11-H-4/2	spindle whorl/weight?	ceramic	not registered	
11-M-12/1	Cup. Wheelmade, redware.	ceramic	16505	C/082:26
11-M-12/2	Cup. Wheelmade.	ceramic	not registered	
11-M-12/3	Grindstone, granite	stone	20130	C/113:14
11-M-12/4	Grindstone, granite	stone	20131	C/113:13
11-M-13/1	Jar. Wheelmade, redware. Incomplete.	Ceramic	16506	C/084:25
11-M-13/2	Weight, steatite	stone	19753	C/097:26
11-M-13/3	Weights ? Ceramic (17+)	ceramic	20472	C/123:23
11-M-6/1/1	Bowl	ceramic	19611	C/088:2
11-M-6/2/1	Bowl, handmade	ceramic	16503	C/082:24–25
11-M-6/2/2	Handled bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	16504	C/084:18
11-L-22/1/1	Jar	ceramic	16986	
11-L-22/4/1	Scarab	glazed steatite	16987	C/082: 4–5
11-L-22/6/1	Bowl	ceramic	16463	C/082:19
11-L-22/6/2	Tweezers	copper alloy	16989	C/082:6
11-L-18/3/1	Bowl	ceramic	16982	C/084:23
11-L-18/3/A	Jar	ceramic	19506	C/084:28
11-L-18/7/1	Bowl	ceramic	16460	C/082:2
11-L-18/8/1	Ring	carnelian	16984	C/082:3
11-L-18/8/2	Bowl	ceramic	16985	C/094:14
11-L-18/8/8	?	glass?	19507	C/084:1
11-L-26/0/1	Scarab	glazed steatite	16991	C/082:7–8
11-L-26/1/1	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	16992	C/084:2
11-L-26/2/1	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	16993	
11-L-26/2/2	earring, carnelian	stone	16994	C/082:9
11-L-26/3/1	cup ¹	copper alloy	16995	C/082:22–23
11-L-26/3/2	Beads (c.630)	faïence, glass	16996	C/123:14–15
11-L-26/3/3	Earring	Ivory	16997	C/082:10
11-L-26/4/1	Amphora	ceramic	16998	C/084:31

	Description	Material	SNM Nr	Photos
11-L-26/4/2	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	16999	C/082:21
11-L-26/4/A	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	17000	C/082/20
11-L-26/7/1	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	17001	C/084:19
11-L-26/7/2	earring, carnelian	stone	17002	C/082:11
11-L-26/7/3	beads (c.100)	faience	17003	C/082:12
11-L-26/12/1	earrings (3), carnelian	stone	17004	C/082:13
11-L-26/12/A	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	17005	C/081:13
11-L-26/13/1	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	17006	C/081:10
11-L-26/22/1	Scarab	Faience	17007	C/082:14–15
11-Q-9/1	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	18417	C/052:26
11-Q-65/1/1	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	18284	C/053:12
11-Q-65/1/2	Beads (c.350)	shell, faience, stone	18449	C/056:18
11-Q-65/1/3	Scarab	Faience	18451	C/050:24–25
11-Q-65/1/4	Scarab	Faience	18553	C/050:26–27
11-Q-65/1/5	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	18303	C/056:6
11-Q-65/1/6	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	18329	C/053:25
11-Q-61/1	Awl	copper alloy	18503	C/049:7, C/094:33
11-Q-61/2	Ear plug?	Travertine	18453	C/050:1
11-Q-61/3	Bowl	frit	18452	C/057:34, C/160:31
11-Q-61/4	Beads (c.70)	faience, calcite	18559	C/056:11
11-Q-59/1	Blade	copper alloy	18489	C/049:5, C/094:33
11-Q-59/2	Razor	copper alloy	18502	C/049:6, C/094:33
11-Q-59/3	Menat counterweight	copper alloy	18505	C/049:13, C/094:33
11-Q-59/4	Needle (bent)	copper alloy	18488	C/049:10, C/094:33
11-Q-59/5	Bow-drill holder	calcite	18421	C/050:3
11-Q-59/6	Razor	copper alloy	18506	C/049:2, C/094:33
11-Q-59/7	Earring, part	stone	18423	C/050:2
11-Q-62/1	Grindstone	stone, granite	18560	C/057:36
11-Q-62/2	Grindstone/Mortar	stone, granite	18561	C/057:35
11-Q-62/3	Ear plug?	calcite	18530	C/049:35
11-Q-62/4	needle	copper alloy	18508	C/049:12
11-Q-62/5	Blade	copper alloy	18507	C/049:1, C/094:33
11-Q-62/6	needle	copper alloy	18498	C/049:8–9, C/094:33
11-Q-62/7	Plate/sheathing	copper alloy	18501	C/049:4, C/094:33
11-Q-62/8	chisel (part)	copper alloy	18487	C/049:3, C/094:33
11-Q-62/9	Awl	copper alloy	18490	C/049:11, C/094:33
11-Q-62/10	Potters turntable	stone, basalt?	19397	C/057:22–23
11-Q-62/11	Hammer stone	stone, granite	18561	C/057:25
11-Q-62/12	Grindstone/grinder	stone, granite	18560	C/057:24
11-Q-63/1	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	18319	C/056:2
11-Q-57/2/1	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	18415	C/054:17
11-Q-57/3/1	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	18267	C/053:13
11-Q-57/4/1	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	18403	C/054:16
11-Q-57/8/1	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	19404	C/060:6
11-Q-57/10/1	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	19403	C/060:5
11-Q-57/10/2	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	19395	C/059:5
11-Q-57/10/3	Awl	bone	19401	C/062:11
11-Q-57/10/4	Scarab	glazed steatite	19398	C/065:19–20
11-Q-57/0/1	Scarab	faience	19406	C/065:21–22
16-E-28/1/1	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	18435	C/054:3–4
16-E-28/1/2	Scarab	faience	18495	C/050:18–19.
16-E-28/2/1	Beads (c.96)	faience, stone	18515	C/057:6
16-E-21/1	Jar	ceramic	18297	C/055:32
16-E-21/2	Crucible	Ceramic	18290	C/054:32
16-E-21/3	Incense burner	Ceramic	18368	C/055:20–21
16-E-21/4	Tool	bone	18543	C/049:31
16-E-21/5	Cup, wheelmade	ceramic	18359	C/055:18
16-E-21/6	Potstand	ceramic	18304	C/054:34
16-E-21/7	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	18363	C/055:12
16-E-21/8	Beer bottle	ceramic	18377	C/054:35
16-E-21/9	Tool	bone	18538	C/049:29
16-E-21/10	Cup, wheelmade	ceramic	18365	C/055:13–14
16-E-21/11	Bracelet parts (3)	Ivory	18535	C/051:2
16-E-21/12	Awl	bone	18539	C/049:25
16-E-21/13	needle	bone	18526	C/049:26
16-E-21/14	beads (c.5)	bone	18473	C/057:2
16-E-21/15	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	18372	C/055:23

	Description	Material	SNM Nr	Photos
16-E-21/16	Cup, wheelmade	ceramic	18369	C/055:22
16-E-21/17	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	18356	C/055:17
16-E-21/18	Cup, wheelmade	ceramic	18361	C/055:15
16-E-21/19	Decanter	ceramic	18301	C/054:36
16-E-21/20	Cup, wheelmade	ceramic	18331	C/056:3
16-E-21/21	Cup, wheelmade	ceramic	18358	C/055:19
16-E-21/22	Tool	bone	18534	C/049:32
16-E-21/23	Grindstone	stone	18385	C/050:35
16-E-21/24	Stone chopper?	stone	18384	C/050:36
16-E-21/25	Awl	bone	18545	C/049:30
16-E-21/26	Bowl, handmade	ceramic	18381	C/057:30
16-E-21/27	Cup, handmade	ceramic	18388	C/054:18
16-E-21/28	Cup, handmade	ceramic	18292	C/054:26
16-E-21/29	Awl	bone	18525	C/049:27
16-E-21/30	Crucible?	ceramic	18548	C/056:36, C/152:35
16-E-21/31	Polisher?	stone	18512	C/050:34
16-E-21/32	Beer bottle	ceramic	18317	C/054:30
16-O-24/1/1	Cup, wheelmade	ceramic	19499	C/075:19, C/084:20
16-O-24/1/2	Cup, wheelmade	ceramic	19501	C/075:21, C/084:21
16-O-24/1/3	Cup, wheelmade	ceramic	19500	C/075:20, C/084:22
16-O-24/1/4	Scarab	faience	18509	C/084:3–4
16-O-24/2/1	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	18502	C/075:4, C/084:29
16-O-25/1	seal/amulet	stone, steatite	19515	C/084:2
16-O-25/2	Grindstone, granite	stone	19517	C/084:26
16-O-2/1	Pilgrim flask	ceramic	19396	C/059:13–14
16-O-2/2	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	19399	C/060:26, C/084: 27
16-O-2/3	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	19382	C/059:22
16-N-11/1/1	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	19382	C/059:6
16-N-11/1/2	Seal	faience	19407	C/065:6–7
16-N-13/1	Mace head (part)	limestone?	21413	C/064:30, C/151:28–29
16-N-14/1	Pot, handmade	ceramic	19588	C/068:9, C/084:35
16-N-14/2	Bowl, handmade	ceramic	19549	C/061:9, C/084:34, C/087:37
16-N-14/3	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	19704	C/061:19–20
16-N-14/5	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	19402	C/059:20
16-S-7/1	Clay weights?	clay/ceramic?	19408	C/063: 24
16-S-7/2	Beads (9)	ostrich eggshell	19400	C/067:12
16-S-8/1	Blade	stone, chert	19405	C/062:33
16-S-9/1	Beads (55)	bone	19392	C/082:30
16-U-46/1	Bowl	stone	16983	C/082:28
16-U-46/2	Axe	stone	19409	C/082:31
16-U-46/3	weight	stone	19411	C/082:32
16-U-46/4	Sheathing?	copper alloy	19390	C/083:17
16-U-46/5	Sheathing?	copper alloy	19831	C/095:16
16-U-46/6	Disc?	clay/mud	20256	C/116:18–19
21-I-19/1/1	Cup, wheelmade	ceramic	19412	C/083:9
21-I-19/1/2	Bottle, wheelmade	ceramic	19417	C/083:10
21-I-19/2/1	Cup, wheelmade	ceramic	16468	C/083:11
21-I-19/2/2	Bottle, wheelmade	ceramic	19422	C/083:12
21-I-19/3/1	Pierced vessel	faience	19513	C/084:5
21-H-16/1/1	earrings (3)	stone	19387	C/083:19
21-H-16/1/2	Earring	ivory	19393	C/083:20
21-H-16/1/3	earrings (4)	stone	19394	C/083:21
21-H-16/1/4	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	19413	C/082:33
21-H-16/1/5	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	19374	C/081:16
21-H-16/1/6	Beer bottle	ceramic	19379	C/081:18
21-H-16/1/7	Jar	ceramic	19415	C/082:34–5
21-H-16/1/8	Beads and amulets	faience, carnelian	19391	C/083:22
21-H-16/1/9	Beads (c.100)	faience, carnelian	19389	C/083:23
21-H-16/1/10	Bead (c.350) bracelets	faience, carnelian	22380	C/160:28
21-H-16/1/11	Scarab	glazed steatite	19742	C/092:16–17
21-H-16/2/1	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	19419	C/081:35
21-H-16/2/2	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	19378	C/081:6
21-H-16/2/3	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	19609	C/088:1
21-H-16/2/4	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	19420	C/081:34
21-H-16/3/1	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	16988	C/082:36
21-H-16/3/2	Bowl, handmade	ceramic	19386	C/081:7
21-H-16/3/3	Scarab	glazed steatite	19711	C/092:14–15

	Description	Material	SNM Nr	Photos
21-H-16/3/4	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	19423	C/082:37
21-H-16/3/5	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	19380	C/081:17
21-H-16/3/6	Bottle, wheelmade	ceramic	19377	C/081:4
21-H-16/3/7	Bottle, wheelmade	ceramic	19385	C/083:1–3
21-H-16/3/8	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	19384	C/083:4
21-H-16/3/9	Kohl stick	wood	19755	C/095:11
21-H-16/3/10	Bead necklace, scarabs (2)	faience, bone, stone	20760	C/129:33–36, C/133:8
21-H-16/3/11	Beads (c.260)	faience, bone, stone	20467	C/123:19
21-H-16/3/12	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	19414	C/081:33
21-H-16/3/13	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	19381	C/083:5
21-H-16/3/14	Bottle, wheelmade	ceramic	19765	C/094:15
21-H-16/3/15	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	19424	C/083:7
21-H-16/3/16	earrings (2)	shell	19514	C/084:10
21-H-16/3/17	earrings (2)	shell	19508	C/084:12
21-H-16/3/18	Plate, wheelmade	ceramic	19373	C/081:3
21-H-16/3/19	Earring	stone	19518	C/084:7
21-H-16/3/20	Bottle, wheelmade	ceramic	19376	C/081:5
21-H-16/3/21	Earring	shell	19512	C/084:6
21-H-16/3/22	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	19418	C/081:36
21-H-16/3/23	Plate, wheelmade	ceramic	19607	C/088:4
21-H-16/3/24	Bottle, wheelmade	ceramic	19632	C/089:28
21-H-16/3/25	Jar, wheelmade	ceramic	19825	C/083:8
21-H-16/3/26	Earring	shell	19516	C/084:8
21-H-16/0/1	arrow head	stone	19511	C/084:9
21-H-11/1/1	bead	paste	19748	C/092:13
21-H-11/1/2	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	22305	C/175:17
21-H-11/1/3	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	19410	C/083:14
21-H-11/2/A	Qadus	ceramic	17018	C/106:10
21-H-11/3/1	Pilgrim flask	ceramic	19504	C/084:14–15
21-H-10/1/1	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	19421	C/083:13
21-H-10/1/2	Pilgrim flask, fragment	ceramic	19636	C/092:25
21-H-10/2/1	beads (111)	faience	19752	C/092:32
21-H-10/3/1	Bowl, handmade	ceramic	20035	C/106:8
21-H-10/6/1	beads (2)	faience	19751	C/092:22
21-H-10/8/1	beads (c.190)	glass	19713	C/092:34
21-H-10/8/2	beads (c.175)	glass	19747	C/092:33
21-H-10/8/3	bead	glass	19735	C/092:18
21-H-10/13/1	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	19505	C/084:13
21-H-10/14/1	ring	faience	19750	C/092:19
21-H-10/14/2	pendant	stone	19738	C/092:20
21-H-10/14/3	beads (5)	faience, bone	19739	C/092:21
21-H-10/x	vessel fragment	stone	22607	C/168:20
21-S-13/1	Bowl, wheelmade	ceramic	19609	C/070:30, C/088:6
21-S-32/1/1	beads (3)	stone, bone	19707	C/092:12
21-S-32/1/2	Dish, wheelmade	ceramic	20533	C/124:17

Bibliography

ASSN Archive abbreviations

- ASSN FD – ASSN Field Diary: 22nd Dec 1963 – 21st May 1969. (A. J. Mills – manuscript + 125pp typescript)
- AJM II-XV – 14 volumes field notes (1963–1969) – A. J. Mills
- JEK I-IV – 4 volumes field notes (1967–1969) – J. E. Knudstad
- Gez I-V – 5 volumes field notes (1967–1969) – L. Gezelius
- Nordström VII – 1 volume field notes (1964–1965) – H.-Å. Nordström
- BS I-III – 3 volumes field notes (1967–1968) – B. Schönback
- WYA XII – 1 volume field notes – W.Y. Adams

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وكذلك على الضفة الشرقية في [٣- B - ٢] ، وتظل تلك المسجلة في جزيرة تينا من بين النقوش المعروفة التي وجدت في أقصى جنوب المملكة الوسطى، ويعود تاريخ البعض الآخر في المنطقة إلى الأسرة ١٨ وكذلك عصر أسرة رمسيس.

يبدو من المحتمل - بشكل عام - أن معظم المواقع الموجودة بين جمى و دال، تعود إلى مطلع المملكة الحديثة، بالأخص الأسرة ١٨، ويظهر أن معظم النشاط يتعلق بالتعدين ومعالجة الذهب في منطقتي سرس والدويشات. وربما كان هناك استغلال آخر في هذه الفترة في بعض المواقع 'النوبية'، على سبيل المثال في مرشد [١١- I- ٦] وسرس الجنوبية [١١- Q- ٥٧]، مع مواد مماثلة لتلك الموجودة في جبانة فادروس Fadrus الكبيرة ١٨٥ في أسفل مجرى النهر بعد الجندل الثاني. وكانت الأدلة على الاستغلال - كما تبين - محدودة ناحية الشمال إبان أواخر المملكة الحديثة. وفي حين أن بعض المواقع لا يمكن تأريخها بالتحديد، يمكن التعرف على بعض دفنات في جبانة كجنارتي Kajnarti، وكذلك في سمنه الغربية تؤرخ إلى عصر أسرة رمسيس. توجد بعض الأدلة بين مواقع ورش الدويشات تشير إلى نشاط يعود إلى عصر رمسيس، لكن الحفريات المحدودة لا تسمح لنا بتحديد التسلسل الزمني - على نحو أفضل - لتاريخ تعدين الذهب في هذه المنطقة. ربما يُقترح أن مدافن عصر رمسيس في أوكما الغربية Ukma West [١١- H- ٢١] - في أقصى الجنوب - تمثل حلقة دفن واحدة منفصلة عن تلك التي في [١٠ - H - ٢١] الخاصة بالأسرة ١٨. ولم يكن هناك من بين المواقع 'الفرعونية' سوى عدد قليل ربما يعود تاريخه إلى عصر الأسرة ٢٥/النبتية، وهذا يؤكد كذلك النطاق المحدود للغاية للوجود الكوشي في النوبة السفلى والوسطى في الألفية الأولى قبل الميلاد.

البسيطة - حيثما كان تأريخها ممكنًا - مرتبطة على نحو أساسي بإعادة الاستيطان خلال عصر المملكة الحديثة (الأسرة ١٨). تم تحديد عدد قليل من المدافن الأخرى تعود إلى هذا التاريخ في جبانيتين صغيرتين في الضفة الغربية، واكتشفت بعض الأدلة على نشاط تعدين الذهب على الضفة الشرقية بالقرب من السيڠوت. لم يتم العثور على مدافن تعود للمملكة الوسطى، وكشف في الطرف الجنوبي من سرس على مجموعة مثيرة للاهتمام من مواقع ورش العمل المتعلقة بالتعدين والبحث عن الذهب [١١-Q-٥٩]، [١١-Q-٦١]، [١١-Q-٦٢]، [١١-Q-٦٣] وجرت أعمال تنقيب لجبانة صغيرة [١١-Q-٦٥]. يمكن أيضًا أن تكون الجبانة الصغيرة مجموعة C المتأخرة [١١-Q-٥٧] المجاورة منسوبة إلى بواكير الأسرة ١٨، ويبدو أن مواقع الورشة ترتبط على نحو رئيس بالأسرة ١٨، ولكن مع بعض الاستخدام المحتمل الذي يعود إلى عصر المملكة الحديثة اللاحقة. لم يتم العثور على دليل واضح على تعدين المملكة الوسطى للذهب.

٣. سمنه Semna

تم تسجيل جدار طويل من الطوب اللين [١٠-١٢-Y] على الضفة الغربية بين أو يورنارتي وسمنه يرجع في تاريخه إلى المملكة الوسطى، ولا تزال بعض الأجزاء الصغيرة منه قائمة فوق مستوى النهر حتى اليوم. كان هناك على الضفة الشرقية من هذه المنطقة القليل من الأدلة لمواقع فرعونية، باستثناء مبنى واحد [١٦-E-٢١] ربما كان نوعًا ما لورشة، يعود تاريخه إلى أوائل الأسرة الحاكمة ١٨. تم التعرف على محجر صغير وبعض القبور التي على شكل أكوام حجارة cairns على التلال أعلى سمنه الشرقية، ولكن تاريخها لا يزال غير مؤكد، ولم يتم المسح بعمل إضافي حول المواقع المحصنة الفرعونية في سمنه - كومه.

٤. الدويشات Duweishat

اكتشفت المجموعة الرئيسية التالية من المواقع الفرعونية على الضفة الشرقية في منطقة الدويشات على بعد ١٣ كم من سمنه. وتم التعرف على سلسلة من ورش معالجة الذهب على منحدرات التلال القريبة من النهر، موزعة على طول ٩ كم من ضفة النهر. ويبدو أن بعض الجبانات الصغيرة ترتبط بهذه الورش، وأن مناطق التعدين الرئيسية كانت في الداخل، حيث تقع مناجم الذهب الحديثة. هناك ورشة عمل واحدة [١٦-S-١٦] بالقرب من معظم المواقع الجنوبية، يبدو أنها يرجع إلى الفترة الوسطى من حضارة كرمه (كوش) Middle Kerma، التي تسبق وجود المملكة المصرية الحديثة في هذه المنطقة. كان هناك في الجزء العلوي من الدويشات القليل جدًا من الأدلة للمواقع الفرعونية، في معظمها نقوشًا في منطقتي ملك الناصر وتانقور Tangur، ويتعلق معظمها بالحملات العسكرية التي قامت بها الأسرة ١٨، ولكن تم تحديد نقشين على الأقل يورخان إلى عصر المملكة الوسطى.

٥. أوكما Ukma، أكاشا Akasha، دال Dal

جرى التعرف في الجزء الجنوبي من المنطقة في سنكي الغربية - على مجموعة صغيرة من المدافن [٢١-I-١٩] تعود إلى عصر الأسرة ٢٥، بينما تم العثور في أوكما الغربية على مجموعة صغيرة أخرى من المواقع، وهي ذات المنطقة التي وجدت فيها أيضًا جبانتي كرمه Kerma [٢١-H-٤] و [٢١-H-٥]، ومن المحتمل أن بعض مدافن المملكة الحديثة في [٢١-H-١٦] ترجع إلى الأسرة ١٨. وتشتمل هذه على مدافن متعددة، وما لا يقل عن تابوت واحد مزخرف، مع ملاح [ظة هيمنة لدفانات النساء والأطفال، وربما تـ]رجع تلك الموجودة في [٢١-H-١٠] إلى زمن متأخر، أما تلك التي في [٢١-H-١١] يبدو أنها تعود أكثر ترجيحًا للأسرتين ١٩-٢٠. تم تسجيل نقش منفصل [٢١-I-٣٤*] في أوكما الغربية يورخ إلى عصر أسرة رمسيس. وعُثر على مجموعة مهمة من النقوش [١٦-S-٢٩] على بُعد ١٢ كم أعلى النهر على الضفة الغربية المطلة على شلال أكاشا Akasha. يمكن أن تؤرخ بعض هذه الأحداث على نحو وثيق إلى الحملة العسكرية خلال السنة الثانية من حكم تحتمس الأول Thutmose I، والبعض الآخر يرتبط بحملة تحتمس الثالث Thutmose III، وتعود المجموعة الثالثة إلى تاريخ لاحق.

بالمضي أعلى النهر والدنو من جندل دال تم التعرف في الضفة الغربية على 'موقع مخيم' واحد [٢١-V-٢٦] [ربما يعود تاريخه إلى عصر مملكة نبتة Napatan/الأسرة ٢]. وتحتوي هذه المنطقة على الكثير من الرمل الذي حملته الرياح واستقر أعلى منسوب المياه. هناك نقوش معروفة تخص منقبين عن الذهب تؤرخ إلى المملكة القديمة [٢١-X-١٢*] من الضفة الشرقية مقابل كلبنارتي Kulubnarti. وكانت هناك نقوش في جندل دال - حيث المواقع الفرعونية الأخرى الوحيدة - لا سيما في جزيرة تينا Tina [٢١-V-٢٠]، وتم العثور على بعض من النقوش الأخرى خارج منطقة المسح الأثري للنوبة السودانية ASSN، في جزيرة ترتاد على نحو موسمي [٣-B-١٢]

أرشيف المسح الأثري للنوبة السودانية ASSN

كان التسجيل الكتابي الناتج عن المشروع هائلاً، وقد شمل ذلك مذكرات ميدانية يومية قام بتجميعها المدير ميلز A. J. Mills، ١٤ مجلداً من تسجيلات العمل الميداني، مع رسومات أخرى للمواقع. ويشتمل أرشيف الصور الفوتوغرافية على أكثر من ٩٠٠٠ صورة فوتوغرافية سلبية (حوالي ٤٣٠٠ صورة فوتوغرافية للمواقع و ٤٧٠٠ صورة فوتوغرافية للقي الأثرية). ويحتوي الأرشيف - بالإضافة إلى ذلك - على مطبوعات تصل إلى نحو ٨٥٠ صور جوئية، معظمها تم التقاطها خلال أواخر عام ١٩٥٩، ولكن يرجع تاريخ بعضها إلى ما بين الأعوام ١٩٥٥-١٩٥٧. وقد سُجلت اللقى في مواقعها أثناء العمل الميداني وتم تصوير تلك المختارة للاحتفاظ بها وتسجيلها في مجموعات متحف السودان الوطني (SNM).

من الأرشيف إلى النشر

إن الهدف الأساسي من هذا المجلد والمجلدات اللاحقة هو نشر الأرشيف الموجود قدر الإمكان على النحو الذي وجد عليه في الأصل. وتتم أيضاً إضافة مناقشة وتعليقات إضافية إلى هذا المجلد بشكل رئيس في الجزء السابع منه، ولكن تظل هناك أولوية لتقديم البيانات الأصلية وبقدر الإمكان عن سجلات الموقع واللقى والصور الفوتوغرافية. من المأمول أن تتم دراسة اللقى والمكتشفات الموجودة في مجموعات متحف السودان الوطني على أسس هذا الدراسة المنشورة.

تسجيل الموقع والخريطة الأثرية للسودان (AMS)

واصل المسح الأثري للنوبة السودانية ASSN نظام تسجيل الموقع الذي بدأ شمال الجندل الثاني، وهو نظام تتبعه في وقت لاحق ف. هنكل F. Hinkel مع دائرة الآثار السودانية بصفة أنه جزء من مشروع لتطوير خريطة أثرية نهائية للسودان *Archaeological Map of Sudan*. خُصصت - مع تقدم العمل - أرقام تسجيل لجميع المواقع، وأحراز تقدم كبير في إنشاء قاعدة بيانات كاملة - مع ذلك - لم تكتمل بعد قائمة نهائية وجازمة للمواقع، وعلى الرغم من أنه قد يكون من المأمول أنه سيكون من الممكن إكمال هذه المهمة، إلا أنه لا يزال مشروعاً قيد العمل، ويتطلب ادماج تسجيلات المشاريع الأخرى، بما في ذلك العديد من مواقع الرسوم الصخرية. كان الجانب الرئيس الأخير هو اسقاط المواقع على سلسلة الخرائط الطبوغرافية العشر بمقياس ١:٢٥٠٠٠ أعدها ويليام آدمز W. Y. Adams ما بين الأعوام ١٩٦٠-١٩٦١، وكانت مصلحة المساحة السودانية قد قامت بطباعة هذه الخرائط عام ١٩٦٢.

أسماء المواقع النوبية Nubian toponyms

تمثل دراسة هيرمان بيل Herman Bell الأساسية لأسماء المنطقة - القائمة على العمل الميداني الذي جرى بين عامي ١٩٦٢ و ١٩٦٤ - المصدر الأكثر تحديداً للمعلومات. صادف في السجلات الأثرية خلال القرن العشرين وجود أشكال مختلفة من الأسماء الجغرافية، وكانت الأشكال الأكثر شيوعاً هي تلك المستنسخة في سلسلة خرائط السودان ١:٢٥٠,٠٠٠، وعلى الرغم من استخدام أسماء المواقع الجغرافية الأكثر شيوعاً هنا، فقد تم تضمين معلومات إضافية للأسماء البديلة والمتغيرة، بما في ذلك الأشكال اللغوية الأقرب 'صواباً': على سبيل المثال: يمكن مقارنة اسم الموقع الجغرافي المعروف جمى Gammal/Gemal بالاسم Jemey الأقرب للصواب.

ملخص النتائج

١. جمى-مرشد Gemai-Murshid

لا تزال الأدلة على وجود مصري في الطرف الجنوبي من الجندل الثاني محدودة، ويبدو أن معظم أنشطة المملكة الحديثة في الجندل كانت في الضفة الغربية. تم التعرف على بعض الاستيطان المحدود (ربما خلال الأسرة الثامنة عشرة) في جمى الغربية Gemai، وربما يحتمل وجود تاريخ مشابه في جبانة صغيرة في مرشد الشرقية Murshid East.

٢. سرس Saras

تم تسجيل القليل من المعلومات الجديدة المتعلقة بوجود المملكة الوسطى في هذه المنطقة، التي قد تكون مرتبطة بالمواقع المحصنة في سمنا Semna أو يورنارتي Uronarti أو شلفاك Shelfak أو السيكوت Askut أو ميرجيسا Mirgissa. يبدو من غير المرجح - كمل يُظن - أن يكون للموقع الصغير في الضفة الغربية على قمة تل [١١ - H - ٧] أهمية عسكرية كبيرة. وكانت هناك مقبرة واحدة محفورة في الصخر ومخيماً صغيراً (الأسرة الثامنة عشرة) من بين مواقع المملكة الحديثة الوحيدة التي تم تحديدها في الجزء الشمالي من سرس الغربية. جرى تنقيب أجزاء من جبانة كبيرة [١١ - L - ٢٦] في جزيرة كجنارتي Kajnarti المتصلة بجزيرة السيكوت. وبدت هذه القبور

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ظلت إلى حد كبير نتائج المسح الأثري للنوبة السودانية (ASSN) بين الجندل الثاني وجندل دال حتى الآن غير منشورة، ولهذه المنطقة أهمية كبيرة في فهم آثار النوبة وتاريخها بشكل عام، وليس أقلها ربط آثار النوبة السفلى في الشمال، بالمناطق المتبقية في النوبة الوسطى والعليا في الجنوب. ويعد هذا المجلد الأول من سلسلة منشورات سجلات مشروع المسح هذا.

تم تنفيذ العمل الميداني على مدار ستة أعوام (١٩٦٣-١٩٦٩)، حيث تم تقصي مسافة ١٣٠ كم من النهر بين جمبي Gemai ودال Dal، بما في ذلك جمبي Gemai و سرس Saras و سمنه Semna و أتيري Attiri و الدويشات Duweishat و ام بكون Ambikol و ملك الناصر Melik en Nasr و سنكي Songi وأوكما Ukma و أكاشا Akasha و كلب Kulb و داكي Dakki ودال Dal. تم إجراء استطلاع أولي للمنطقة بأسرها في الفترة ما بين ديسمبر ١٩٦٣ وأبريل ١٩٦٤، وقد جرى في هذا المسح الأول التعرف على نحو ٢٤٠ موقعًا. شرع فريق المسح ابتداءً من نوفمبر ١٩٦٤ في التنقيب عن المواقع المحيطة بجمبي ثم التحرك جنوبًا. ووصل الفريق - بحلول أبريل ١٩٦٥ - إلى أقصى جنوب سرس، حيث تم تسجيل ٦٩ موقعًا، وغطى الموسم الميداني الثالث (١٩٦٥-١٩٦٦) المنطقة الواقعة بين سرس وسمنه، مسجلاً ١٠١ موقعًا آخر، وقد نشرت تقارير مبدئية حول هذا العمل في مجلة كوش. ركز موسم ١٩٦٦-١٩٦٧ بشكل أساسي على الحفريات في منطقة سمنه - أتري، في حين تناولت المواسم النهائية (١٩٦٧-١٩٦٨ و ١٩٦٨-١٩٦٩) المسح جنوبًا إلى دال. وكان الانتهاء من المسح في أبريل ١٩٦٩، ولم يتم نشر أي تقارير عن المواسم الثلاثة الأخيرة.

انطوى أيضًا العمل الميداني الذي جرى بين جمبي و دال على عدد من المشاريع الأخرى. فقد سجلت بعثة النقوش الألمانية فن صخري ونقوش في كامل منطقة النوبة السودانية العرضة للفيضانات. وتم في الفترة ما بين ١٩٦١-١٩٦٢ تقصي مناطق الضفة الشرقية للنيل بين جمبي و فركه Firka من قبل فريق من جامعة كولومبيا، وتم في الأعوام بين ١٩٦٤-١٩٦٦ دراسة مواقع أخرى على الضفة الغربية تنتمي إلى عصور ما قبل التاريخ من قبل البعثة النوبية لجامعة كولورادو ١٩٦٤-١٩٦٦، وكان هناك عطاء دراسة لمنطقة على بعد ١٥ كم من الضفة الشرقية من جمبي إلى مرشد Murshid تولته البعثة النوبية الفنلندية (FNE) في الفترة ما بين ديسمبر ١٩٦٤ ومايو ١٩٦٥.

جرت حفريات في منطقة سرس - أحد أهم مواقع المملكة الوسطى في جزيرة السكوت Askut - على مدار موسمين ما بين الأعوام ١٩٦٢-١٩٦٤ من قبل فريق من جامعة كاليفورنيا في لوس أنجلوس. كما أجريت دراسات أخرى على معابد المملكة الحديثة في سمنه الغربية والشرقية (كومه Kumma) من خلال بعثة مشتركة لجمعية استكشاف مصر وجامعة براون Brown University. وقامت بعثة المعهد الشرقي إلى النوبة السودانية (OINE) خلال ١٩٦٦-١٩٦٨ بالتحقيق في موقع محصن ينتمي للمملكة الوسطى في سمنه الجنوبية إلى جانب جبانة مجاورة، وأجرت جامعة روما أعمال تقصي في جنوب بطن الحجر Batn al-Hajar - في سنكي، على بعد ٤ كيلومترات من الضفة الغربية. وأصبح العطاء الأكبر على الضفة الشرقية (حوالي ١٦ كم) الممتد من سنكي الشرقية Sonki East إلى أكاشا Akasha من مسؤولية البعثة السويسرية. تم التحقيق في عامي ١٩٦٧ و ١٩٦٨ في مواقع أخرى تعود للعصور الوسطى في منطقة ملك الناصر (سونارتي Sunnarti وتانقور Tangur وترموكي Turmukki) وفي كلب الغربية من قبل معهد الآثار الألماني / فريق جامعة هايدلبرغ University of Heidelberg، واستهل ويليام آدمز W. Y. Adams في عام ١٩٦٩ - مع اقتراب المسح الأثري للنوبة السودانية ASSN من نهايته - العمل في كلبنارتي Kulubnarti للتقصي عن آثار ما بعد العصور الوسطى (الفترة الإسلامية) في الجزيرة، وكذلك تنقيب مقبرتين ترجعان للعصور الوسطى، وقد واصل عمله في عام ١٩٧٠ ومرة أخرى في عام ١٩٧٩.

تم تسجيل أعداد كبيرة من المواقع داخل النوبة السودانية، إذ سجل مسح الضفة الغربية بين الحدود المصرية - السودانية ومنطقة الجندل الثاني نحو ٢٦٢ موقعًا، وسجلت البعثة الإسكندنافية المشتركة (SJE) حوالي ٤٩٠ موقعًا ضمن مساحة ٦٠ كم من الضفة الشرقية. وأظهر العمل اللاحق للمسح الأثري للنوبة السودانية ASSN والمشاريع الأخرى بين جمبي و دال مزيدًا من المواقع المحفوظة في كثير من الأحيان على نحو ممتاز داخل تلك المنطقة، حيث تم تسجيل أكثر من ١٠٠٠ موقع. يمكن الإضافة إلى هذه المواقع أكثر من ٤٦٠ موقعًا مسجلاً في مسح دائرة الآثار السودانية على مساحة ٦٤ كم تقريبًا من النيل بين دال ونيلواتي Nilwatti وأكثر من ٧٠٠ موقع آخر في منطقة الجندل الثالث كانت قد سُجلت خلال مشروع جامعة الخرطوم.