

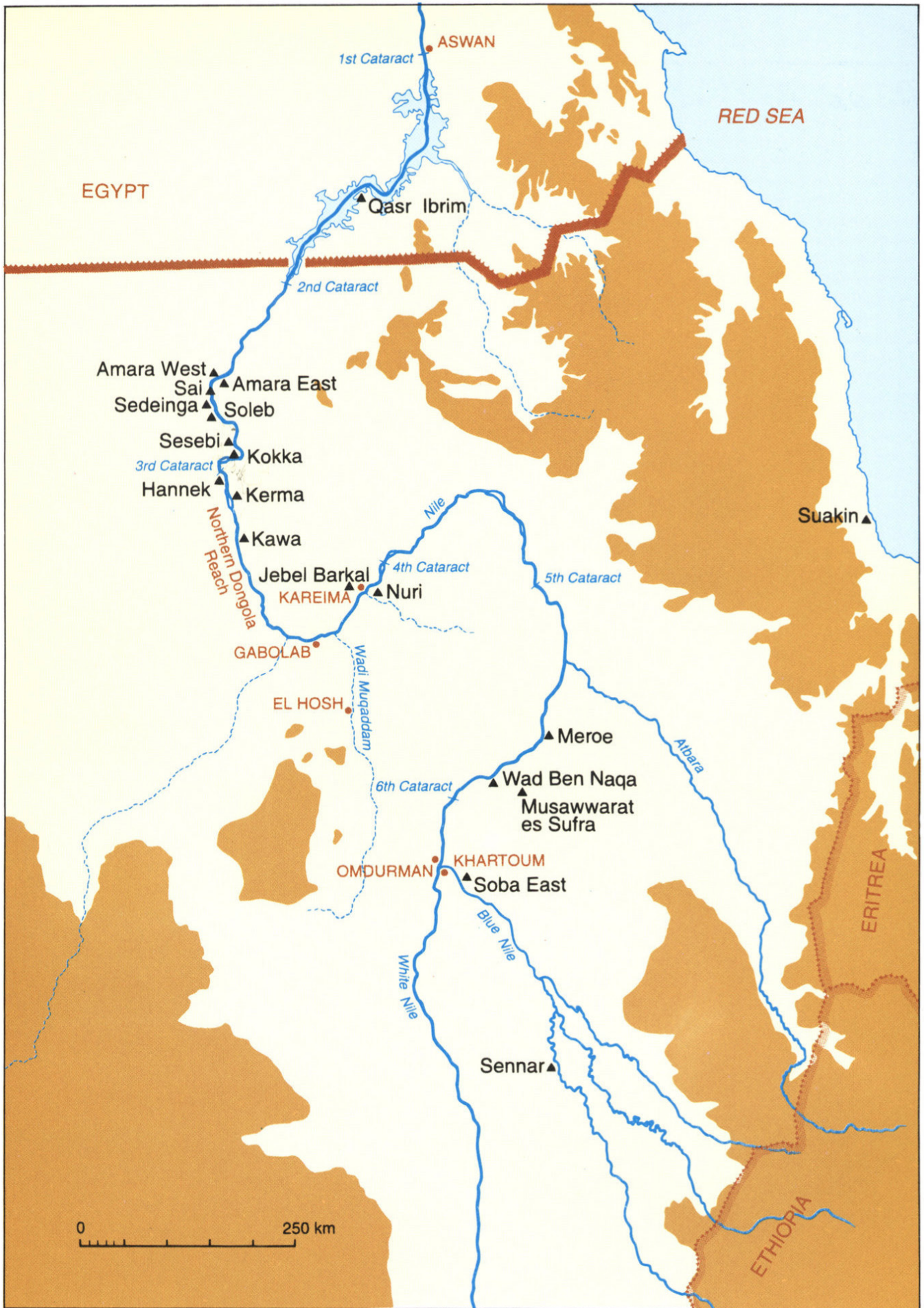
SUDAN & NUBIA

The Sudan Archaeological Research Society



Bulletin No. 1 1997





SUDAN & NUBIA

The Sudan Archaeological Research Society



Bulletin No. 1 1997

Contents

Introduction	1
<i>Vivian Davies</i>	

Field Reports

The Northern Dongola Reach Survey: the 1996/7 season	2
Excavations at Sites O16, P1, P4 and P37 <i>Derek A Welsby</i>	2

Kerma Moyen Pottery from the Excavations of the cemetery at site P37 <i>Isabella Welsby Sjöström</i>	10
--	----

Holocene Alluvial History in the Northern Dongola Reach of the Nile: the 1996/1997 field season <i>Mark Macklin and Jamie Woodward</i>	13
--	----

Qalat Sai, the most southerly Ottoman Fortress in Africa <i>John Alexander</i>	16
--	----

Recent Fieldwork at Musawwarat es Sufra <i>Pawel Wolf</i>	20
--	----

Preliminary Report: SARS Survey from Omdurman to Gabolab 1997 <i>Michael Mallinson</i>	30
--	----

Recent Research

Amara West: Capital of Egyptian Kush <i>Patricia Spencer</i>	34
---	----

Napatan Period Metalwork: Further Analyses <i>Michael Cowell</i>	40
---	----

Miscellaneous

Obituary – Prof. Dr Ahmed M. A. Hakem (1938–1996), a personal appreciation <i>Abdelrahim M Khabir</i>	44
The Nubian Studies and Documentation Centre	44
Forthcoming Events	45
The Authors	45

Front Cover: Relief of the Kushite King Taharqo (690–664 BC) in the Temple of Amun, Jebel Barkal. (Peter Hayman)

Introduction

Vivian Davies

The appearance of *Sudan & Nubia* represents an exciting new development for our Society. Replacing the old *Newsletter*, and incorporating colour illustrations, it is designed to be a more substantial and attractive periodical, and of more lasting value. It will continue to publish reports of our own excavations and other scholarly activities but will also include papers dealing with relevant topics and material from other sources. *Sudan & Nubia* will serve, we hope, to promote interest both in the Society and in the field of Sudanese and Nubian archaeology in general, including that of Egyptian Nubia. It will appear, at least initially, once a year, in the Autumn.

This first issue contains an impressively wide range of subject-matter, covering a time-span of nearly five millennia. In the fieldwork section it will be seen that the Society's project in the Dongola Reach directed by Derek Welsby, comprising in this last season the rescue excavation of sites of the Kerma Period and related palaeohydrological research, continues to yield important new data, while a brand new project initiated by Michael Mallinson – a survey of multi-period sites in the Bayuda desert threatened by road-building – looks to be very promising. Pawel Wolf gives an account of the Humboldt University's fascinating and quite unexpected new discoveries at the great Meroitic temple-site of Musawwarat es Sufra. John Alexander reports on his investigation of an Islamic fortress on Sai Island, a military outpost (similar to Qasr Ibrim) which represents the southernmost point of penetration of the Ottoman Empire in Africa. There are two papers on recent research. Patricia Spencer has been reconstructing from old records the unpublished excavations at Amara West undertaken many years ago by the Egypt Exploration Society. She very usefully summarises the results of her work (recently published in full in an EES Memoir), which has shed valuable new light on this important pharaonic town-site. Finally, Michael Cowell provides an up-date on his programme of scientific examination of Nubian metalwork, a subject sorely neglected in the past. The project has now been extended to include Napatan foundation-deposits, source-material of special value for this kind of research in that the deposits are both well dated and richly endowed with metal objects.



Preliminary Report: SARS Survey from Omdurman to Gabolab 1997

Michael Mallinson

The SARS survey from Omdurman to Gabolab follows the new road under construction that will eventually link New Dongola and Kareima to Khartoum. It is now partially completed to Km 115 from Khartoum and is due to be finished within two years. On the request of Mr. Hassan Hussein Idriss, Director-General of the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums of Sudan, a survey and study of the sites threatened by the road will be undertaken this October. The road passes through a remote part of the Bayuda Desert, a long distance from the Nile Valley, and although well travelled there is little in the way of accommodation. Facilities in the way of desert camper vehicles have generously been provided at cost by Ing. Paulo Passaro of the Studio Tecnico Italiano Progettazioni Estero, the designers of the road. They have also provided aerial photographs at a scale of 1:8,000 and maps at a scale of 1:2,000 of the Road Line.

From this information a preliminary assessment of the sites has been made. This was followed by a brief site-visit to the completed road section this March. The route (see figs 1. and 2) follows the shortest line between the confluence of the two Niles and the bottom of the bend of the Dongola to Kareima reach. It follows the line of Wadi Muqaddam for a large part of the way and the preliminary assessment suggests that this water course has the greatest concentration of sites. The road passes through the Wadi from BM 29 – BM 130, that is Km 95-210 from Omdurman. As can be seen from the aerial and preliminary reconnaissance record sheets the main group of sites starts at the head of this Wadi and continues for its length. These tumuli sites (pl. 1), which the SARS 1993 Survey has suggested tend to belong to the Mediaeval period, may well also mark earlier occupation.

The density of sites indicates that the Wadi was occupied into the Mediaeval Period with a density not dissimilar to parts of the Nile Valley in the same period. The evidence that water is still present is shown by the modern wells located along this Wadi. Evidence for the importance of the route in earlier periods is attested by the discovery in January this year by Timothy Kendall from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, of a site with stone architecture dating from the Meroitic Period close to the well at El Hosh and Jebel Meragha, within 2 km of the new road line (pl. 2 and colour plate XIV).¹ He suggests it may be some form of customs post.

¹ The Editor would like to express the thanks of the Society to Dr Tim Kendall for allowing it to reproduce here two photographs of the site at Meragha. A short description of the site by Tim Kendall can be found in the *Newsletter* of the American Research Centre in Egypt, no 173, July 1997, p.1 and 12.

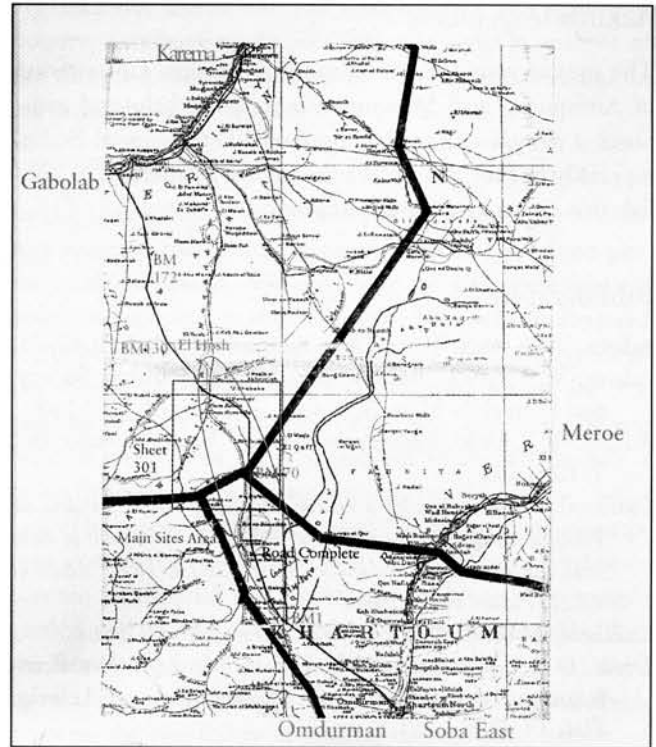


Figure 1. Part of the 1:1,000,000 map of Sudan showing the new road line and the area where sites are concentrated in the Wadi Muqaddam. Sheet 301 sites are detailed in figure 2.

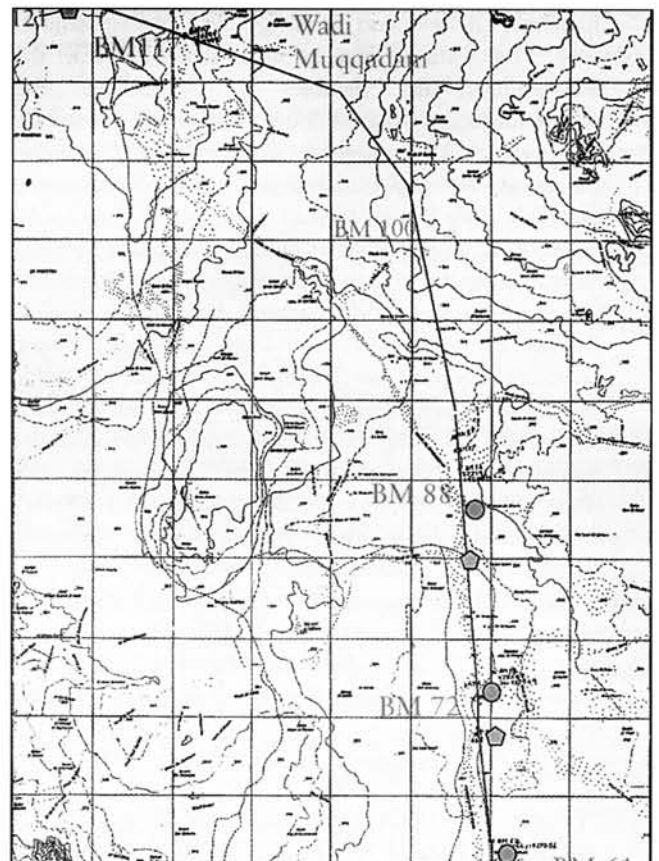


Figure 2. Reduced copy of sheet 301 of the new 1:100,000 scale maps showing sites on the road line between BM 61 and 121.



Plate 1. Sites at BM 171-172, Wadi Umm el Hassan.

The aerial photographs record a concentration of houses at BM 132 close to this site. The presence of another settlement at BM 86, 50 km nearer Omdurman, further supports the use of the Wadi by settled populations. The ground survey indicates that these houses are of dry stone, not the material used by the modern Bedouin or Cafeteria constructions but common in the late mediaeval period along the Nile.

The route, which is considerably longer than that between Kareima and Meroe, must have been used for trade with Soba East and further south. It is hoped that the

significance of this route will be uncovered as part of the survey.

The preliminary studies could not identify prehistoric sites, so part of the surface survey will look for these so as to make comparisons with the Nile dwelling populations in this period. The Geological Map of the Sudan (fig. 3) shows a band of non-outcrop Sedimental Rocks from the Nubian Sandstone formation along the Wadi Muqaddam. This links with the current Nile south of the current Niles confluence and also shows a cross link with the Blue Nile. The possibility that this is an earlier Nile route or flood plain by-pass-



Plate 2. Meragha – ‘Temple F’ looking north (Timothy Kendall).

ing the Abu Hamed Bend could be confirmed by a change in density of prehistoric sites and will be investigated.

The team members are Laurence Smith, Michael Mallinson, Adrian England and Dorian Fuller. The preliminary survey was carried out with the assistance of Abdel Rakhman Ali, Antiquities Inspector for the Sudan National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums.

Preliminary Surveys Record Sheets

Sites identified from aerial photography and STIPE road maps

Site No.	Bench Mark Nos.	Metres from Road Start	Photo Nos	Site Information
A1.	25-26	22,400	fig. 3	Huts, Tumuli
A2.	28	26,500	fig. 4	Large Tumulus
A3.	30	28,350	fig.5	Box Graves
A4.	31-33	30,400	"	Huts, Tumuli
A5.	42 - 44	43,050	fig. 6	Tumuli on ridge
A6.	47	46,456	fig. 7	Tumuli
A7.	46 - 50	47,000 - 49,500	"	Tumuli
A8.	61	60,300	"	Tumuli
A9.	69 - 70	68,300 - 70,600	fig. 8	Huts
A10.	73	72,700	"	Tumuli
A11.	86	85,900	fig. 9	Buried Settlement
A12.	87	87,000	"	Tumuli
A13.	121	121,200	"	Tumuli
A14.	130	133,800	fig. 10	Tumuli
A15.	132	135,400	"	Buried Settlement
A16.	135	138,800	"	Tumuli
A17.	171	176,600	fig.11	Tumuli on mountain
A18.	174	179,800	fig. 12	Cemetery and Tumuli

Sites Identified on Preliminary Site Survey KM1-116, March 1997

Site No	KM from Omdurman	BM.	Site Information
1	31.5		Tumuli 200m off road to south
2	42		Tumuli
3	48		Tumuli
4	67-68		Tumuli
5	69-70	1	Tumuli
6	73	4	Tumuli
7	74	5	Tumuli
8	80	11	Tumuli
9	83	14	Low eroded Tumuli
10	83.5	15	Tumuli
11	86	17	Stone Houses
12	88	19	Tumuli
13	91	22	Tumuli?
14	91.5	23	Tumuli close by road
15 = A1	94	25	Tumuli
16 = A2	94.7	26	Large Tumulus close to road. (colour plate XV)
17	96	27	Tumuli
18 = A3	96.5	28	Box Graves
19	98	29	Destroyed Tumuli
20 = A4	101	32	Houses and Tumuli
21	103	34	Tumuli
22	107	38	Tumuli
23	109	39	Tumuli
24	110	41	Big cemetery on hill south of road.
25 = A5	111	42	Cemetery to north of road
26 = A6	116	47	Cemetery Tumuli north/south of road.



Plate XIV. Omdurman to Gabolab survey. Meragha – 'Temple B' looking east (Timothy Kendall). (see p. 30)



Plate XV. Omdurman to Gabolab survey. Large tumulus close to the new road line. (see p. 33)