THE MAHAS SURVEY 1991

Interim Report & Site Inventory.

David N Edwards
&
Ali Osman M. Salih

Mahas Survey Reports No.1.

1992
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Preface:

Following the completion of a successful second field season by the Mahas Survey Project in 1991, it has become clear that the production of substantial interim reports should not be postponed, but these could not easily be published in the normal journals. Recent changes at the University of Khartoum have placed the immediate future of the project and its publication plans in some doubt. In these circumstances it was felt that the best means of presenting our preliminary results, with the minimum of delay, would be through producing low-cost reports in this simple fashion. While it is hoped to produce full and complete final reports over the coming years, this volume will begin to fulfil some of our publication obligations. I hope that a second inventory volume, covering the results of the 1990 season will also be completed this year.

David N Edwards
St. John’s College
Cambridge

15 Aug. 1992

This report was reprinted in 1998, but remains essentially unchanged apart from the correction of a few typographical errors.
Introduction:

The Mahas Survey was formed as a University of Khartoum research project to make a detailed study of this region of Sudanese Nubia. Based in the Department of Archaeology, our primary interest lies in documenting the archaeology and long-term history of the region. The ability of excavation to provide insight and knowledge at a regional level is very restricted [Cherry 1984] and field survey was clearly the best means to achieve our aims. The archaeological survey forms the core of the project and it is hoped over the planned 5-6 seasons of fieldwork to establish the settlement history of the region in some detail as well as carry out more intensive studies of particular periods or sites. Project members have particular research interests in the Post-Meroitic and Islamic periods.

Notwithstanding purely academic research interests, it has been recognized from the start that any new project we undertook could and should take account of the concerns and wider interests of archaeology within the Sudan. One priority is the collection of new data, in the form of site inventories, to provide the database which is essential for any effective management policy for archaeological sites [Vila 1975:1-10]. It has become clear in recent years that the acceleration of development across the country poses an ever-growing threat to the archaeological heritage. However, in the absence of any significant fieldwork in most areas of the country and with the very limited coverage of existing sites and monuments records, there can be little possibility of responding effectively to the piecemeal destruction of sites.

Recognizing the urgent need for new survey data, it was decided from the outset that a pragmatic approach to the conduct of the survey was required. The Dal Survey provides a model for intensive systematic survey but the investment in time and resources that such a programme would involve
was not a realistic option for us. Instead it was necessary to balance our requirements for research data with the need for swift and effective survey work which could reasonably expect to cover this region within a relatively short period of time in the field.

Bearing this in mind, a hierarchy of six levels of survey have been developed to provide a general framework for our activities.

1) The location of sites from documentary records and other sources, e.g.: oral traditions.
2) Initial reconnaissance to verify and check known sites and locate major new sites.
3) Systematic but extensive walking surveys to locate and register a full range of sites.
4) Preliminary identification, classification and recording of sites, to include sketch plotting.
5) Limited site surveys.
6) (i) Full measured ground survey of selected sites; possible sondages.
    (ii) Intensive and Systematic walking surveys of selected areas.

It was recognized that a number of sites might merit more detailed survey and perhaps test excavation, but most of our initial requirements were likely to be met with information gathered up to Level 4. More detailed studies at Levels 5 and 6 would be carried out as and when they were considered appropriate. Full surveys might be carried out on sites of particular importance for our own research interests or considered to be more generally significant. They would also be extended where possible to any sites under imminent threat, in the event that rescue excavations could not be arranged.

At the same time, it was considered that Level 4 information was likely to be sufficient for the needs of the
sites and monuments records. Working within this framework, it was envisaged that the primary "in-depth reconnaissance" of the whole Mahas region, carried out by the core team, could be achieved within 4-5 seasons. Early experience indicated we might expect to produce a preliminary site inventory of something in the order of 500 sites. Doubtless, some sites will be missed, but we are confident that a large proportion of the total will be identified, including most of those still relatively intact within areas under some threat from development. Realistically, if a similar level of survey could be extended across the rest of the country, we could be well satisfied. We can be reasonably confident that those sites we have missed, in more isolated areas or in the desert hinterland, are likely to survive undisturbed for the foreseeable future.

The second season of the Mahas Survey was carried out between 25 November and the end of December 1991. The previous season’s work had completed the primary reconnaissance of the west bank of the Third Cataract zone, from Hannek to Kajbar.\(^1\) This season it was planned to carry out similar work on the east bank and islands of the cataract zone and extend the survey northwards as far as Jebel Sesi - Delgo. In the event, a number of unforeseen developments made it impossible to complete this programme and the primary reconnaissance was only completed to our satisfaction as far north as Mashakeila-Fareig, although some work was carried out in areas further north. The work proved very productive however and 120 sites were registered, most being recorded to Level 4 standards.\(^2\)

This report provides a preliminary inventory of sites registered in 1991, accompanied by a general map of the area surveyed (Fig.1). As other fieldworkers are well aware, the limitations of existing maps within Sudan make the accurate

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2 This brings the total of registered sites to 192; largely within the Cataract region. A further possible 33 sites have been identified from documentary research or during previous visits to the region.
location of sites very difficult without other aids. Unfortunately, as yet it has proved impossible to obtain sets of air photographs of the region to provide an alternative basis for locating sites. It should be recognized that the grid references provided are only provisional, and more detailed mapping will not be available for some time. However, this inadequacy should be rectified during coming seasons when we hope to be able to verify all site locations to a high degree of accuracy with the aid of satellite-based G.P.S. equipment.

The 1991 season was funded by the fieldwork grants from the Faculty of Arts, University of Khartoum with additional funding and support from the Mulvey Fund, University of Cambridge, the Scullard Fund (St.John’s College, Cambridge) and through my State Studentship from the British Academy. We would like to express our thanks to all the team members for their hard work, during an unusually harsh winter and our hosts in Mashakeila. Elsewhere in the Mahas, many others assisted us, in an official or private capacity and we would also like to thank Mokhtar Abdelgadir in Dongola and my old friend Lotfi Sayid Hassan in El Ghaba. We would also like to thank Charles Bonnet and his team at Kerma for their unstinting hospitality, assistance and very valuable professional advice, also Brigitte Gratien and Jacques Reinold.

The 1991 team consisted of:
Dr Ali Osman Mohammed Salih (Project Director)
David N Edwards (Archaeological Field Director)
### Site List:

#### Tombos:

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**Fig. 1:** General map of southern Mahas with sites from 1990 and 1991. [1991 sites on east bank].
TOMBOS

Ref: 91/1
Qubba Abu Fatima 19°41’20”N/30°24’15”E
Settlement & Qubba. Phar - Chr - Isl

The ancient qubba of Abu Fatma lies on a rocky spur measuring c.110 x 45 m., north of the modern village. The tomb overlies the partially collapsed ruins of a stone and mudbrick structure, probably of medieval date. The foundations of stone walls to north and south of the tomb enclose much of the hilltop and a stone ramp descends from the southwest side of the hill towards the river. To the north of the tomb the remains of a further massive mudbrick walls are apparent on the surface, together with large worked granite blocks. Surface material indicates Pharaonic, Christian and Islamic occupation phases.
- The Qubba is still visited as a religious site, and the whole hilltop is vulnerable to stone robbing.

Ref: 91/2
Abu Fatima 19°41’20”N/30°24’20”E
Cemetery Chr - Isl

Southeast of Qubba Abu Fatma, a small cemetery area lies close to modern houses, covering an area of c.50 x 100 m. There are indications of ancient burials and thin scatters of medieval Christian pottery in the area. The cemetery appears little used now although local informants record the existence of special areas reserved for infant burials and for "strangers".
- Endangered by expanding village and roads
Pl.I: 91/1. Qubba Abu Fatma from south, overlying earlier structure.

Pl.II: 91/1. General view of Qubba Abu Fatma from east.
Situated in open land on the edge of cultivation c.1.5 kms. from the river. The site is defined by an earth embankment varying from 1-3 m. high, which local informants suggest was constructed in the 1920s to protect the site from periodic flooding from the Kerma Basin.

Inside the embankment are foundations of an irregular rectilinear structure. The foundations consist of rough blocks of mixed local stone, up to 1 m. wide. A test pit 3 x 1 m. was cut across the north end of the east wall which showed the foundations were only 20-25 cms. deep and heavily disturbed. In the centre of the site is a small stone circle 1.8 m. in diameter, possibly a grave. Close by is a broken block of worked dolomitic marble 110 x 33 x 26 cms.

This site remains enigmatic and only a few Kerma sherds were found within it. The origin of the marble block is also unclear but might again be of Kerma date as this material was frequently used in that period.

- The site is surrounded on 3 sides by cultivation and probably survives only because of the embankment.
Ref: 91/4
Kafrinradiim NE c.19°41’55”N/30°24’45”E
Occupation
Kerma

Northeast of 91/3, in open featureless land with cultivation to west and east, thin scatters of Kerma and possibly earlier sherds and lithic debitage cover an extensive area at least 200 x 400 m. No structural remains visible nor possible graves.
- This area, close to the extreme north end of the Kerma basin lands is directly threatened by expanding irrigated agriculture.

Ref: 91/5
Tombos Doromar 19°42’10”N/30°24’30”E
Cemetery
Isl

At the southeast end of Tombos village, bounded on the south side by a new irrigation canal. A number of large collective tombs are partially exposed in an area covering c.100 x 50 metres. Probably an old Islamic cemetery. A few abraded sherds and lithics recovered in the vicinity are unlikely to be associated.
- The cemetery will undoubtedly be encroached upon by new housing in the near future.
Ref: 91/6
Tombos Ogjinondi 19°42′40″N/30°23′55″E
Quarry
Phar.

The granite quarries at the northeast end of Tombos village were recorded first in the early 19th Century. The well-known abandoned statue, known locally as "Ogjinondi", probably dating to the XXV Dynasty, is the most prominent feature of the site and still attracts many local visitors.

- The village now adjoins the quarry, but poses no immediate threat.

The New Kingdom inscriptions/graffiti of Tombos were recorded in the 19th & early 20th Century. 8 different inscriptions have been recorded, identified as drawings a-h, spread over some 750 m. close to the river at the north end of Tombos village.

a) small inscription of Viceroy Mermosi (Amenhotep III) on the north face of a large boulder.
b) large inscription on sloping face of fallen boulder, originally facing west.
c) small poorly preserved inscription facing east.
d) minor graffiti of Mermosi on small rock just NW of the above.
e) Inscription of Tuthmosis I, c. 400 m. to north of (a-d), c.50 m. from river bank.
f-g) 2 adjacent inscriptions of Tuthmosis I, c.200 m. to north of (e), 75 m. from river.
h) inscription of Tuthmosis I on south facing boulder, c.50 m. from river.

Refs: Lepsius 1913, Dk.V:244; Breasted 1908:47, fig 48.
Pl. IV: 91/7a. Tombos; Inscription of Viceroy Mermosi.
Ref: 91/8
Tombos N 19°42'40"N/30°23'30"E
Occupation
Prehist?

In rocks immediately above inscriptions 91/7 f-g, thin scatters of sherds and some lithic material, of uncertain date, probably representing small camp site(s).

Ref: 91/25
Tombos NE 19°42'45"N/30°24'E
Cemetery
Phar

A small cemetery on the northeast side of Tombos quarry area is marked by extensive sherd spreads and disturbance from robbing. Perhaps 10 tomb locations identifiable, but no exposed superstructures. One grave was examined and can be dated to the later XVIII Dynasty. The tomb had contained several burials in 3 chambers cut over 5 metres into granite. Surface sherds also indicate a Late/Napatan phase especially towards SE side of site, but whether associated with cemetery or adjoining quarry or settlement (91/118) remains unclear.

- Parts of the cemetery area are being eroded by vehicle tracks and are threatened by new cultivation to the east.

Refs: Arkell 1950: 35.
Ref: 91/118
Tombos NE  19°42’45"N/30°24’E
Settlement?
Phar?

Situated on the southeast side of the cemetery 91/25, this is a rectangular area with a cluster of subrectangular stone structures, clustered tightly together; presumed to be low wall foundations. There were very few surface sherds amongst these structures but predominantly Late/Napatan material lying on its northwest side may be associated. The date and function of this site must remain uncertain at present and further work is required here. Some association with the quarries is suggested at present.

Ref: 91/116
Tombos NE  19°42’45"N/30°24’30”E
Occupation
Pre-Kerma +

In open ground, dotted with a few granite outcrops on the desert fringe east of Tombos, thin surface scatters of sherds were noted. The most diagnostic material included a number of Pre-Kerma sherds while others may be of Kerma types.
- While poorly defined as a "site" this material is of interest and much of this area is under threat from new irrigation schemes extending far inland from the river.
GEZIRA TOMBOS:

Ref: 91/12
Diffi 19°42’10”N/30°23’40”E
Fortified Settlement
Chr - Isl

A massive mudbrick fortified complex at the southwest corner of the island. A number of building phases can be recognized in the structure, which in its final phase measured some 125 m. north-south and 45 m. west-east. The original core appears to have been a much smaller enclosure in the northwest corner, probably dating to the medieval period, subsequently much modified. The southern extension is clearly of quite late date and is constructed with the typically large mudbricks often used in the Islamic period. This diffi is one of the largest Islamic sites of this kind so far encountered in the region.
- Much of the southern part of the enclosure now forms an irrigated garden, but there appear to be no immediate threats to the massive structures in the north end.

Ref: 91/22
Tombolintod 19°42’10”N/30°23’40”E
Tomb
Isl

Within the primary courtyard of the Diffi lies the grave of Sheikh Tombol within a small open enclosure, traditionally dated to the 19th Century. This structure is built mainly of redbricks of a variety of sizes, up to 50 cms. long. The tomb is still venerated and is surrounded by a number of ceramic and metal pots and incense burners.
**Pl.V:** 91/12. Core structures of Gezira Tombos Diffi.

**Pl.VI:** 91/22. Tomb of Sheikh Tombol with Diffi courtyard.
Ref: 91/17
Barshambo 19°42’20”N/30°23’45”E
Inscription
Phar

Close beside the grave of Sheikh Barshambo is the Tuthmosid inscription of Ini, cut into the northwest face of a small boulder.
- The inscription appears not to have been further eroded since photographed by Breasted.

Ref: 91/18
Sheikh Barshambo 19°42’20”N/30°23’45”E
Grave
Isl

Located near the south end of a rock outcrop on the east-central area of the island. A small grave outlined in stone, reputedly of Sheikh Barshambo.

Ref: 91/16
Gezira Tombos 19°42’20”N/30°23’40”E
Rock Drawings

A small number of rock drawings among rock outcrops on the east side of the island, close to the modern cemetery area. 2 stations were identified:
a) A single indeterminate animal with a circle above its ‘head’, on a west facing block.
b) A group of 4-5 cattle on a south facing rock, c.40 m. southeast of station (a).
Ref: 91/19
Gezira Tombos 19°42’20″N/30°23’30″E
Occupation
Chr

An extensive area near the centre of the island between the two modern hamlets is now occupied by the Islamic cemetery. Dense scatters of medieval sherds throughout this open land and among rock outcrops to the east indicate the presence of a medieval Christian settlement in the vicinity, although no structural remains were identified.

Ref: 91/13
Gezira Tombos NE 19°42’30″N/30°23’30″E
Inscription
Phar

Located near the northeast corner of the island on a north-facing rock, close to the river channel dividing Gezira Tombos from Dabaki. This is a previously unrecorded Pharaonic graffito, measuring 40 x 26 cms.

Ref: 91/15
Gezira Dabaki S 19°42’45″N/30°23’10″E
Quarry
Phar?

Near the south end of Dabaki island are a number of substantial granite outcrops. A number of exposed quarried faces were noted, worked in the same way as those in the main Tombos quarries (91/6) and perhaps of similar date.
**Pl. VIII:** 91/13. Egyptian graffiti.

**Pl. IX:** 91/15. Gezira Dabaki quarry area.
Near the north end of the island on a prominent rock outcrop overlooking the river are the denuded remains of a massively built mudbrick enclosure, measuring c.75 x 35 m., aligned approximately east-west. Built on a very irregular surface parts of the walls have substantial rough stone foundations while other parts were built directly onto granite boulders. Large areas of brickwork survive in the western corner towers and in the southeast quadrant where walls over 3.5 m. thick survive, more than 4 m. high in places. Large bricks were used measuring c.39 x 20 x 11 cms.

Within the enclosure, the only surviving structure is a small mudbrick church measuring 16.5 x 10.3 m., with walls standing up to 2 m. high, constructed on a substantial mudbrick platform.

While most of the surface sherds appear to be of Christian or Islamic date, dating the main fortified enclosure remains problematic. A number of Pharaonic, probably New Kingdom sherds were found, together with Napatan and perhaps post-Meroitic material in the form of Adams U3 (Ballana 6) amphora sherds. The very poor preservation of most of the massive enclosure walls is also unparalleled among medieval structures in this region, which tend to survive very well. On balance we suggest an early, probably Pharaonic date for the fortification, periodically reoccupied in later periods. Further work is however desirable.

- Gezira Dabaki has no permanent settlements and only a few areas are cultivated by the inhabitants of Gezira Tombos, consequently there are few threats to this or other sites on the island at present.
**Pl. X:** 91/14. Gezira Dabaki Fort. Part of south wall.

**Pl. XI:** 91/14. Gezira Dabaki. Water damaged east wall.
Ref: 91/20
Gezira Dabaki N 19°42′50″N/30°23′E
Cemetery
?
North of the fort, in an open area along the northeast side of the island, a number of very low mounds and a single larger stone covered mound indicate a possible cemetery site. No diagnostic sherds were found.

Ref: 91/21
Gezira Dabaki N 19°42′50″N/30°23′E
Grain silos.
Isl.

Immediately northeast of the fort, a number of circular pits, cut into the silt banks were identified, some still partially exposed. Local information suggests these were 19th Century matmura grain storage pits, deliberately placed in this isolated location for the sake of security.
KABODI:

Ref: 91/23
Gezira Kabodi 19°42'50"N/30°23'10"E
Diffi
Isl

A well preserved fortified mudbrick diffi with corner towers, facing the northern end of Dabaki island.

Ref: 91/38
Kabodi E 19°43'30"N/30°23'30"E
Cemetery
Phar

On the gravel terraces, c. 400 m. east of Kabodi village a little south of a small khor, this small cemetery is marked by a number of scatters of stone, including a number of displaced covering slabs, with some abraded sherd material and bone fragments. It covers an area of c. 50 x 60 m. with probably less than 10 graves.
- the graves lie close to an area currently used for gravel digging, which may encroach on the site.

Ref: 91/11
Kabodi NE 19°43'40"N/30°23'40"E
Occupation
Kerma

On the south side of the khor running down to Kabodi village, c. 800 m. east of the houses close to minor rock outcrops. The site is marked by a number of scatters of Kerma sherds with no evidence for structural remains. A few
lithics and sherds were recovered near prominent outcrops immediately north of the khor.

Ref: 91/40
Hillat Sheikh Mohammed Fadol SE 19°44'15"N/30°23'E
Occupation
Prehist - Chr

Southeast of the hamlet on gravel spreads east of the road are extensive scatters of lithic material and sherds. Closer to the houses around large boulders are further spreads of Christian medieval sherds. Among the rocks, one delicately balanced boulder has remarkable resonant qualities and has a number of small depressions pecked into its face.

Ref: 91/39
Hillat Sheikh Mohammed Fadol 19°44'30"N/30°23'E
Rock Drawings

Two small groups of rockdrawings on large granite boulders close to the hamlet on its south side.

a) 3 drawings close together on east facing boulders east of the road close to khor.

b) Drawings including giraffe and antelope? on boulders west of the road, just north of the modern cemetery.

Ref: 91/41
Hillat Sh. Mohammed Fadol NE 19°44'40"N/30°23'10"E
Grave
Isl

North of the rock outcrops, east of the road, a single grave outlined in stone. Not apparently associated with one individual but known as "Safa Merwa".
Ref: 91/43
Hillat al Arab S 19°45’N/30°22’20”E
Occupation
Chr

The area of halfa covered dunes and cultivation close to the river, south of the village has considerable scatters of Christian pottery although the site of presumed settlement was not located.

Ref: 91/42
Hillet al Arab 19°45’10”N/30°22’30”E
Fortified Settlement?
Chr?

At the south end of the village, on a line of halfa-covered dunes close to the river, extensive spreads of rubble mark the site of a large fortified site. The outline of its east side survives with a heavy stone wall 50 m. long with corner towers and defended gateway in its central section. Little trace of the western side of the site survives, possibly buried beneath the sand or eroded by the river. No diagnostic sherd material was recovered and it remains to be confirmed that the site is of medieval date.
SIMIT:

Ref: 91/35
Simit S 19°46’N/30°22’30”E
Occupation
Prehist

Immediately east of the road, on open ground below a low terrace are extensive spreads of lithic debitage and Neolithic sherds, extending over a distance of some 150m. north-south. Within this area a single low mound of stone may mark a grave, of unknown date.

- This site lies very close to the road and is clearly very vulnerable to increasing traffic.

Ref: 91/37
Simit E 19°46’40”N/30°22’10”E
Cemetery
Prehist?

This site lies on the southeast side of the wide khor mouth which drains from the northeast. Extensive spreads of lithics, abraded sherds and bone fragments suggest a disturbed cemetery site. Much of the area shows signs of water erosion as well as considerable recent disturbance by vehicle traffic.
Ref: 91/36
Simit E 19°47'30"N/30°2'E
Graves?
Prehist?

On a low pebble covered terrace on the north side of the khor is a rather amorphous scatter of stone, perhaps one or more circular structures. A thin scatter of lithic debitage was noted in the vicinity and extending 50 m. to the southeast. No sherd material was found.

Pl.XII. 91/35. Possible grave superstructures from west.
Ref: 91/34
Salamaniki E 19°47’30"N/30°21’20"E
Habitation
Prehist?

Within an area of broken sandstone northeast of 91/33 on a low hill. This rectilinear structure measuring c.12 x 7 m. is built of rough stone blocks, including a number of larger slabs set vertically. No surface artefacts were found but an early date seems likely.

Ref: 91/33
Salamaniki 19°47’30"N/30°21’20"E
Rock Drawings.

Due north of the hamlet, some 300 m. from the road on the east side of a narrow gully used for gravel extraction. A single boulder has two drawings of cattle together with a number of indeterminate scratchings.

Ref: 91/32
Simit E 19°47’30"N/30°21’E
Cemetery
Pre-Kerma & Kerma

On open land 200 m. east of the road, northeast of the Cable Crossing to Simit island. The cemetery appears as a spread of small stone clusters and low mounds formed by erosion, extending over some 200 m. parallel to the river. Sherds include pre-Kerma and Early Kerma material.
Ref: 91/31
Simit E 19°47’40”N/30°20’20”E
Occupation
Prehist

West of 91/30, close to the road along the west side of minor rock outcrops, a number of small gravel patches and clusters of stone are associated with thin lithic scatters and abraded, probably Neolithic sherds.

Ref: 91/30
Simit E 19°47’40”N/30°20’30”E
Graves
Chr

Just southwest of a prominent conical hill on the east side of the road. A line of 4 graves with poorly preserved rectangular stone superstructures aligned east-west. Nearby in areas much disturbed by small gravel diggings, scatters of medieval Christian pottery were noted as well as other possibly disturbed graves.
SADEIK:

Ref: 91/63
Maygooma S  19°48’30"N/30°19’25"E
Graves
Chr

On an area of ancient silt banks below prominent rocky terraces south of the hamlet of Maygooma. Close to an area heavily quarried for gravel, a cluster of at least 4 Christian graves with low, rectangular stone superstructures.

Pl.XIII.

Ref: 91/64
Maygooma SE  19°48’30"N/30°18’25"E
Occupation
Kerma

On the rocky terraces above 91/63, scatters of lithic material and sherds, including Early Kerma material, but no structural remains. The site is 3.5 kms. north of the Simit ferry landing.

Ref: 91/24
Sadeik E approx. 19°49’20"N/30°20’E

On the north side of the desert track into Sadeik from the east, some 3?kms. east of the village. Two low circular stone structures c.3 m. in diameter, probably grave
superstructures. No surface finds were recovered and dating remains uncertain.

Pl.XIV.

Pl.XIII. 91/63. Christian graves.
Pl.XIV. 91/24. Stone structures

Ref: 91/65
Sadeik madrasa
Occupation
Chr

Within the modern settlement close to the school, and in open ground to the east, thin scatters of medieval Christian pottery indicate the presence of a settlement in the locality, probably masked by modern houses and cultivation.

Ref: 91/66
Sadeik N
Necropolis
Kerma - Chr
North of Sadeik village, west of the road in open flat land bounded by rock outcrops to east and west. A considerable area covering several hectares is covered with scatters of disturbed stone clusters, some of which at least are tomb superstructures. A large area towards the south has been cleared of rocks and stones for a football pitch. Elsewhere, surface sherds include both Kerma and medieval Christian material. The surface scatters northwards shows only a brief gap before the southern end of site 91/51.

Ref: 91/51
Sadeik N 19°50′N/30°18′20″E
Cemetery
Kerma

In open land bounded by high rock outcrops to both east and west, the road passes through eastern side of an large cemetery area extending over some 500 m. north-south. A single well preserved circular structure 3 m. in diameter lies close to the road, but other probable graves are indicated by disturbed clusters of small stones, sherd scatters and some bone fragments. Most pottery appears to be of Late Kerma date, although some material may be of later date.
HABARAB

Ref: 91/50
Habarab S  
Graves
Kerma

Close to the mouth of a khor, 200 m. east of the road, a single cairn and 4 small mounds of stone <1 m. in diameter lie on ancient gravel and silt banks cut through by the khor. A small number of Kerma sherds were recovered from an area of less than a hectare surrounding these mounds, but may not be associated.

Ref: 91/49
Iraw W  

19°51′20″N/30°19′E
Occupation
Chr

West of the road in cultivated areas and low halfa grass covered dunes, intermittent scatters of Christian pottery indicate the presence of a medieval settlement in the locality.

Ref: 91/48
Iraw E  \(19°51′20″N/30°19′E\)
Occupation
Pre-Kerma & Kerma

This site just to the south of the hamlet of Iraw, covers an area of some 2 hectares with the road cutting through its western side, and rock outcrops bounding it to the east. Surface remains consist of extensive scatters of lithics and sherds which include both Pre-Kerma and Early Kerma material.

Ref: 91/47
Serreig  \(19°52′N/30°19′E\)
Settlement
Chr

Lying 200 m. west of the road, 2 poorly preserved buildings lie along the north and west side of a small rock outcrop on the edge of cultivation. The main structure measures some 20 m. square and is built of mud and rough stone, the other structure is built of mudbrick on stone foundations. Surface sherds indicate a Christian settlement, probably of quite late date.

Ref: 91/45
Habarab SE  \(19°52′15″N/30°19′E\)
Occupation
Prehistoric?

Thin scatters of early pottery, probably Neolithic were noted in a disturbed area used for gravel extraction 250 m. southeast of the village. This may be a disturbed cemetery site.

Ref: 91/46
Habarab E 19°52'20"N/30°19'10"E
Habitation
Prehistoric?

In rock outcrops east of the southern end of the village a small subcircular stone structure is associated with a thin scatter of lithics and sherds, probably Neolithic.

Ref: 91/44
Habarab madrasa 19°52'20"N/30°19'E
Occupation
Chr

Immediately south of the village in cultivated areas and among small rock outcrops are extensive scatters of Christian sherds, indicating a medieval settlement in the vicinity. No structural remains were noted.

Ref: 91/67
Awai Pagiriki c.19°53'20"N/30°19'20"E
Village
Chr

To the north of the hamlet on a rocky seasonal island, a cluster of well-preserved stone built ‘blockhouse’ buildings of medieval Christian types were noted, but not further examined.
- This area is very sparsely inhabited and no immediate threat to these buildings seems likely.

Ref: 91/61
Qubba Fagir Arabi 19°53’N/30°19’30”E
Qubba Tombs
Isl

A well preserved mudbrick qubba lies at the edge of the modern Islamic cemetery. Close by lies the lower walls of a further ruined or unfinished tomb. Local tradition suggests that the Qubba is that of the supposed founder of the settlement. However numerous fragments of Christian pottery noted within the modern cemetery area suggest an earlier settlement in the vicinity.

Pl.XV.
Ref: 91/62
Fagiriki 19°53’N/30°19’40”E
Diffi
Isl

To the east of the cemetery, a partially preserved mudbrick Diffi, probably no older than the 19th Century stands at the east end of the village. Just to the south across the road stands a large rectangular structure of jalus faced with stone, of unknown date.

Pl.XVI.

Pl. XVI: 91/62. Diffi from south.
Ref: 91/57
Hambukol Fogo W 19°53′20″N/30°20′E
Occupation ?

Just to the west of the hamlet among rocky hills north of the road, towards the river, a number of low wall lines were noted running approximately east-west and at least 2 small stone shelters. These structures may be quite modern although occasional medieval sherds may be found among the rocks.

Ref: 91/58
Hambukol Fogo 19°53′10″N/30°20′10″E
Rock Drawings

Two small groups of drawings were noted:

(a) south of the road near the west end of the village on steep rock outcrops. A group of 4 uncertain animal figures, a human figure & a 5-pointed star cover the north face of a large boulder and a group of poorly defined animal figures lie on the south face.

(b) 2 more drawings were north of the road among rocky hills between the village and the river.

Ref: 91/59
Hambukol Deimi c.19°53′30″N/30°20′10″E
Diffi
Isl

North of Fogo hamlet beyond a seasonal river channel, a large stone-built Diffi lies on the north bank of an island. The site was not further investigated.
Ref: 91/60
Hambukol Fogo 19°53'20"N/30°20'10"E
Graves
?

Just above the hamlet on its north side a number of graves were noted cut into the hillside, aligned near north-south. One example was seen which had been recently pillaged. Their date remains uncertain but the few sherds seen may be post-Meroitic.

Ref: 91/56
Hambukol 19°53'10"N/30°20'30"E
Rock Drawing

Some 500 m. west of the school a single drawing of a boat lies on the south face of a large boulder on the north side of the road.

Ref: 91/54
Hambukol madrasa 19°53'15"N/30°20'40"E
Diffi
Isl

At the east end of the village, close to the river is a well preserved Islamic period Diffi built of mud and stone. This is of unusual construction with notably rounded corners.
Ref: 91/54
Hambukol E

Occupation
Prehistoric?

Southeast of the school at the edge of the village, a thin scatter of lithics and early pottery was noted in a heavily eroded area between small boulder outcrops, between the road and the river.
MASIDA

Ref: 91/76
Gezira Masida 19°53'20"N/30°23'E
Rock Drawings

Two stations were noted on this small island:

a) In a prominent position at the west end of the island on a large west-facing boulder is a single large figure of a man carrying a spear, reminiscent of another better executed drawing within Masida church (91/29). Differences in technique and patination indicate that the 2 crude drawings of cattle on the same boulder are unlikely to be contemporary.

b) Some 75 m. to the east on rocky southern slopes is a single, poorly executed human figure, possibly of quite recent date.

Ref: 91/77
Gezira Masida 19°53'20"N/30°23'20"E
Occupation
Chr

In the central area of the island, extensive scatters of medieval sherds indicate the presence of a Christian settlement, probably buried beneath modern buildings.
Ref: 91/75
Masida W  
Occupation
Prehistoric?

Lying opposite the west end of Masida Island, a number of low stone walls were noted running over the rocky hills. A number of crude shelters built amongst the large boulders were also noted. Dating remains uncertain although a small number of possibly early sherds were found among the rocks.

Ref: 91/74
Barja W (Arduan)  
Diffi
Isl?

A prominent, well preserved Diffi built of mud and stone was noted in the village of Barja West on Arduan, opposite the north end of Gezira Masida. No further recording was carried out.

Ref: 91/29
Masida Church  
Built amongst large boulders of a small rocky spur running west from J. Barja, this small well-preserved mudbrick church measures 7 x 10 m. and in places stands over 4 m. tall.
Ref: 91/52
Masida 19°52'30"N/30°23'30"E
Rock Drawings

Three rock drawing stations were found on rocky spurs running west of J. Barja.

a) The east end of the church is built against a massive boulder on which there are drawings of a large human figure with a spear and 2 animal figures. While no good parallels for this drawing are known, a Meroitic date might be suggested.

b) 100 m. west of the church on the high on the north side of the spur is a finely executed figure of an elephant. Closeby is another unidentifiable animal figure.

c) On the south face of the next spur to the north, a further large but very schematic elephant figure is drawn on a low-lying boulder.

Refs: Station (b): Allard-Huard & Huard 1983:48, Fig.29.5.

Ref: 91/53
Masida 19°52’30"N/30°23’30"E
Occupation
Prehist?

At the east end of the valley between the ridges running west from J.Barja, northeast of the church (91/29), a thin scatter of sherds was noted and a small stone structure, partially covered by blown sand.
Ref: 91/68
J. Barja SW  19°52′30″N/30°23′30″E
Habitation?
Kerma?

On the west side of the road running up the Wadi Farjar is a low rectangular structure with a central divide, measuring 12 m. square. It is built of large stone slabs up to 1 m. long. The 2 halves of the structure are solid throughout and no evidence for a superstructure was noted. No surface finds were directly associated with this enigmatic structure, but a few Kerma sherds were recovered in the vicinity.
- The southeast corner of the structure was slightly damaged during recent road improvements, but there no further threats to the site were noted.

Ref: 91/69
J. Barja SW  19°52′30″N/30°23′30″E
Rock Drawings

200 m. to the north of 91/68 on the slope of the boulder covered hills is a group of 11 drawings on a single east-facing boulder, visible from the open ground below.
Ref: 91/70
J. Barja W 19°52’30"N/30°23’30"E
Occupation
Kerma

On slightly raised ground at the foot of the rocks on the west side of the wadi road are dense scatters of Kerma sherds, some lithics and a number of small grindstones and pounders. No structural remains were seen although the site was marked by an amorphous scatter of stones.

Pl.XVII.
Pl. XVII. 91/70. View over area of Kerma occupation.  
(Site 91/72 across wadi at foot of rocks)

Ref: 91/71
J. Barja NW 19°52'30"N/30°23'30"E
Habitation?
?

On the NE side of the road some 200 m. SW of the church (91/29) in the wadi floor are 2 prominent subcircular structures, 5 m. in diameter. Their walls are built of rough stone and stand up to 1 m. high. No dateable material was found around either structure.

Ref: 91/72
J. Barja 19°52'30"N/30°23'30"E
Occupation
Kerma

Near the foot of the jebel, on the east side of the wadi, opposite site 91/70, a further Kerma site is marked by an amorphous scatter of rubble in an area of slightly elevated ground. Kerma sherds and some lithics were recovered from an area of under a hectare. The site has clearly been much eroded by a number of small gullies.

Pl.XVII.

WADI FARJAR & HINTERLAND.

Ref: 91/26
Wadi Farjar  19°50’20"N/30°24’E
Habitation?

On a low gravel ridge overlooking the west side of wadi Farjar is a small well defined rectangular stone enclosure, probably a small hut, measuring 4 x 5 m. A few abraded sherds of undiagnostic red wheelmade pottery were noted.
Ref: 91/27
Wadi Farjar 19°51’N/30°23’40”E
Habitation Kerma

About 1 km. north of 91/26 at the base of the rocky slopes on the west side of the wadi is a small but massively built stone structure, constructed on a low mound. The mass of collapsed rubble within a small area suggests a tower-like structure. On its north side are 2 small mounds covered with spreads of rubble. Dense scatters of pottery around the structure include Middle Kerma material.

Ref: 91/28
Wadi Farjar c.19°51’N/30°24’E
Wall Complex

Along the Wadi Farjar, an extensive system of stone walls were noted both running along the edge of the wadi and across it. A number of cross-wadi walls can be seen to disappear beneath deep deposits of wadi fill. The full extent of the complex has yet to be defined and dating evidence is still lacking. While further detailed work is required here, this system has many characteristics of a water harvesting agricultural system and an early, perhaps Kerma date might be suggested.
Ref: 91/9  19°49'15"N/30°24'E
Occupation
Pre-Kerma?

This site lies on an elevated area of ancient soils lying on the west side of the wadi track, bounded by low rocky outcrops. It covers an area of 2-3 hectares and is marked by thin scatters of sherds, lithics and occasional grindstones.

Ref: 91/10  19°47'40"N/30°24'E
Occupation
Prehist?

Lying close to the west side of the track running south from the Wadi Farjar in a largely featureless plain. The site is marked by a linear scatter of cobbles and small stone blocks covering an area of over 1 hectare. Surface finds were limited to a thin scatter of sherds and lithics.
BARJA

Ref: 91/78
Barja Aliiki  19°53’20"N/30°23’50"E
Fortified Village
Chr - Isl

This fortified village covers an area of some 0.4 hectares, on two prominent hills overlooking the river channel on the south side of Arduan island. The enclosure walls are relatively well preserved but few of the internal structures now survive except for a well-built blockhouse on the east side, measuring some 7 m. square. Surface sherds include Late and Terminal Christian and Islamic material.
- Situated beside a small but expanding village, many of the internal structures have been levelled in recent years, and the site continues to suffer smallscale damage.

Refs: Waddington & Hanbury 1822:35.

Pls.XIX-XX.
Pl. XIX: 91/78. General view of site from northeast.

Pl. XX: Medieval “Blockhouse” structure on east side of site.
FAD EAST

Ref: 91/79
Fad East       19°54′20″N/30°25′E
Graves        Chr

Close to the border between the villages of Barja and Fad on the east side of the road is a small group of Christian graves. Five of these have well preserved rectangular stone superstructures. A number of other graves pits can be seen where their stone covering slabs have partially collapsed.

Pl.XXI.

A little north of 91/79 is an area of disturbance with scatters of small stones and gravel. A thin scatter of sherds included handmade Early Meroitic material, probably dating to the 1st Century BC.

Among cultivated areas close to the river near the river crossing to Arduan, dense scatters of Christian pottery were found around 2 low rock outcrops. The sherds may have been cleared from the surrounding fields.

In the modern village between the road and the river is a small Diffi, probably of quite late date.
NAURI

Ref: 91/82
Jebel Nauri W 19°55’45"N/30°25’45"E
Fortified Village
Chr - Isl

The site of a large stone-built fortified village lies on the northeast side of this prominent hill. Parts of the eastern enclosure wall survives but most of the internal structures have been reduced to rubble. The interior is covered with a dense scatter of Christian as well as Islamic sherds, from as early as the Classic Christian period. A medieval document in Old Nubian was recovered from this site by Terence Grey in 1924 and published by Griffith. A number of further smaller medieval structures were built on a narrow ledge cut into the face of the jebel. Overhanging rocks along this ledge on the south side of the hill are decorated with a large number of small paintings in red, probably of Christian date. The lower part of the ruins adjoin an Islamic settlement which remained in continuous occupation until very recently.


Pl.XXII.
Pl. XXII: 91/82. View over ruined lower enclosure with recently abandoned settlement beyond.
On the west face of the eastern jebel is the wellknown stela of Sethos I, published by Griffith. On the east side of the stela there is the outline of a second small inscription measuring 42 x 50 cms. which has been almost completely erased. It is unclear whether this predated or postdated the main stela.

Ref: Griffith 1927.

There area between the 2 hills, now largely cultivated or covered with date palms has thin scatters of Christian and Islamic sherds across it, possibly indicating another small settlement.

In the modern cemetery area, NW of the Qubbas a scatter of Kerma sherds was recorded among the graves and near the cemetery edge.
Ref: 91/86
Qubba Fagir Hussein  19°55'30"N/30°27'E
Qubba tombs
Isl

Within the modern cemetery area is a prominent, well-preserved mudbrick Qubba tomb, 9 m. in diameter. At the extreme north side of the cemetery close to the old road are the foundations of a further ruined or perhaps uncompleted qubba.

Pl.XXIII.
MASHAKEILA

Ref: 91/87
Mashakeila W 19°55’20"N/30°27’20"E
Occupation
Kerma

On the east side of the khor which divides Nauri from Mashakeila a number of Kerma sherds were recovered from an area heavily disturbed by digging and natural erosion.

Ref: 91/96
Mashakeila 19°55’30"N/30°27’45"E
Diffi
Isl

This large diffi lies near the west end of the village close to the main mosque and is reputed to overlie more ancient ruins. The main tower is constructed of jalus with mudbrick superstructure. The enclosure walls are built of jalus and are now linked to a number of other modern buildings.

Pl.XXIV.
Pl.XXIV. 91/96. Mashakeila Diffi from southwest.
Ref: 91/88
Hajiniki Foog 19°55’10”N/30°28”E
Graves
Pre-Kerma?

In the barren rocky areas of the desert edge on the south side of the village, scatters of early sherds including Pre-Kerma material was noted over an area of 0.5 hectare. Concentrations of sherds along rock overhangs suggest the presence of a number of "cleft graves", of which one well preserved example was firmly identified.
- This area has been damaged in recent years by stone quarrying and a serious threat remains to this important site.

Ref: 91/89
Odoliki 19°55’40”N/30°28’E
Qubba
IsI

The partially collapsed Qubba of Sheikh Abdalla stands in the modern cemetery area on the eastern side of Hajiniki.

Ref: 91/90
Armed Diffi 19°55’40”N/30°28’20”E
Diffi
IsI

This well preserved Diffi lies on the west side of Henbon mosque within the modern village. It is built largely of stone with mudbrick capping to the walls. The present structure is of no great antiquity.
Ref: 91/91

Armed Kourfa

Diffi

Isl

This Diffi is sited within the area of cultivation and dates to the 19th Century or earlier. The structure has 3 towers built of mudbrick and stone, linked with a jalousie and stone enclosure wall. The use of the name kourfa is unusual in this area.

Pl.XXV.

Pl.XXV. 91/91. Armed Kourfa from east.
Ref: 91/ 95
Diffi Abdalliki  \[19^\circ 55'40''N/30^\circ 28'30''E\]
Diffi
Isl

This Diffi is still inhabited having been partially rebuilt as the house of Mohammed Abdalla Habela. The stone enclosure walls survive on 3 sides together with 2 towers on the south side. The northern side of the building has been rebuilt to a modern design.

Ref: 91/94
Diffi Abdelhamiid \[19^\circ 55'40''N/30^\circ 28'40''E\]
Diffi
Isl

This Diffi lies at the extreme east end of Mashakeila in an area also known as Naimiki. The main tower is constructed with stone foundations and a mudbrick superstructure and still retains its second storey and roof. The enclosure walls and small corner towers are built of jalus.

Pl.XXVI.
Pl. XXVI. Mashakeila. Diffi Abdelhamiid.
FAREIG

Ref: 91/92
Amankinya 19°55’40"N/30°29’E
Occupation
Kerma

On a low hill of black basalt at the west end of Fareig village, just north of the road. The hill shows signs of considerable disturbance, especially on its northeast side. A number of possible grave pits were visible on the surface as well as a small number of small cairns. These may be associated with a few Kerma sherds, lithics and possibly earlier sherd material. Some excavation would be required to confirm the presence of graves.

Ref: 91/93
Sheriffiki 19°55’55"N/30°29’20"E
Diffi
Islamic

Close to the west end of Fareig, a mudbrick Diffi of quite recent date lies at the centre of this small hamlet on the edge of cultivation, northeast of 91/92. No detailed record has yet been made.
Ref: 91/109
Halasaabirki 19°55'30"N/30°30'20"E
Occupation?
Kerma - Mer

This site lies at the extreme eastern end of Fareig, due south of the large bridge which carries the irrigation canal across a wide khor. The site forms a low eroded mound of ancient silt, over at least a hectare, covered with small stones and a thin scatter of sherds. Surface sherds include Kerma as well as a small amount of Meroitic material. The scatter of stones may come from eroded grave superstructures.

- The site is now cut by the Fareig-Geddi road and while at present lying in open ground between the 2 villages is clearly threatened by the swift expansion of settlement in this area.
**SABU**

Ref: 91/120
Sabu 19°55’30”N/30°32’30”E

Rock Drawings

Numerous groups of rock drawings of many different periods cover the rugged sandstone cliffs along the sharp river bend between the villages of Geddi and Sabu. A number of important groups are found along the edges of a narrow wadi running inland. This is the largest rock drawing site so far seen in the region.


Ref: 91/104
Jebel Wahaba 19°57’15”N/30°34’E.

Rock Drawings

There are a number of groups of rock drawings along the steep cliffs on the southwest side of Jebel Wahaba, overlooking the cataract. These include a number of drawings of giraffes, one example with an Egyptian graffiti superimposed as well as a numerous cattle and mounted figures.
The ruins of a small fortified settlement cover the summit of this rocky hill directly overlooking the Kajbar rapids at the north end of the 3rd Cataract. Two groups of buildings are visible within, one using stone construction and one large mudbricks. Surface material suggests occupation in the later Christian and Islamic periods. The mudbrick construction is probably to be associated with the later period.


Near the foot of the hill on its southeast side a number of graves lie within a small open area bounded by rocks on 3 sides. Little remains of any superstructures but the graves are probably Islamic. Nearer to the road a few remnants survive of a mudbrick structure built on a rock outcrop.

In an area of undulating ancient silt close to the foot of the hill there is evidence for a small Christian cemetery. Some graves have low, but well preserved rectangular superstructures oriented east-west. On higher ground on the west side of the cemetery there are a number of probable infant burials in amphorae partially exposed.
KADEIN

Ref: 91/111
Kidnutti 19°58′25″N/30°34′55″E
Habitation?
?

150 m. southwest of 91/110, ruins of a large stone structure were noted close to the river bank in sandy areas covered with halfa grass. Little of this structure survives beyond a large spread of tumbled rubble, although the lines of a few walls 1 m. thick were visible. No diagnostic pottery was recovered from the site. Just to the north lies a well preserved stone-lined saqia pit, probably not of great antiquity.

Ref: 91/110
Kadein 19°58′30″N/30°35′E
Graves
X-Group

Immediately south of the border between Fareig and Delgo District Councils there is a small cluster of low tumuli on the east side of the road. The largest tumulus is 17 m. in diameter, its sides are covered with a dense layer of small black stones while the interior is clean silt and sand. To the south, 40% of another second large tumulus 15 m. in diameter has been destroyed during roadworks. A small number of surface sherds are quite consistent with post-Meroitic material from more northern regions.

While 2 tumuli have been damaged by the road, no further immediate threat to the site was noted in this uninhabited area.
Pl. XXVIII.
Pl. XXVIII: Kadein Tumulus.
KEDURMA

Ref: 91/108
Kedurma S 19°59'30"N/30°35'30"E
Habitation Kerma

In open ground east of the road below the low rocky terraces, a large rectangular structure covering 0.5 hectare. A number of wall lines are visible on the surface showing construction both in stone and mudbrick. The surface is covered with dense scatters of Kerma sherds with a number of stone pounders and grindstone fragments.

- The south side of the site has been slightly damaged by quarrying for recent road improvements but otherwise this area is uninhabited and no immediate threats were noted.
An extensive Meroitic settlement lies between the road and the river in open ground immediately north of Kedurma village covering about 3 hectares. The northern end of the site has been damaged by the recent construction of an irrigation canal. Beyond this well established cultivation may mask further elements of the site. South of the canal a complex of mudbrick buildings is visible on the surface on 3 sides of a large well-preserved structure 18 m. square which stands over 1 m. high. Further south a large mound of sand covers a further large structure or structures. Towards the southeast corner of the site there are indications of a pottery kiln.

The site was visited by the excavators of Sesibi in 1938 who noted the presence of small temple on the site, but no trace of this has yet been found.

- This important site is clearly threatened by the new agricultural scheme and its east side has also been cut through by the road to Delgo. Immediate action is needed to ensure its preservation.
East of 91/97, parts of an extensive Meroitic cemetery have been heavily damaged by bulldozing during the construction of the irrigation canal. Surface cleaning of parts of the damaged area identified at least 10 graves. Over several of these the foundations of mudbrick 'pyramid'? superstructures still survived. Pottery recovered from damaged graves may be dated provisionally to the 1st Century AD.

From the surface of the cemetery parts of 2 'Ba' statues were recovered as well as a large fragment of a stone lintel. Just north of the canal, amorphous clusters of small black stones may mark a small number of post-Meroitic tumuli. A small number of Kerma sherds and a stone potters tool were also recovered indicating earlier occupation in the vicinity.

- Much of the southern end of the cemetery is directly threatened by planned new cultivation while other areas are already covered by unfinished buildings built in recent years.
Ref: 91/107
Kedurma N 20°02'40"N/30°36'20"E
Occupation
Chr

Just north of the road bridge crossing a deep khor are extensive spreads of Christian pottery in an area cut through by the old Kerma railway. No structural remains were seen and some vitrified material suggests the possibility of a small medieval pottery kiln in the vicinity.

Ref: 91/114
Jebel Kadamusa S 20°03'35"N/30°35'30"E
Cemetery
Isl

On the south side of Jebel Kadamusa is a small cemetery with simple north-south graves and others with low rectangular superstructures or enclosure walls. On the south side of the cemetery are 2 large domed tombs with rectangular bases of a type not otherwise seen in this region. Within the cemetery a small number of lithic fragments and possible Kerma sherds were also noted.

Pl.XXIX.
Ref: 91/113
Jebel Kadamusa 20°03'40"N/30°35'30"E
Settlement
Isl

On a prominent rocky hill overlooking the river, opposite the south end of Narnarti is a irregular but substantial enclosed settlement covering over 2 hectares. The enclosure wall is built of stone but a number of well preserved internal structures are built with very unusual long mudbricks of a type not seen elsewhere in the region. The larger bricks measure 44 x 36 x 8 cms. with some up to 50 cms. long. Surface sherds are undiagnostic handmade Islamic types. At the riverside there is a large stonebuilt jetty or breakwater built out into the river, presumably providing a protected landing place for boats.


Pl.XXX.
Pl.XIX: Jebel Kadamusa, Tomb.
DELGO

Ref: 91/117
Jebel Aggeteri 20°06‘20"N/30°34‘20"E
Fortified Settlement
Isl

At the foot of the cliffs on the west side of the mountain are the poorly preserved remains of a large stone-built enclosed settlement. A few walls still stand but the site is largely reduce to rubble. Surface material is mainly handmade Islamic material, but the site would appear to have been abandoned by the early 19th Century.

Ref: 91/115
Delgo Hospital 20°07‘N/30°33‘50"
Habitation
?

West of the hospital buildings within the cultivated area is a prominent mound 2 m. high of sand covering a ruined mudbrick building. Parts of further damaged structures can been seen within the garden towards the river. Surface sherds included undiagnostic wheelmade sherds including some possible Egyptian imports. No Christian material was noted but the date remains uncertain at present.
WEST BANK:

SESI

Ref: 91/99
Sesibi  20°06’25"N/30°32’40"E
Town
Phar

The well-known New Kingdom settlement of Sesibi was extensively excavated in the 1930’s. While making a brief inspection of the site, large numbers of Late Period, probably Napatan sherds were noted on the spoil heaps on the west side of the town indicating the presence of a hitherto unrecognized late occupation on the site.

     P.Rose (pers.comm)

Ref: 91/100
Sesibi  20°06’25"N/30°32’30"E
Cemetery
Phar

To the west and southwest of the town are two areas of graves, excavated in the 1930s but as yet unpublished. It was noted that the mudbrick superstructures of a number of the graves were still well preserved and the opportunity exists for further work in this area to elaborate on the surviving records of the original excavations.
Ref: 91/101
Sesi Kasanta 20°07'N/30°32'40"E
Necropolis
Post-Meroitic (X-Group) - Chr

An large cemetery with both X-Group tumuli and Christian graves lies west of Kasanta hamlet, southwest of Jebel Sesi. The cemetery covers at least 5 hectares with at least 20 prominent stone covered tumuli and numerous smaller cairns at its south end. The largest measure 20 m. in diameter and some have barrel-vaulted substructures using both mudbrick and red brick. Two tumuli were excavated during the 1930s but remain unpublished as yet.
- A number of tumuli have already disappeared beneath the village on the east and south side of the cemetery. Further house building and well digging poses a serious threat to the site as a whole.

Jebel Sesi beyond.

Ref: 91/102
Sesi N
Graves 20°07'40"N/30°32'40"E
Chr

A small number of scattered graves were noted near the northwest side of the jebel and among the houses in this area. Some cut into rocky areas near the foot of the jebel have been disturbed.

Ref: 91/103
Jebel Sesi 20°07'15"N/30°33'15"E
Fortified Town
X-Group & Chr & Isl

This prominent hill is surrounded with a massive stone girdle wall with a large gateway on its south side. The slopes on the east face of the hill are covered with the ruins of a large settlement of stone houses, while a small number of larger structures survive within the higher northern part of the main enclosure. Surface sherds include a wide range of Christian and Islamic material while a few sherds of late X-Group types indicate earlier occupation, presumably associated with the large cemetery below. According to local tradition the site retained some significance until recent times and was regarded as a focal point for the Mahas 'kings' based in Koka to the south. Refs: Cailliaud 1826, Vol I:386.
Bibliography: