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Lost Heritage: An In-depth Study of Disappeared Archaeological Sites in Kafr El-Sheikh, Egypt

Karim Ahmed Abdelfattah Ali

Lecturer at Tourism Guidance Department, Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Mansoura
University

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Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate is a home to a significant number of archaeological sites as it is clear from the list of archaeological sites in this governorate issued by the Ministry of Antiquities; however, it has been observed by the researcher that Some of the sites on this list have now vanished. Hence, the present study aims to identify the factors affecting the disappearance of numerous archaeological sites in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate, Egypt, a phenomenon that may cause the loss of other archaeological sites in the governorate. To achieve this aim, the study employed the CORONA satellite and Google Earth program, coupled with a KMZ file enabling the visualization of Egypt in 1914. By analyzing data from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the Egypt Exploration Society, the researcher explored 11 vanished sites and scrutinized the reasons behind their extinction. Based on the findings of this study, Urban sprawl emerges as a major factor contributing to the destruction of several sites, notably, Kom El Haddadi, Tell Atal es-Shinawy, Sandala, Kom el Dahab and Kom Dababa. Further, the encroachment of villages onto these archaeological sites impedes excavation efforts and exposes them to looting through illegal activities beneath village homes. Furthermore, the establishment of cemeteries on hills such as Kom El Haddadi and Kom el Dahab contributes to the degradation of these historical sites. The research also highlights the impact of industrialization on archaeological hills, citing examples such as fish farms at Kom el Maita el Bahari and Kom el Filus, an industrial area at Kom el Shagara, and grain storage silos at Kom el Matiur. By identifying these root causes, some practical implications for the preservation and sustainable management of Egypt's rich archaeological heritage have been suggested.

Introduction

Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate is one of the richest governorates in Egypt with archaeological sites, as according to the list issued in 2001 by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and has not changed, it includes 78 archaeological sites, including 65

archaeological sites owned by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and 13 sites under Antiquities Protection Law. The following tables highlight archaeological sites in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate according to ownership:

Table 1 : Archaeological Sites owned by the Ministry of Antiquities

Serial Number	Register Number	Name of the Site	The Name of the Town
1	090101	Kom el Haddadi	Sidi Salem
2	090104	Dab'a, Tida	Sidi Salem
3	090106	El-Atala el-Khadra	Sidi Salem
4	090107	Kom el-Fuqa	Sidi Salem
5	090109	El Kom el Ahmar	Sidi Salem
6	090111	Kom el-Maita el-Bahari	Sidi Salem
7	090113	Tell el Bunduq	Sidi Salem
8	090120	Kom el Khubbeiza	Sidi Salem
9	090122	Kom el Khawalid	Sidi Salem
10	090125	Kom el Sheikh Ibrahim	Sidi Salem
11	090126	Kom el Sarahig	Sidi Salem
12	090136	Kom Al-Qasabi	Sidi Salem
13	090138	Tell El-Misk	Sidi Salem
14	090141	Tell Maqluba	Sidi Salem
15	090144	Kom el Nashwein	Sidi Salem
16	090148	Kom Disheimi	Sidi Salem
17	090153	Tell Sidi Salem	Sidi Salem
18	090157	Kom el Ineizi	Sidi Salem
19	090163	Geziret ed Dakhla	Sidi Salem
20	090165	Tell Atal el-Shinawy	Sidi Salem
21	090169	Kom el Khariba	Sidi Salem
22	090170	Kom el Dahab I	Sidi Salem
23	090172	Kom el Arab	Sidi Salem
24	090173	Kom el Maqasaba	Sidi Salem
25	090174	Kom Quleia	Sidi Salem
26	090177	Mastoruh	Sidi Salem
27	090105	Tell ed-Daba	Desouk
28	090118	Tell el Gir	Desouk
29	090134	Tell el Farain	Desouk
30	090139	Kom el Matiur	Desouk
31	090168	Kom el Sheikh Ismail	Desouk
32	090171	Kom el Dahab (ii)	Desouk
33	090110	El Kom el Ahmar	Kafr El-Sheikh
34	090147	Kom Umm Gafar	Kafr El Sheikh
35	090166	Kom el Ganayin	Kafr El-Sheikh
36	090115	Kom el Tin	El Hamoul
37	090117	Kom el Garif	El Hamoul
38	090137	El Tell el Kebir	El Hamoul
39	090140	Tell el Masara	El Hamoul

40	090143	Kom el Malah	El Hamoul
41	090145	Kiman el Isawiya,	El Hamoul
42	090146	Nuss, K el-	El Hamoul
43	090152	Tell Saieq	El Hamoul
44	090155	Tell Sefier	El Hamoul
45	090158	Tell Kafri Abu Helal	El Hamoul
46	090160	Tell Mansur (el Saghir)	El Hamoul
47	090161	Tell Mansur (el Kabir)	El Hamoul
48	090102	Kom el Shagara	Biyala
49	090114	Kom el Tibni	Biyala
50	090176	Kom Nagla	Biyala
51	090116	Kom el Garad	Riyad
52	090121	Kom el Khanziri	Riyad
53	090128	Kom el Daba	Riyad
54	090135	Kom el Filus	Riyad
55	090103	El Shahabya	Baltim
56	090112	Tell el Ashar	Baltim
57	090133	Tell el Ghawet	Baltim
58	090142	Tell el Maqiebrat	Baltim
59	090151	Tell Soweq el Gamaya	Baltim
60	090159	Tell el Dandahur	Baltim
61	090130	Tell Amya	Fuwwah
62	090167	Tell Qabrit	Fuwwah
63	090175	Kom Mutubis	Mutubis
64	090178	Mashal	Mutubis
65	090108	El Kom el Akhdar	Sidi Salem

Table 2 : Archaeological Sites under Antiquities Protection Law

Serial Number	Register Number	Name of the Site	The Name of the Town
1	090123	Er- Ritabi	Sidi Salem
2	090156	Kom Alawi	Sidi Salem
3	090149	Sakha	Kafr El-Sheikh
4	090154	Sandala	Kafr El-Sheikh
5	090164	Kom Dababa	Kafr El-Sheikh
6	090124	Kom ez-Zila	El Hamoul
7	090162	Tell Nemra	El Hamoul
8	090127	Kom ed- Daba	Biyala
9	090132	Tell el- Gamus	Biyala
10	090119	Tell el- Hara	Baltim
11	090129	Tell el- Dawafar	Baltim
12	090131	Tell el- Adowel	Baltim
13	090150	Tell Sangar	Baltim(Supreme Council of Antiquities, 2001)

Reviewing the previous list revealed the presence of 11 archaeological sites which have disappeared.

Objective of the Study

Through this study, the researcher wants to identify the reasons for the extinction of these 11 archaeological sites in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate in order to avoid the loss of other sites. This study can contribute to re-documenting archaeological sites in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate after excluding sites that have disappeared.

Study Methodology

The disappearance of numerous archaeological sites in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate, Egypt, has become a pressing concern. To understand why this is happening, an in-depth study is being done to determine the factors contributing to this phenomenon. To achieve this aim, the researcher employed a multifaceted methodology combining cutting-edge satellite technology, geospatial analysis, and historical data retrieval to trace the evolution and disappearance of these invaluable cultural heritage sites.

Firstly, the study relies on official lists from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, encompassing registered archaeological sites. Besides relying on official government records, the researcher utilizes the archives of the Egypt Exploration Society. These records offer additional information, cross-referencing official lists, and contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of the archaeological sites. This dataset forms the foundation for identifying and tracking the status of the investigated sites over time¹.

Secondly, the researcher conducts a temporal analysis by comparing historical CORONA satellite imagery with contemporary data. This allows for identifying changes in land use, urbanization, and potential threats to archaeological sites over time. Furthermore, utilizing Google Earth, the researcher engages in geospatial mapping to visually represent the distribution and disappearance of archaeological sites. Additionally, a KMZ file (Many thanks to Dr. Penny Wilson, who provided the researcher with this file via email) installed in Google Earth, showcasing Egypt in 1914, provides a baseline for understanding the historical context. Moreover, the EES website was used to access longitude and latitude lines. This website provides access to these lines, improving the accuracy of geospatial analysis. These coordinates are essential reference points for mapping and precisely locating archaeological sites in the study area.

1- Kom el Haddadi (31 20 00N 30 47 19E) كوم الحدادي

Kom El Haddadi exists in the village of El Haddadi, in the town of Sidi Salem, at latitude 31 20 00 North and longitude 30 47 19 East (1). The image of the hill through kmz file shows that the site was located west of Ali Nasr's estate and north of the city of El-Haddadi which occupied part of the south of the hill. The hill, as it appeared on the map, was huge, and its area measured about 589 m x 345 m (See Fig 1a). The huge area was confirmed by Hogarth who visited the site at the beginning of the twentieth century and noted that it was more massive than other nearby archaeological sites such as Sidi Salem and Tell El-Dabaa (they had the same area at the time which measures about 381 m x 152 m), and Tell El-Misk (its area was half the area of the two previous hills). Hogarth added that the site was untouched as a result of soil salinity (Hogarth, 1904). Seeing the figure of the place in the CORONA map highlights how the site's area decreased during the sixties of the last century

¹ At the end of 2023, the EES website made access to the site paid, closing some of the data pages that were previously available, leaving only an Excel file containing the names of the archaeological sites and their longitudes and latitudes.

and measured about 480 m x 320 m and the city of El-Haddadi extended towards the north to cover part of the site (See Fig 1b). Currently, the whole site occupies the same area but it is now used as a cemetery and it is entirely covered with tombs (See Fig 1c). Therefore, it lost its importance despite the archaeological value of the site as mentioned by Penny Wilson who found in 2012 sherds and red bricks which date back to the end of the Roman period (2).

According to the previous findings, it could be concluded that the urban expansion of the village and the use of the remaining part of the land as a cemetery are the main factors resulting in the disappearance of Kom El Haddadi.

2- Kom el Maita el Bahari (31 22 52N 30 46 08E) and Kom el Maita el Qibli (31 22 50N 30 46 10E) كوم الميطة البحري وكوم الميطة القبلي

Kom el-Maita al-Bahari and Kom el-Maita al-Qibli are located south of Burullus lake. Kom el-Maita al-Qibli is located about 600 meters south of Kom el-Maita al-Bahari, 1.1 km northwest of Kom el Fuqa at latitude 31 22 52 North and longitude 30 46 08 East, while Kom al-Meta al-Bahari is located about 1.5 km from Kom el Fuqa at latitude 31 22 50 North and longitude 30 46 10 East (3). The two sites are among the registered archaeological sites in the town of Sidi Salem (Supreme Council of Antiquities, 2001). The two hills appeared on the map of Egypt in the year 1914, east of Bahr Nashart (See Fig 2a). CORONA images showed that Kom el-Maita al-Bahari still exists whereas Kom el-Maita al-Qibli lost its archaeological value as a result of the encroachments. The yellow line connecting the two sites in CORONA image shows that the second hill is no longer an archaeological site (See Fig 2b). Later on, the first hill was completely destroyed and transformed into fish farming activities (See Fig 2c).

Following the previous results, it could be concluded that the disappearance of the two koms is a result of the fact that the whole area was used as fish farms.

3- Tell Atal el-Shinawy (31°21'22"N 30°45'20"E) تل عتلة الشناوي

The analysis of Tel Atal el-Shinawy, situated at latitude 31°21'22 North and longitude 30°45'20 East, revealed that the hill was positioned near the southern edge of Burullus Lake (4), approximately 2.7 km southwest of Kom el Fuqa. The site is one of the registered archaeological sites in the town of Sidi Salem (Supreme Council of Antiquities, 2001). Delving into the historical context using the KMZ file depicting Egypt in 1914, the researcher discerned that the hill, at that time, was north of Izbet el-Gawaber, boasting a substantial area of about 480m x 390m (See Fig. 3a). However, over time, the site transformed, as evidenced by the CORONA image, revealing a reduction in the area to approximately 470m x 240m. This contraction resulted from the expansion of Izbet el-Gawaber, encroaching upon the hill, particularly on its southern and eastern sides (See Fig 3b). A poignant revelation emerged through the analysis of Google Earth images, indicating the complete coverage of the archaeological site by the village, marking the unfortunate disappearance of Tell Atal el-Shinawy beneath the expanding settlement (See Fig 3c).

Based on these findings, the main factors that led to the disappearance of Tell Atal el-Shinawy are the urban expansion represented by the village of Kafr el-Gawaber, whose area began to increase regularly until it covered the entire site. Furthermore, the encroachment caused by urbanization is closely linked to the consequential disappearance of the archaeological site. The village's gradual expansion and the construction of structures over

the archaeological site signify the transformative effects of urbanization, ultimately resulting in the disappearance of Tell Atal el-Shinawy as an independent archaeological entity.

4- Kom el Garif (31 16 08N 31 04 12E) كوم الجريف

Situated northwest of Biyala, the archaeological site occupies a location defined by latitude 31°16'08 North and longitude 30°04'12 East (5). It is one of the registered archaeological sites in the town of Desouk (Supreme Council of Antiquities, 2001). Using the KMZ file, depicting Egypt in 1914, it could be noticed that the site existed west of Bahr el Garif, northwest of tell el Fawara and kom el Birka2 (see Fig. 4a). CORONA image showed the site free of any encroachments (see Fig. 4b). The site is currently completely destroyed and a huge sugar factory has been built above it (see Fig. 4c).

Based on these findings, it could be concluded that the disappearance of the archaeological site of kom el-Garif can be attributed to a project implemented by the country on the land of the archaeological site.

5- Tell el Masara (31 24 53N 31 04 11E) تل المعصرة

The site is one of the registered archaeological sites in the city of el Hamoul (Supreme Council of Antiquities, 2001). It is currently located at approximately 31°24'53"N latitude and 31°04'11"E longitude, situated north of Biyala (6). Referring to the KMZ file installed in Google Earth showcasing Egypt in 1914, the site initially appeared but its name wasn't mentioned (see Fig. 5a). CORONA image in 1967 showed that the site occupied an area of 500 m x 430 m (see Fig. 5b) and was surrounded with agricultural lands. Over time as shown in Google Earth image (see Fig. 5c), the site was completely cultivated and leveled (7).

Following the previous results, it could be concluded that the overall destruction of tell el Masara is a result of human activities over time represented in the agricultural encroachment.

6- Sandala (31°09'20"N 30°50'12"E) سندلا

Sandala, situated 20 km east of Desouk (8), is an undocumented archaeological site in Kafr El-Sheikh (Supreme Council of Antiquities, 2001). The site, identified at latitude 31 09 20 North and longitude 30 50 12 East (9), is historically significant, with roots dating from the Ptolemaic period through the Coptic-Byzantine era. Notably, it featured on the 1914 map of Egypt, located east of the expansive Izbet al-Baradna estate (Fig. 6a). In 1983, the German Archaeological Institute conducted excavations, revealing archaeological buildings from the Ptolemaic period and Coptic-Byzantine era sherds (Ballet and Von der Way, 1993).

However, a troubling trend emerged over time, captured in the CORONA image from the 1960s, which depicted the encroachment of the village of Sandala on a large portion of the archaeological site, leaving only the northwestern and most of the southern sides unaffected. The southern archaeological part measured an area of about 240 m x 320 m (Fig. 6b). The German Archaeological Institute's observations during their visit in 1983 noted a significant reduction in the site's dimensions, approximately 100 meters in length and elevated 15 meters above surrounding agricultural fields (Ballet and Von der Way, 1993). The site, once characterized by archaeological remnants, had transformed into a landscape dominated by

² Both sites are now destroyed and not registered in the list of the archaeological sites of the ministry of antiquities. When the two hills were viewed on Google Earth, it became clear that they had turned into fish farms.

two tombs and numerous houses. Presently, Sandala's archaeological site has succumbed entirely to the expanding village, erasing its historical footprint from view (Fig. 6c). This case underscores the ongoing challenges faced by unregistered archaeological sites in the wake of urban development.

Therefore, the factors contributing to the disappearance of the Sandala archaeological site can be succinctly outlined as follows: (1) Urban Encroachment, characterized by the gradual expansion of the village, covering the archaeological remains and reducing the site's original area. (2) Population Settlement: The evolution of Sandala into a residential zone, marked by the construction of houses and tombs, signifying a change in land utilization. The influx of residents and the establishment of contemporary structures played a role in concealing the archaeological site. (3) Limited awareness and recognition: The absence of official registration and protective measures for Sandala as an archaeological site rendered it susceptible to unregulated urbanization. Despite its historical significance, the site lacked the safeguards necessary to protect it from developmental pressures, ultimately leading to its disappearance over time.

7- Kom el Shagara (31°13'27"N 31°12'36"E) كوم الشجرة

Kom al-Shagara, situated in the town of Biyala, stands as one of the officially registered archaeological sites (Supreme Council of Antiquities, 2001). Positioned north of Biyala at coordinates 31°13'27" N latitude and 31°12'36" E longitude (10), Kom el-Shajara's presence is evident on the 1914 map of Egypt, positioned 630 meters south of Kom al-Tebni (Fig. 7a). The CORONA image illustrates an expanse measuring approximately 310m x 230m, free from any encroachments (Fig. 7b). Consistent with historical records, Google Earth images reveal the site's unaltered appearance in 2004, occupying an area of about 300m x 220m amidst agricultural lands, devoid of modern structures (Fig. 7c). However, a significant transformation occurred in 2021, where an industrial area was constructed on the hill's surface, ultimately leading to its complete destruction (Fig. 7d) (11).

Hence, it could be concluded that industrial development, the absence of conservation measures, and uncontrolled urbanization collectively played pivotal roles in the disappearance of Kom el-Shagara as an archaeological site. The construction of an industrial area on the surface of the hill in 2021 stands as a primary factor leading to the site's disappearance. The intrusion of modern industrial structures likely involved extensive excavation and alteration of the landscape, contributing to the destruction of the archaeological site. Further, despite being a registered archaeological site, the absence of adequate conservation measures left Kom el-Shagara vulnerable to the pressures of industrial development. The lack of protective measures allowed for unrestricted activities that led to the site's demise. The transformation of the hill into an industrial area reflects uncontrolled urbanization practices that prioritize contemporary needs over the preservation of cultural heritage. This unregulated growth contributed to the destruction of the site's original features.

8- Kom el Matiur (31°13'55"N 30°39'08"E) كوم المطيور

(Kom el Matiur, a registered archaeological site in Desouk (Supreme Council of Antiquities, 2001), lies 11 km north of the town and 1 km east of Tell el-Amya (Wilson and Grigoropoulos, 2009) at latitude 31°13'55 North and longitude 30°39'08 East (12). The site, featured on the 1914 map of Egypt as Kom Matiur, positioned south of Izbet Abu Khashaba and west of Izbet Muhammad al-Khouli (Fig. 8a). In the 1960s, the CORONA image depicted the site covering approximately 240 m x 540 m without any encroachments (Fig. 8b).

Notably, this hill attracted attention from archaeologists, including Jeffrey Spencer, who faced accessibility challenges due to flooded dirt roads (Spencer, 1992). The German Institute of Archeology conducted an archaeological survey at the site in 1990 and indicated that the site is located northwest of the current village and its length measures about 300 meters, with a maximum height of 8 meters above the surrounding agricultural lands. They discovered sherds on its surface dating back to the Coptic-Byzantine period (Ballet and Von der Way, 1993). Penny Wilson's 2002 visit expanded the dimensions to 432 meters southwest to northeast and 280 meters north to south, with a height of 6-8 meters. In her exploration, Wilson identified pottery sherds dating back to the tenth century AD. Additionally, she reported that a mission from the Supreme Antiquities Department conducted test drills in 2002, uncovering circular silos constructed of bricks intended for grain storage. Disturbingly, Wilson highlighted that the site was slated for use as a disposal area for waste from Disouq (Wilson et al., 2003). Unfortunately, a national project implemented silos for grain storage on the site, resulting in its destruction as observed in Google Earth images from 2011 onwards (Fig. 8c). The archaeological site's last estimated area, before repurposing, was approximately 240m x 407m (Fig. 8d).

Based on the site analysis, the primary factor resulting in the disappearance of Kom el Matiur can be attributed to the construction of national silos for grain storage directly on the site in the early 2000s. This project involved significant leveling and construction activities, effectively destroying the archaeological remains. Further, the results revealed that Kom el Matiur was considered for use as a waste disposal area for the nearby town of Disouq. While it's unclear if this plan materialized, the mere consideration highlights the lack of consistent protection measures for the site, leaving it susceptible to various types of destructive activities.

9- Kom el Dahab (31°20'14"N 30°44'18"E) كوم الذهب

The archaeological site stands among the registered sites in Sidi Salem (Supreme Council of Antiquities, 2001), situated 5 km west-northwest of Haddadi, southwest of Tell Al-Alawi, and northeast of Kom Al-Arab (Wilson and Grigoropoulos, 2009) at coordinates 31°20'14" N latitude and 30°44'18" E longitude (13). Its name appeared on the 1914 map of Egypt (Fig. 9a). During Penny Wilson's visit in 2003, she reported its dimensions as approximately 131 meters north to south and 77 meters east to west (Wilson and Grigoropoulos, 2009), with a maximum height of 3.2 meters (14). Wilson noted that part of the hill now encompasses a village cemetery, also named Kom el-Dahab, highlighting that the site's original area was larger but is now buried beneath surrounding agricultural lands (Wilson and Spencer, 2004).

Presently, Google Earth imagery reveals significant encroachments on the northern part of the site, occupied by village structures, indicating expansions of Kom el-Dahab and encroachment for agricultural or cemetery purposes on some parts of the hill (Figs. 9b, 9c). These encroachments are notably absent in CORONA program images, emphasizing the site's transformation over time and the impact of village developments on its archaeological features (Fig. 9d).

According to the previous findings, it could be concluded that the urban expansion of the village, shifting in land use from an archaeological site to a burial ground, the expansion of agricultural activities, and the encroachment on some parts of the hill for the construction of cemeteries on the hill area are the main factors resulting in the disappearance of Kom el Dahab.

10- Kom Dababa (31°08'25"N 30°55'06"E) كوم دبابية

Kom Dababa, positioned northwest of Kafr El-Sheikh, stands as one of the unregistered archaeological sites (Supreme Council of Antiquities, 2001), with coordinates at latitude 31°08'25" North and longitude 30°55'06" East (15). Its presence on the 1914 map of Egypt, situated south of el Sayed Ali, Mustafa Bey al-Issawy, and Khosref Pasha's estates, is evident (Fig. 10a). The CORONA image depicts the site without any infringements (Fig. 10b). Robert Schiestl's visit revealed encroachments on the site's area, with numerous sherds discovered in adjacent agricultural lands, indicating a larger historical footprint. Most identified sherds date back to the Roman and Byzantine eras, although some trace to the Ptolemaic period (Schiestl, 2010). Presently, the site lies entirely beneath the village of Ezbet Al-Islah Al-Zeraai (Figs. 10c, 10d).

In conclusion, the reasons for the disappearance are referred to that the village of Ezbet Al-Islah Al-Zeraai has expanded and encroached upon the archaeological site over time. The encroachment is evident in the contemporary landscape, where the village now entirely covers the area where Kom Dababa once stood. In addition, Robert Schiestl's observations of sherds in the adjacent agricultural lands suggest that the site's original area was larger in the past. Agricultural activities and expansion into the surrounding lands have contributed to the reduction and eventual disappearance of the archaeological site.

11- Kom el Filus (31°23'40"N 30°56'07"E) كوم الفلوس

It is one of the registered archaeological sites in the town of el Hamoul (Supreme Council of Antiquities, 2001). It is located near Burullus lake at latitude 31 23 40 North and longitude 30 56 07 East (16). Referring to the KMZ file installed in Google Earth showcasing Egypt in 1914, the site was visible but its name wasn't mentioned (see Fig. 11a). CORONA image in 1967 showed that the site measured about 300 m x 160 m (see Fig. 11b). The site's area decreased as shown in Google Earth image in 2005 when it measured about 150 m x 120 m. The site was destroyed in 2013 as shown in Google Earth (see Figs. 11 c, d) when it has turned into fish farms (17).

Based on these findings, it could be concluded that the main factor that significantly contributed to the disappearance of Kom el Filus is that it has turned into fish farms.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, Urban sprawl is considered one of the main reasons that led to the destruction of a number of sites in Kafr El-Sheikh sites such as Kom El Haddadi, Tell Atal es-Shinawy, Sandala, Kom el Dahab and Kom Dababa. The presence of villages above these archaeological sites makes it impossible to carry out any excavations on the sites and also exposes these sites to plunder through illegal excavations that may be carried out under the homes of these villages as seen in Fig 12 which shows One of the pits in which antiquities were illegally excavated in Sandala site (18). Not only those interested in heritage are the losers of what is happening, but also the residents of these areas who lack the least services in the region (see Fig. 13). Residents can be moved from the archaeological hills to areas provided with better services, which is in line with the Decent Life Initiative that the Egyptian state is currently adopting and then take control of the archaeological sites.

Further, the establishment of cemeteries on hills such as Kom El Haddadi and Kom el Dahab contributes to the degradation of these historical sites.

Furthermore, the industrialization on archaeological hills such as fish farms at Kom el Maita el Bahari and Kom el Filus, an industrial area at Kom el Shagara, and grain storage silos at Kom el Matiur resulted in the disappearance of these sites. By identifying these root reasons, some practical implications for the preservation and sustainable management of Egypt's rich archaeological heritage have been suggested.

Finally, The Ministry of Antiquities should update the list of archaeological sites in the governorate, exclude the destroyed sites, and protect the remaining archaeological sites.

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[%D8%AA%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AB%D8%B1%D9%89-%D8%A8%D9%83%D9%81%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D9%8A%D8%AE-%D9%8A%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%A8%D9%86%D9%82%D9%84%D9%87%D9%85-%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%83%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%A9/3359517](#) (Accessed on 7/12/2023).

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19. Ballet, P., and T. von der Way, Exploration archéologique de Bouto et de sa region (époques romaine et byzantine), in: *MDAIK* 49 (1993), 1- 22.
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Figures

1- Kom el Haddadi (31 20 00N 30 47 19E)

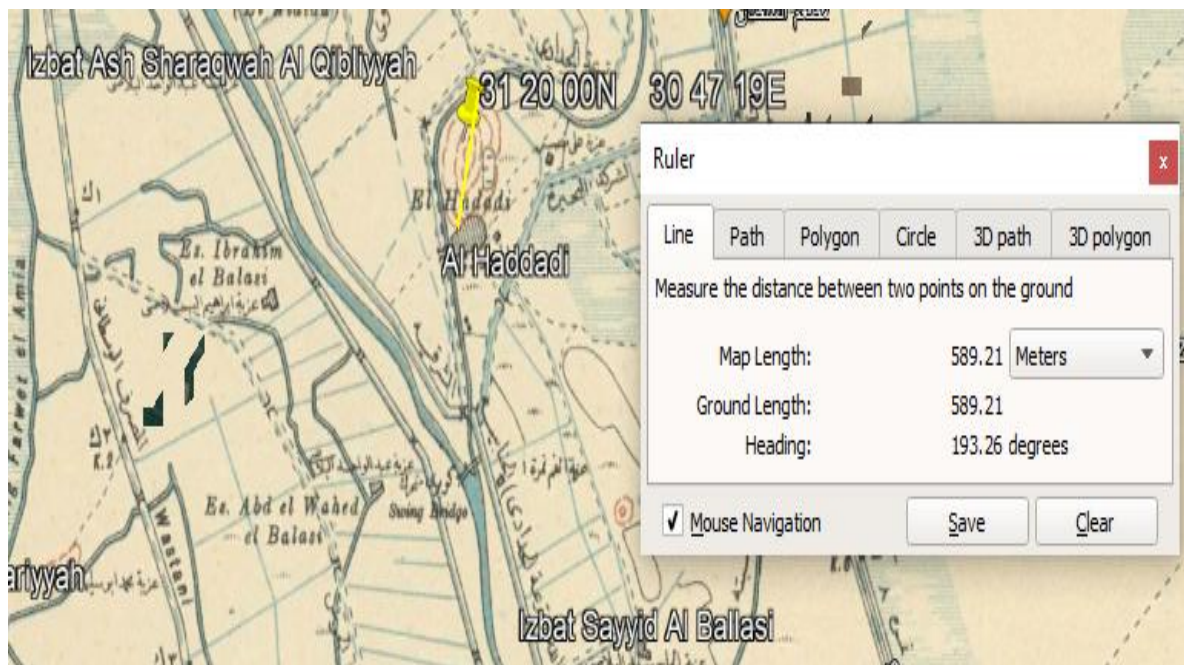


Figure 1a: Kom El Haddadi, the map of Egypt in 1914

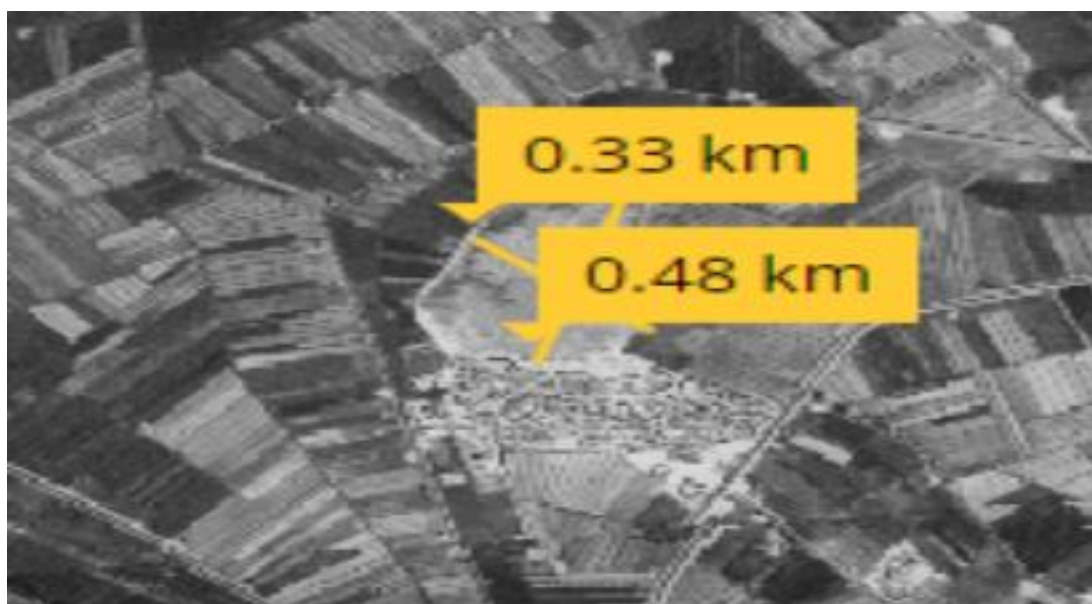


Figure 1b: CORONA image of Kom El Haddadi (Accessed on 19/5/2023)

Source: <https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=15¢er=3427372,3676115>



Figure 1c: Google Earth image of the site on 27/2/2023 (Accessed on 24/5/2023)

Source: <https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+20+00N+30+47+19E/@31.33296486,30.79022016,2.25259305a,588.32794438d,35v,->

[55.73302952h,44.99810296t,0.00000003r/data=ClcaLRInGfIqxlRVVT9AITjDw2rivT5AKhMzMSAyMCAwME4gMzAgNDcgMTIFGAIGASImCiQJDXsUeqPP0ARgeQ6WhSPP0AZjMqABsQTP0AhT8x7B9cSP0A](https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+20+00N+30+47+19E/@31.33296486,30.79022016,2.25259305a,588.32794438d,35v,-55.73302952h,44.99810296t,0.00000003r/data=ClcaLRInGfIqxlRVVT9AITjDw2rivT5AKhMzMSAyMCAwME4gMzAgNDcgMTIFGAIGASImCiQJDXsUeqPP0ARgeQ6WhSPP0AZjMqABsQTP0AhT8x7B9cSP0A)

2- Kom el Maita el Bahari (31 22 52N 30 46 08E) and Kom el Maita el Qibli (31 22 50N 30 46 10E)



Figure 2a: Kom el Maita el Bahari and Kom el Maita el Qibli, the map of Egypt in 1914



Figure 2b: CORONA image of Kom el Maita el Bahari and Kom el Maita el Qibli (Accessed on 2/6/2023)

Source: <https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=16¢er=3425098,3682277>



Figure 2c: Google Earth image of the Koms (Accessed on 2/6/2023)

Source: <https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+22+52N+30+46+08E/@31.3811111,30.7688889,1.04797154a,886.17640149d,35y,0h,45t,0r/data=ClcaLRInGYCkPn-QYT9AiebBJ-fVxD5AKhMzMSAyMiA1Mk4gMzAgNDYgMDhFGAIgASImCiQJYRIVBpwyP0ARoMgWTAMxP0AZ-Nh72Ku-PkAhA9wzjX29PkAoAg>

3- Tell Atal es-Shinawy (31°21'22"N 30°45'20"E)

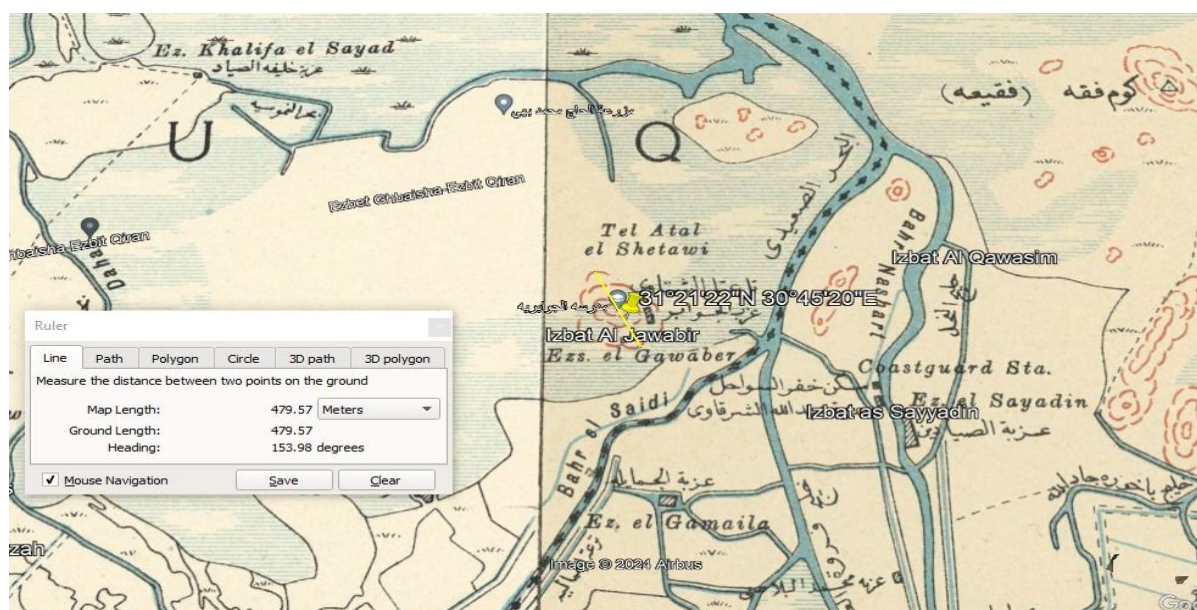


Figure 3a: Tell Atal el-Shinawy, the map of Egypt in 1914

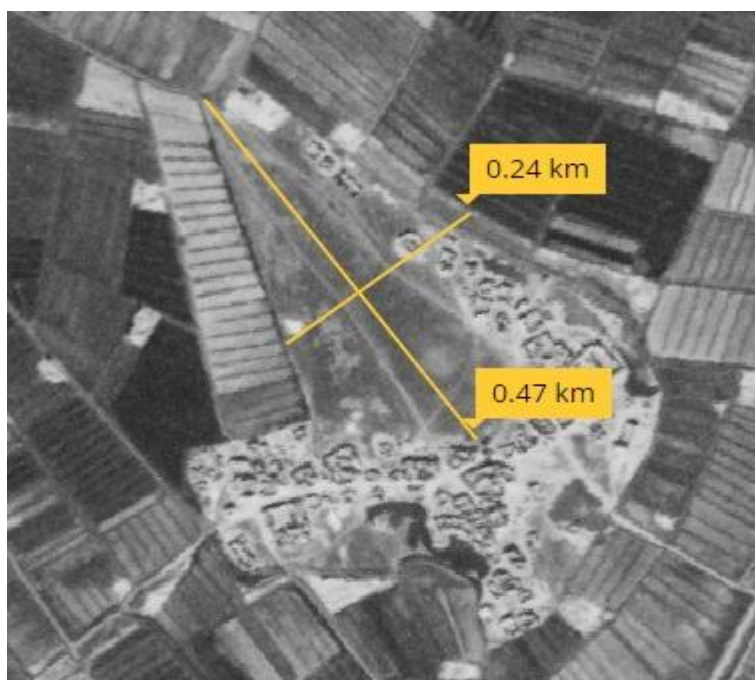


Figure 3b: CORONA image of Tell Atal el-Shinawy (Accessed on 18/5/2023)

Source: <https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=16¢er=3423693,3679084>



Figure 3c: Google Earth image of the site on 27/2/2023 (Accessed on 18/5/2023)

Source: https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+21+22N+30+45+20E/@31.35598414,30.75532249,1.02860035a,437.48738606d,35y,48.85898541h,0t,0r/data=CigiJgokCdT272qRXT9AEUr5kn_IWT9AGWk5mfUHxD5AIWdMM00JwD5A

4- Kom el Garif (31 16 08N 31 04 12E)

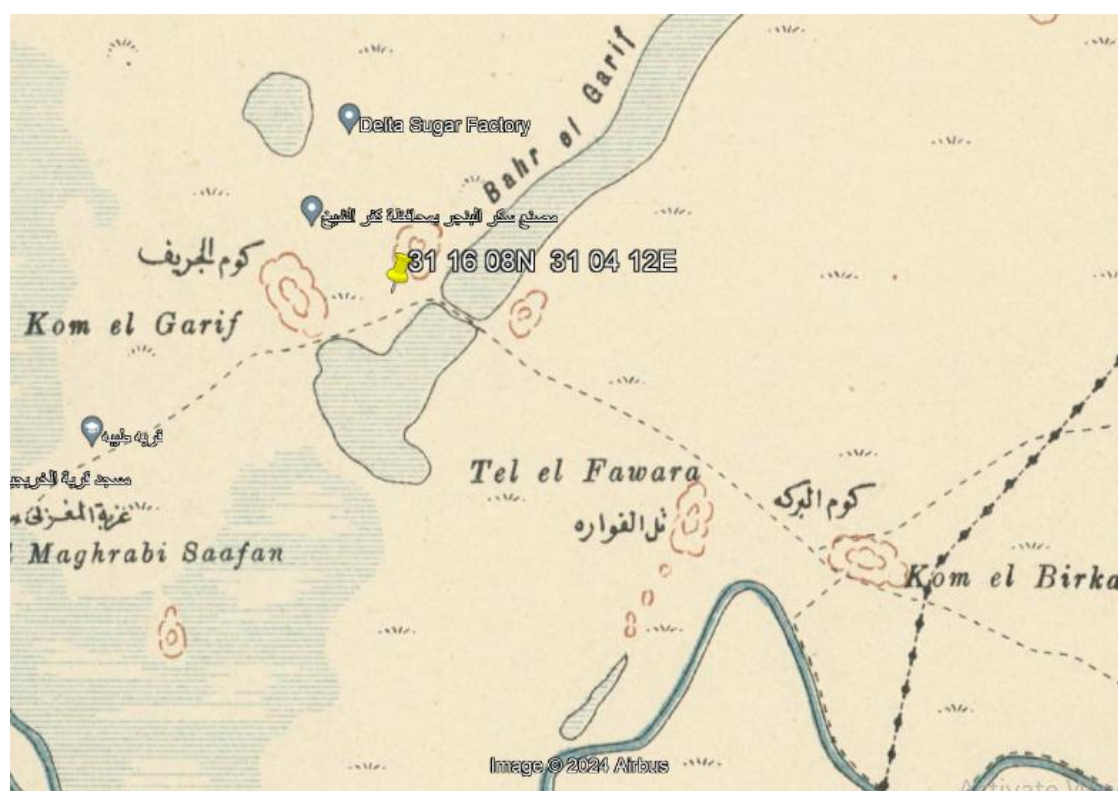


Figure 4a: Kom el Garif, the map of Egypt in 1914



Figure 4b: CORONA image of Kom el Garif (Accessed in 5/6/2023)

Source: <https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=15¢er=3458697,3667719>



Figure 4c: Google Earth image of the site on 16/3/2023 (Accessed in 5/6/2023)

Source:

<https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+16+08N+31+04+12E/@31.2688889,31.07,4.13827451a,887.34363813d,35y,323.99878628h,45t,0r/data=ClcaLRInGebBJ-fVRD9AIVK4HoXrET9AKhMzMSAxNiAwOE4gMzEgMDQgMTJFGAIgASImCiQJLCdsLZWFPOARv3DNrEKDP0AZBH1oWOsRP0AhHhm6BAIPP0A>

5- Tell el Masara (31 24 53N 31 04 11E)



Figure 5a: Tell el Masara, the map of Egypt in 1914

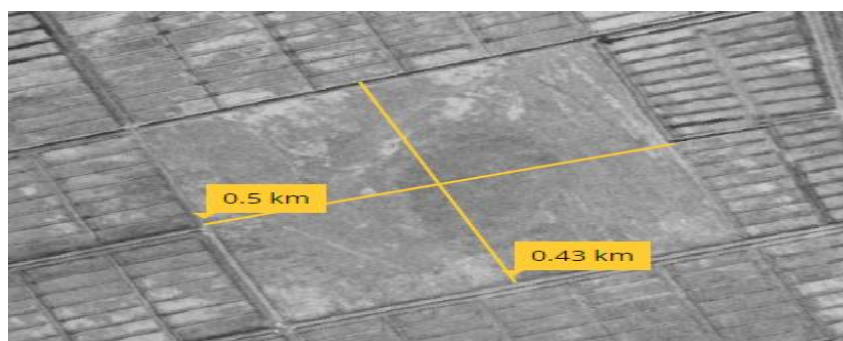


Figure 5b: CORONA image of Tell el Masara (Accessed in 19/5/2023)

Source: <https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=16¢er=3458666,3686727>

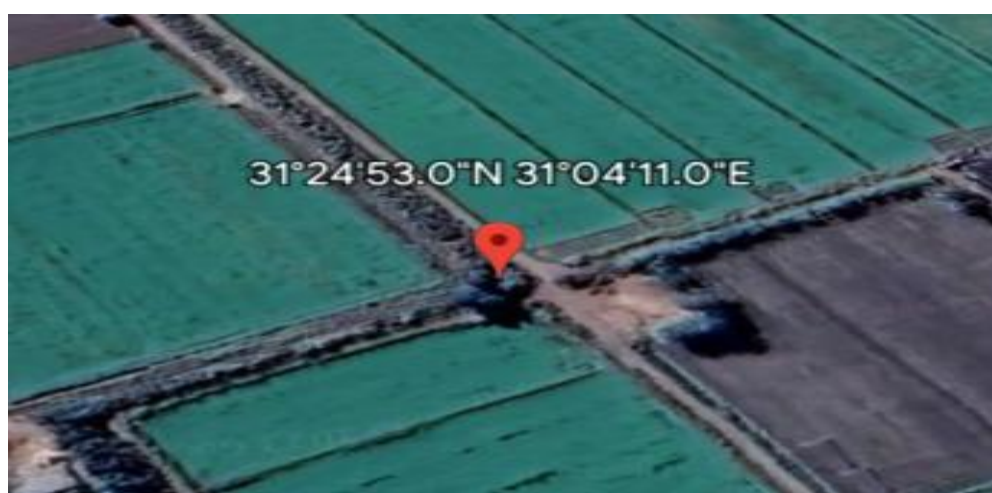


Figure 5c: Google Earth image of the site on 8/11/2021 (Accessed in 19/5/2023)

Source: https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+24+53N+31+04+11E/@31.41495189,31.06974216,0.71952966a,259.7620409d,35y,-169.85498882h,44.99601915t,0r/data=ClcaLRInGdjs7TsraJ9AIR_OaFDZET9AKhMzMSAyNCA1M04gMzEgMDQgMTFFGAIgASImCiQJ1mxTqak6P0ARGHAAUp82P0AZK8Ckb2olP0AhfF0PHjciP0A

6- Sandala (31°09'20"N 30°50'12"E)

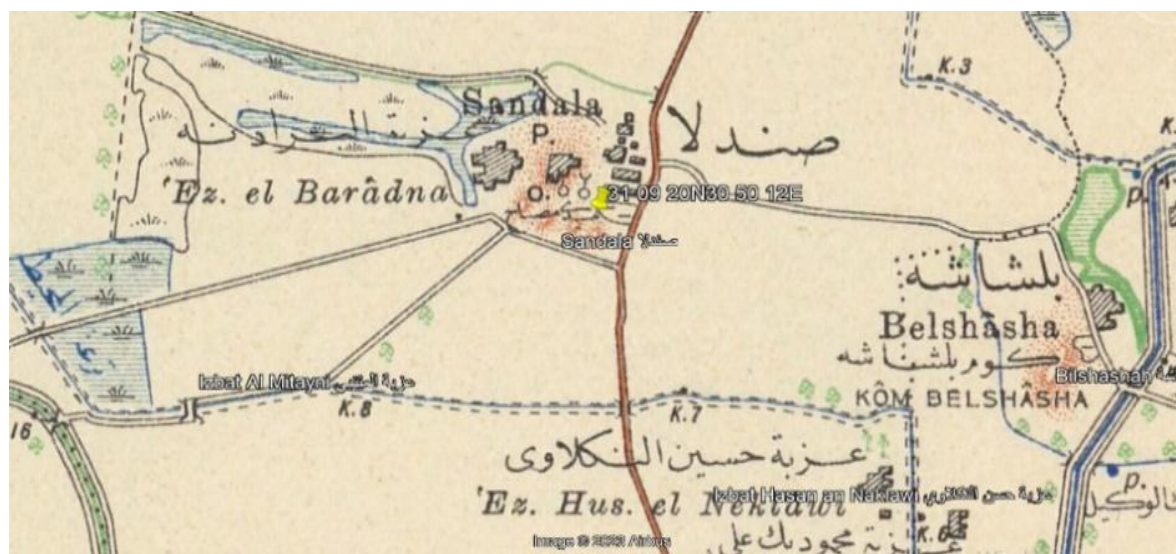


Figure 6a: Sandala, the map of Egypt in 1914



Figure 6b: CORONA image of Sandala (Accessed in 26/5/2023)

Source: <https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=16¢er=3432722,3652968>



Figure 6c: Google Earth image of Sandala site on 24/4/2023 (Accessed in 26/5/2023)

Source: <https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+09+20N+30+50+12E/@31.1555556,30.8366667,3.27327545a,888.51888203d,35y,0h,45t,0r/data=CigiJgokCTC-zd23Oj9AEe1MTkvDNj9AGcLo2JJ9JT9AIQ6gVaASlj9A>

7- Kom el Shagara (31°13'27"N 31°12'36"E)



Figure 7a: Kom el Shagara, the map of Egypt in 1914

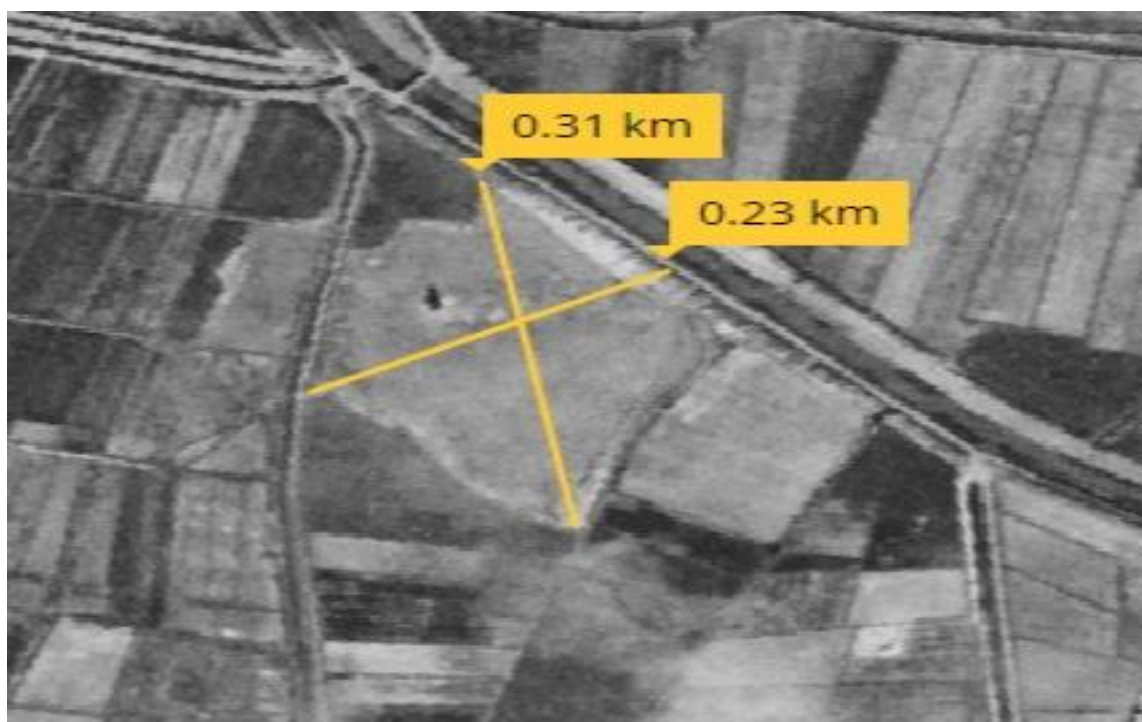


Figure 7b: CORONA image of Kom el Shagara (Accessed in 5/6/2023)

Source: <https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=17¢er=3474281,3661896>

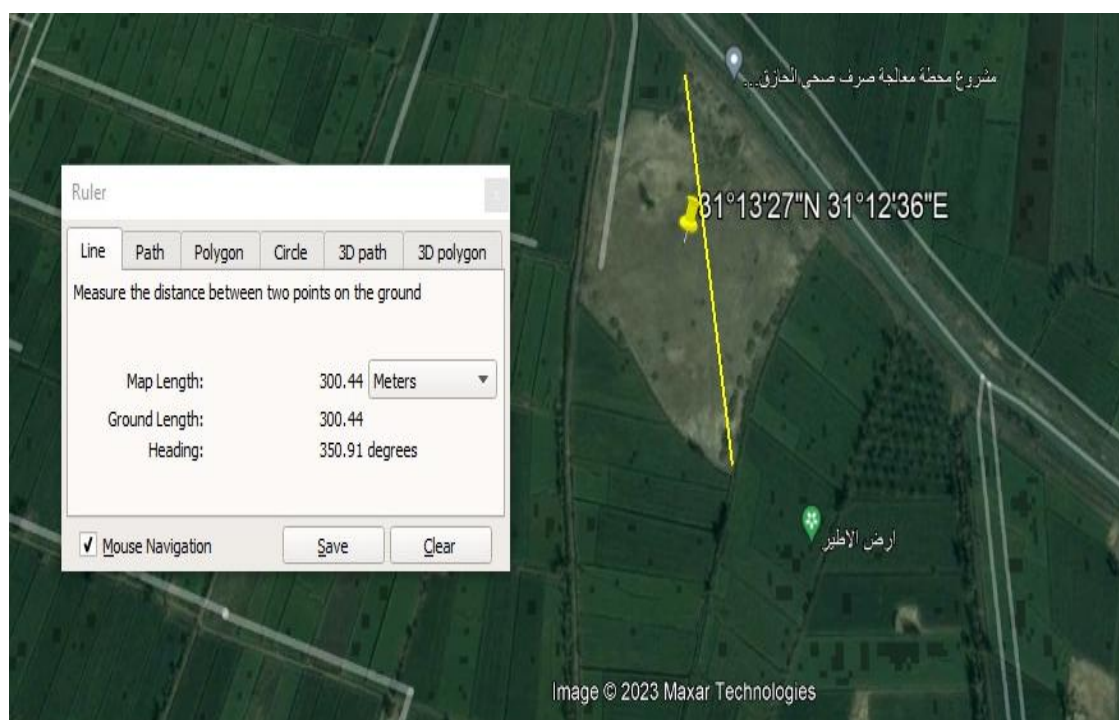


Figure 7c: Google Earth image of Kom el Shagara on 23/2/2004



Figure 7d: Google Earth image of Kom el Shagara on 27/10/2021 (Accessed in 5/6/2023)

Source: <https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+13+27N+31+12+36E/@31.22397323,31.20936842,2.2840716a,888.39710533d,35y,0h,0t,0r/data=CigiJgokCTC-zd23Oj9AEe1MTkvDNj9AGcLo2JJ9JT9AIQ6gVaASlj9A>

8- Kom el Matiur ($31^{\circ}13'55''\text{N}$ $30^{\circ}39'08''\text{E}$)

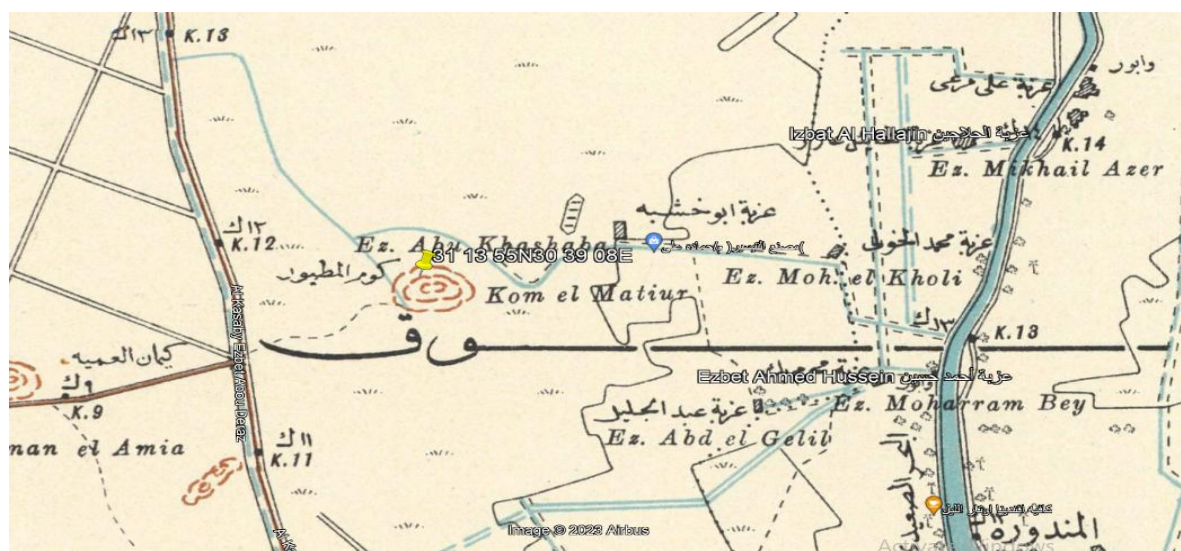


Figure 8a: Kom el Matiur, the map of Egypt in 1914

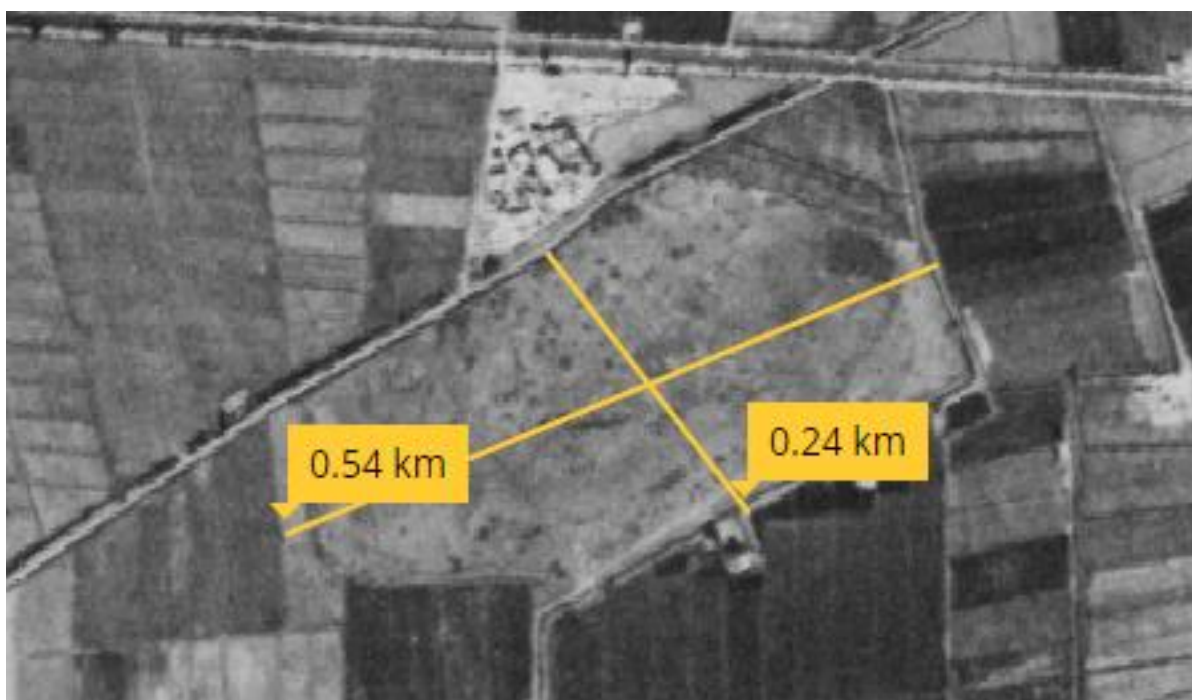


Figure 8b: CORONA image of Kom el Matiur (Accessed in 5/6/2023)

Source: <https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=16¢er=3412190,3662908>



Figure 8c: Google Earth image of Kom el Matiur on 16/04/2023 (Accessed in 5/6/2023)

Source: <https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+13+55N+30+39+08E/@31.23131597,30.65280218,4.75670151a,972.47171467d,35y,40.68400587h,45.00053885t,-0r/data=ClcaLRInGYd9TLVgOz9AiaS5ugj4pj5AKhMzMSAxMyA1NU4gMzAgMzkgMDhFGAIgASImCiQJO8H9U8E5P0ARJ1Wrckc5P0AZEWZqj3U2P0Ahy8pdV4Q1P0A>

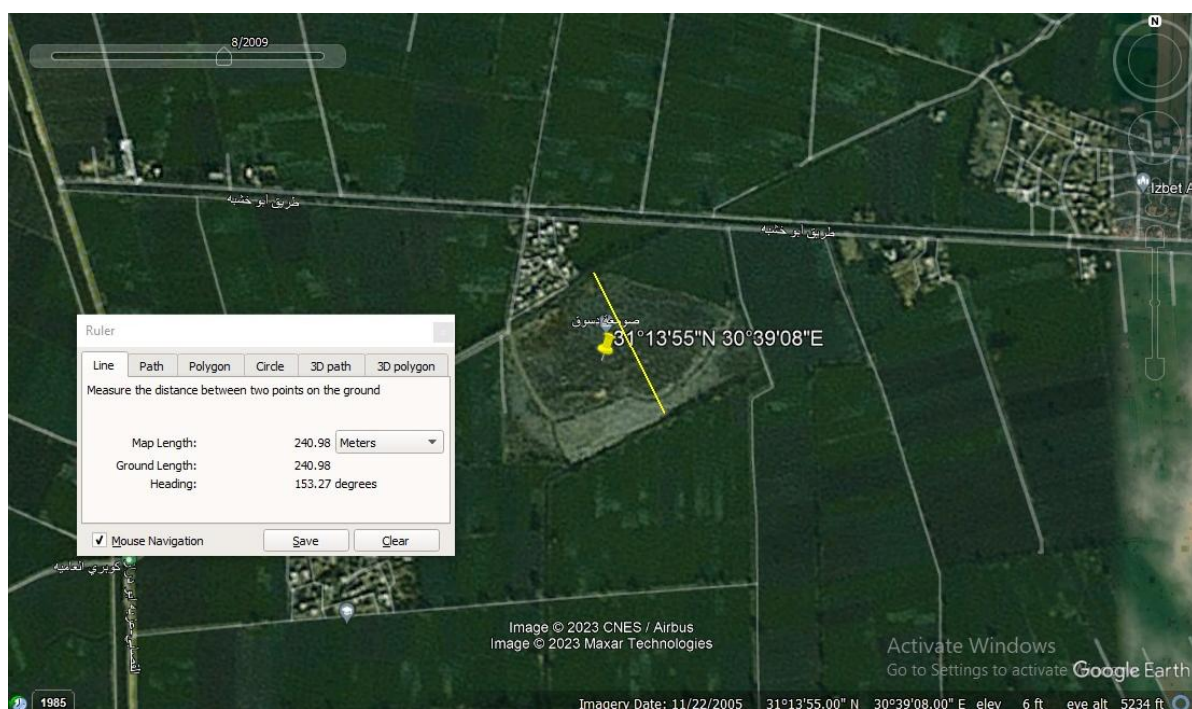


Figure 8d: Google Earth image of Kom el Matiur on 22/11/2005

9- Kom el Dahab ($31^{\circ}20'14''\text{N}$ $30^{\circ}44'18''\text{E}$)

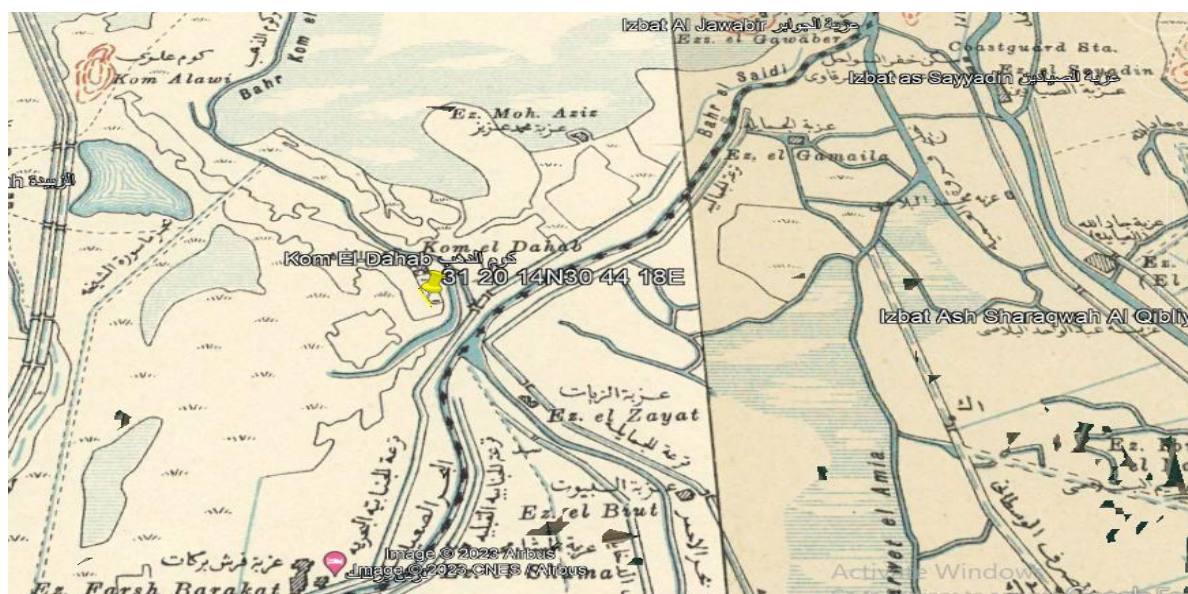


Figure 9a: Kom el Dahab, the map of Egypt in 1914



Figure 9b: Google Earth image of the site on 26/8/2009



Figure 9c: Google Earth image of the site on 27/2/2023 (Accessed on 5/6/2023)

Source: <https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+20+14N+30+44+18E/@31.33753847,30.73846591,1.10416985a,444.6504695d,35y,0.00000001h,44.99718964t,0r/data=CigiJgo kCWClGs6bSj9AEeJnVcK4RT9AGTgSAin1xT5AIWuSxST5uj5A>

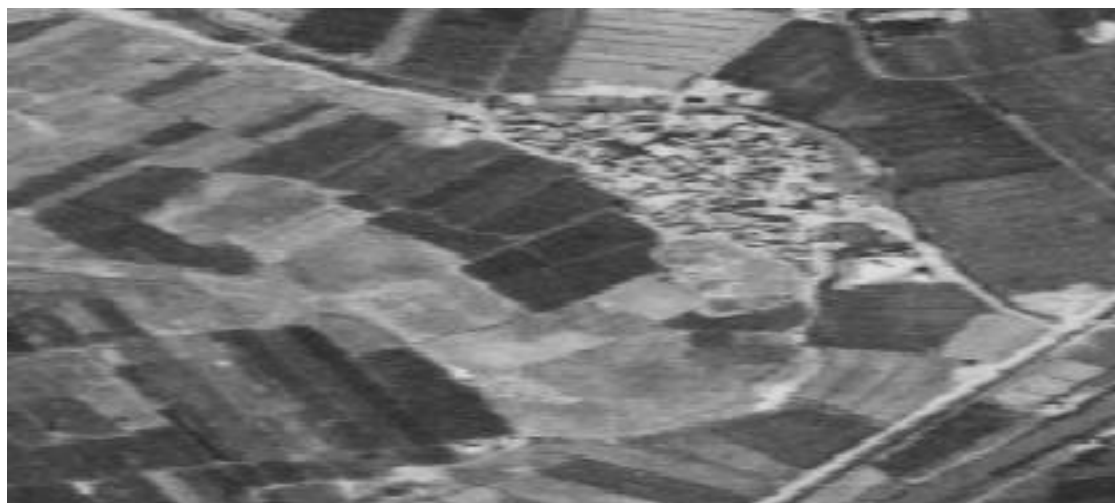


Figure 9d: CORONA image of Kom el Dahab (Accessed in 19/5/2023)

Source: corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=15¢er=3421878,3676522

10- Kom Dababa (31°08'25"N 30°55'06"E)



Figure 10a: Kom Dababa, the map of Egypt in 1914



Figure 10b: CORONA image of Kom Dababa (Accessed in 7/6/2023)

Source: <https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=17¢er=3441813,3650980>



Figure 10c: Google Earth image of the site on 24/4/2023

10d. the site on
20/10/2003

(Accessed in 7/6/2023)

Source: <https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+08+25N+30+55+06E/@31.14023565,30.91902916,5.66637516a,619.88517301d,35y,0.00000001h,44.99829088t,0r/data=ClcaLRInGdZa8z7pIz9AledTluQX6z5AKhMzMSAwOCAyNU4gMzAgNTUgMDZFgAIgASImCiQJFumtNA5LP0ARARcQ2LxKP0AZddNiIn8fP0Ah3GMD9h4fP0A>

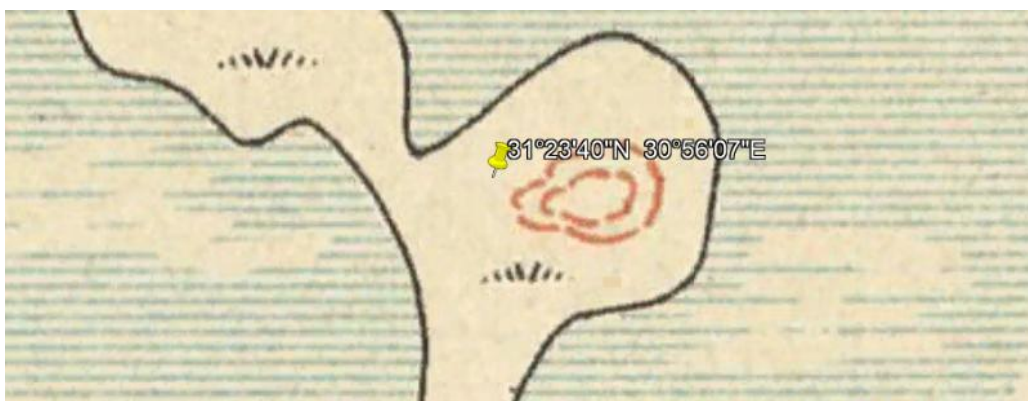
11- Kom el Filus ($31^{\circ}23'40''\text{N}$ $30^{\circ}56'07''\text{E}$)

Figure 11a: Kom el Filus, the map of Egypt in 1914

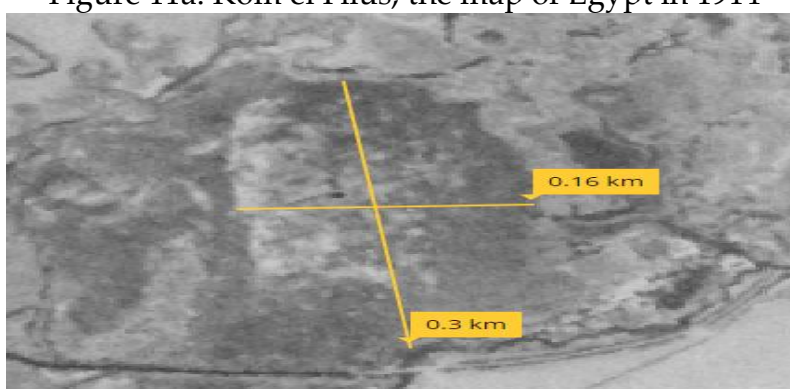


Figure 11b: CORONA image of Kom el Filus (Accessed in 19/5/2023)

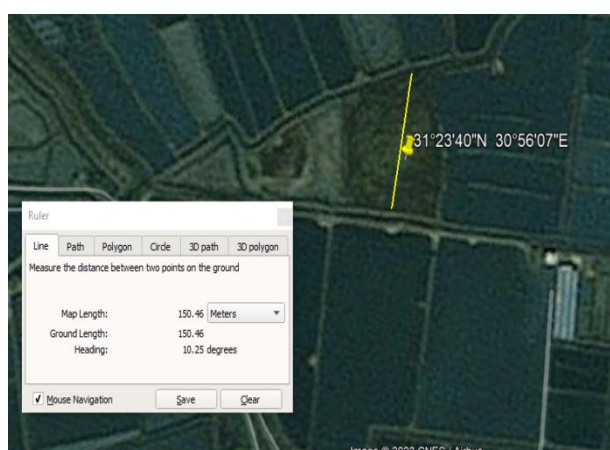
Source: <https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=15¢er=3443699,3684082>

Figure 11c: Google Earth image of the site on 27/7/2009



11d. the site on 25/4/2013

(Accessed in 5/6/2023)

Source: <https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+23+40N+30+56+07E/@31.3944444,30.9352778,0.75997702a,886.03748811d,35y,0h,45t,0r/data=ClcaLRInGSAX5k76ZD9AicGsq11u7z5AKhMzMSAyMyA0ME4gMzAgNTYgMDdFGAIgASImCiQJexhdJfg4P0AR9bk4rKs3P0AZpu5ITv8IP0AhdMsCIK0iP0A>



Figure 12: One of the pits in which antiquities were illegally excavated in Sandala
(Accessed in 7/12/2023)

Source: <https://www.youm7.com/story/2017/8/9/%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%B1-%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%88-%D8%AA%D9%84-%D8%A3%D8%AB%D8%B1%D9%89-%D8%A8%D9%83%D9%81%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D9%8A%D8%AE-%D9%8A%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%A8%D9%86%D9%82%D9%84%D9%87%D9%85-%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%83%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%A9/3359517>



Figure 13: Houses on top of the site of Sandala, highlighting the lack of services
(Accessed in 7/12/2023)

Source: <https://www.youm7.com/story/2017/8/9/%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%B1-%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%88-%D8%AA%D9%84-%D8%A3%D8%AB%D8%B1%D9%89-%D8%A8%D9%83%D9%81%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D9%8A%D8%AE-%D9%8A%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%A8%D9%86%D9%82%D9%84%D9%87%D9%85-%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%83%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%A9/3359517>



التراث المفقود: دراسة معمقة للمواقع الأثرية المخفية في كفر الشيخ، مصر

كريم أحمد عبد الفتاح

مدرس بقسم الإرشاد السياحي - كلية السياحة والفنادق - جامعة المنصورة

معلومات المقالة	الملخص
الكلمات المفتاحية كفر الشيخ؛ كورونا؛ جوجل إيرث؛ المواقع الأثرية؛ كوم الحدادي. (JAAUTH) المجلد 28، العدد 1، (2025) ص 141-170.	تضم محافظة كفر الشيخ عددًا كبيرًا من المواقع الأثرية، كما يتضح من قائمة المواقع الأثرية في هذه المحافظة الصادرة عن وزارة الآثار، إلا أن الباحث لاحظ أن بعض المواقع المدرجة في هذه القائمة قد اختفت الآن. ومن ثم، تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى التعرف على العوامل المؤثرة في اختفاء العديد من المواقع الأثرية في محافظة كفر الشيخ بمصر، وهي الظاهرة التي قد تتسبب في ضياع مواقع أثرية أخرى في المحافظة. ولتحقيق هذا الهدف، استخدمت الدراسة القمر الصناعي كورونا وبرنامج جوجل إيرث، إلى جانب ملف KMZ الذي يتيح تصوير مواقع مصر عام 1914. ومن خلال تحليل البيانات من وزارة السياحة والآثار وجمعية استكشاف مصر، استكشف الباحث 11 موقعًا اختفى وفحص أسباب انقراضها. وبناءً على نتائج هذه الدراسة، فإن التوسع العمراني يظهر كعامل رئيسي يساهم في تدمير العديد من المواقع، ولا سيما كوم الحدادي وتل عتل الشناوي وصندلة وكوم الذهب وكوم الدبابة. وعلاوة على ذلك، فإن تعدي القرى على هذه المواقع الأثرية يعيق جهود التنقيب ويعرضها للنهب من خلال الأنشطة غير القانونية تحت منازل القرى. وعلاوة على ذلك، فإن إنشاء المقابر على التلال مثل كوم الحدادي وكوم الذهب يساهم في تدهور هذه المواقع التاريخية. ويسلط البحث الضوء أيضًا على تأثير أعمال الصناعات على التلال الأثرية، مستشهدًا بأمثلة مثل مزارع الأسماك في كوم الميته البحري وكوم الفلوس، ومنطقة صناعية في كوم الشجرة، وصوامع تخزين الحبوب في كوم الماطيور. ومن خلال تحديد هذه الأسباب الجذرية، تم اقتراح بعض الآثار العملية للحفاظ على التراث الأثري الغني في مصر وإدارته بشكل مستدام.