



Mansoura University
Faculty of Tourism and Hotels

**SOME ENDANGERED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN KAFR EL-SHEIKH
GOVERNORATE**

By

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== Some Endangered Archaeological Sites in Kafr El-Sheikh ==
Governorate

Some Endangered Archaeological Sites in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate

Abstract:

World heritage sites are exposed to many dangers, some of which are natural and some of which are human, threatening their extinction. In turn, some archaeological sites in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate are exposed to many dangers that threaten their disappearance. This study showed that the dangers threatening these sites are human, represented by urban expansion and encroachment on the area of the sites for the purpose of agriculture, in addition to some projects that have been implemented on the sites or the establishment of a cemetery on the area of the hill. The study was conducted on 16 sites in the governorate exposed to these dangers, and the encroachments on the sites during the last hundred years or so were highlighted.

Key words: Kafr el Shiekh; Extinction; Corona; Google Earth; Kom el Dabaa; Kom el Fuqa; Tell el Ghawet; Kom Nagla; Tell el Misk; El kom el Ahmar.

بعض المواقع الأثرية المهددة بالإنذار بمحافظة كفر الشيخ

الملخص

تتعرض مواقع التراث العالمي للعديد من المخاطر، بعضها طبيعي وبعضها بشري، تهدد باختفائها. وبدورها تتعرض بعض المواقع الأثرية في محافظة كفر الشيخ للعديد من المخاطر التي تهدد بدمارها. وقد أظهرت هذه الدراسة أن المخاطر التي تهدد هذه المواقع بشرية، تتمثل في التوسع العمراني والتعدي على مساحة المواقع بغرض الزراعة، بالإضافة إلى بعض المشروعات التي تم تنفيذها على المواقع أو إنشاء مقبرة على مساحة التل. وقد أجريت الدراسة على المواقع الأثرية بكفر الشيخ وتبين

أن ١٦ موقعًا في المحافظة معرضًا لهذه المخاطر، وتم تسليط الضوء على التحديات على المواقع خلال المائة عام الماضية أو نحو ذلك باستخدام بعض أدوات الدراسة مثل برنامج كورونا وجوجل إيرث والذي من خلالهم تم دراسة التطورات التي أصابت هذه المواقع خلال المئة عام الأخيرة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: كفر الشيخ؛ كورونا؛ جوجل إيرث؛ كوم الضبعة؛ كوم الفوقا؛ تل الغويط؛ كوم نجلة؛ تل المسك؛ الكوم الأحمر.

Introduction

According to the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), heritage is a broad concept that includes many aspects such as landscapes, biodiversity and archaeological sites. Heritage is a tool for growth that society cannot replace if it is lost. Heritage is an important tool for development, both now and in the future¹. Unfortunately, cultural heritage sites are at risk of destruction for a variety of reasons, including natural causes such as climate change, earthquakes and volcanoes, and human causes such as terrorism, pollution and urban expansion².

One of the Egyptian governorates from which one can study the risks that ancient Egyptian archaeological heritage sites may be exposed to is Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate, due to its richness in ancient Egyptian sites, the number of which reaches 78 archaeological sites according to the present list of the Ministry of Antiquities. The following tables highlight archaeological sites in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate according to ownership:

¹ S. Bleibleh and J. Awad, Preserving Cultural Heritage: Shifting Paradigms in the Face of War, Occupation, and Identity, in: *Journal of Cultural Heritage* 44 (July- August 2020), 196.

² M. Hagage et al., Urban Sprawl Analysis of Akhmim City (Egypt) and its Risk to Buried Heritage Sites: insights from Geochemistry and Geospatial Analysis, in: *Heritage Science* 11: 174 (2023), 1.

a- 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	El-Maita al-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 es-Shinawy	Sidi Salem
21	090169	Kom el Khariba	Sidi Salem
22	090170	Kom el Dahab 1	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

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28	090118	Tell el Gir	Desouk
29	090134	Tell el Farain	Desouk
30	090139	Tell Matyur	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

b- 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

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13	090150	Tell Sangar	Baltim ³
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Reviewing an old list for the same area issued by the Ministry of Public Works at the beginning of the twentieth century revealed the presence of 66 archaeological sites⁴, The following tables show the archaeological sites located in the same spot:

Name of the Town (Markaz)	Name of the Site
Foua	Metobis
	Tell el Sada
	Kom Dâraga
	Kom Henerwa
	Kom Kabritte
	Kom el Naka
	Laâllawi

Name of the Town (Markaz)	Name of the Site
Dessouk	Kom el Dabaa
	Kom el Farain
	Kom el Guir
	Kom el Ami
	Kom Ismaïl
	Kom Cheikh Ibrahim
	Kom el Arab
	Kom Kalia
	Kom el Nosf
	Kom el Dahab
	Kom Abou Bousa
	Kom Dentaw

³ Supreme Counsil of Antiquities, Atlas of archaeological sites in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate (October, 2001).

⁴ At that time, these sites were parts of Moudirieh (governorate) of Gharbieh not Kafr el Sheikh governorate like now.

	Kom el Amia
	Kom el Matiour
	Kom el Kassabi
	Kom Abou Tahoun
	El Kom el Kebir
	Kom Abou Zabout
Name of the Town (Markaz)	Name of the Site
Kafre el Sheikh	Kom el Bondok
	Kom el Mesk
	Kom el Kharouf
	Kom el Nosf
	Kom Maktou el Dahr
	Kom el Khawaled
	Kom el Tine
	Kom el Ein
	Kom Nashawine
	Kom el Khebeiza
	Kom Damaksh
	Kom Sidi Salem
	Kom Matboul
	Kom el Hadâdi
	Kom el Dabaa
	Kom el Sit Fari
	Kom Gafar
	Kom el Bakloulâ
	Kom el Kersh
	Kom el Daba
	Kom el Shamadka
	Kom Belshascha
	Kom el Matia
	Kom el Daba
	Kom el Aneiza

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	Kom el Khanziri
	Kom Om Salem
	Kom Om Gafar
	Kom el Wazirieh
	Kom el Kaa
	Kom el Tawil
	Kom el Berka
	Kom Om Sine
	Kom el Mekheizen
	Kom el Akka
	Kom el Ahmar

Name of the Town (Markaz)	Name of the Site
Borolos District	Tell Landahour
	Kom Abou Dokhâne
	Kom Baltim
	Kom el Aschaâr
	Kom Souk el Talât ⁵

When comparing the list of ancient archaeological sites issued by the Ministry of Public Works with the sites recently issued by the Ministry of Antiquities, it became clear that more than thirty sites no longer exist and have been excluded, and that the seventy-eight sites on the list of the Ministry of Antiquities include ancient sites mentioned in the first list in addition to sites that were recently discovered in previous years. The question was, could sites on the current list be excluded in the coming years due to their destruction? Therefore, the researcher studied all the sites in the governorate for three years to identify the sites at risk of

⁵ Egyptian Government, *Liste des Tells et koms à seabkh*, *Journal Officiel du Gouvernement Égyptien*, Le Caire 12 Février 1910 (le Cairo, 1915), 5-6.

extinction in the governorate, and it became clear that 16 sites in the governorate are at risk of this danger.

Objectives of the study

Through this study, the researcher wants to shed light on the sites threatened with extinction in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate and the nature of the risks to which these sites are exposed to protect them from the fate that several sites at this governorate have been subjected to.

Study Tools

To reach the objectives of the study, the researcher used several tools to track the extent of the encroachment on archaeological sites at different times, such as the CORONA satellite and the Google Earth program, in addition to a KMZ file installed in the Google Earth program through which Egypt in 1914 can be viewed⁶. Moreover, the longitude and latitude lines were accessed through the EES⁷ website⁸. Through these tools, the researcher studied all the archaeological sites registered in the lists of the to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The researcher found that some sites are still in a good condition, while some sites have disappeared completely, and other sites are at risk of extinction and disappearance. The study will be limited only to sites that are at risk of extinction.

⁶ Sincere thanks go to Dr. Penny Wilson, who provided the researcher with it.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Accessed in 24/11/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/our-cause/research/delta-survey.html>.

1- Kom El Dabaa (31 15 53N 30 54 56E)⁹

Current Location

It is located in the town of el Riyad, in Izbet Ali Nimr Ash Sharqiyyah, west of the village of Al-Dabaa as shown in Google Earth.

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

Hogarth mentioned in 1904 that the site is characterized as one of the largest archaeological sites compared to several nearby archaeological hills that are currently located in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate. The site was described as a double mound, with remnants of bricks, stones, shards and glass scattered on its surface.¹⁰

The site appeared on the map of Egypt in 1914 (pl. 1) and was distinguished with its huge size and was also called “al sharika”.

CORONA image (pl. 2) during the sixties of the twentieth century shows the size of the encroachments on the area of the site, where a large part of the area of the hill is located under the village of El Dabaa on the eastern side. The area of the site at that time was about 510 m x 560 m¹¹.

Jeffrey Spencer visited the site in 1990, then visited it again in 2011 and 2012 (pl. 3) and noted that the hill is huge with an area of 500m x 400m, and that the *sabakheen* had cut a large part of it. He also pointed out the presence of pieces of red bricks and limestone, in addition to parts of huge brick walls that are likely to represent the remains of walls surrounding a temple from the Late

⁹ Accessed in 19/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/ben-dab>

¹⁰ D.G. Hogarth, Three North Delta Nomes, in: *The Journal of Hellenic Studies* 24 (1904), 16.

¹¹ Accessed in 19/5/2023 from <https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=15¢er=3441504,3667176>

Period¹². Excavations conducted in 2012 proved that these walls, located specifically in the north of the site, represent the remains of a Ptolemaic house (pl. 4a), whose area was about 10 m x 12 m. It consists of several storeys ranging between 4 or 5 storeys. Sherds (pl. 4b) representing the remains of dishes and pots were found in it¹³.

In 2011, Jeffrey and Patricia Spencer also found nine red granite blocks (pl. 5) that were used as millstones during the Graeco-Roman Period. They also indicated the presence of pottery sherds and pieces of red bricks scattered in the hill from the end of the Roman era, which indicates the importance of this site at least during the Graeco-Roman Period¹⁴.

Google Earth images show the increase of encroachments on the area of the site especially on the eastern side (pl. 6a), where a group of modern buildings such as an industrial school for girls and a football stadium in addition to the Riyadh Traffic Department are visible. These are newly constructed buildings on the site that were not visible in the site images taken in 2009 (pl. 6b). Moreover, limited number of modern cemeteries appears on the western side of the site¹⁵. These expansions threaten this important archaeological site with gradual erosion and eventually extinction.

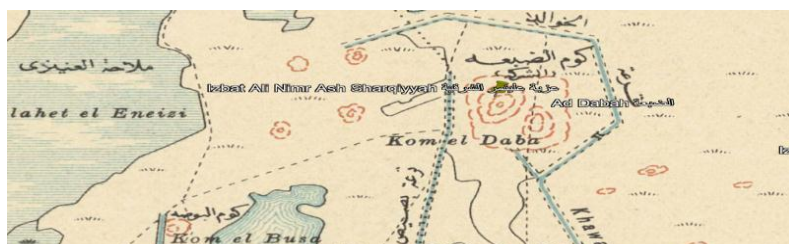
¹² A.J. Spencer, in: *Studia Aegyptiaca* 14, 536; Accessed in 19/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/daba269>.

¹³ J. Spencer, *The Delta Survey 2009- 2015* (London, 2016), 8- 10.

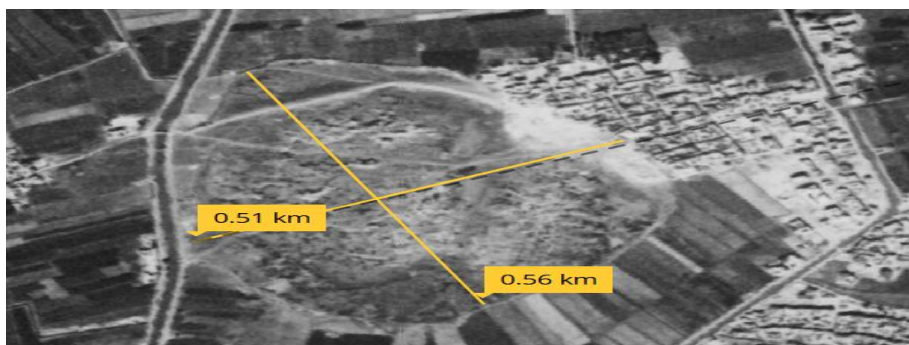
¹⁴ J. Spencer, *The Delta Survey*, 7- 8.

¹⁵ Accessed in 19/5/2023 from <https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+15+53N+30+54+56E/@31.26368878,30.91547334,2.87729575a,610.29785174d,35y,36.02361681h,44.99823813t,0.00000079r/data=ClcaLRInGXGGh9XEQz9AIW6rD9ph6j5AKhMzMSAxNSA1M04gMzAgNTQgNTZFGAIGASImCiQJpKltZJZUP0ARz2bjn15TP0AZBP5AG5-nPkaHC5saZhimPkA>

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Pl. 1. Kom el Dabaa, the map of Egypt in 1914



Pl. 2. CORONA image of Kom el Dabaa

After: Accessed in 19/5/2023 from

<https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=15¢er=3441504,3667176>



Pl. 3. Kom el Dabaa in 2011-2012

After: J. Spencer, The Delta Survey 2009- 2015 (London, 2016), pl. 13a

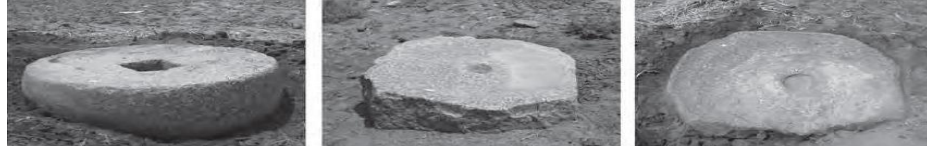


Pl: 4a- Remains of the eastern wall of the Ptolemaic house



Pl.4b- Pottery discovered next to the eastern wall

After: J. Spencer, The Delta Survey 2009- 2015 (London, 2016), pls. 14c, 16b



Pl. 5. red granite blocks used as millstones scattered on the surface of Kom el Dabaa

After: J. Spencer, The Delta Survey 2009- 2015 (London, 2016), pl. 13b



Pl. 6a. Google Earth image



Pl. 6b. the site on 26/8/2009

of the site on 22/4/2024

After: Accessed in 30/5/2024 from

<https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+15+53N+30+54+56E/@31.26368878,30.91547334,2.87729575a,610.29785174d,35y,36.02361681h,44.99823813t,0.00000079r/data=ClcaLRInGXGGh9XEQz9AIW6rD9ph6j5AKhMzMSAxNSA1M04gMzAgNTQgNTZFGAIgASImCiQJpKLtZJZUP0ARz2bjn15TP0AZBP5AG5-nPkJAhC5saZhimPkA>

2- Kom el-Fuqa (31 22 07N 30 46 59E)¹⁶

Current Location

Kom el-Fuqa is one of the archaeological sites located south of Burullus¹⁷. It is located on the southern edge of the fish farms on the southwestern shore of Lake Burullus, 10.75 km north of the city of Sidi Salem and 3 km southeast of the fishing village known as al-Shakhlouba. It should be noted that the name of the site

¹⁶ Accessed in 2/7/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/du-gar>

¹⁷ P. Wilson, The Ancient Landscape around Lake Burullus, in: *EA* 41 (Autumn 2012), 19.

means “pottery hill” in reference to the presence of a large amount of pottery sherds on the surface of the site¹⁸. The word Fuqa was probably derived from the Arabic verb فقع “Faqa”, which means “to become red¹⁹.” Daressy called it Kom Faqqa, meaning red-coloured mound, or Kom Faqiaa, which means “slightly raised²⁰.” The site is regarded one of the registered archaeological sites in the town of Sidi Salem.

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

The site appeared on the map of Egypt in 1914 (pl. 7) under the name of “Kom Fiqah (Faqi’ah). It appeared west of Kom Qeid el Gahsh, southeast of Kom Maiyita el Bahri and Kom Maiyita el Qibli. The site appeared in CORONA images (pl. 8), with dimensions of 480 m x 1.08 km.

Penny Wilson visited the site in 2003 and indicated that the site is characterized by its large size, with an area of 472m x 458m and the maximum height of the site is 7.52m. She stated that the hill is difficult to reach by land because it is surrounded from all sides by fish farms with banks built in dams that have footpaths. To the north of the site there is a group of low hills that may have been formed by digging fish lakes, or they may represent archaeological remains²¹.

Limited excavations at the site show that it flourished during the Roman period, with easy access to the ancient lake, where the city probably oversaw goods being transported northward. The floor of

¹⁸ P. Wilson and D. Grigoropoulos, *The West Delta*, 233.

¹⁹ Accessed in 2/7/2023 from <https://www.almaany.com/ar/dict/ar-ar/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D9%82%D9%8A%D8%B9%D8%A9/?page=3>.

²⁰ G. Daressy, *Recherches Géographiques*, in: *ASAE* 26 (1926), 249.

²¹ P. Wilson, B. Kemp and P. Rosa, *Fieldwork, 2002-03: Delta Survey, Memphis, Tell el- Amarna, Qasr Ibrim*, in: *JEA* 89 (2003), 6; P. Wilson and N. Spencer, *Ancient sites of Beheira and Kafr es-Sheikh*, in: *EA* 24 (Spring 2004), 11; P. Wilson and D. Grigoropoulos, *The West Delta*, 233.

the site is covered with pieces of red brick, glass and metal tools²², in addition to sherds that are likely to date from the end of the Roman Period through the Islamic era and include the remains of amphorae, dishes, vessels, two plates dating from the Islamic era (the ninth till the fifteenth centuries) and the remains of Cypriot sherds from the fifth to the sixth centuries AD). There were discovered fragments of a beaker or lamp of glass bearing a decoration in the form of a blue egg dating from the third to the fifth centuries AD in addition to three eroded bronze coins, one of which bears Arabic writing²³.

Through the comparison between CORONA images of the *kom* and those of Google Earth (pl. 9), it can be concluded that the hill's area diminished because of fish farms which were established on the original hill area. It is one of the sites that should be preserved, especially with its great importance in the past and the lack of organized excavations.

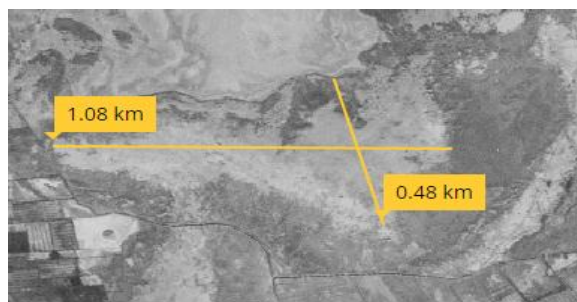


Pl. 7. Kom el Fuqa, the map of Egypt in 1914

²² P. Wilson and N. Spencer, in: *EA* 24, 11; Accessed in 22/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/du-gar>.

²³ Accessed in 22/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/fuqa254>

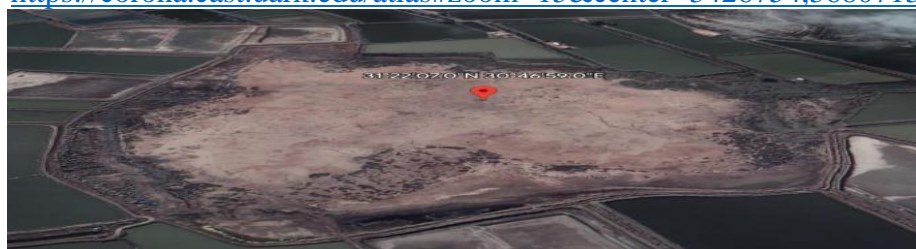
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Pl. 8. CORONA image of Kom el Fuqa

After: Accessed in 22/5/2023 from

<https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=15¢er=3426754,3680713>



Pl. 9. Google Earth image of the site on 27/2/2023

After: Accessed in 22/5/2023 from

<https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+22+07N+30+46+59E/@31.36962973,30.78317908,4.4210756a,888.52958849d,35y,-173.70167678h,45.00001414t,360r/data=ClcaLRInGU1xC0xdXj9AIRz z8FR2yD5AKhMzMSAyMiAwN04gMzAgNDYgNTIFGAIgASImCiQ JiwdPE2g5P0AR4xbKFTE2P0AZegEv0DgnP0AhiZ33qtQiP0A>

3- Tell el Gamus (Tell el Alamiya) (31 08 03N 31 08 44E)

²⁴

Current Location

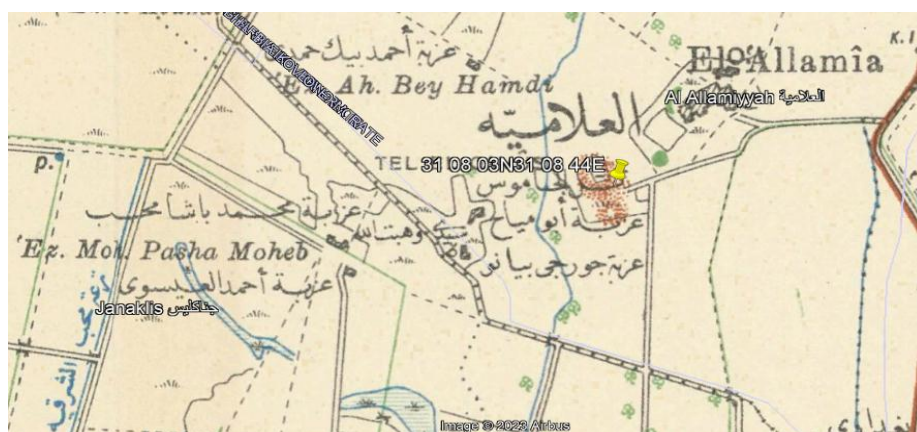
It is located north of Al-Mahalla Al-Kubra²⁵, and it is considered one of the unregistered archaeological sites located in the town of Biyala

²⁴ Accessed in 24/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/du-gar>

²⁵ Accessed in 24/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/du-gar>

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

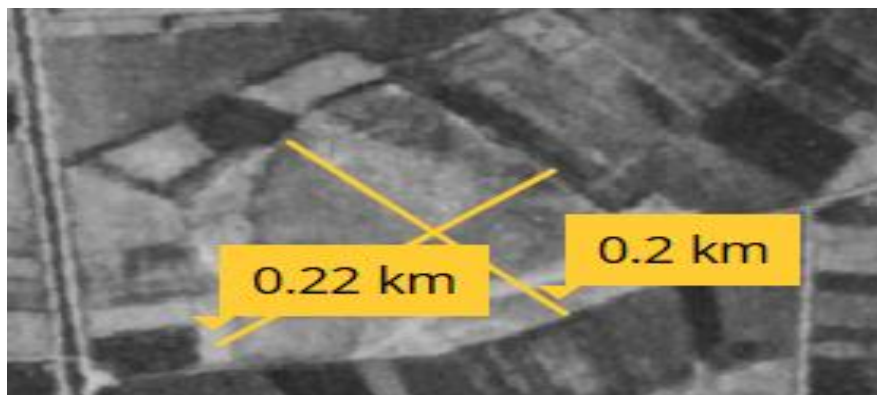
The site appeared on the map of Egypt in 1914 (Pl. 10) in the Alamiya area, and it was located at that time north of Izbet Abu Mayah and Izbet Georgi Piano. CORONA image (Pl. 11) showed that the hill was devoid of any encroachments or any buildings above it. It covered an area of about 200 m x 220 m²⁶, which is nearly the same as the current site area. Google Earth images since 2004 until now (Pls. 12a and 12b) show a regular increase in the volume of encroachments on the area of the site by constructing modern cemeteries until it almost covered most of the area of the site and the site is at risk of disappearing in the next few years unless it is saved and these encroachments are stopped.



Pl. 10. Tell el Gamus, the map of Egypt in 1914

²⁶ Accessed in 24/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/du-gar>

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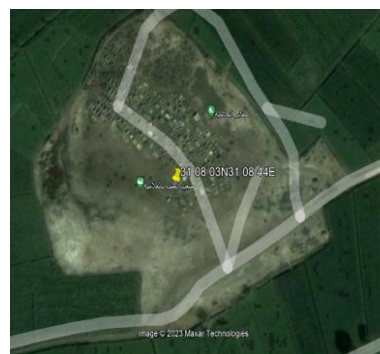
Pl. 11. CORONA image of Tell el Gamus

After: Accessed in 24/5/2023 from

<https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=16¢er=3467107,3650186>



Pl. 12a. Google Earth image
of the site on 29/3/2024



Pl. 12b. the site on 23/2/2004

After: Accessed in 30/5/2024 from

https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+08+03N+31+08+44E/@31.13644365,31.15115222,4.11321544a,1630.44306063d,35y,-36.22791003h,45.00471613t,0r/data=ClcaLRInGVW2tL9YIj9AIem_vSFDJT9AKhMzMSAwOCAwM04gMzEgMDggNDRFGAIgASImCiQJ5gtIy15HP0ARbc_DL_NFP0AZ8On_E_w4P0Ahv0cLFXU3P0A

4- Tell el Ghawet (31 33 36N 31 04 31E)²⁷

Current Location

Tell el-Ghawet is located in Baltim, and it is also called Kom el-Ahmar²⁸. The site is one of the registered archaeological sites in the town of Baltim.

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

The hill appeared on the map of Egypt in 1914 (Pl. 13) and carried the name “تل العويط” Tell el A’wit”, and it was located west of Kafr Shalabi.

Penny Wilson visited the site in 2012 and described it as consisting of a low sandy hill whose surface is covered with sherds. The highest area of the site lies in the south, where there is a sandy hill with a height of 8 m. She indicated that there are abandoned military buildings at the site²⁹.

This hill is one of the most prominent examples of archaeological sites that have been encroached on in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate. The site as shown by Google Earth image in 2004 (Pl. 14a), was devoid of encroachments. The site’s exposed to severe encroachments only in recent years leaving a limited area of the site (Pl. 14b).



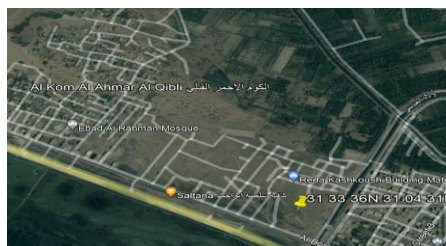
Pl. 13. Tell el Ghawet, the map of Egypt in 1914

²⁷ Accessed in 24/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/gas-had>

²⁸ Accessed in 24/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/gas-had>

²⁹ Accessed in 24/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/gas-had>

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Pl. 14a. Google Earth image of the site on 16/8/2004



Pl. 14b. the site on 27/4/2024

After: Accessed in 30/5/2024 from
https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+33+36N+31+04+31E/@31.56063911,31.07399307,-0.0518549a,887.37979414d,35y,36.24696271h,45.00001953t,0r/data=ClcaLRInGY_C9Shcjz9AIWUd6WdFEz9AKhMzMSAzMyAzNk4gMzEgMDQgMzFFGAIgASImCiQJTPunSuJyP0ARc50zmGhvP0AZYU0mbfDOPkAhCG3kPJbKPkA

5- Kom el Khareba (31 19 37N 30 50 41E)³⁰

Current Location

The site is located near Burullus³¹, and the site is considered one of the registered archaeological sites in the city of Sidi Salem.

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

The site appeared on the map of Egypt in 1914 (pl. 15) with the same name. Hogarth visited the site and noted that it is a round hill with a diameter of about 190 m. He indicated that he had found remains of glass, marble, and Coptic ceramics at the site. He also indicated that there were traces of extensive excavation³².

³⁰ Accessed in 26/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/ibr-kha>.

³¹ Accessed in 26/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/ibr-kha>.

³² D.G. Hogarth, in: *The Journal of Hellenic Studies* 24, 15.

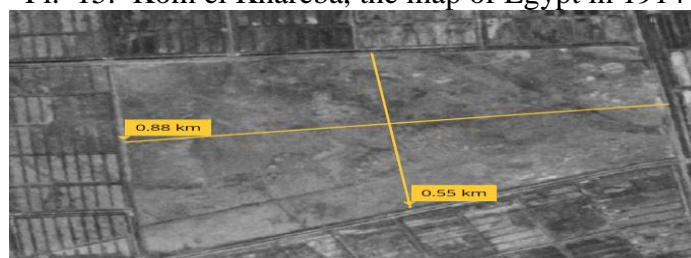
The site was huge, as it occupied an area of about 8[^]0m x 5[^]0m according to CORONA images (pl. 16), and the site appeared completely free of any encroachments.

Penny Wilson visited the site in 2012³³ (pl. 17) and stated that the length of the remaining part of the site is about 90 meters from east to west and 70 meters from north to south. She indicated that on the eastern side of the hill there are outlines of some buildings. She also mentioned that different areas of the site are covered with sherds and glass which date back to the period from the middle till the end of the Roman period³⁴.

The images of the Google Earth (pls. 18a, b) show that the site is surrounded by agricultural lands from all directions and suffers from severe encroachments, as most of the site is now under Izbet kom el khirba, and only a limited area of the hill remains, and the hill is at risk of extinction.



Pl. 15. Kom el Khareba, the map of Egypt in 1914



Pl. 16. CORONA image of Kom el Khareba

After: Accessed in 26/5/2023 from

<https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=16¢er=3433618,3675>

214

³³ Accessed in 26/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/ibr-kha>.

³⁴ Accessed in 26/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/khariba268>

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Pl. 17. Kom el Khareba in 2012

After: Accessed in 26/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/khariba268>



Pl. 18a. Google Earth image of the site on 24/4/2023

Pl. 18b. the site on 26/8/2009

After: Accessed in 26/5/2023 from

<https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+19+37N+30+50+41E/@31.32668594,30.8447597,0.4356589a,100.44411337d,35v,1699.86765228h,59.99986679t,0r/data=CigiJgokCZRD7DzXUz9AEf1vitAkUz9AGYhnDxrA2D5AIX3ZY0yo1z5A>

6- Kom el Malah (31 15 07N 31 11 22E)³⁵

Current Location

Kom el Malah is located north of Biyala³⁶, and it is considered one of the registered archaeological sites at the town of el Hamul.

³⁵ Accessed in 26/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/mah-mir>

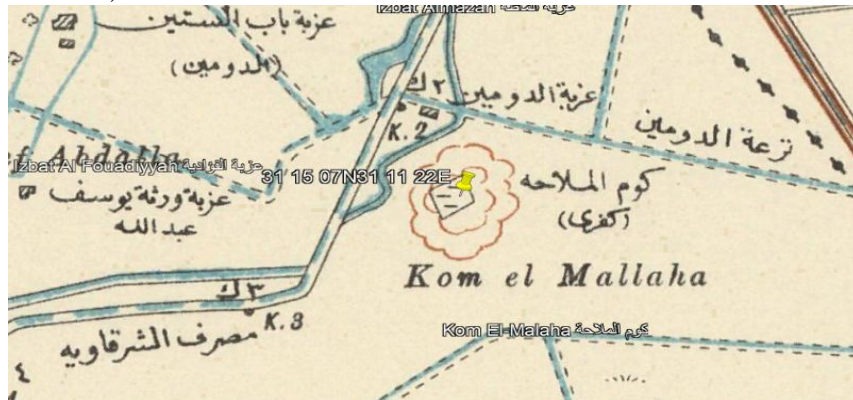
³⁶ Accessed in 26/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/mah-mir>

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

The site was mentioned on the map of Egypt in 1914 (pl. 19) under the name of Kom Al-Mallaha (Kafri), and it was located south of izbet el Domin, east of izbet Youssef Abdullah. CORONA images (pl. 20) at the end of the sixties of the last century showed that the site covered an area of about 270m x 430 m and was devoid of any encroachments.

Penny Wilson performed an archaeological survey of the site in 2022 and mentioned that the eastern side of the site takes an oval shape, while the western side appears to be round. The site covered an area of about 6.2 hectares, with a maximum height of 5.5 meters above the surrounding fields. Wilson indicated that the central part of the hill is free of encroachments, while the mound is surmounted by cemeteries at the northern and southern ends of the site. Sherds dating back to the end of the Roman era were found at the site, representing the remains of vessels, dishes, basins and pots.³⁷

The current area of the site decreased to 210m x 400m, as shown by Google Earth images (pl. 21) as the site witnessed encroachments through the cultivation of some parts of the site, and modern cemeteries were constructed in some areas north, northwest, south and southwest of the site.



³⁷ Accessed in 26/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/malah>

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Pl. 19. Kom el Malah, the map of Egypt in 1914



Pl. 20. CORONA image of Kom el Malah

After: Accessed in 19/5/2023 from

<https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=14¢er=3471993,3665512>



Pl. 21. Google Earth image of the site on 27/10/2021

After: Accessed in 26/5/2023 from

https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+15+07N+31+11+22E/@31.2519444,31.1894444,-138.78701902a,887.51957619d,35v,323.98905386h,45t,0r/data=ClcaLRInGQxpnm1_QD9AIQxpnm1_MD9AKhMzMSAxNSAwN04gMzEgMTEgMjJFGAIgASImCiQJorvMmCRUP0AR5t1Q1T1TP0AZyzb1XEurPkAh9qQOYD6qPkA

7- Tell Mansur East (Kebir) (31 20 22N 31 05 48E) and Tell Mansur west (Saghir) (31 20 20N 31 05 28E)

Current Location

The hill is located northwest of Biyala³⁸, and the site is regarded as one of the registered archaeological sites at el Hamul.

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

Hogarth mentioned that the site's area was equal to that of el-Haddadi³⁹, but it is shallow. He added that the site is divided into two parts, the largest of which is in the east, while the smaller is in the west, and separated by a road and a canal.⁴⁰ The hill appeared on the map of Egypt in 1914 as Tell Mansour (Kafri) (pl. 22).

The two hills appeared in CORONA images and the area of the eastern hill measured about 440 m x 290 m (pl. 23a), while that of the western hill measured about 360 m x 280 m (pl. 23b).

An archaeological survey of Tell Mansur al-Kabir and Tell Mansur al-Saghir was conducted in 2021 by a team headed by Penny Wilson. She pointed out that Tell Mansur al-Kabir (eastern) covers an area of 286 m x 213 m, and its maximum height measures about 4.4 m above the surrounding agricultural lands. Wilson mentioned that the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities found in 2019 the remains of a red-brick church that included a

³⁸ Accessed in 26/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/mah-mir>

³⁹ Kom El Haddadi exists in the village of El Haddadi, in the town of the Sidi Salem, at latitude 31 20 00 North and longitude 30 47 19 East. Hogarth 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). Penny Wilson who found in 2012 sherds and red bricks which date back to the end of the Roman period, see:

D.G. Hogarth, in: *The Journal of Hellenic Studies* 24, 16; <https://www.ees.ac.uk/our-cause/research/delta-survey.html>; on <https://www.ees.ac.uk/haddadi284> (Accessed on 24/5/2023).

⁴⁰ D.G. Hogarth, in: *The Journal of Hellenic Studies* 24, 16.

pair of bases of four-square columns. The magnetic map showed the presence of a huge complex surrounding the church, oriented from southeast to northwest, with dimensions of 100m x 40m. This complex includes many other buildings in addition to the church. The mission of the Ministry of Antiquities discovered sherds (pl. 24) representing remains of jars and amphorae in the church, most of which date back to the end of the Roman and Byzantine eras.⁴¹

Wilson also indicated that the (small) hill of Mansour west (pl. 25) has dimensions of 256 x 200 m and its maximum height measures 3.47 m above the level of the surrounding fields. Sherds were found including amphorae in good condition, cooking pots, utensils, flasks and other materials related to food, all of which date back to the end of the Roman era.⁴²

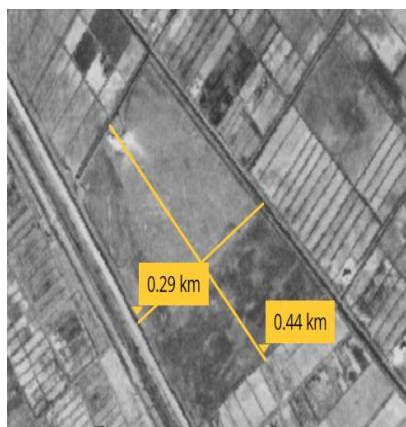
The two sites suffered greatly from the encroachments of the population (pl. 26), whether through the cultivation of many parts of the two hills or through the establishment of cemeteries, and the area of the current two hills has decreased compared to their area shown by CORONA images which show the site devoid of any encroachments. Therefore, the hills are threatened with extinction.



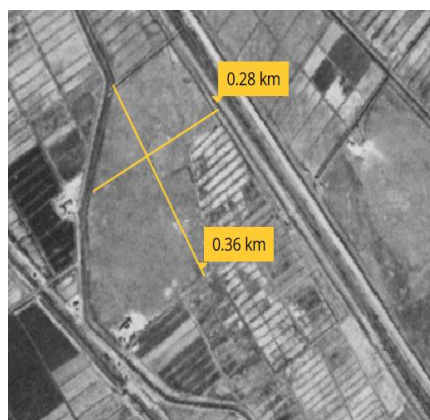
Pl. 22. Tell Mansour, the map of Egypt in 1914

⁴¹ Accessed in 26/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/mansur-t-el-121>

⁴² Accessed in 26/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/mansur-t-el-121>



Pl. 23a. CORONA image of Tell Mansour EL Kebir



Pl. Corona image of Tell Mansour el Saghir

After: Accessed in 26/5/2023 from

<https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=16¢er=3461456,3676891>



Pl. 24. Sherds discovered in Tell Mansur al-Kabir

After: Accessed in 4/7/2023 from

<https://www.ees.ac.uk/mansur-t-el-121>

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Pl. 25. Tell Mansur al-Saghir

After: Accessed in 4/7/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/mansur-t-el-121>



Pl. 26. Google Earth image of Tell Mansur al-Kabir and Tell Mansur al-Saghir on 8/11/2021

After: Accessed in 26/5/2023 from
<https://earth.google.com/web/@31.33800597,31.09346326,1.02263274a,1205.86847143d,35y,0h,0t,0r>

8- Tell el Misk (31 17 10N 30 49 13E)⁴³

Current Location

The site is located north of Sidi Salem and south of Tell al-Fuqa⁴⁴. The site is one of the registered archaeological sites in the city of Sidi Salem.

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

Hogarth visited the site in 1898 and noted that its area is estimated to be half the area of Sidi Salem and Tell el Dab'a hills. He mentioned that the floor of the site was covered with sherds representing the necks and bases of cooking pots. He did not refer to any diggings or any stones covering the site⁴⁵.

Ahmed Kamal mentioned in 1907 that the site resembles a pile of ashes and that it is divided into two parts, one of which is red and the other black. He stated that whoever digs two cubits deep in the red part will find gold dinars, and whoever digs two cubits deep in the black part of the site will find silver coins⁴⁶.

Tell al-Misk was one of the ancient hills that appeared on the map of Egypt in 1914 (pl. 27). It was located east of Izbet al-Misk, northwest of Izbet Ahmed Abu Ahmed, and in the northeast of it was the Gulf of Salt (Khalig al Malh).

Penny Wilson visited the site in 2004 (pl. 28) and indicated that the hill is relatively small, with a maximum length of 347 m from north to south and 270 m from east to west, while its maximum height is about 8 m above the surrounding agricultural lands. A part of the site is topped by a modern cemetery (pl. 29). Sherds

⁴³ Accessed in 1/7/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/mah-mir>

⁴⁴ P. Wilson and D. Grigoropoulos, *The West Delta*, 219.

⁴⁵ D.G. Hogarth, in: *The Journal of Hellenic Studies* 24, 15.

⁴⁶ A. Kamal, *Livre des perles enfouies et du mystère précieux* (le Caire, 1907), 76.

and blocks of red bricks spread in several areas representing the remains of some of the ancient tombs at the site. Wilson indicated that there is a huge tomb built on top of the site in 1960 for Ibrahim Al-Sawy.⁴⁷

Sherds could be seen in parts of the hill, the oldest of which date back to the fourth century AD while most of the recent fragments date back from the eighth to the tenth centuries AD.⁴⁸ Corona image (pl. 30) showed the hill free of any encroachments, which is the opposite of its situation in recent years, as it was noticed that there are number of modern tombs that cover the surface of the hill, and their number and area increase year after year, which is very clear when comparing for example the shape of the hill in 2009 with that in 2023 (pls. 31a, b).



Pl. 27. Tell el Misk, the map of Egypt in 1914

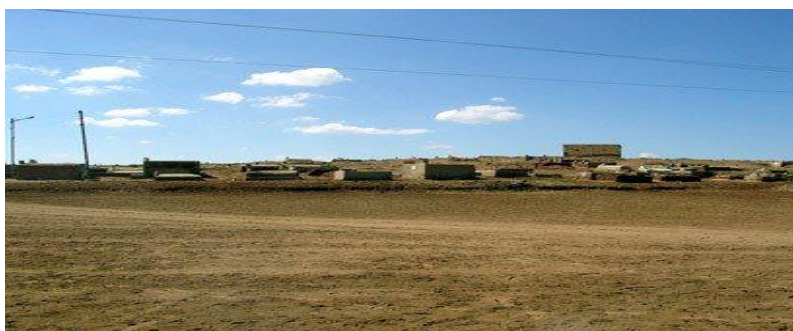
⁴⁷ P. Wilson and D. Grigoropoulos, *The West Delta*, 219; Accessed in 3/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/mah-mir>

⁴⁸ P. Wilson and D. Grigoropoulos, *The West Delta*, 219.



Pl. 28. Tell el Misk

After: Accessed in 1/7/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/mesk600>



Pl. 29. A modern cemetery, Tell el Misk

After: Accessed in 1/7/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/mesk600>



Pl. 30. CORONA image of Tell el Misk

After: Accessed in 1/7/2023 from <https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=17¢er=3430903,3669914>



Pl. 31a. Google Earth image of the site on 26/8/2009

Pl. 31b. the site on 18/1/2023

After: Accessed in 1/7/2023 from

<https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+17+10N+30+49+13E/@31.28484501,30.82146707,0.40417855a,1540.13414061d,35y,0h,0t,0r/data=CigiJgokCWLA4xBzTD9AER8wuWDnSD9AGTZWk17F3T5AIT8Z12JV2T5A>

9- Kom Nagla (31 13 56N 31 14 13E)⁴⁹

Current Location

The hill is located to the northeast of Ezbet Al-Hawwa. Its area is currently 300m x 130m⁵⁰. The site is one of the archaeological sites registered in the town of Biyala.

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

Hogarth visited the site and noted that it was small, not as large as Tell el Misk, and very flat.⁵¹ Kom Nagla appeared on the map of Egypt in 1914 (pl. 32) to the north of Izbet Othman and Izbet Jahin Bey, west of Izbet Daoud Sanua, 2.8 km east of Kom el-

⁴⁹ Accessed in 26/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/mit-nus>.

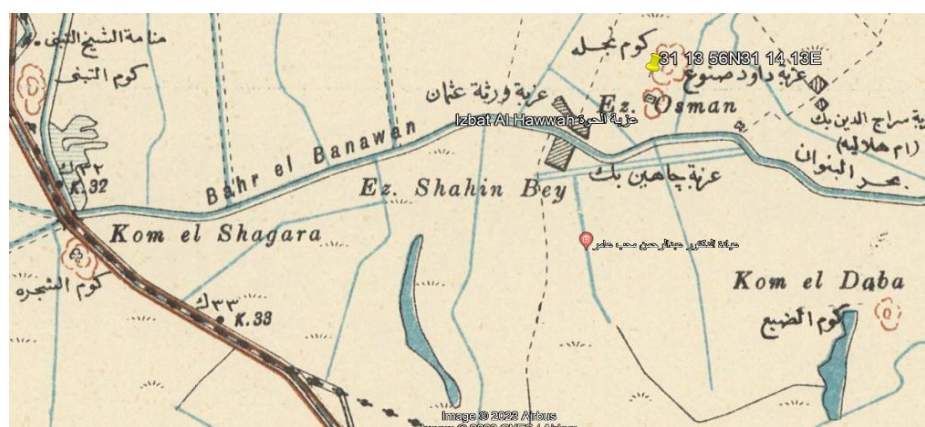
⁵⁰ Accessed in 26/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/mit-nus>.

⁵¹ D.G. Hogarth, in: *The Journal of Hellenic Studies* 24, 16.

Tebni, 2.6 km northeast of Kom al-Shagarah and 1.5 km northwest of Kom al-Dabaa.⁵²

The hill appeared in CORONA image (pl. 33) with an area estimated at about 400 m x 140 m, and it was devoid of any encroachments, which is the opposite of what Penny Wilson saw in 2022 when she visited the site. She said that it was hardly possible to obtain any archaeological information related to the hill because of using the site as a modern cemetery. Wilson indicated that the dimensions of the site are about 360m x 140m, and the maximum height of the site is 4.2m above the surrounding fields.⁵³

The hill, as it appears in Google Earth images, is mostly covered with a modern cemetery known as the Hawah cemetery. It is noted in Google Earth images since 2004 the gradual increase in the area of this cemetery to the extent that in 2023 it covered about two-thirds of the site (pls. 34a, b). At this rate, the site is likely to disappear in the next few years.



Pl. 32. Kom Nagla, the map of Egypt in 1914

⁵²The dimensions were measured using Google Earth program.

⁵³ Accessed in 26/5/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/nagla>

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Pl. 33. CORONA image of Kom Nagla

After: Accessed in 19/5/2023 from

<https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=16¢er=3477281,3662944>



Pl. 34a. Google Earth image of the site on 23/2/2004

Pl. 34b. the site on 18/4/2023

After: Accessed in 26/5/2023 from

https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+13+56N+31+14+13E/@31.232222,31.2369444,1.78571328a,887.72425522d,35y,0h,45t,0r/data=ClcaLRInGblnAupyOz9AIWj4YGOoPD9AKhMzMSAxMyA1Nk4gMzEgMTQgMTNFGAIgASImCiQJlq7vWZwyP0ARD0A7-AIxP0AZ5edL2qu-PkAhw_n-hn29PkAoAg

10- Kom el Garad (31 19 42N 30 54 02E)⁵⁴

Current Location

Kom el Garad is located north of Burullus Lake⁵⁵, 4.8 km east of Kom al-Khirba, 5.2 km northwest of Kom Mekheizen⁵⁶. It is one of the registered archaeological sites in the city of Riyad.

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

The site appeared on the map of Egypt in 1914 as Kom el Garad (Kafri) (pl. 35). CORONA images (pl. 36) showed the hill with an area of about 300 x 360 m. Penny Wilson surveyed the site in 2018 (pl. 37)⁵⁷. To the north of the site, Wilson found some amphorae made of pottery (pl. 38), in addition to large amounts of sherds and a pottery jar used as a coffin. Most of these objects date back to the period from the fourth until the seventh centuries AD.⁵⁸ Also, the remains of a clay plate containing a piece of turquoise and white glass, dating back to the ninth and tenth centuries AD, were also found. Corroded coins dating back to the period from the Roman era until the Islamic era were also found.⁵⁹ The hill is currently characterized by its small size, as the remaining part of it currently covers an area of about 200m x 170m (3.4 hectares)⁶⁰, with a maximum height of 5m, and extends from southwest to northeast. Most of the site area is flat and rises above the surrounding agricultural lands between 1-2 m⁶¹. The current area of the hill, which is decreasing compared to

⁵⁴ Accessed in 5/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/du-gar>

⁵⁵ Accessed in 5/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/du-gar>

⁵⁶ The distance was measured using Google Earth program.

⁵⁷ Accessed in 5/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/garad264>

⁵⁸ I.H. Balino, E. Tiribilli and P. Wilson, The Delta Survey: Recent Work in Kafr el- Sheikh and Baheira, in: *EA* 55 (2019), 12; Accessed in 5/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/garad264>

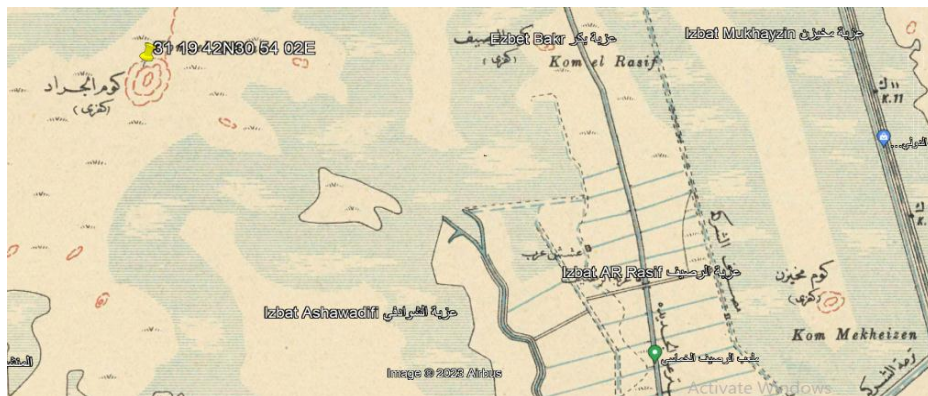
⁵⁹ Accessed in 5/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/garad264>

⁶⁰ ⁶⁰ I.H. Balino, E. Tiribilli and P. Wilson, in: *EA* 55 (2019), 13.

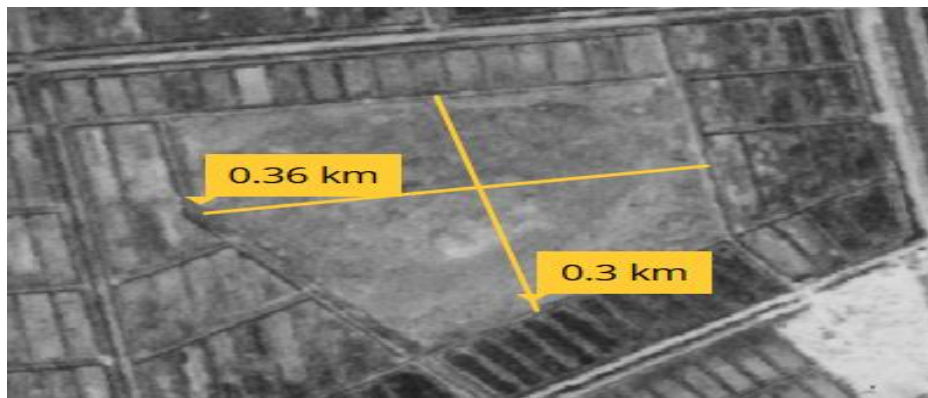
⁶¹ Accessed in 5/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/garad264>

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its area in CORONA images, indicates the encroachments that the hill was subjected to in the last fifty years, as a large part of the original area of the hill was cultivated (pl. 39).



Pl. 35. Kom el Garad, the map of Egypt in 1914



Pl. 36. CORONA image of Kom el Garad

After: Accessed in 5/6/2023 from

<https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=15¢er=3439834,3675463>



Pl. 37. Tell el Garad

After: Accessed in 5/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/garad264>



Pl. 38. Remains of Amphorae discovered in Tell el Garad

After: Accessed in 5/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/garad264>



Pl. 39. Google Earth image of Tell el Garad on 18/1/2023

After: Accessed in 26/5/2023 from

earth.google.com/web/search/31+19+42N+30+54+02E/@31.3283333,30.9005556,6.92947064a,886.72578492d,35y,0h,45t,0r/data=ClcaLRInGRCwsaYNVD9Alco60s-K5j5AKhMzMSAxOSA0Mk4gMzAgNTQgMDJFGAIgASImCiQJ_isYQC9GP0ARELO74CVEP0AZwVemglcUP0Ah4hiXh38PP0AoAg

11- Kom el Sheikh Ibrahim (31 16 51N 30 45 06E)⁶²

Current Location

Kom el-Sheikh Ibrahim is located 10 km north of Buto⁶³, west of the city of Sidi Salem and Bahr el Sheikh Ibrahim Canal and southeast of Kom el-Arab⁶⁴. The site is one of the registered archaeological sites in the city of Sidi Salem.

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

The site appeared on the map of Egypt in 1914 (pl. 40) and was characterized by its huge size. It was located north of Ezbet Abd al-Salam Bek Sheta. Hogarth visited the site and indicated that it was completely covered by a cemetery that had been stolen in the

⁶² Accessed in 1/7/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/she-sow>.

⁶³ Accessed in 1/7/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/she-sow>.

⁶⁴ P. Wilson and D. Grigoropoulos, *The West Delta*, 229.

past. He indicated that he saw a red brick building with a vaulted roof, which he interpreted as a cistern⁶⁵, a description that does not fully agreed with the current description of the site, so perhaps the hill was covered at the time of Hogarth's visit to the site with tombs that were removed after that, and a new cemetery was built to the northeast of the site.⁶⁶ CORONA images (pl. 41) showed that the hill was surrounded by agricultural lands and free of encroachments, except for the presence of a village in the southwestern side. It covered an area of about 800 m×600 m. Penny Wilson visited the site in 2003 and then re-visited the site in 2018⁶⁷. She described the site in 2003 as a long and narrow hill with a length of about 660 meters from north to south, while its length from east to west is about 521 meters, and the maximum height of the site is about 10 meters⁶⁸. She discovered remains of red-brick buildings (pl. 42) and sherds dating back to the ninth and tenth centuries AD, while at an older level of the site were found sherds dating back to the period from the fourth to the sixth centuries AD⁶⁹. Remains of glass vessels and corroded bronze coins were also found.⁷⁰

Wilson indicated that the southern part of the site was sold for the construction of a power station after a mission from the Supreme Council of Antiquities had previously excavated it⁷¹. It is now called "Sidi Salem Power Station." The southwestern side of the hill is occupied by a village called "Uqlah", part of which was built on the original area of the hill, as shown in Google Earth

65 D.G. Hogarth, in: *The Journal of Hellenic Studies* 24, 15.

66 P. Wilson and D. Grigoropoulos, *The West Delta*, 231.

67 Accessed in 1/7/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/she-sow>.

68 P. Wilson and N. Spencer, in: *EA* 24, 11; P. Wilson and D. Grigoropoulos, *The West Delta*, 229.

69 P. Wilson and N. Spencer, in: *EA* 24, 11.

70 P. Wilson and D. Grigoropoulos, *The West Delta*, 231.

71 P. Wilson and N. Spencer, in: *EA* 24, 11; P. Wilson and D. Grigoropoulos, *The West Delta*, 229.

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images. The remaining part of the site measures about 550m x 480 m. (pl. 43).



Pl. 40. Kom el-Sheikh Ibrahim, the map of Egypt in 1914



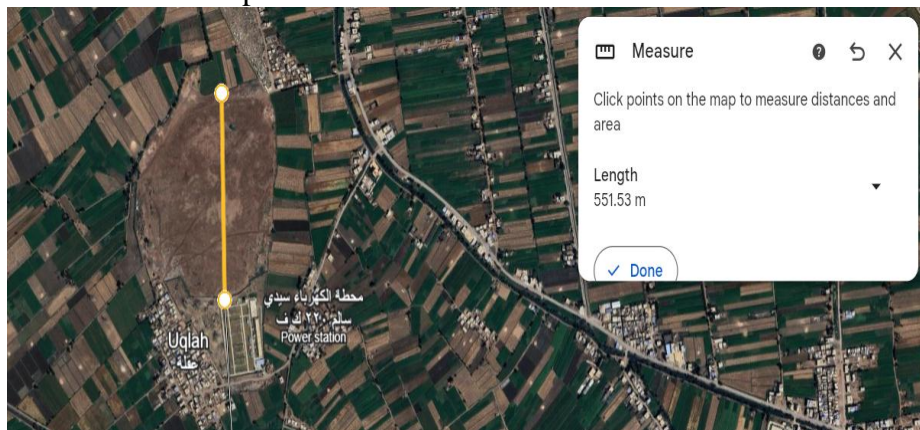
Pl. 41. CORONA image of Kom el-Sheikh Ibrahim

After: Accessed in 1/7/2023 from

<https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=16¢er=3423249,3669118>



Pl. 42. A building of red bricks, Kom el-Sheikh Ibrahim
After: Accessed in 1/7/2023 from
<https://www.ees.ac.uk/sheikhibrahim244>



Pl. 43. Google Earth image of Kom el-Sheikh Ibrahim on 22/4/2024
After: Accessed in 30/5/2024 from

<https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+16+51N+30+45+06E/@31.27887826,30.75129499,0.49062779a,2025.3659907d,35y,2.15689476h,45.00723694t,-0r/data=CigiJgokCVtPVKchSj9AEW8GNrfkRz9AGU1X17Ad1T5AIdKNMFkzz5A>

12- Kom Quleia (31 17 11N 30 42 51E)⁷²

Current Location

It is located about 7 km west of Sidi Salem⁷³ and it is one of the registered archaeological sites in the city of the Sidi Salem.

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

The hill appeared clearly in the map of Egypt in 1914 (pl. 44) and it was surrounded by more than one old estate, such as the large estate (izbet) of Al-Sakhawi, the estate of Al-Zeini, izbet Omar Emara, izbet Muhammad Al-Yamani and izbet Ahmed Kassar. Penny Wilson conducted an archaeological survey of the site in 2018 (pl. 45)⁷⁴. The excavations revealed a red brick cistern (pl. 46) and many coffins made of pottery from the Roman era, suggesting the existence of a small village or city that included a cemetery during the Roman era⁷⁵.

The site currently takes an oval shape, and its area is about 210 m from east to west and 440 m from north to south, including the area occupied by the village which was built during the last century and its presence was also highlighted by CORONA images (pl. 47). The maximum height of the hill is 6 m above the level of agricultural lands⁷⁶.

The site is currently surrounded by all sides by agricultural lands, except for the northern part, where there is a village known as "Al-Abbasi", built on the highest part of the archaeological site, as

⁷² Accessed in 3/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/nus-qut>

⁷³ Accessed in 3/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/nus-qut>

⁷⁴ Accessed in 3/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/quleia245>

⁷⁵ Accessed in 3/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/quleia245>

⁷⁶ H. Balino, E. Tiribilli and P. Wilson, The Delta Survey: Recent Work in Kafr el- Sheikh and Baheira, in: *EA* 55 (2019), 13; P. Wilson and D. Grigoropoulos, *The West Delta*, 258.

shown in Google Earth images (pl. 48), and the site has to be protected from urban sprawl that may threaten it in the future.



Pl. 44. Kom Quleia, the map of Egypt in 1914



Pl. 45. A modern cemeter, Kom Quleia

After: Accessed in 3/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/quleia245>



Pl. 46. Cistern of red bricks, Kom Quleia

After: Accessed in 3/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/quleia245>



Pl. 47. CORONA image of Kom Quleia

After: Accessed in 3/6/2023 from
<https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=16¢er=3419124,3669983>



Pl. 48. Google Earth image of Kom Quleia on 27/2/2023

After: Accessed in 3/6/2023 from
<https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+17+11N+30+42+51E/@31.2867366,30.71433966,1.09461669a,901.58858965d,35y,0h,0t,0r/data=CigiJgokCWESFQacMj9AEaPIFkwDMT9AGfjYe9irvj5AIfjbM419vT5A>

13- Kom el Qassabi (31 15 50N 30 39 53E)⁷⁷

Current Location

Kom Al-Qasabi is located east of Fuwwah, and it bore this name because it is located 1 km west of a village called Al-Qasabi⁷⁸, and it bore the same name on the map of Egypt in 1914 (pl. 49). The site is one of the registered archaeological sites in the city of Sidi Salem.

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

Penny Wilson conducted an archaeological survey of the site in 2018 and indicated that the surface of the site is covered with few sherds dating back to the end of the Roman period⁷⁹.

The area of the site is about 300m x 175m (5.25 hectares), and the maximum height of the site is 3m above the level of the surrounding agricultural lands (pl. 50)⁸⁰. The hill is located below a cemetery that covers most of the hill (pl. 51), except for a small area located in the south, and the hill is liable to disappear and be completely transformed into a cemetery during the next few years. The cemetery also appeared in part of the site in CORONA images (pl. 52).

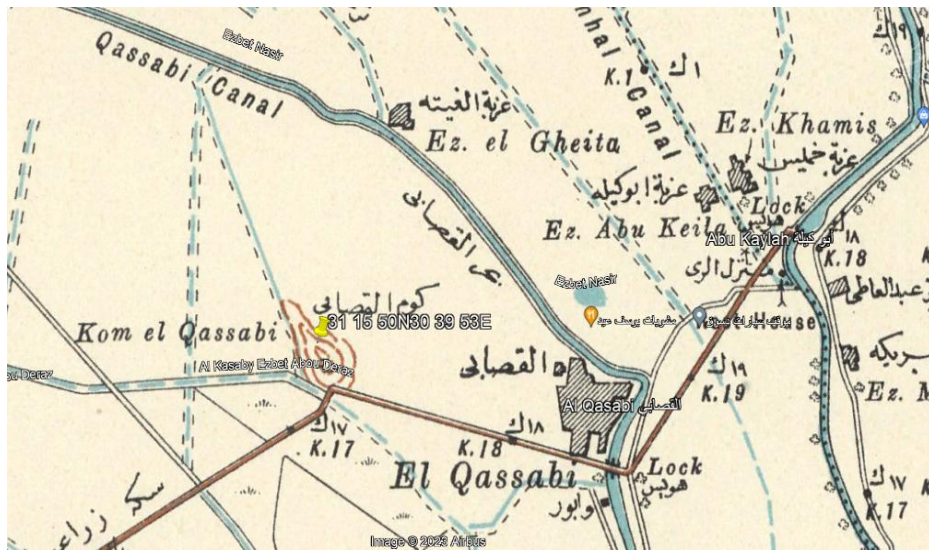
⁷⁷ Accessed in 3/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/nus-qut>

⁷⁸ Accessed in 3/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/nus-qut>

⁷⁹ Accessed in 3/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/qassabi248>.

⁸⁰ I.H. Balino, E. Tiribilli and P. Wilson, in: *EA* 55, 12; Accessed in 3/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/qassabi248>.

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Pl. 49. Kom Al-Qassabi, the map of Egypt in 1914



Pl. 50. Google Earth image of Kom Al-Qassabi on 27/2/2023

After: Accessed in 3/6/2023 from

https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+15+50N+30+39+53E/@31.26338045,30.66492995,2.70974158a,513.81914749d,35y,-0.72888326h,44.99762461t,-0r/data=CigiJgokCSDIBQ1QUT9AEQt3bb3QTT9AGe4JT_980j5AIQrBDYQbzj5A



Pl. 51. A modern cemetery, Kom Al-Qasabi
After: Accessed in 3/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/nus-qut>



Pl. 52. CORONA image of Kom Al-Qasabi
After: Accessed in 19/5/2023 from
<https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=17¢er=3413581,3667068>

14- Kom el Arab (31 19 00N 30 43 18E)⁸¹

Current Location

Kom el-Arab is also known as Tell Kafri, 7 km northwest of the city of Sidi Salem and northeast of Kom Abu Ismail⁸². The site is one of the registered archaeological sites in the city of Sidi Salem.

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

The archaeological site appeared on the map of Egypt in 1914 (pl. 53) and was surrounded by some estates, such as izbet al-Fadhili and Izbet Farsh Barakat, and CORONA image (pl. 54) showed that the site is huge and devoid of encroachments.

Penny Wilson visited the site in 2003 and stated that the area of the site is about 556m x 545m and that the maximum height of the site is 10m above the level of the surrounding agricultural lands⁸³. Wilson indicated that the hill is flat at the sides while in the middle, there is a high hill⁸⁴. She also referred to the presence of four blocks of red granite at the site, representing grinding stones, which may indicate the presence of activity on the site related to grinding grain. Corroded coins, pieces of broken glass, red bricks, and sherds are scattered throughout the site, giving the site's floor a red color in some areas. The sherds date back to the period from the fourth to the ninth centuries AD and represent the remains of cooking utensils, storage utensils and flasks⁸⁵.

Google Earth images showed that the site in recent years has been subjected to encroachments on the southern strip of the site, which

⁸¹ Accessed in 2/6/23 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/ahm-ara>

⁸² P. Wilson and D. Grigoropoulos, *The West Delta*, 253.

⁸³ P. Wilson and D. Grigoropoulos, *The West Delta*, 253.

⁸⁴ Accessed in 2/6/23 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/ahm-ara>

⁸⁵ P. Wilson, B. Kemp and P. Rosa, Fieldwork, 2002-03: Delta Survey, Memphis, Tell el- Amarna, Qasr Ibrim, in: *JEA* 89 (2003), 7; P. Wilson and D. Grigoropoulos, *The West Delta*, 254-55; Accessed in 2/6/23 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/arab243>

has become covered with modern houses and buildings that expand year after year. The yellow line highlights the length of the site without encroachments from north to south in 2009, and when the same line is seen in 2023, modern buildings can be observed Which were built and exceeded this line a lot (pls. 55a, b). It indicates that these encroachments during the next few years may reach the heart of the hill itself and threaten to destroy it.



Pl. 53. Kom el-Arab, the map of Egypt in 1914



Pl. 54. CORONA image of Kom el-Arab

After: Accessed in 19/5/2023 from

<https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=15¢er=3419998,3673267>

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Pl. 55a. Google Earth image
of the site on 26/8/2009

Pl. 74b. the site on 24/4/2023

After: Accessed in 1/7/2023 from

https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+19+00N++30+43+18E/@31.31334928,30.72456057,1.71577218a,1243.9574257d,35y,-36.0588138h,45.0022707t,0r/data=ClgaLhIoGXQ7oBERUT9AIbwcGya_uD5AKhQzMSAxOSAwME4gIDMwIDQzIDE4RRgCIAEiJgokCRa_y7o-hYz9AEY_cK5hXYj9AGdzJCETGtT5AIR8sxnJ5sj5A

15- Kom el Saharig (31 23 12N 30 42 13E)⁸⁶

Current Location

Kom el-Saharig is 4 km north of Kom Alawi⁸⁷, 5 km west of the village of Shakhlouba in the city of Sidi Salem.

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

Kom al-Saharij was one of the ancient hills that appeared in the map of Egypt in 1914 (pl. 56). To the west of it, there was a canal called Bab Alawi Canal. CORONA image (pl. 57) showed that the site is huge and empty of encroachments.

The area of the site in 2005, as highlighted by Google Earth images (pl. 58a), was about 400m x 200m. The area of the site has been encroached on since 2009 (pl. 58b), so that the area of the hill has since then become 270m x 112m. The hill is surrounded by fish farms and some agricultural lands (pl. 58c).

Penny Wilson visited the site in 2022⁸⁸ and stated that the dimensions of the hill are 267 meters from northwest to southeast, with a maximum width of 120 meters, while the maximum height of the hill is 4.2 meters, and the site occupies an area of 2.77 hectares. Wilson indicated that most of the pottery discovered at the site is from the end of the Roman period, while other remains date back to the beginning of the Roman era, indicating that the site dates to the beginning of the Roman era and it flourished at the end of the Roman era⁸⁹.

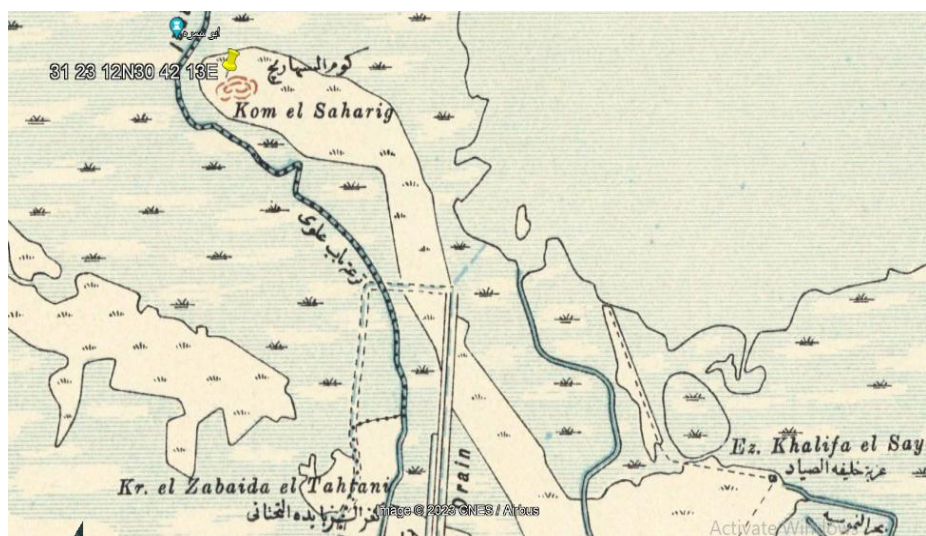
⁸⁶ Accessed in 2/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/sal-she>.

⁸⁷ Accessed in 2/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/sal-she>.

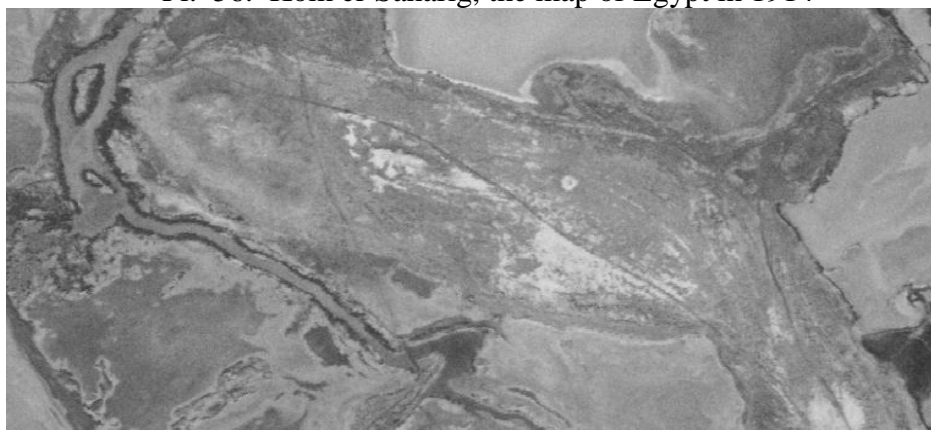
⁸⁸ Accessed in 2/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/sal-she>.

⁸⁹ Accessed in 2/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/sarahig>

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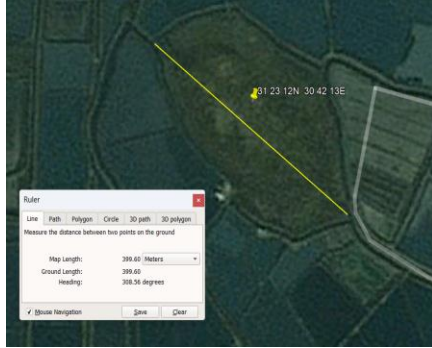
Pl. 56. Kom el-Saharig, the map of Egypt in 1914



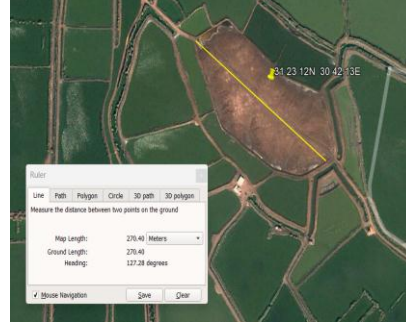
Pl. 57. CORONA image of Kom el-Saharig

After: Accessed in 19/5/2023 from

<https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=16¢er=3417986,3682878>



Pl. 58a. Google Earth image of the site on 22/11/2005



Pl. 58b. the site on 27/7/2009



Pl. 58c. Google Earth image of the site on 27/2/2023

After: Accessed in 1/7/2023 from

<https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+23+12N+30+42+13E/@31.3866667,30.7036111,1.66599326a,886.11852629d,35y,0h,45t,0r/data=ClcaLRInGcbzvpb8Yj9AIUOaZ9sftD5AKhMzMSAyMyAxMk4gMzAgNDIgMTNFGAIgASImCiQJaUpX5eViP0ARjMLNwd9gP0AZTuGKyD7HPkAhe6LEBW3CPkA>

16- El Kom al Ahmar (31 12 43N 31 02 27E)⁹⁰

Current Location

The site of El Kom al-Ahmar is located 4 km south of Kom Um Gaafar⁹¹, adjacent to the city of Sidi Ghazi⁹², in the center of Kafr El-Sheikh.

⁹⁰ Accessed in 2/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/abu-ahm>.

The Development of the Size of the Site and its most Prominent Visits and Scientific Excavations

Jeffrey and Patricia Spencer visited the site in April 2011 (pl. 59) and described it as a huge hill measuring 700m x 270m and rising about 6m above the agricultural fields surrounding the hill. Jeffrey Spencer mentioned that although the site is called al-Kum al-Ahmar, it is not red in color and there are few sherds from the Roman era on its surface. He also pointed out that to the west of the site there is a water station (pl. 60), and there are cemeteries in the south and the east (pls. 61 and 62)⁹³. It should be noted that these two cemeteries were also present in CORONA image (pl. 63).

Penny Wilson visited the site in 2021 and found pottery in the southwestern region of the hill, consisting of amphorae, cooking utensils and sherds dating from the fourth to the eighth centuries AD⁹⁴.



Pl. 59. El Kom al-Ahmar

After: Accessed in 2/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/ahmar99>

⁹¹ Kom Um Gaafar is situated 17 km northeast of Kafr el Sheikh in which it is one of the registered archaeological sites. See:

A.J. Spencer, *The Delta Survey 2009-2015* (London, 2016), 30.

⁹² A.J. Spencer, *The Delta Survey*, 30.

⁹³ A.J. Spencer, *The Delta Survey*, 30; Accessed in 13/2/2020 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/ahmar99>.

⁹⁴ Accessed in 2/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/ahmar99>.



Pl. 60. Water station, El Kom al-Ahmar



Pl. 61. A modern cemetery, El Kom al-Ahmar

After: Accessed in 3/6/2023 from Accessed in 2/6/2023 from
<https://www.ees.ac.uk/ahmar99>



Pl. 62. Google Earth image of the site on 27/2/2023

After: Accessed in 2/6/2023 from
https://earth.google.com/web/search/31+12+43N+31+02+27E/@31.21164358,31.04099389,2.87740313a,1223.36663185d,35y,0h,0t,0r/data=C_igiJgokCXV35UqtQj9AEeOCyNFnPz9AGaUIgXyF3z5AIW-PCbid2T5A



Pl. 63. CORONA image of El Kom al-Ahmar

After: Accessed in 2/6/2023 from

<https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=16¢er=3455450,3660305>

Conclusion

16 archaeological sites in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate are at risk of destruction and extinction, as follows:

Kom el Dabaa, Kom el Fuqa, Tell el Ghawet, Kom el Khereba, Kom el Malah, Tell Mansur East, Kom Nagla, Kom el Garad, Kom el Shikh Ibrahim, Tell el Misk, Kom Quleia, Kom el Qassabi, Kom el Arab, El Kom el Ahmar, Kom Saharig and Tell el Gamus.

The study of these sites illustrated that they sites suffer from some risks that threaten their future existence, which can be highlighted as follows:

Urban sprawl is one of the most prominent threats to archaeological sites in Kafr El-Sheikh, which can be observed in several archaeological hills such as Kom el Dabaa, Tell el Ghawet, Kom el Khereba, Kom el Sheikh Ibrahim, Kom Quleia and Kom el Arab.

The analysis of these sites revealed that the construction of tombs by the locals in large areas of the hills is another danger facing some of the archaeological sites in Kafr El-Sheikh, such as Tell el Gamus, Kom el Malah, Kom Nagla, Tell el Misk, Kom el Qassabi, el Kom el Ahmar and Tell Mansur.

Encroachment on archaeological sites through agriculture threatens their extinction in the long term, which is evident in Kom el Malah, Kom el Garad, Kom el Saharig and Tell Mansur.

Some development activities and industries were established in the archaeological hills such as Kom el Fuqa, Kom el Saharig and el Kom el Ahmar.

This research rings the alarm bell for those responsible for antiquities in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate in particular and in Egypt in general, that 16 archaeological sites at once in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate are at risk of destruction and extinction. It can also be said that the problems that these sites suffer from and that the study highlighted certainly exist in other governorates, especially those in Lower Egypt and have the same geographical nature as Kafr El-Sheikh.

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- 4-Accessed in 2/6/2023 from <https://www.ees.ac.uk/sal-she>.
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