

FOURTH CATARACT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BETWEEN EL-AR (SHEMKHIYA) AND EL-GAMAMIYA (NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2007)

Marek Chłodnicki, Anna Longa, Piotr Osypiński

The archaeological survey of the region between El-Ar (Shemkhiya) and El-Gamamiya, conducted under the auspices of the PCMA (see above, report by B. Żurawski in this volume), took place between 19 November and 4 December 2007.¹ The actual survey was carried out by sub-teams: El-Ar 1–12 and Umm Saffaya 19–30 — M. Chłodnicki, A. Longa; El-Ar 15–24 and Keheili 23–31 — A. Longa, E. Kuciewicz; El-Ar 13–14, 25–36, Umm Saffaya 31–37, Keheili 1–22 and Gamamiya 70–100 — M. Chłodnicki, H. Żarska-Chłodnicka; and Gamamiya 14–69 — P. Osypiński, M. Osypińska, S. Bagińska. It covered an area where earlier reconnaissance had located some box graves and tumuli cemeteries (Chłodnicki et alii 2005; 2006). Altogether 174 new sites were localized using a Garmin GPSmap 765 device. The biggest group is constituted by tumuli cemeteries or single graves, provisionally connected with the Kerma Horizon. The discoveries covered one site dated to the Paleolithic and a Neolithic complex, including the biggest settlement known so far (El-Ar 13) and a presumed cemetery, located on the banks and inside the dry old valley of the Nile between El-Ar (El-Al) and Umm Saffaya.

Test excavations were carried out on five sites: Gamamiya 19 and 55 — P. Osypiński, D. Bagińska, M. Osypińska (see below, separate reports by P. Osypiński and D. Bagińska in this volume), El-Ar 1 — A. Longa, A. Buszek, A. Drejer (see below, separate report by A. Longa with appendix by J. Śliwa in this volume), and El-Ar 7 and 29 — M. Chłodnicki, H. Żarska-Chłodnicka (reported on separately by M. Chłodnicki, below in this volume).

The petroglyph team discovered and documented two big rock art galleries with hundreds of rock drawings, from the Neolithic through modern times, at El-Gamamiya 67 and Keheili 5, as well as several smaller sites (El-Gamamiya 75, Keheili 14) and single drawings (reported on separately below, see E. Jaroni and E. Kuciewicz in this volume).

1 The survey was directed by Dr. Marek Chłodnicki from the Archaeological Museum in Poznań. The team comprised Dr. Dobiesława Bagińska, Artur Buszek, Agata Drejer, Anna Longa, Marta Osypińska, Piotr Osypiński, archaeologists; Eliza Jaroni and Ewa Kuciewicz, petroglyph study unit; Maciej Jawornicki, photographer; Halina Żarska-Chłodnicka, documentalist. The research was financed jointly by the PCMA and the Poznań Prehistoric Society.

SITE GAZETTEER

The sites located during this leg of the survey are presented in a form already employed for previous reporting in *Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean* (Chłodnicki *et alii* 2005; 2006). Separate site numbering was used now for the sites around the village of El-Ar (El-Al)² in the

Shemkhiya district (*mantiqa*), as well as for Keheili in the Umm Saffaya district. However, since in the first reports sites had been numbered within districts, it should be kept in mind that the Umm Saffaya–Keheili sites could be quite near sites previously presented as Umm Saffaya.

EL-GAMAMIYA³

SITE No.	SITE TYPE	REMARKS	PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION	GPS COORDINATES
El-Gamamiya 14	cemetery	some destroyed graves (house of Jibreel Hassan Ahmed)	post-Meroitic? Christian?	N19°20'28.7" E32°47'46.5"
El-Gamamiya 15	cemetery	four tumuli	Kerma horizon	N19°20'34.5" E32°48'14.2"
El-Gamamiya 16	settlement	scattered potsherds, stone and mud structures	Christian modern	N19°20'27.6" E32°48'15.2"
El-Gamamiya 17	cemetery settlement	several dome-graves, stone structures	Kerma horizon?	N19°20'12.9" E32°47'52.5"
El-Gamamiya 18	settlement	scattered potsherds, stone structures	modern	N19°20'18.7" E32°47'51.2"
El-Gamamiya 19	cemetery	several tumuli (two excavated)	Middle Kerma	N19°20'26.3" E32°47'49.6"
El-Gamamiya 20	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon?	N19°20'25.4" E32°47'52.8"
El-Gamamiya 21	cemetery	two tumuli	Kerma horizon?	N19°20'27.4" E32°47'56.7"
El-Gamamiya 22	cemetery	several tumuli	Kerma horizon	N19°20'24.9" E32°47'58.6"

2 Site El-Ar 1 excavated by the Poznań team has been given the additional P in front of the number for easy recognition.

3 For sites GM1–6 and GM7–18, see respectively Chłodnicki, Żurawski 2005: 375–376; Chłodnicki *et alii* 2006: 343–345.

FOURTH CATARACT

SUDAN

SITE No.	SITE TYPE	REMARKS	PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION	GPS COORDINATES
El-Gamamiya 23	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon?	N19°20'22.0" E32°47'59.2"
El-Gamamiya 24	cemetery	three tumuli	Kerma horizon?	N19°20'23.3" E32°48'03.8"
El-Gamamiya 25	cemetery occupation site	two tumuli scattered lithics and potsherds	Kerma horizon Neolithic	N19°20'31.8" E32°48'04.4"
El-Gamamiya 26	cemetery?	stone structures, scattered human bones	?	N19°20'51.2" E32°48'12.7"
El-Gamamiya 27	cemetery	near to 100 box graves, Muslim graves	Christian modern	N19°20'50.1" E32°48'05.5"
El-Gamamiya 28	cemetery rock art	several tumuli several drawings: cattle, humans, geometric	Kerma horizon ?	N19°20'38.3" E32°48'31.5"
El-Gamamiya 29	cemetery?	two stone structures	?	N19°20'34.6" E32°48'26.8"
El-Gamamiya 30	rock art	several drawings: foot- prints, animals (donkey?), geometric	?	N19°20'34.6" E32°48'24.4"
El-Gamamiya 31	settlement	scattered potsherds, stone structures	Christian	N19°20'38.3" E32°48'29.5"
El-Gamamiya 32	cemetery	two tumuli	Kerma horizon	N19°20'36.8" E32°48'34.5"
El-Gamamiya 33	cemetery?	several stone structures (also pavements), scattered human bones	?	N19°20'38.9" E32°48'33.7"
El-Gamamiya 34	settlement	scattered potsherds	Christian	N19°20'38.5" E32°48'38.5"
El-Gamamiya 35	cemetery	several tumuli (robbed in 2006)	post-Meroitic	N19°20'35.3" E32°48'41.7"
El-Gamamiya 36	cemetery?	10 stone structures (robbed in 2006)	?	N19°20'30.8" E32°48'39.5"

FOURTH CATARACT

SUDAN

SITE No.	SITE TYPE	REMARKS	PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION	GPS COORDINATES
El-Gamamiya 37	occupation site	stone structures	?	N19°20'43.4" E32°48'47.2"
El-Gamamiya 38	occupation site	stone structures	?	N19°20'47.5" E32°48'37.9"
El-Gamamiya 39	single find	beer-jar (almost complete)	post-Meroitic	N19°20'45.5" E32°48'36.6"
El-Gamamiya 40	rock art	cattle petroglyphs potsherds	? Neolithic	N19°20'42.6" E32°48'29.7"
El-Gamamiya 41	occupation site	scattered lithics and potsherds	Neolithic	N19°20'44.7" E32°48'16.7"
El-Gamamiya 42	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon?	N19°22'33.9" E32°49'31.2"
El-Gamamiya 43	settlement	two round stone shelters	modern	N19°22'32.1" E32°49'31.4"
El-Gamamiya 44	cemetery occupation site	single tumulus scattered lithics and potsherds	Kerma horizon? Neolithic	N19°22'27.7" E32°49'31.7"
El-Gamamiya 45	cemetery	four tumuli, scattered human bones	Kerma horizon?	N19°22'30.7" E32°49'28.4"
El-Gamamiya 46	rock art	single petroglyph: rider, geometric	?	N19°22'27.2" E32°49'27.6"
El-Gamamiya 47	settlement	stone house	modern	N19°22'26.4" E32°49'24.9"
El-Gamamiya 48	cemetery	four tumuli	Kerma horizon	N19°22'21.7" E32°49'20.5"
El-Gamamiya 49	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon?	N19°22'14.0" E32°49'12.0"
El-Gamamiya 50	cemetery	several tumuli, scattered human bones	Kerma horizon	N19°22'00.6" E32°49'04.9"
El-Gamamiya 51	occupation site cemetery	lithics, potsherds, petrified bones, some robbed tumuli, scattered bones, beads	Neolithic Kerma horizon post-Meroitic	N19°21'02.9" E32°48'15.6"

FOURTH CATARACT

SUDAN

SITE No.	SITE TYPE	REMARKS	PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION	GPS COORDINATES
El-Gamamiya 52	church	sandstone capital, red bricks, potsherds	Christian	N19°20'48.5" E32°47'58.4"
El-Gamamiya 53	feature	vessels, grinders stone stela with flags	post-Meroitic modern	N19°21'01.7" E32°48'10.6"
El-Gamamiya 54	cemetery	destroyed box graves (land under cultivation)	Christian	N19°20'42.7" E32°47'56.1"
El-Gamamiya 55	cemetery	hundreds of tumuli (12 excavated)	Kerma Classic	N19°20'45.1" E32°48'09.5"
El-Gamamiya 56	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon?	N19°20'49.6" E32°48'14.8"
El-Gamamiya 57	<i>baniya</i>	stone house	modern	N19°20'56.8" E32°48'18.5"
El-Gamamiya 58	cemetery	two tumuli	Kerma horizon	N19°20'59.0" E32°48'20.5"
El-Gamamiya 59	settlement	stone house	modern	N19°21'00.9" E32°48'22.3"
El-Gamamiya 60	cemetery	three tumuli	Kerma horizon	N19°21'03.2" E32°48'23.9"
El-Gamamiya 61	cemetery	two tumuli	Kerma horizon	N19°21'00.9" E32°48'29.6"
El-Gamamiya 62	cemetery	several dome graves	Kerma horizon	N19°20'54.7" E32°48'30.7"
El-Gamamiya 63	settlement	stone houses	modern	N19°21'08.3" E32°48'31.3"
El-Gamamiya 64	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon?	N19°21'12.1" E32°48'33.6"
El-Gamamiya 65	cemetery	two tumuli	Kerma horizon?	N19°21'13.8" E32°48'40.0"
El-Gamamiya 66	cemetery	destroyed stone structures, scattered pottery, bones, beads	Napatan?	N19°21'13.8" E32°48'43.5"
El-Gamamiya 67	rock art	hundreds of petro- glyphs: cattle, humans, giraffes, lion etc.	Kerma to modern	N19°21'18.9" E32°48'40.5"

FOURTH CATARACT

SUDAN

SITE No.	SITE TYPE	REMARKS	PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION	GPS COORDINATES
El-Gamamiya 68	cemetery rock art	several tumuli	Kerma horizon	N19°21'18.8" E32°48'38.9"
El-Gamamiya 69	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon	N19°20'49.0" E32°48'28.3"
El-Gamamiya 70	cemetery rock art	two small tumuli several petroglyphs: camels	Kerma horizon? Christian	N19°21'13.5" E32°48'46.3"
El-Gamamiya 71	rock art	several petroglyphs: cattle, horse rider	?	N19°21'14.3" E32°48'48.8"
El-Gamamiya 72	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon	N19°21'06.0" E32°48'47.3"
El-Gamamiya 73	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon	N19°21'17.0" E32°48'56.8"
El-Gamamiya 74	cemetery	10 tumuli	Kerma horizon	N19°21'21.5" E32°48'43.0"
El-Gamamiya 75	rock art	several dozens of petroglyphs: cows, humans, camels, sandals	all periods	N19°21'22.0" E32°48'48.8"
El-Gamamiya 76	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon	N19°21'22.1" E32°48'46.5"
El-Gamamiya 77	cemetery	tumulus and stone rings	?	N19°21'22.1" E32°48'41.7"
El-Gamamiya 78	occupation site	scattered potsherds and lithics	Neolithic	N19°21'24.8" E32°48'41.2"
El-Gamamiya 79	rock art	several dozens of petroglyphs: cows, camels, sandals	all periods	N19°21'24.6" E32°48'53.4"
El-Gamamiya 80	cemetery rock art	tumulus several petroglyphs: cattle, camels, sandals	Kerma horizon? Kerma to modern	N19°21'26.6" E32°48'56.0"
El-Gamamiya 81	rock art	several petroglyphs: cattle, humans	?	N19°21'19.1" E32°49'01.3"
El-Gamamiya 82	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon	N19°21'20.5" E32°49'04.1"
El-Gamamiya 83	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon	N19°21'22.6" E32°49'01.7"

FOURTH CATARACT

SUDAN

SITE No.	SITE TYPE	REMARKS	PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION	GPS COORDINATES
El-Gamamiya 84	occupation site	scattered stones, stone rings and scattered potsherds	post-Meroitic	N19°21'29.2" E32°49'00.1"
El-Gamamiya 85	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon	N19°21'33.1" E32°48'49.8"
El-Gamamiya 86	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon	N19°21'26.9" E32°48'37.3"
El-Gamamiya 87	cemetery	single tumulus	?	N19°21'39.8" E32°48'53.3"
El-Gamamiya 88	cemetery	single tumulus	?	N19°21'45.0" E32°48'51.0"
El-Gamamiya 89	occupation site?	five stone rings	Neolithic	N19°21'47.6" E32°48'57.8"
El-Gamamiya 90	cemetery	single tumulus	?	N19°21'46.9" E32°49'06.5"
El-Gamamiya 91	cemetery	three small tumuli	Kerma horizon?	N19°21'51.9" E32°49'13.8"
El-Gamamiya 92	cemetery	five stone tumuli	Kerma horizon?	N19°21'50.9" E32°49'07.9"
El-Gamamiya 93	occupation site?	several stone rings	post-Meroitic?	N19°21'51.6" E32°49'05.4"
El-Gamamiya 94	cemetery	five small stone mounds, possibly graves	?	N19°21'52.5" E32°49'03.5"
El-Gamamiya 95	cemetery	two tumuli	Kerma horizon?	N19°21'53.6" E32°49'02.3"
El-Gamamiya 96	cemetery	tumuli	?	N19°21'54.7" E32°48'59.7"
El-Gamamiya 97	?	four stone rings	?	N19°22'08.8" E32°49'08.6"
El-Gamamiya 98	cemetery	crevice grave	?	N19°22'17.7" E32°49'19.1"
El-Gamamiya 99	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon?	N19°22'29.8" E32°49'38.2"
El-Gamamiya 100	cemetery?	stone rings and tumuli	Kerma horizon?	N19°22'34.0" E32°49'38.8"

The survey in the Gamamiya district revealed sites from all archaeological periods. Rock art proved the most interesting despite being difficult to date, especially site GM67 which is a gallery of pictures executed in different techniques. Among the images of wild animals (giraffes, lion, gazelle, antelopes), domesticated species (mainly cattle) and humans there is a unique panel depicting a parade of men in skirts and ostrich feathers on their heads, carrying sticks or clubs, leading a herd of short-horned cattle and accompanied by dogs [Fig. 2]. The dominating species in the petroglyphs, also at GM67, is long-horned cattle, often showing all kinds of horn deformation.

Scattered lithics and Neolithic pottery have been noted at a few sites, usually on the river terrace, in conjunction with later remains.

Sites attributed to the Kerma Horizon were the most numerous. These were mostly small stone tumuli located on the summits of the first line of rocky hills by the river terrace.

The cemeteries counted from one to dozens of tumuli. Two sites estimated as representative of this kind, GM19 and GM55, were tested (see separate reports on the excavations by P. Osypiński and on the pottery by D. Bagińska in this volume).

Two or three late Meroitic/post-Meroitic cemeteries were discovered: GM14 (recorded in February 2007 by ethnographer P. Maliński



Fig. 1. Sandstone capital from the ruins at site GM52 (Photo P. Osypiński)



Fig. 2. Rock art panel from the "gallery" at the GM67 site (Photo E. Kuciewicz)

FOURTH CATARACT

SUDAN

in the context of a local house construction project), GM35 (robbed not more than two years ago) and GM51. Burials of this kind are usually easily observed on the surface and are known to contain artifacts of value on the illegal antiquaries market in Egypt. Freshly broken vessels were found just 200 m away from the cemeteries (GM39 near GM35 and GM53 by GM51) and can be assumed to represent recently plundered grave goods.

Christian remains were also usually destroyed by agricultural activities. The remains of a church in red brick (GM52) with a sandstone capital [*Fig. 1*] were shown to the team, buried in soil under cultivation. Many examples of modern settlement in the form of abandoned houses and stone-built *baniyas* were also recorded. Their location at some distance from existing villages indicates occasional settlement in the desert zone.

UMM SAFFAYA

SITE No.	SITE TYPE	REMARKS	PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION	GPS COORDINATES
Umm Saffaya 19	cemetery	two tumuli	Kerma horizon?	N19°27'30.6" E32°54'15.9"
Umm Saffaya 20	cemetery	two tumuli	Kerma horizon?	N19°27'28.4" E32°54'14.0"
Umm Saffaya 21	cemetery	20 tumuli	post-Meroitic	N19°27'24.8" E32°54'08.7"
Umm Saffaya 22	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon?	N19°27'20.3" E32°54'11.9"
Umm Saffaya 23	cemetery	several destroyed tumuli	Kerma horizon	N19°27'12.4" E32°54'10.4"
Umm Saffaya 24	dam	stone dam (3 m wide) blocking small wadi	?	N19°27'08.4" E32°54'07.7"
Umm Saffaya 25	grave?	small elongated stone mound	?	N19°26'42.5" E32°53'55.9"
Umm Saffaya 26	stone rings	several stone rings between the wadis	?	N19°26'36.5" E32°53'51.1"
Umm Saffaya 27	stone rings	three stone rings, several small stone mounds	?	N19°26'35.7" E32°53'46.7"
Umm Saffaya 28	stone rings	three stone rings	?	N19°26'29.2" E32°53'40.8"
Umm Saffaya 29	cemetery	approx. 20 tumuli with stone kerb	post-Meroitic	N19°27'17.8" E32°53'48.5"

FOURTH CATARACT

SUDAN

SITE No.	SITE TYPE	REMARKS	PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION	GPS COORDINATES
Umm Saffaya 30	settlement	scattered pottery	Christian	N19°27'28.8" E32°53'55.7"
Umm Saffaya 31	occupation site	scattered pottery on silt mound	Kerma horizon?	N19°27'26.2" E32°54'32.6"
Umm Saffaya 32	occupation site	stones and scattered pottery in alluvial area	Neolithic Kerma horizon	N19°27'23.9" E32°54'26.5"
Umm Saffaya 33	occupation cemetery	scattered pottery two tumuli	Neolithic Kerma horizon?	N19°27'24.3" E32°54'23.8"
Umm Saffaya 34	occupation cemetery	scattered pottery seven destroyed tumuli	Neolithic post-Meroitic	N19°27'25.0" E32°54'19.6"
Umm Saffaya 35	cemetery	six destroyed tumuli	Kerma horizon	N19°27'29.0" E32°54'17.4"
Umm Saffaya 36	occupation site	scattered pottery	post-Meroitic	N19°27'36.4" E32°54'17.7"
Umm Saffaya 37	occupation site	scattered pottery	Kerma horizon Christian	N19°27'42.9" E32°54'19.4"

A supplementary survey covered the right bank of a dry old river bed in the northeastern part of the Umm Saffaya district. Another nineteen sites were added to the local gazetteer. The cluster of Neolithic sites observed at the mouth of the wadi (US32–34) is a continuation of the Neolithic complex found around El-Ar. All the sites are very eroded; the finds of pottery and stone implements were not extensive.

Several small cemeteries of tumuli, attributed on the grounds of size and grave construction to the Kerma horizon, were found on the edges of the old river bed. Two sites with Kerma horizon pottery, located down in the old river bed, are presumed to be the remains of a settlement from this period (US31, US37).

Two new post-Meroitic cemeteries composed of ovoid mounds with stone kerbs (type FT08, after Borcowski, Welsby 2009).

A stone and silt dam 3 m wide was discovered closing off one of the wadis which empties into the dry old river bed. A donkey path now follows the top of this dam.

Several sites with stone rings and small stone mounds were found between the small wadis crossing the Umm Saffaya highland. Unfortunately, no dating material could be found.

Remains from the Christian period are limited to potsherds found in the wadi within the village (US30, disturbed possibly by gold mining, and US37 between rocks in the dry river bed).

FOURTH CATARACT

SUDAN

UMM SAFFAYA–KEHEILI

SITE NO	SITE TYPE	REMARKS	PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION	GPS COORDINATES
Keheili 1	occupation site	stone structures, scattered pottery	post-Meroitic	N19°22'45.5" E32°49'56.0"
Keheili 2	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon	N19°22'59.8" E32°50'07.2"
Keheili 3	cemetery	small tumulus, scattered stones	Kerma horizon?	N19°23'03.2" E32°50'09.8"
Keheili 4	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon?	N19°23'09.9" E32°50'13.6"
Keheili 5	rock art	gallery with several hundreds of petroglyphs: cattle, human (see report in this volume) [<i>Figs 3–4</i>]	all periods	N19°23'21.4" E32°50'19.8"
Keheili 6	cemetery	several tumuli	Kerma horizon	N19°23'24.4" E32°47'49.6"
Keheili 7	settlement	stone rings, stone buildings, scattered pottery	modern	N19°23'18.7" E32°50'30.3"
Keheili 8	shelter	two stone shelters at the wadi edge	modern?	N19°23'16.0" E32°50'35.8"
Keheili 9	camp	scattered stone implements	Palaeolithic	N19°23'15.8" E32°50'39.1"
Keheili 10	cemetery	six tumuli and stone rings	Kerma horizon?	N19°23'11.3" E32°50'41.1"
Keheili 11	stone rings	six stone rings in two groups	?	N19°22'58.6" E32°50'43.9"
Keheili 12	cemetery	crevice grave on jebel slope	?	N19°22'54.1" E32°50'45.1"
Keheili 13	cemetery	three destroyed tumuli	Kerma horizon?	N19°23'08.2" E32°50'44.3"
Keheili 14	settlement rock art	stone structures petroglyphs: animals, church [<i>Fig. 5</i>]	Christian	N19°23'33.5" E32°50'49.2"

FOURTH CATARACT

SUDAN

SITE No.	SITE TYPE	REMARKS	PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION	GPS COORDINATES
Keheili 15	stone ring	single stone ring	?	N19°23'37.7" E32°50'56.0"
Keheili 16	rock art	solitary hill: two cows	?	N19°23'38.2" E32°50'49.5"
Keheili 17	rock art	several petroglyphs: cattle, gazelle	?	N19°23'38.6" E32°50'46.1"
Keheili 18	cemetery	two parallel elongated stone mounds	?	N19°23'54.2" E32°50'54.7"
Keheili 19	rock art	petroglyphs: two cows	?	N19°24'01.3" E32°50'55.8"
Keheili 20	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma?	N19°24'03.9" E32°50'56.0"
Keheili 21	cemetery	four tumuli	Kerma?	N19°24'33.9" E32°51'13.5"
Keheili 22	cemetery	approx. 50 box graves	Christian	N19°24'42.3" E32°51'10.3"
Keheili 23	stone rings	several destroyed stone rings, scattered pottery	Neolithic	N19°24'58.9" E32°51'53.3"
Keheili 24	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma?	N19°25'00.5" E32°51'55.5"
Keheili 25	occupation site	scattered pottery	Neolithic	N19°25'00.6" E32°51'57.5"
Keheili 26	occupation site	scattered pottery	Neolithic	N19°25'00.6" E32°52'04.4"
Keheili 27	cemetery	several tumuli	Kerma horizon?	N19°24'59.7" E32°52'22.7"
Keheili 28	rock art	several petroglyphs: cattle	?	N19°24'58.2" E32°52'25.1"
Keheili 29	settlement	scattered pottery	Christian	N19°24'58.2" E32°52'34.9"
Keheili 30	occupation site	scattered pottery	Neolithic Kerma	N19°25'09.6" E32°51'49.6"
Keheili 31	settlement	scattered pottery	Christian	N19°25'03.5" E32°51'43.3"



*Fig. 3. Rock art "gallery" at the Kebeili 5 site
(Photo M. Chłodnicki)*



*Fig. 4. Close-up of part of the rock art "gallery" at the Kebeili 5 site
(Photo M. Chłodnicki)*

FOURTH CATARACT

SUDAN

The group of sites in the western part of the Umm Saffaya district circumscribes Keheili, the main village in this region. The only Palaeolithic site in the district was found here, in the extended dry valley between the high desert and the highland close to the Nile. Multiple rock art sites were discovered as well, especially the huge gallery (KH5) with hundreds of petroglyphs on the shelves bordering the watershed between the dry valley and the river (reported on separately in this volume). Site KH14 on the border between the dry valley and a wadi entering this valley contained remains of different stone structures (perhaps shelters or graves) and a set of petroglyphs, which included

a representation of a church with two domes and a cross between them [Fig. 5].



Fig. 5. Image of a church from Keheili 14 (Photo M. Chłodnicki)

EL-AR (SHEMKHIYA)

SITE No.	SITE TYPE	REMARKS	PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION	GPS COORDINATES
El-Ar P1	cemetery	group of small stone tumuli (see below, pages 418–425 in this volume)	Late Neolithic Kerma horizon post-Meroitic	N19°27'26.3" E32°55'22.1"
El-Ar 2	cemetery	group of small destroyed tumuli	Kerma horizon	N19°27'22.3" E32°55'17.5"
El-Ar 3	cemetery	dozens of tumuli at the edge of dry Nile branch	post-Meroitic	N19°27'20.9" E32°55'13.0"
El-Ar 4	cemetery	six high tumuli and some graves at the edge of dry Nile branch	post-Meroitic	N19°27'13.7" E32°55'08.6"
El-Ar 5	cemetery?	two small stone mounds	Kerma horizon?	N19°26'58.5" E32°55'05.3"
El-Ar 6	cemetery	single tumulus	Kerma horizon	N19°27'03.2" E32°55'07.9"
El-Ar 7	cemetery	several stone tumuli	Kerma horizon	N19°27'07.8" E32°55'09.8"
El-Ar 8	cemetery	seven low stone tumuli	Kerma horizon?	N19°27'16.0" E32°55'16.4"

FOURTH CATARACT

SUDAN

SITE No.	SITE TYPE	REMARKS	PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION	GPS COORDINATES
El-Ar 9	cemetery	single grave	Kerma horizon	N19°26'55.5" E32°55'06.6"
El-Ar 10	occupation site	scattered potsherds	Neolithic	N19°26'01.3" E32°54'33.7"
El-Ar 11	occupation site	scattered pottery traces of hut	Neolithic	N19°26'21.7" E32°54'52.2"
El-Ar 12	cemetery	five tumuli with stone kerb	post-Meroitic	N19°27'10.2" E32°55'27.2"
El-Ar 13	occupation site	pottery and stones scattered over 4 ha in dry branch of the Nile — biggest Neolithic settlement in the area	Neolithic Kerma horizon	N19°27'31.1" E32°55'03.6"
El-Ar 14	settlement	scattered pottery between rocks in dry branch of the Nile	Christian	N19°27'46.4" E32°54'55.0"
El-Ar 15	rock art	petroglyphs: cattle	?	N19°26'43.9" E32°55'13.2"
El-Ar 16	occupation site	stone structures and scattered pottery	Neolithic	N19°26'17.8" E32°54'47.7"
El-Ar 17	occupation site	scattered pottery and stone structures	Neolithic	N19°26'13.7" E32°54'47.4"
El-Ar 18	occupation site?	stone structures	?	N19°26'10.7" E32°54'40.5"
El-Ar 19	occupation site?	stone structures	?	N19°26'10.1" E32°54'39.6"
El-Ar 20	occupation site	scattered pottery	Neolithic	N19°26'12.8" E32°54'36.2"
El-Ar 21	occupation site	scattered potsherds	Neolithic	N19°25'57.9" E32°54'26.7"
El-Ar 22	stone circle	single stone circle	?	N19°25'49.3" E32°54'21.2"
El-Ar 23	cemetery?	single stone grave?	Kerma horizon?	N19°25'45.8" E32°54'19.0"
El-Ar 24	occupation site	scattered pottery	Neolithic	N19°25'45.7" E32°54'13.9"
El-Ar 25	occupation site	scattered pottery	Neolithic	N19°27'27.0" E32°55'29.6"

FOURTH CATARACT

SUDAN

SITE No.	SITE TYPE	REMARKS	PRELIMINARY PERIODIZATION	GPS COORDINATES
El-Ar 26	cemetery	approx. 100 box graves, destroyed	Christian	N19°27'42.5" E32°55'31.8"
El-Ar 27	occupation site	scattered pottery	Neolithic	N19°25'58.7" E32°54'26.1"
El-Ar 28	cemetery	one stone tumulus	Kerma horizon	N19°27'11.9" E32°55'17.6"
El-Ar 29	occupation site cemetery	scattered pottery, grinding stones two small stone tumuli	Neolithic Kerma horizon?	N19°27'09.3" E32°55'16.2"
El-Ar 30	cemetery	low elongated stone mound – grave?	?	N19°27'05.2" E32°55'22.3"
El-Ar 31	cemetery	approx. 30 tumuli with stone kerb	post-Meroitic	N19°27'10.4" E32°55'33.1"
El-Ar 32	cemetery	stone tumulus, several stone rings and remains of stone wall	Kerma horizon?	N19°27'30.5" E32°55'45.1"
El-Ar 33	pottery kilns	two adjacent pottery kilns for producing <i>zirs</i> (in wadi close to El-Ar village)	modern	N19°27'30.8" E32°55'42.5"
El-Ar 34	cemetery	remains of stone tumuli	Kerma horizon?	N19°27'29.8" E32°55'41.6"
El-Ar 35	cemetery	remains of stone tumulus	Kerma horizon?	N19°27'31.0" E32°55'37.2"
El-Ar 36	occupation site	scattered pottery on mound between houses in El-Ar village	Kerma horizon?	N19°27'39.2" E32°55'38.7"

The survey in the Shemkhiya district concentrated around El-Ar Rock (so designated on the 1:250.000 map of Sudan, sheet 45B — El Kab) which is known as the El-Al village to local residents. A dry old river bed as well as the high desert beyond it were penetrated. No archaeological sites had been known from this area before, but there were post-Meroitic complexes and

Christian cemeteries a little farther to the east. Altogether 35 sites were recorded, including the biggest Neolithic settlement found so far, El-Ar 13, estimated at more than 4 ha in size. It demonstrated beyond all doubt that this branch of the Nile was already dry and the land probably under cultivation at the time. Most of the other Neolithic sites are located higher up on the

edge of the highland. Some were of considerable size as well (El-Ar 25), while others yielded only traces of huts and very few potsherds. A fragmentary caliciform beaker found at El-Ar 1 could have originated from a Neolithic grave disturbed when a Kerma cemetery occupied the same site at a later date.

Small tumuli cemeteries were frequent; they are built of stone blocks and are occasionally fitted between rock outcrops. These can be connected with the Kerma horizon. Large post-Meroitic cemeteries were located deeper in the desert (EA31) or in the old river bed (EA4), wherever conditions allowed for burial chambers to be dug deeper into the ground.

A destroyed box grave cemetery was discovered inside the village of El-Ar. It is the last in a line of Christian cemeteries extending along the Nile Valley from Gebel Gurgurib to the dry old river bed.

Settlement remains that could be of Kerma through Christian date are innumerable, comprising only a small number of potsherds.

A new problem has arisen threatening the sites lying on higher ground and hitherto presumed to be safe from flooding. These locations are now in danger of being disturbed and even destroyed by intensive building activity undertaken by the local villagers who have moved their houses to the high desert areas.

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