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## **Delta Survey Workshop**

**22-23 March 2013**

**British Council, Cairo**

### **Some Little known Archaeological Sites in Dakahlia Governorate**

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# Some Little known Archaeological Sites in Dakahlia Governorate

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## Introduction

El-Dakahlia Governorate is full of many untouched archaeological sites which have never been scientifically excavated but which, from their appearance, may contain much valuable information. The aim of our paper is to shed light on these little known sites to encourage more archaeological missions and to stop further damage to them caused by the increasing of population and agricultural activities. Many thanks to the EES for helping to protect and support the archaeological sites and excavations.

These sites are scattered in different parts of the governorate as follows:

### **Tell el-Kabir GIS 050204 (Fig. 1)**

Tell el-Kabir, also called 'Tell Soror' by the inhabitants of the area, is located about 4km to the north of El-Kurdi <sup>1</sup> in Ezbet el-Khudery, and forms part of the town of Menyhet el-Nasr. It is one of a number of registered archaeological sites in the area, together with Tell el-Balasiun, Tell el-Zerenki, El-Luqa, Tell Hussein Abdel Razek and Tell el-Omda.<sup>2</sup> Most of



*Fig.1. Tell el-Kabir.*

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<sup>1</sup> Retrieved February, 4, 2009 from <http://www.ees.ac.uk/deltasurvey/301-330.html>.

<sup>2</sup> List of the Archaeological Sites, SCA 2008.

Tell el-Kabir is now on the same level of the surrounding cultivation lands, though its central part rises slightly to about 2.0m-3.0m in height. Red bricks and fragments of pottery cover the ground (Fig.2).

There have been no scientific excavations at the site, though Foucart visited it and described it as being a long and low *tell* with red bricks on the surface, dating back to the Roman Period.<sup>3</sup>



*Fig.2. Pottery sherds and red-brick fragments on the surface at Tell el-Kabir.*

### **Tell el-Balusun GIS 050206 (Fig.3)**

Tell el-Balusun is one of the registered archaeological sites close to the town of Menyot el-Nasr. It is also known as Tell el-Belsun or Tell Balusun as well as Kom el-Gawaber after a neighbouring village. It is situated to the south-east of el-Kurdi<sup>4</sup> on the road of Shelbaya in Ezbet el-Bakry and the *tell* itself is located in Ezbet Salib.

Most of the *tell* is at the level of the surrounding agricultural lands except its central part where the maximum height is about 7.0m-8.0m. The whole area is covered with a great quantity of pottery sherds in addition to red bricks (Fig.4). It was visited by Foucart who described it as being long, black and oval with an area of 500m × 300m. At that time, its height was estimated at 15.0m. Fragments of pottery, a few red bricks and some pieces of white marble dating back to the Graeco-Roman Period were scattered on the *tell*. Foucart also mentioned that there were remains of walls, 4.0m high, in the eastern part of the *tell*.<sup>5</sup>



*Fig.3. Tell el-Balusun.*

<sup>3</sup> Retrieved February, 4, 2009 from <http://www.ees.ac.uk/deltasurvey/301-330.html>.

<sup>4</sup> G. Foucart, 'Extraits des Rapports adresses pendant une Inspection de la Basse Egypte en 1893-1894', in: *ASAE*, II, Le Caire, 1901, p. 64.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 64, 76-77.



*Fig.4. The surface of one of the slopes of Tell el-Balasan, with many pottery sherds and red bricks.*

Jeffrey and Patricia Spencer visited Tell el-Balasan in 1997 and estimated that it rose in the middle to about 10.0m, with the remains of mud-brick walls, glass and fragments of pottery of the Graeco-Roman Period.<sup>6</sup>

This *tell* needs to be studied by archaeological missions. We believe it is a promising *tell* and its investigation would add more information about the history and life in this part of Delta and the eastern neighbours of Egypt.

#### **Tell el-Khereba GIS 050305 (Fig.5)**

Tell el-Khereba is a registered archaeological site about 20km east of Timei el-Amdid.<sup>7</sup> It rises in some parts to a height of about 2.0m and covers an area of about 12 feddans.<sup>8</sup> A few red-bricks as well as pottery sherds (Fig.6) are scattered on its surface.



*Fig.5. Tell el-Khereba.*



*Fig.6. The surface of Tell el-Khereba.*

<sup>6</sup> Retrieved April, 2, 2009 from <http://www.ees.ac.uk/deltasurvey/balasan322.html>.

<sup>7</sup> List of the Archaeological Sites, SCA 2008.

<sup>8</sup> Reports of the SCA of Dakahlia and Damietta inspectorate 2008 .

**Tell el-Lugga GIS 050308 (Figs.7-8)**

Tell el-Lugga is situated about 5km from Tell el-Farkha near Ezbet Wahby, and 20km to the south-east of El-Sinbellawein.<sup>9</sup> It is regarded as one of El-Sinbellawein's registered archaeological sites together with Tell el-Makhzan, Tell Tag el-Ezz, Tell Taranis el-Arab, Tell Burg Nour el-Arab and Tell el-Farkha (Tell Ghazala).<sup>10</sup> It is about 380m long<sup>11</sup> and its maximum height is about 2.0m. Red bricks and sherds are visible on the surface (Fig.9).



*Figs.7-8. Views of Tell el-Lugga*



*Fig.9. The surface of Tell el-Lugga.*

<sup>9</sup> Reports of the SCA of Dakahlia and Damietta inspectorate 2008.

<sup>10</sup> List of the Archaeological Sites, SCA 2008.

<sup>11</sup> Retrieved April, 4, 2009 from <http://www.ees.ac.uk/deltasurvey/lugga335.html>.

**Kom el-Hammamat GIS 050117 (Fig. 10)**

Kom el-Hammamat is one of the registered archaeological sites of Bilqeis together with Kom Nuqyza and Tell Yetwal wa Yaqsur. It occupies an area of about 83 feddans.<sup>12</sup>

The *tell* is divided into two parts by the new coastal road in Gamasa. Remains of buildings of red bricks of the Roman Period (Fig.11), sherds of pottery and shells (Fig.12) could be seen there.



*Fig.10. Kom el-Hammamat.*



*Fig.11. The remains of red-brick construction at Kom el-Hammamat.*



*Fig.12. The surface of Kom el-Hammamat.*

<sup>12</sup> List of the Archaeological Sites, SCA 2008 ; *Atlas of the Archaeological Sites of Lower Egypt Governorates*, GIS, SCA 2002

**Tell Ibn Salam GIS 050203 (Figs.13-15)**

Tell Ibn Salam is located in El-Menzala lake which surrounds it on all sides. It is difficult to reach due to the swamps existing in the lake. Moreover, the water close to the *tell* is shallow so to reach it one has to use first a motorboat and then a boat of the local fishermen. For an unknown reason, the inhabitants of the *tell* call it Tell el-Genni.

The *tell* occupies an area of about 70 feddans and its maximum height is about 13.0m above the level of water surrounding it. Remains of sherds of pottery (Fig.16), buildings of limestone and red bricks (Figs.17-18), shells and glass are scattered on the site.

The *tell* has a mosque and the mausoleum of Abdallah Ibn Salam, and a modern cemetery.



*Fig.13. Tell Ibn Salam.*



*Fig.14. View over Tell Ibn Salam to the surrounding waters of Lake Menzala.*



*Fig.15. The mosque and mausoleum of Abdallah Ibn Salam.*



*Fig.16. Large sherd on the surface of Tell Ibn Salam.*



*Fig.17. Remains of the limestone structure at Tell Ibn Salam.*



*Fig.18. A ruined red-brick building on the surface of Tell Ibn Salam.*



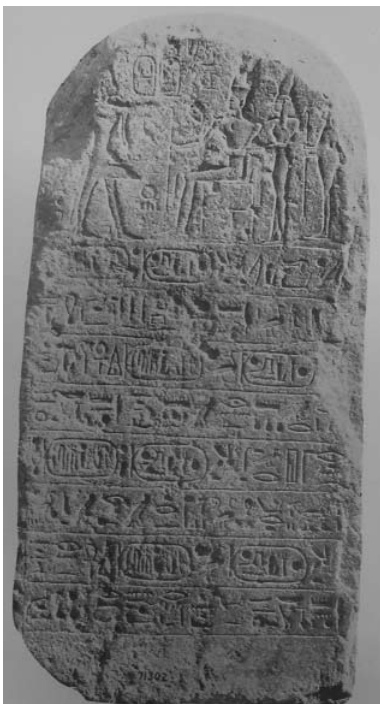
**Tell Halbouny (Fig.19)**

Tell Halbouny is one of the archaeological sites in Sherbin together with Tell el-Balamun and Tell Murad. It lies near the village of El-Atrash, about 3km from Tell el-Balamun and 15km to the north of Sherbin.<sup>13</sup> It was originally called Tell el-Hagar before it became known after the name of a nearby village.<sup>14</sup>

It should be noted that Naguib Farag at the end of the 1930s discovered a grey granite stela, of the reign of Ramesses II, whose length is 1.68m while its width is 0.85m. It is now displayed in the Cairo Museum and is registered as no.71302 (Fig.20).<sup>15</sup> Nowadays, the site is free from any archaeological remains except a few sherds of pottery and some red bricks (Fig.21).



*Fig.19. Tell Halbouny.*



*Fig.20. The stela of Ramesses II (Egyptian Museum, Cairo No.71302) found at Tell Halbouny.*



*Fig.21. The surface of Tell Halbouny.*

<sup>13</sup> N. Farag, 'Une Stèle de Ramsès II', in: *ASAE*, XXXIX, Le Caire, 1939, p. 127.

<sup>14</sup> Retrieved November, 9, 2010 from <http://www.deltasurvey.ees.ac.uk/271-300.html>.

<sup>15</sup> N. Farag, op. cit, pp. 127- 132.

**Tell el-Dahab GIS 050208 (Fig.22)**

Tell el-Dahab is located to the south of Dikirnis.<sup>16</sup> Most of its area is flat and its maximum height ranges from 5.0m-6.0m. It covers an area of about 6,838m.<sup>17</sup> The *tell* is covered with grass, fragments of pottery (Fig.23) and shells (Fig.24).



*Fig.22. Tell el-Dahab.*



*Fig.23. Sherds on the surface of Tell el-Dahab.*



*Fig.24. Shells on the surface at Tell el-Dahab.*

<sup>16</sup> Retrieved November, 7, 2010 from <http://www.deltasurvey.ees.ac.uk/181-210.html>.

<sup>17</sup> M. Chlodnicki, R. Fattovitch and S. Salvatori, 'The Italian Archaeological Mission of the C.S.R.L. Venice to the Eastern Nile Delta. A Preliminary Report of 1987-1988 Field Seasons', in: *CRIPPEL*, XIV, Lille, 1992, p. 51.

**Tell el-Hufya GIS 050207 (Fig. 25)**

Tell el-Hufya is located in Beni Ebeid and occupies an area of about 10 feddans.<sup>18</sup> Most of the *tell* is flat but it rises slightly in the centre until it reaches its maximum height which is 1.5m. The site is free from any archaeological remains and includes a modern cemetery (Fig.26).



*Fig.25. Tell el-Hufya.*



*Fig.26. The modern cemetery at Tell el-Hufya.*

<sup>18</sup> Reports of the SCA of Dakahlia and Damietta inspectorate 2008.

**Tell Murad (Fig. 27)**

Tell Murad is located in Sherbin near Tell Halbouny close to El-Atrash village. It is flat and free from any archaeological remains except a small number of red bricks and sherds of pottery (Fig. 28). It is a small *tell* of 80.0m in diameter.<sup>19</sup>



*Fig.27. Tell Murad.*



*Fig.28. Sherds on the surface of Tell Murad.*

<sup>19</sup> Retrieved November, 7, 2010 from <http://www.deltasurvey.ees.ac.uk/mowrad688.html>.

**Kom Niqeiza GIS 050 204 (Figs.29-30)**

Kom Niqeiza is also called Tell el-Qa'da. It is situated at the limit of Dakahlia Governorate near Kafr el-Sheikh and it is important to note that it was a part of Kafr el-Sheikh Governorate before being transferred to Dakahlia in the 1980s. It is part of the town of Bilqeis and covers an area of about 44 feddans. The site was used by the army which constructed a missile base in the middle of the *tell*. This structure still stands on the site.<sup>20</sup> The *tell* is surrounded by agricultural lands and is covered with fragments of pottery, shells and red bricks (Fig.31-32). The site is difficult to reach by taxi or car so visitors have to use a *toktok*.



*Fig.29. Kom Niqeiza with the site of the missile base.*



*Fig.30. View of Kom Niqeiza.*



*Fig.31. Shells at Kom Niqeiza.*



*Fig.32. Sherds at Kom Niqeiza.*

<sup>20</sup> Reports of the SCA of Dakahlia and Damietta inspectorate 2008.