ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF THE NILE DELTA OF EGYPT

A Gazetteer



JEFFREY SPENCER

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EXCAVATION MEMOIR 119

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BY

JEFFREY SPENCER

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Preface

This publication about the archaeological sites of the Egyptian Nile Delta is intended to be a directory, in the manner of the *Topographical Bibliography*,[1] but unlike that publication, it is not limited to inscribed material. It does not seek to republish all the known information about each site, but to provide an overview and direction to original sources. Although some of the data of the Egypt Exploration Society's Delta Survey has been published in monographs or articles,[2] these concern only a relatively small percentage of the total number of sites available online via the dedicated section of the Society's website at https://www.ees.ac.uk/our-cause/research/delta-survey.html. This volume makes the data on all 783 sites of the Survey available in printed form that may prove more secure in the long term[3] and can be taken into the field. Unlike the presentation on the website, the sites in this volume have been arranged by Governorate.

The Delta Survey was adopted by the Egypt Exploration Society in 1997 and accepted as a British Academy Research Project in 2007. The original core of the information from published sources had been collected by Jeffrey Spencer over many years, later supplemented with contributions from others, acknowledged below. The purpose of the Society's Delta Survey was to assess the current condition of the lesser-known archaeological sites in Lower Egypt, initially by visual inspection, and to combine the results with information from published and unpublished sources. Well-known sites and those which have been the subject of extensive excavation, such as the major ancient cities of Lower Egypt, were not considered a priority for this project since they are well-documented in other sources of reference. For the sake of completion, however, they have been included in the site-lists but without extensive comment. To supplement and refine the information derived from published sources, the Survey has operated a programme of site-inspections at more than 200 locations by expeditions working specifically for this project, carrying out visual and mapping surveys, geophysical work and occasional excavation. In this way this gazetteer of Delta sites has been created. This would not have been possible without the outstanding contribution to the on-site surveys by Penelope Wilson, who has been most active in the collection of site data, as shown by the publications cited at note 2, below.

For the permissions required to enable surveys in the field we thank the Minister of Antiquities of Egypt and the members of the Permanent Committee for Archaeology. At a local level, the staff of the Supreme Council for Antiquities have been most helpful in facilitating access to various sites, and we wish to thank particularly Atef Abu Dahap, Mohamed Abdel Fattah, Sabri Abdel-Aziz Khater, Mohamed Kamal Ibrahim, Mohamed Abdel Maksoud and Ibrahim Soliman.

In addition to the material collected from publications, some information has been provided directly by colleagues. Thanks are due to the following who have been generous in providing information: Manfred Bietak, Edwin van den Brink, Renée Friedman, Christopher Kirby, Karla Kroeper, François Leclère, Marie-Dominique Nenna, Mustafa Nour el-Din, Joanne Rowland, Steven Snape, Neal Spencer, Elena Tiribilli, Ayman Wahby and Penelope Wilson.

1 See under 'PM' in the bibliography.

2 Wilson 2003; 2010; 2012; 2014; 2018; Wilson, and Spencer, (N) 2004; Wilson and Grigoropoulos 2009; Rowland 2006; 2007b; Rowland, Edinborough, et al. 2009; Spencer (J) 2000; 2001; 2002b; 2016.

3 Websites may disappear as institutional priorities change, or links are not maintained. The webpages for Kom el-Ghoraf are no longer online, nor those for Tell Dibgou (http://www.telldibgou.fr/) or Kafr Hassan Daoud (http://www.e-c-h-o.org/khd/index.html). Those for Tell Tebilla and Heliopolis have moved their locations from the original URLs at www.heliopolisproject.org/ (some data transferred to https://i3mainz.hs-mainz.de/en/projekte/heliopolis_2/), and www.deltasinai.com/delta-01.htm). The latter is now archived at: https://web.archive.org/web/20141109005903/http://www.deltasinai.com/sepe-00.htm

Introduction

In the 1970s the archaeology of the Nile Delta was a topic of active discussion, with a growing body of opinion arguing that the region had been too long neglected in favour of desert sites in Upper Egypt. This culminated in a resolution passed at the Second International Congress of Egyptology held at Grenoble, France in September 1979, giving top priority to survey work in the Delta.[4] But this lack of work in the region was only a hiatus, since activity in the Delta had been common in the early days of Egyptology. Sites were marked on the map of the *Déscription de L'Egypte* and numerous editions of maps produced at various scales by the Egyptian Government Survey of Egypt.[5] The initial excavations of the Egypt Exploration Fund were all focused on the Delta. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, brief reports on inspections of Delta sites for the *Service des Antiquités* were published, particularly by Foucart, Daressy and Edgar. New maps of the Delta were produced by the Egyptian Government Survey Authority in 1996 at a scale of 1:50,000, although the actual surveying was done in 1992-3. They have value in showing the changes brought about through development, particularly many new asphalt roads, although these maps are also now well out of date. Also shown are the regions of drained marshland in which sites have been lost, especially around the edges of the coastal lakes where land has been converted for fish-farming. Sites are indicated as white areas, but not named so consistently as on the older Survey of Egypt maps. Errors in place names have been noted on the 1996 maps and a few *tells* which are known to exist are not marked at all. Verification through on-site visits is still necessary for many locations, but the increasing availability of high-resolution satellite photography has provided another valuable resource, particularly accessible through Google Earth©. The option to view not only the most recent images but also historic ones is extremely useful for the Survey, allowing the changing condition (usually progressive disappearance) of an archaeological site to be monitored. Another valuable resource for information on the earlier condition of sites is the imagery from the U.S. CORONA programme of the 1960s, now owned by the U.S. Geological Survey and made available by the Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies, University of Arkansas, in the *Corona Atlas of the Middle East*.[6] The digitisation of the 1914 Survey of Egypt map as a Google Earth file by David Rumsey maps has also been of great value.

Since the EES survey was initiated the Egyptian Government has established the Egyptian Antiquities Information System (EAIS) for site documentation,[7] which is now part of CultNat. At present their data is extensive on property boundaries but archaeological information is being added. The Egypt Exploration Society has been sharing its data with the EAIS. The first major publication of the EAIS, edited by Neguib Amin, *The Historical Sites of Egypt, Volume 1, Ash-Sharqiyyah Governorate*, appeared in 2006 and includes material collected by the Society's Delta Survey. The SCA has also produced through CultNat five colour brochures for the Delta with site reference numbers and rough maps.[8] These are intended to be supplemented by an online Archaeological Map.[9] These resources, however, are restricted to registered sites and do not include the large number of unregistered ones listed in this volume.

The collection of data over many years for the Egypt Exploration Society's Delta Survey has required as many archaeological sites as possible in the region to be identified and located. This applies not only to those sites that still remain as recognisable stratified mounds, but also to a greater number that have been rendered invisible through levelling to agriculture or overbuilding by towns or cemeteries. The

4 See van den Brink 1988, viii.

5 Egyptian Government Survey of Egypt 1:100,000 map (1916); 1:50,000 (1914). The 1:25,000 series maps do not show more sites, only the same ones at larger scale.

6 https://corona.cast.uark.edu/atlas#zoom=3&center=0,3000000

7 The former URL http://www.eais.org.eg/ no longer works, see https://www.cultnat.org/ProjectDetails/1123/Archaeological_Map_of_Egypt

8 Center for Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage (CultNat), in collaboration with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the Supreme Council of Antiquities, The archaeological GIS project, vols. 1-4 and 12. These printed volumes exhibit numerous errors of numbering and site location.

9 This map is mentioned at the link in note 7, above, but is not yet accessible (September 2023).

sites were originally identified by the correlation of archival or published reports with maps of various dates, supplemented by aerial photographs and, more recently, satellite imagery. It has proved possible to locate 781 from a total of 783 sites in the Delta Survey list[10]. The value of satellite images in revealing buried ancient features on Nile Delta sites has been the subject of recent discussion,[11] but it is also valuable in showing the changing condition of sites and for mapping their distribution. Of course, only a small number of these sites represent major towns or cities of antiquity, the remainder ranging from smaller settlements and cemeteries down to short-lived occupation-sites.

There have been two elements to the work of the Survey. The first stage of fieldwork consists of visits to record the present condition of sites in the region; which mounds still remain and which have been levelled to agriculture or overbuilt. Details being recorded include the extent of the sites, surface features, the date of any surface pottery, occurrence of stone blocks and the degree of recent attrition. The second stage is a follow-up visit to more promising sites for full mapping surveys or geophysical investigation. On the basis of these, a few sites were chosen for limited excavation. Site-inspections have been carried out by Joanne Rowland (37 sites), Steven Snape (8), Jeffrey and Patricia Spencer (44), Neal Spencer (8), Elena Tiribilli (5), and especially, Penelope Wilson (108). In addition, Gregory Marouard surveyed Tell el-Dahab (EES no. 321) and Amr Abd-er Raouf Elsayed carried out geophyical surveys at Tell Buweib (EES no. 160) and Tell Abqaein (EES no. 297), with funding from the Delta Survey. The surveys have been concentrated in the governorates of Beheira, Daqhaliya, and Kafr el-Sheikh as here the need for additional documentation seemed most pressing. Sharqiya, by contrast, has already seen numerous surveys that gathered a great deal of information, much of it from sites that have since been lost.[12]

The condition of individual sites falls into three main categories: (i) extant stratified mounds (381 sites), (ii) Sites levelled to agriculture (230), and (iii) Sites overbuilt by settlements or cemeteries (177). Levelled sites may retain much archaeology below the present field level, and, provided the original locations can be identified, may yet be investigated by geophysics or excavation. The latter requires rental of the fields and can be complicated, particularly if the land is not under the supervision of the Ministry of Antiquities. The success of the investigation of Qantir, however, shows the potential of this kind of exploration. Since so many of the sites in this group were levelled long ago their locations can be rediscovered only by the study of old maps or other archive sources.

Overbuilding of sites may consist of large towns, villages or cemeteries. Overbuilding by cemeteries is widespread, this being seen as a practical use for what might be regarded as waste land, which happens to have the advantage of being elevated. Where large antiquity mounds have been used only in part for cemeteries, the remainder has often been levelled to leave just a small remnant with the tombs upon it. So long as overbuilding was superficial, perhaps consisting only of traditional mud brick structures, the archaeology below was to some extent protected, despite being difficult to access except by drill-coring between the modern buildings. With the introduction of deep concrete foundations this is no longer the case. Sites completely overbuilt by large towns long ago may be regarded as destroyed. The same may be true for those sites already levelled to agriculture by the early years of the twentieth century. Some 220 sites may be classed as having been permanently lost. Of these 85 have some prior bibliographic comment, while the remainder are recorded only as points on early maps.

The distribution of sites of different periods across the Delta can be studied,[13] but the data we have is not completely reliable. Where site surveys have examined only the upper surface of *tells* we have only the latest date of occupation and no knowledge of deeper, older levels. This problem can to some extent be addressed by drill-coring, but there remain a large number of mounds for which we only possess surface data. The relative lack of evidence for early sites in the western Delta may be a consequence of this issue, and recent investigation has shown sites there to have previously unsuspected Old Kingdom

10 Readers may see that the numbering of sites reaches 788, but five numbers were assigned to locations that proved not to be ancient, or duplicates.

11 Parcak, Mumford and Childs, *Geosciences* 2017, 07-00094.

12 The surveys by Amsterdam University (Van den Brink 1987; 1988a; 1988c; 1993) and C.S.R.L-Venice (Chlodnicki 1988; Chlodnicki, Fattovich and Salvatori 1991; 1992a; 1992b).

13 See Malecka-Drozd 2020; Spencer, J. in press.

levels. The number of sites in individual Governorates varies considerably, not only owing to differences in the land area involved but also to differing degrees of preservation. In the central Delta governorates of Menufiya and Qalubiya the early introduction of intensive agriculture may have removed all trace of many sites, while further out on the periphery in Beheira and Kafr el-Sheikh more have survived. The presence of large number of sites in Sharqiya Governorate is the consequence of the presence of the many sand outcrops (*gezira*s) that offered available elevated locations for settlement or cemeteries. Two areas have been excluded: sites in and around Alexandria and those east of the Suez canal. In the former group, only the site at Kom el-Nugus, identified as ancient Plinthine, can be considered a Delta site. It has been under excavation by a French mission since 2012 and information is available on the website of the French Archaeological Institute in Cairo. The sites in the Sinai have been extensively researched in recent decades and bibliography is readily available elsewhere.

The lists of sites in the following chapters combine what has been reported or published over the last two centuries with the results of the new surveys described above, to create a guide not only to what still exists, but also to what existed in the past. The illustrations within the text comprise satellite images that show changes in the condition of a site, as well as photographs taken on the ground. The latter are only a small set from a large collection held in the archives of the Egypt Exploration Society. At the end of this volume are a set of maps, created over base images from the satellite photography of Google Earth,© illustrating the disposition of the sites across the Delta.

Archaeological Sites in Beheira Governorate

Beheira is the location of the greatest number of ancient sites of any of the Delta Governorates, with 219 locations, 150 of which are registered. It is also the area in which the Delta Survey has been most active, visiting and documenting 75 sites, so much of the information in the following list has been obtained by on-site recording. Descriptions of some of the sites have been published previously in Wilson and Grigoroupolos 2009, with maps, drill-core results and drawings of selected pottery. Previous fieldwork was carried out by the American Naukratis Regional Survey from 1978 to 1983 and included 34 sites around the location of Naukratis, although not all were examined in detail and some of the published data has since been revised. References to this work are given in the site list. Ten sites in this group were re-examined in 2007 by Joshua Trampier, whose descriptions are also cited. At certain sites there have been excavations, but the results of these have not all have been published, and some only in part: Koms Barud, Dahab, Difshu, Dilingat, Firin, Giza, Geif, Ghuraf, Hamam, Hisn, Kharaz, Nuss el-Kebir, Silvagou, and Turuga. A survey led by Mohamed Kenawi from 2007 to 2010 examined 66 sites in varying levels of detail. Many of the remaining sites in the governorate are known only from their appearance on Survey of Egypt maps.

Beheira Sites

Abadiya, K el- 380 31˚ 02’ 11”N 30˚ 25’ 27”E
Ancient site overbuilt by a modern town to the west of Damanhur. SoE 1:100,000 (1916).

Abariq, K el- 288 31˚ 05’ 01”N 30˚ 26’ 52”E
Largely-destroyed site northwest of Damanhur, shown on the SoE 1:50,000 (1914) map as a small mound of irregular shape, with an Islamic cemetery at the south edge. This cemetery is all that now survives.

Abariq, K el- 289 31˚ 03’ 08”N 30˚ 28’ 03”E
Marked on the SoE 1914 map as a small antiquity mound, at that time 1.5km northwest of Damanhur, but now the location is next to the outer suburbs. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); SoE 1:25,000 map, sheet 92/555.

Abbuda, K 372 31˚ 08’ 04”N 30˚ 20’ 39”E SCA Beheira register 100146
This small remaining *tell,* completely overbuilt by a cemetery, is only a fragment of a larger erased mound, about 190m across, visible on Corona images of 1968. Surveyed by P. Wilson in 2005 and drill-cores taken. These showed the gradual build-up of the sand hill layers. There was a clear lack of deep archaeological material, so the area could only have been settled in relatively recent times. Sherds collected were early Roman Period. Another nearby location at 31˚ 09’ 07”N 30˚ 19’ 15”E was also sampled, a site of 500 × 400m and 3m high, occupied by village and cemetery. SoE 1:100,000 (1916). Wilson and Grigoropoulos 2009, 127–130, 353–355.


Modern tombs on the mound at Abbuda (P. Wilson)

Abd, K el- 393 31˚ 01’ 51”N 30˚ 12’ 37”E SCA Beheira register 100115 (as Abied).
Shown on the SoE 1914 map as a small mound. This location is now cultivated land just north of a small village to the southwest of Abu Hummus. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916). See also the 1882 1:200,000 SoE map (reproduced in Spencer, P. 1999, 310, fig. 3).

Abdu Basha 621 31˚ 04’ 47”N 30˚ 09’ 17”E SCA Beheira register 100147
A site located six kilometres southeast of Kafr ed Dauwar and surveyed for the Delta Survey in 2018 by Elena Tiribilli. Kom Abdu Pasha has been levelled for reclamation of agricultural land over time and nowadays only a small part of the *tell* is preserved, surrounded by irrigation ditches and fields and partially overbuilt by the modern village of Ezbet Abdu Pasha. The surface of the mound consists of loose compact soil and no clear


The mound of Kom Abdu Pasha (E. Tiribilli)


Surveying on the mound of Kom Abdu Pasha (E. Tiribilli)

structures or material are visible on the surface of the mound or within the surrounding flat areas. The pottery from this site was collected mainly from the fields around the small *tell* and from a section cut in the middle of the site. The surface pottery shows a high percentage of material of local production, such as Egyptian amphorae and vessel stands, dated mainly to the Ptolemaic Period. This site may have been part of the supply chain between lake Mareotis and the Canopic Nile branch. SoE 1:100,000 (1916). See Hinojosa-Baliño, Tiribilli and Wilson 2019; Tiribilli 2022.

Abiad, El-K el- 22 30˚ 48’ 47”N 30˚ 33’ 17”E
Southwest of El-Dilingat. Marked on the SoE 1914 map as a mound, but since levelled to cultivation. A semicircle in the field pattern on satellite imagery of 2020 showed the former location. SoE 1:50,000 (1914).

Abqaein, T el- 297 30˚ 53’ 00”N 30˚ 19’ 40”E SCA Beheira register 100216
A large site of some 500 × 350m, 20km southwest of Damanhur. Described by Daressy in 1905 (quoted by Bernand in the reference below). Liverpool University concession from 1995, directed by Susanna Thomas. Only one mound survives, part occupied by a cemetery. There is a large enclosure wall with remains of a gate of Ramesses II. Satellite imagery shows the shape of the original large site with parts levelled for agriculture and other areas overbuilt by modern structures. Surveyed in 2007-8 by J. Trampier, with satellite image interpretation and surface pottery collection, see Trampier 2014, 89–108. In 2015 an excavation by Ahmed Said Elkharadly identified the location of the temple with the fort enclosure (Elkharadly et. al. 2023). A geophysical survey was carried out for the EES Delta Survey in 2023 (Abd el-Raouf 2023). See PM iv, 50; Daressy 1904b, 129–130; Habachi, 1954, 482–485; Bernand, 1971, 1043–1044; Leclant, *Orientalia* 70 (2001), 357; Thomas, S. 2000; id. 2009; See also Thomas, R.I. forthcoming, 78–80. The position of the site is incorrect on the SCA Beheira map.

Abu Aggur, K 436 30˚ 58’ 50”N 30˚ 21’ 07”E SCA Beheira register 100104
This mound to the south of Abu Hummus is shown on the SoE 1914 map close to Kom Ruhaiyim (435). Now levelled to cultivation beside a small settlement. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); SoE 1:100,000 (1916).

Abu Ali 629 30˚ 50’ 05”N 30˚ 25’ 21”E SCA Beheira register 100232
Located 10km west of El-Dilingat. Shown on the SoE 1:100,000 (1916) map as a large mound on what was then desert. Only a small *tell* of 130 × 120m remains. Surveyed in 2007-8 by J. Trampier. See Trampier 2014, 140–150, 158–159, 161–163, 165. Pottery from Prolemaic to Late Roman. Red brick structures (Kenawi 2014, 133).

Abu Dimein, K 408 30˚ 57’ 53”N 30˚ 05’ 50”E
On the SoE 1914 map this is just the east end of Tell el-Mittabish (no. 409), situated northwest of El-Matamir. Corona images show this situation persisted to the 1960s. Later satellite imagery (down to 2021) shows the remnants of Kom Dimein as a separate small patch of 60 × 30m in the fields immediately south of the flattened and overbuilt Tell el-Mittabish. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916).

Abu el-Afrita el-Kebir, T 424 30˚ 56’ 26”N 30˚ 14’ 31”E SCA Beheira register 100214
Situated northeast of El-Matamir. Flat around the edges, with a high core covered by tracks. Modern tombs on the south part, with a few houses further south. Occupation seems to have continued to the 6th century CE. (Kenawi 2014, 123–125). A dedicatory inscription to Serapis-Dionysos and Aphrodite, found by *sebakhin*, was dated to 221-205BCE (Bernand 1971). In 2022, the *tell* measured only 50 × 40m. Corona photographs show that the mound was larger in the 1960s. SoE 1:100,000 (1916); ESA 1996 1:50,000 map NH36-I4c.

Abu el-Afrita es Saghir, T 419 30˚ 56’ 26”N 30˚ 14’ 17”E SCA Beheira register 100213
A small mound on the SoE 1914 map, this site is now (2022) a small remnant of 130 × 40m among cultivated fields. It lies about 350m west of Tell Abu el-Afrita el-Kebir. SoE 1:100,000 (1916).

Abu el-Gheraniq 694 31˚ 03’ 21”N 30˚ 11’ 40”E SCA Beheira register 100102
A levelled mound to the southwest of Kafr ed-Dauwar, already partly overbuilt by houses by 1914, and now completely so, with a cemetery at the south east. SoE 1:50,000 (1914) and 1:100,000 (1916).

Abu el-Gudur, T 406 30˚ 55’ 31”N 30˚ 08’ 30”E SCA Beheira register 100212
Northwest of El-Matamir. Perhaps the same as Hogarth’s Kom Abdul Ghadi in his report of 1895 to the EEF, although Ghadi is more likely to be Kom Abu el-Ida, no. 403 (Spencer, P. 1999, 306, 310–311). On the ESA 1996 map this location appears as the village of Tell el-Judud (with no indication of any surviving mound).

Surveyed by P. Wilson in 2004. The site then consisted of some low sandy mounds covered in scrub and bushes. Most of the site was being used as a municipal rubbish dump, having once also been a gravel extraction and processing area. The highest areas were elevated up to three metres above the level of the surrounding land. There was Ptolemaic and Roman pottery on the surface and perhaps some other earlier material. The team also noted a stirrup-ring and a three-flanged arrowhead made of bronze. Satellite imagery shows that the industrial use of the site expanded between 2004 and 2016. SCA excavations between 2018 and 2021 revealed an ancient building at the north and other structures towards the east, where area excavation was combined with a series of square test-pits.(satellite imagery). This was to release the site for new building. SoE 1:100,000 (1916); ESA 1996 1:50,000 map NH36-I4c. See Wilson and Grigoropoulos 2009, 89–90, 328–329; Wilson 2010, 122–123.



The mound at Tell Abu el-Gudur (P. Wilson)



Pottery collected at Tell Abu el-Gudur (P. Wilson)

Abu el-Humar el-Kebir, K 292 30˚ 56’ 21”N 30˚ 28’ 41”E SCA Beheira register 100126

This site to the south of Damanhur was included in the area of the Coulson and Leonard Naukratis survey. Neal Spencer reported in 2003 that the site had a gently undulating sandy surface with patches of grass and thorn. It was bounded to the south and west by irrigation canals, with modern tracks running north–south across the western and eastern edges of site. There is a sizeable village at the north-west corner. The southern area featured almost no surface pottery (only one unglazed black sherd was seen). Parts of the centre were bare of vegetation. Elevated areas on the west were littered with coarse red silt ware sherds and a few finer wares of Late Period to Ptolemaic age. There seemed to have been some previous excavations on the west, with open sections showing mud-brick structures. No fired brick was seen on the site, but ashes and burnt human bones showed in the open sections. Several large limestone fragments were noted and also a siltstone mortar. The site was revisited by P. Wilson in 2005, who recorded the dimensions as 375 × 430m and has published a plan and description. SoE 1:100,000 (1916). Wilson and Grigoropoulos 2009, 190–191. Shown on map by Coulson, in Van den Brink 1988b, 260. See Wilson and Spencer 2004, 10–11; Thomas, R.I. forthcoming, 50–52.



The mound of Abu el-Humar el-Kebir (P. Wilson)



The mound of Abu el-Humar el-Kebir (P. Wilson)

Abu el-Humar es Saghir, K 293 30˚ 55’ 32”N 30˚ 28’ 53”E

Just 1.5km south of Abu el-Humar el-Kebir, this site is shown on the SoE 1914 map with a diameter of some 400m, but was already levelled before the 1960s Corona photography was taken. SoE 1:50,000 (1914).

Abu el-Ida, K 403 30˚ 56’ 24”N 30˚ 05’ 02”E SCA Beheira register 100230
Located south of Kafr ed-Dauwar, and probably the same as Hogarth’s Kom ‘Abdul Ghadi’, which he described as being ‘20 feet high and half a mile long, but all Roman, pottery, glass, bricks and everything’ (Spencer, P. 1999, 306, 310–311). This site, now also called Kom el-Adda, is overbuilt by a town. The land here is elevated about two or three metres but nothing can be seen. Surveyed by P. Wilson in 2004. see Wilson and Grigoropoulos 2009, 56–57, Wilson 2010, 122. SoE 1:100,000 (1916); 1996 ESA 1:50,000 map, sheet NH36-I4c.

Abu el-Matamir, K 454 30˚ 54’ 50”N 30˚ 10’ 10”E
Overbuilt by the town of same name. The substantial mound shown on the 1914 map is now overbuilt by a large modern cemetery at the northwest part of the town. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916); ESA 1996 1:50,000 map NH36-I4c.

Abu el-Zarazir, T 445 30˚ 51’ 44”N 30˚ 26’ 57”E SCA Beheira register 100201
Situated to the south of Damanhur, only minor remnants show at the southeast side of a small settlement. The Corona photographs show that overbuilding had begun in the 1960s and it has since extended. SoE 1:100,000 (1916). See Thomas, R.I. forthcoming, 71–72. On the sketch map by Coulson, in Van den Brink 1988b, 260.

Abu Hireiz, K 434 30˚ 55’ 40”N 30˚ 16’ 29”E SCA Beheira register 100231
This mound south of Abu Hummus shows on Corona imagery of 1968 but has since been cut back to a small remnant. There is another small mound at 30˚ 55’ 40”N 30˚ 16 29E. SoE 1:100,000 (1916).

Abu Ismail, K 387 31˚ 00’ 55”N 30˚ 18’ 50”E SCA Beheira register 100101 (?)
Located south of Abu Hummus, the mound has a village on the east end but some free land at the west, with a few modern graves on one edge. Pottery observed and published by P. Wilson was Roman to Late Roman, as also noted by Kenawi (2014, 121). This location on the SCA map is ascribed to a Kom Abu Atya, SCA no. 100105. SCA Beheira register no. 100101 is either a site of this name at a different position, or perhaps just an erroneous transposition of numbers. Wilson and Grigoropoulos 2009, 156–157, 415–422. SoE 1:100,000 (1916).

Abu Khalifa, K 388 31˚ 01’ 06”N 30˚ 20’ 21”E SCA Beheira register 100103
A small mound to the south of Abu Hummus on the SoE 1914 map, partly overbuilt by a village and cemetery. The village has expanded but the cemetery occupies the same footprint (in 2019) as in 1914. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916).

Abu Manga, K 394 31˚ 00 03”N 30˚ 14’ 07”E SCA Beheira register 100106
A mound located to the southwest of Abu Hummus, set in fields and completely overbuilt by a modern cemetery with houses around the edges. On the SoE 1914 map the mound was clear with only a few tombs of local sheikhs on it. Listed in the SCA Beheira register under the name Abu Megna. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916).

Abu Naama, T 404 30˚ 55’ 59”N 30˚ 06’ 18”E SCA Beheira register 100215
Located northwest of El-Matamir. The *tell* is shown on the SoE 1914 map with a few houses on it, but the village has since expanded to cover the whole site. Part at the east remained clear but it has been dug out for landfill to leave a water-filled crater, visible on satellite imagery of 2022. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916).

Abu Sidan 453 30˚ 54’ 16”N 30˚ 11’ 48”E SCA Beheira register 100259
Located just east of El-Matamir and marked on the SoE 1914 map as a small mound clear of obstructions. Now overbuilt by a village. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916).

Abyar, Kiman el- 231 31˚ 13’ 28”N 30˚ 19’ 06”E
On the SoE 1914 map this region consisted of islands in Lake Edku, but the land has since been reclaimed, although it is still used for fish-farm lagoons. Satellite imagery up to 2007 shows a mound some 200 metres across, but this had been levelled to cultivation by 2011. Seems originally to have been a multiple mound, as the plural name suggests. SoE 1:50,000 (1914).

Ahad, K el- 392 31˚ 02’ 57”N 30˚ 12’ 54”E SCA Beheira register 10050
Located to the southwest of Abu Hummus. Shown as a small *tell* on the SoE 1914 map, bounded on the north by a canal. Corona photographs shows that the mound was still clear until the 1960s, but the original footprint of the mound has since been overbuilt by houses. SoE 1:50,000 (1914).

Ahmar, El-K el- 30 30˚ 47’ 29”N 30˚ 43’ 14”E
Situated northwest of the town of Kom Hamada. The SoE 1914 map shows a mound 250m across, but this had already been levelled to fields before the 1960s. A trace of the original shape of the mound is, however, still reflected in the field pattern (2019). SoE 1:50,000 (1914).

Ahmar, El-K el- 440 30˚ 55’ 55”N 30˚ 26’ 40”E SCA Beheira register 100205
Now reduced to small mound set amongst fields. Inspected by Neal Spencer in 2004. Many sherds from thick-walled late Roman ribbed storage vessels were observed, as well as small carinated bowls in burnished black ware and large amphora spikes. The open section at the edge of the mound features brick structures, both in mud-brick and fired brick, and stratified deposits. Transparent glass bottle neck fragments were noted. A pink granite column base lies near the centre of the northern part of the mound and limestone chippings were observed in the immediate vicinity. In the fields near the eastern edge of site are some more limestone pieces and a large piece of unsmoothed greywacke, both very weathered. On the SoE 1914 map the site was some 250 metres across and the Corona images show that it retained this size down to the 1960s. It had, however, been reduced to about 130 metres diameter by 2022. The site was included in a ceramic survey by M. Kenawi in 2009/10, under the name Kom el-Ahmar iii - but incorrectly, since the latter site (SCA Beheira no. 100119) is at a different location. Thousands of pottery fragments, glass, and a notable quantity of high-quality faience, were seen around the cut section of the mound, all dated to the Hellenistic and early Roman periods. An example of Italian black ware (Ceramica Campana A) was found too, together with five handles of amphora Agora M54, a late derivation of the Koan bifid-handle amphorae 2; it is dated between the 1st and the 2nd centuries CE. This type is common in the Aegean and eastern Mediterranean. On the basis of the pottery, the site is dated between the 4th century BCE and the 6th century CE. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916). See M. Kenawi 2012, 309–317; Wilson and Spencer 2004, 10–11;Thomas, R.I. forthcoming,, 65–66.

Ahmar (iv), K el- 712 30˚ 52’ 44”N 30˚ 27’ 53”E SCA Beheira register 10020
A mound northwest of El-Dilingat at the south edge of the village of El-Khaliliya, overbuilt by a modern cemetery. This has become much more densely occupied with tombs since 2012. The mound was about double the size in 1968 (Corona imagery).

Ahmar, K el- 1 31˚ 10 42”N 30˚ 31˚ 06”E SCA Beheira register 100168 (as Nigili)
Located on the southwest edge of El-Mahmudiya, on the Rosetta Branch of the Nile. Modern building was noted in the area by P. Wilson in 2002. Shown as a large mound of 550 × 630m on the SoE 1914 map. Corona images from 1968 still show a large mound 550m long. The site remained fairly clear until 2009, but has been extensively levelled and built over since. The SCA Beheira register lists this site under the name ‘Kom en-Nigili’ (not the same as EES no. 451). SoE 1:50,000 (1914); SoE 1:100,000 (1916); 1:25,000 series, 94/555 (as Tell el-Nigili); ESA 1996 1:50,000 map NH36-M2a. See Bernand 1971, 476ff.

Ahmar, K el- 443 30˚ 52’ 22”N 30˚ 24’ 37”E
Located northwest of El-Dilingat, the site is shown as a large mound on the SoE 1914 map. On Corona images of 1968 the rectangular mound was 310 × 170m; by 2022 it measured 220 × 150m. Between 2009 and 2011 a rectangular area in the centre was cleared and flattened for some purpose (football pitch?). Visited in 2004 for the Delta Survey by Neal Spencer, who mentioned that the *kom* had been reduced almost to the level of the surrounding fields. Some areas were covered with halfa-grass, while others were waterlogged and covered


Kom el-Ahmar [443] in 2004 (N. Spencer)


Vegetation on Kom el-Ahmar [443] in 2004 (N.Spencer)

with salt deposits. Surface pottery included many body sherds, spikes and handles from late Roman amphorae, particularly in an open section at the northern edge of the site, where a field had been cut into the mound. An abandoned mud-brick structure in the centre of the site, badly eroded but with walls standing to almost their original height, is probably a modern building, although medieval pottery was noted in the surrounding area. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916). See Thomas, R.I. forthcoming, 76–77. On the sketch-map by Coulson, in Van den Brink 1988b, 260.

Akhar, El- 704 30˚ 05' 45"N 31˚ 23' 32"E SCA Beheira register 100207
The location northwest of Damanhur lies 750 metres south west of a village called Kom el-Akhar. No mound was indicated on the SoE 1914 map, and the area is now all cultivated. SoE 1:50,000 (1914).

Akhdar, K el- 433 30˚ 57' 56"N 30˚ 16' 49"E
Located to the southwest of Damanhur. This site was marked on the SoE 1914 map as a substantial mound, which is now overbuilt by a modern cemetery. The survey by Mohamed Kenawi noted three zones: two with tombs and one a settlement, with pottery of the 3rd-6th centuries CE. (Kenawi 2014, 126). An area on the top remained clear of tombs until 2020, but has since been filled. A limestone slab with a Greek dedication of a synagogue for Ptolemy VIII by the Jews of Xenephyris, is said to be from here. Alexandria Museum 19398. Bernand 1971, 928–931 and pl. 50. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916).

Aranib, K el- 439 30˚ 57' 03"N 30˚ 24' 13"E SCA Beheira register 100151
Now called Kom Irani by the local villagers. This site is shown on the SoE 1914 map as a small mound with some houses built over it. These have now expanded to cover the whole mound. No pottery was visible on the surface, but a small section at northern edge of the town did exhibit several body sherds and an amphora-handle. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916).

Arbaa Ashar, K el- 375 31˚ 06' 49"N 30˚ 22' 11"E
A small mound northeast of Abu Hummus on the SoE 1914 map, now levelled to cultivation. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916).

Ashrin, K 633 30˚ 49' 41"N 30˚ 25' 00"E SCA Beheira register no. 100246
Located 11km W of Dilingat. By 2004, this site had been reduced to a roughly rectangular remnant of an ancient mound, measuring 90 × 65m, with a thin extension to the northwest, surrounded by fields. Trampier noted the presence of Roman sherds (Trampier 2014, 332). Historical satellite imagery shows that the mound was completely levelled to fields between 2007 and 2009. See Thomas, R.I. forthcoming, 80–82. On the sketch-map by Coulson, in Van den Brink 1988b, 260. SoE 1:100,000 (1916).

Awad, K 637 31˚ 06' 32"N 30˚ 20 08"E SCA Beheira register no. 100181
This site lies three kilometres northeast of Abu Hummus, close to village of Ezbet Kom Awad. When surveyed by P. Wilson in 2004-5 the site comprised three small mounds with a covering of rough vegetation. The highest mound rose up to seven metres above the level of the fields with a sheer section at the south edge containing a considerable amount of pottery and also some burials in pottery coffins. These belong to a cemetery of similar burials and also possibly some fired brick rectangular tombs. The pottery in the section consisted mainly of large amphora sherds, while a few fine wares were noted on the surface of the site. The lower mounds are up to two metres in height. A quartzite grindstone was noted at the site. The area of Kom Awad has a cemetery on its north-


Kom el-Awad [637] in 2005 (P. Wilson)


Pottery at Kom el-Awad [637] in 2005 (P. Wilson)

east side which is a small mound about 2.5 m high. Drill-cores were taken during a repeat visit in 2005. More description has been published in Wilson and Grigoropoulos 2009, 138–145 (erroneously under the name Kom Barsiq - see below under this name), together with a contour map, some pottery and details of the drill-cores.

Awiri, K el- 402 30˚ 56' 49"N 30˚ 03' 22"E
Located northwest of El-Matamir. Satellite imagery (2007) showed a small mound with houses on the east end and modern tombs on the west. The number of tombs has increased steadily since that time. A track runs around the perimeter. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916).

Aziza, K 626 31˚ 11' 03"N 30˚ 19' 48"E SCA Beheira register 100180
Located nine kilometres north of Abu Hummus. Shown on the SoE 1914 and 1916 maps as Kom Aziza el-Kebir, a mound with a village on its southeast end. Surveyed by P. Wilson in 2004 and again in 2005 for mapping and the making of drill-cores. Excavations by the SCA in 2021 found Old Kingdom burials and a Graeco-Roman pottery workshop (see below). This site has been partly overbuilt by a school at its southern end. Kom Aziza seems to have been a low mound with a sandy surface containing pottery. On the north side the mound has been cut away to leave sheer sections to a depth of about three metres, revealing substantial deposits of pottery including whole amphorae and some bases of intact vessels. Some mud brick walls were visible in a section at the edge of the mound. Two transects of drill cores were made across the site: one to the south through the village and the other to the north across the area of the remaining mound. A core through the *sebakh* layer next to the houses contained a sequence of cultural material consisting of bones, burning, pottery and brick fragments. Two pieces of Old Kingdom material were found in this core: a rim sherd and a fragment of a bread mould. Pottery collected from the site was mostly Ptolemaic to Roman, but there was one sherd of the Late Period and a few Old Kingdom pieces. Confirmation of early occupation was obtained in 2021, following excavations for the SCA directed by Ibrahim Sobhy. A cemetery with graves from the Predynastic to the Old Kingdom was found, containing simple pit-burials and more elaborate mud brick tombs. Among the finds were some fine stone vases typical of the fifth to sixth dynasties. Old Kingdom brick-lined graves with pottery and stone vases typical of the fifth to sixth dynasties were found. The presence of Old Kingdom remains at such a northerly site is noteworthy. In an upper level a Graeco-Roman pottery workshop was discovered (Naem and Sobhy 2023). About 800m west


Kom Aziza from the cultivation (P. Wilson)


The sandy area at Kom Aziza (P. Wilson)


Surveying at Kom Aziza (P. Wilson)


Pottery collected at Kom Aziza (P. Wilson)

of the site is a large modern cemetery, almost certainly built on another mound. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916). Wilson and Grigoropoulos 2009, 121–126, 351–352. See also Kenawi 2014, 86–88.

Azla, Kiman el- 232 31˚ 13’ 09”N 30˚ 19’ 53”E
Formerly a large mound south of Edku. The levelling of the mound since 2002 is shown by historical satellite imagery, which also indicates that there were two other large adjacent mounds up to 2007 on the west, both since levelled for agriculture. One of these is Tell Abyar (no. 231). Azla itself had been completely levelled to fields by 2011.

Bakrag, K 391 31˚ 02’ 34”N 30˚ 14’ 15”E SCA Beheira register 100171
A substantial mound of 400 × 200m to the southwest of Abu Hummus, overbuilt by modern tombs on the north side and along the southwestern edge. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916). ESA 1:50,000 map (1996), sheet NH36-M1a.

Balbaah 751 31˚ 05’ 08”N 30˚ 20 04”E
All that remains of this site is a small, rectangular mound about 1-2m high, located to the southeast of Abu Hummus. It was surveyed in 2005 by a team led by P. Wilson. The area covered by the site measured 120 × 90m. Few sherds were observed on the site, but there were more in the surrounding fields. A sketch-plan and description have been published in Wilson and Grigoropoulos 2009, 152–153.


The scanty remains at Balbaah in 2005 (P. Wilson)

Baqar, K el- 298 30˚ 53’ 14”N 30˚ 20’ 23”E SCA Beheira register 100234
Situated 20km southwest of Damanhur. Visited by S. Snape for the Delta Survey in 1996, who noted the presence of a large mound with some visible mud-brick wall traces and scatters of Roman sherds. The mounds was crossed by tracks on the north and east edges, but was clear of overbuilding. SoE 1:50,000 (1914); 1:100,000 (1916). See Coulson in Van den Brink 1988b, 260; See Thomas, R.I. forthcoming, 77–78. For the fine Greek pottery from this site, see Weber 2012.

Barnugi, El- 296 30˚ 55’ 37”N 30˚ 23’ 11”E SCA Beheira register 100127-28
On the Survey of Egypt maps of 1914 and 1916 twin mounds are shown at this location, Tell el-Barnugi el-Bahari and el-Qibli, with Tell Nauwar on the west of the northern mound. The coordinates given here are for the southern mound. Two Roman cemeteries were excavated by the SCA but remain unpublished. An inscribed dedication to Ptolemy VIII by the Jews of Nitriai is probably from here. Blocks with inscriptions of Thutmose III and Ramesses II were reported by Edgar in 1911. The earlier history is shown by the presence of Middle Kingdom tombs (Edgar 1907c, 109–118). A description of the site and its remains was made in 1980 by the American Naukratis regional survey, describing a low sandy mound with some visible red brick features. A sketch-map and some ceramics, including African Red Slip and Cypriote Red Slip Wares, were published. The surface was said by the Naukratis Survey to have been all of Roman date. When surveyed by P. Wilson in 2004 the site extended approximately 560m east–west by 250m north–south. The area was roughly divided into two by a canal. The site consisted of small mounds covered in grass and camel thorn. At the east is the tomb of Sidi Sadallah el-Ansari on a small mound. On the western side there were some quite large excavated areas. A large limestone block was noted and pottery sherds were collected. Excavations by the SCA in 2022 found remains of a Roman bath complex in the southwest part of the southern mound (El-Dardiri and Hakiem 2023),