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Upper Atbara Setiet Dam Archaeological Salvage Project (ASDASP), the Rescue Excavation Results on the Western Bank of the Atbara: Preliminary Report

Murtada Bushara Mohamed, Mohammed Saad Abdalah, Sami Elamien Mohammed and Zaki aldien Mahmoud

In 2010 an archaeological survey was conducted by the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM) at the request of the Dams Implantation Unit (DIU) in the area of upper Atbara River, a consequence of the intention to construct new dams on the Atbara and Setiet rivers a few kilometres upstream of their confluence. The survey covered the areas to the east and west of Setiet River, east and west of Atbara River and in the Kassala agricultural project (Alhassan *et al.* 2010). A total of 27 archaeological sites were recorded along the western bank of the Atbara (Plates 1 and



Plate 1. Location of sites along the River Athara plotted on the Google Earth satellite image.

2), and three sites documented as of particular importance. A stone building in the village of es-Sofy el-Bashier and the foundation of walls at Barno village have been dated to the Anglo-Egyptian period.

From the beginning of March up to 20th May 2013 rescue excavations were undertaken by three archaeological teams from NCAM, on both banks of the Setiet and Atbara rivers.

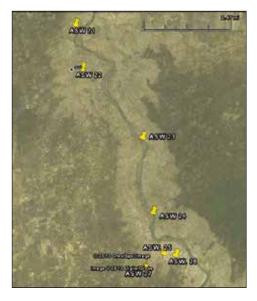


Plate 2. Location of sites along the River Athara plotted on the Google Earth satellite image.

The archaeological sites along the western bank of the Atbara show differences in type, size and date. Most are cemeteries, the rest of the recorded archaeological sites are areas with clear scatters of stone tools and potsherds on the ground surface, which, according to the survey result, can be dated to the prehistoric period.

The fieldwork started by visiting the archaeological sites noted in the survey report (three additional sites were recorded). The main objective of this visit was to identify the site locations in order to plan the excavation strategy according to the distribution of sites. The archaeological sites located at the dam site have been considered a priority in the rescue excavation program, since the construction work at the dam has already started. In fact, two sites have been completely destroyed as a result of dam construction before the launch of the archaeological rescue work.

In light of the limited duration of the fieldwork the archaeological rescue operation adopted a selective system and only part of the sites were tested. This strategy allowed the archaeological team to investigate most of the recorded sites within the targeted area in the time available (Table 1).

The cemeteries

The cemetery sites represented the majority among the recorded archaeological sites in the area; 13 out of 20 cemeteries were partly tested. From the 39 tumuli excavated it emerged that the typical superstructure was a rounded mound of sandstone; some have a distinct circular stone revetment (Tomb ASW 3/2, Tomb ASW 4/2). The tomb shafts exhibited a

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¹ The team members on the western bank of the Atbara were Mahmoud



variety of shapes, as did the location, orientation and position of the deceased (Table 2). No clear grave goods were found except for personal adornments such as beads and bracelets of copper alloy, iron and ivory. Two of the excavated skeletons were visible on the ground surface.

In some cases a tumulus covered more than one grave cut. In one case there was a sacrificed animal buried in a separate pit close to the grave; elsewhere there was more than one individual buried together and reuse of graves for secondary burials was also noted.

Evidence for plundering and disturbance by animals was clear. Generally the condition of the skeletons was very poor and in some case only parts of the long bones were found and sometimes the grave was almost empty. The following examples illustrate the range of variation.

Tomb ASW 3/2

Located in the centre of the cemetery, it has a superstructure consisting of a circular mound of stone 5.5- 5.6m in diameter with a clear stone revetment (Plate 3). An oval-shaped tomb



Plate 3. ASW 3/2; circular stone revetment of a circular mound of stone 5.5-6m in diameter.

shaft, 700mm long and 500mm wide and oriented north east/south west, was noted at a depth of 250mm located under the eastern edge of the mound and covered by a stone blocking bonded in clay. Under the stone blocking the shaft was filled with sand and a hard clayey soil. It would appear that the burial which cut through a thick layer of river sand had been lined in clay to prevent collapse. At a depth of 1.4m was an incomplete skeleton in a flexed position lying on its right side, head to the north west (Plate 4). The skull was missing but most probably, in light of the position of the bones, faced south. The right hand was found under the left and both were in front of the body. Small beads of different materials were found around the left hand. This tomb shows clear traces of plundering.

Tomb ASW 4/2

Located in the centre of the cemetery, it had an oval superstructure 4.9-5.3m in size, of stone with a distinct stone



Plate 4. ASW 3/2; skeleton.

revetment. The oval burial chamber, at a depth of 1.2m, was accessed via a circular shaft 850mm in diameter (Plate 5). Oriented north-south and located in the centre of the mound, it was covered by a semi-circular partly disturbed stone blocking 860mm in diameter. The tomb shaft was filled by sandstones and clay. The extended skeleton was oriented north-south and lay on its left side, the right leg crossed over the left, the hands placed in front of the pelvis.



Plate 5. ASW4/2; grave shaft and stone blocking wall.

Tomb ASW 4/3

Located on the eastern side of the cemetery, the superstructure was eroded and partly washed away by the heavy rain; only a quarter of the circular mound of sandstone measuring 2.4 x 1.3m remained. An oval tomb shaft 1.7 x 0.95m oriented east-west was identified, covered by a single large circular sandstone block 440mm in diameter. The tomb cut was filled with clay. At a depth of 1.3m four skeletons were found (Plate 6); two of them (a male and female) were disarticulated, having been moved to allow the placing of the other two in the middle of the tomb, one above the other. These later burials were both in an extended position ori-



Plate 6. ASW 4/3; portions of the limbs from the primary burial.

ented east-west, the head to the east facing south, the right leg semi-flexed above the left (Plate 7).



Plate 7. ASW 4/3; secondary burials within the grave.

Tomb ASW 7/1

Located in the north-western part of the cemetery, it was covered by a circular mound of sandstone 6.5m in diameter and 600mm high. Two grave cuts were distinguished, both pre-dating the tumulus. One grave, located partially under the tumulus's southern edge, had a rectangular shape, 1.35 x 0.5m in size, oriented north-south with a side niche oriented east-west. The tomb's shaft was covered by a white sandstone blocking (750 x 500mm) oriented north-south at a depth of 200mm. Three disarticulated skeletons were found and a fragment of an iron bracelet.

The second grave was situated under the centre of the tumulus. It had an oval shaft oriented north-south, 1.3 x 0.8m in size and 600mm deep. The tomb shaft was covered by a white sandstone blocking, sealing the fill of sandstone and clay. The oval burial chamber, 2.15 x 0.88m in size and 1.6m deep, contained a heavily disturbed and disarticulated skeleton.

Tomb ASW 10/2

Located in the south-eastern part of the cemetery, it is covered by an oval-shaped mound of sandstone 3.6 x 2.3m in size and 600mm high. An oval-shaped tomb cut, measuring 1.8 x 1.2m oriented north east-south west and 700mm deep, was noted under the southern part of the tumulus, partly sealed by sandstone blocking 1.1 x 0.9m in size. Set into this was an orthostat in the southern part standing 420mm above the level of the blocking (Plate 8).



Plate 8. ASW 10/2; an oval-shaped tomb cut.

The oval burial chamber (1.88 x 1.45m), with a side niche on the northern side oriented north east-south west, contained two skeletons; one of them found at a depth of 700mm was articulated and lay on its back in an extended position oriented north east-south west, head to the north east facing north (Plate 9). The left arm was extended and the hand rested on the pelvis, the right arm was extended parallel to the body. The other disarticulated skeleton was found below it.



Plate 9. ASW 10/2; extended burial.



Tomb ASW 16/11

The tumulus is an almost flat circular stone mound 6.2m in diameter with a distinct well-made stone revetment. The tomb shaft was circular and 1.1m in diameter filled by stones and soft sand. One decorated pot rim sherd was found in the fill. At the bottom the pit was extended to the east into a rectangular shape. Disturbed skeletal remains were found at a depth of about 1.62m in a poor state of preservation. The legs were found intact and indicated the flexed position of the body oriented east-west, head to the west. The main feature in this tomb is the large amount of personal adornments found with the deceased consisting of different types of beads and about nine bracelets of different materials such as iron, copper alloy and ivory. Also a number of finger rings of iron and copper alloy were found, two of them *in situ*.

Tomb ASW 17/3

This was the largest tumulus in this cemetery measuring 12m in diameter (Plate 10). It was located almost in the middle of the site and covered three tomb shafts sealed by stones (Plate 11), the first located in the central part under the superstructure. The main feature recovered from it was an animal



Plate 10. ASW 17/3; superstructure of the largest tumulus in the cemetery.

offering, probably a sheep found over the stones blocking the tomb shaft. The second shaft was rectangular and contained



Plate 11. ASW 17/3; three grave cuts under a single tumulus.



Plate 12. ASW 17/3; skeleton laid in a contracted position.

a skeleton in a contracted position oriented east-west with the head to the west (Plate 12). The third shaft, also rectangular, contained a skeleton in an extended position oriented north east-south west, head to the north east.

Tomb ASW 19/1

The 8m diameter stone tumulus, the largest in this cemetery, was located on the highest point in the site. An oval-shaped tomb shaft (700 x 800mm, 1.7m deep) was found under the north-west part of the tumulus and filled with stones and clayey soil. The pit was extended at the bottom. On the floor of the burial chamber an articulated skeleton was found in an extended position oriented north-south, the head in the south looking east. The left hand rested on the pelvis and the right arm was extended beside the body. The right leg was semi flexed. Only one large bead of red stone (Plate 13),



Plate 13. ASW 19/1; stone pendant found attached to the right wrist of the deceased by a thin copper-alloy wire.

probably carnelian, was found attached to the right hand by a thin copper-alloy wire.

Tomb ASW 19/2

The tomb superstructure was a circular mound of stones 3.3m in diameter with pebbles on its surface and a stone revetment. A tomb shaft covered by sandstones and clay was located under the northern side of the tumulus oriented north-south. A poorly preserved skeleton was recovered in an extended position oriented north-south, head to the south facing east, the left hand over the pelvis and the right arm extending alongside the body. No objects were found in association with the skeleton.

Tomb ASW 25/1

This tomb situated in the western part of the cemetery is marked by a circular sandstone tumulus 6.8m in diameter and 600mm high. An oval-shaped tomb shaft (Plate 14) oriented north-south 1.5 x 0.7m was found at a depth of 390mm, covered by a white sandstone blocking oriented north-south,



Plate 14. ASW 25/1; the grave pit and skeleton.



Plate 15.
ASW 25/1;
bead necklace
with fired clay
pendent.



Plate 16. ASW 25/1; beads.

1.9 x 1.7m in size amongst which in the northern part were some beads. At a depth of 1.5m a disarticulated skeleton was found with a pendant made of fired clay and beads (Plates 15 and 16).

Tomb ASW 25/2

This tomb situated in the middle of the cemetery had a circular superstructure consisting of sandstones and gravel mixed with dark clay. It was 3.1m in diameter and 250mm high. A rectangular shaped tomb shaft 1.5 x 0.8m in size was found under the centre of the tumulus, covered by a rectangular sandstone blocking (1 x 0.6m), the fill consisting of soft lose sand. An articulated skeleton oriented east-west, with its head to the west facing south, lay on its right side in a flexed position, the right hand extended in front of the pelvis, the left hand bent across and resting on the right hand; the distal body was in flexed position. Three bracelets made of copper alloy were found on each wrist (Plate 17) along with beads.

Tomb ASW 26/10

Located in the northern part of the cemetery the circular sandstone tumulus was 6m in diameter and 300mm high. An oval tomb shaft was found oriented north east-south west, 740 x 660mm in size, sealed by a stone blocking. The skeleton of a male was recovered in an extended position oriented north east-south west, head to the south west. The right hand was extended in front of pelvis, the left hand was bent and rested on the pelvis. Five iron bracelets on the left wrist, some beads around the neck, and a finger ring of copper alloy were found.

Settlement and fortification

The evidence for occupation came from the high concentration of archaeological material on the ground surface espe-





Plate 17. ASW 25/2; bracelets on wrist.

cially from the prehistoric period; generally there is no clear evidence for structures predating the colonial period although there is a scatter of Christian red bricks each of the same size. This may be the result of the climatic conditions in the area where, at least nowadays, structures in the majority of villages were of wood and straw and only occasionally do they use stone in the foundation as protection against the heavy rain. The foundations of some circular stone structures (Plate 18) were found dated to modern periods most probably belonging to the nomads who pass along the river bank with their animals.

Although potsherds were observed in most of the recorded archaeological sites no complete vessel was found. The majority of sherds were handmade with a different treatment on the inner and outer surfaces. The sherds come from settlement sites dated to the prehistoric period and can be compared to those from near Khashm el-Girba (Malawiya Groups) and with Butana and late Gash Group material (Plate 19) (Manzo 2012a, 46-53).



Plate 18. Foundation of circular stone structure.







Plate 19. ASW 28 and the fort: surface pottery sherd collections.

Stone objects consisted mainly of upper and lower grinding stone fragments scattered in the settlements areas and hammerstones in some cases reused in the superstructure of the tombs. The lithic industry (Plates 20 and 21) could be compared with those of Kashm el-Girba which date to $10,230~\pm270~$ bp to $6,215~\pm75~$ bp ($9275~\pm270~$ to $4202~\pm75~$ BC) and with the Gash Group which is dated to the 3^{rd} to 2^{nd} millennium BC (Usai 2012, 85) as they were similar in shape and fabric.

The foundations of two massive forts dated to the colonial period were found. The first, close to the confluence of the Atbara and Basalam (Takazi) rivers in Barno village (13°







Plate 20. ASW 19; stone objects, surface collections.



Plate 21. ASW 19; stone objects, surface collections.

49.146' N, 36° 08.366' E), was a subrectangular structure built on a sandstone outcrop facing the Atbara and oriented north-south. The longest wall is the western one, 245m long, 2.6m thick and 420mm high, consisting of large sandstones set on end infilled with small sandstones (Plate 22). There were two entrances through this wall, the first 2.8m wide located 26m north of the south-west corner, the second 3.5m in width and surviving to a maximum height of 580mm, located 90m south of the north-west corner. The southern wall is



Plate 22. Wall of the fort at Barno village.

98m long with an entrance 3.7m wide located 54m west of the south-east corner. The northern wall was 79m in length; only traces remain of the largely destroyed eastern wall. The interior of the fort had been much disturbed by the locals; fragments of human bone and fossilised animal bones were found along with colonial Egyptian coins.

The second fort, not as big as the one at Barno, was located at el-Remailah village (ASW 28). The fort survived as a foundation of sandstones set on end, 200-500mm high,



and the bases of two rectangular towers facing the river. In the centre there is a circular feature probably used as a fire-place known locally as *toggaba* (Plate 23). It is common in the countryside in the religious schools (*khalami*) where the people learn the Quran.



Plate 23. ASW12. Toggaba.

Fossils

One of the features of sites AWS29, ASW9 and ASW10 was the presence of a great number of fossilised wood fragments and animal bones scattered on the ground surface. No complete skeleton was found but more than 300 different bones, fragments of skulls, vertebrae, scapulae, pelvises and long bones, some of them from elephants, wild cattle, giraffe and other animals not as yet clearly identified, were noted. Also complete tusks of ivory and horns were found (Plates 24 and 25). These fossils could be compared with those found



Plate 24. ASW9.10.29; fossilised animal bones.

in Khashm el-Girba as they contain bones of some similar species such as giraffe and elephant (Marks et al. 2009, 156).

Conclusion

Research and studies focussing on the area of the upper







Plate 25. ASW 9.10.29; fossilised animal bones.

Atbara are rare and little previous archaeological work has been carried out in the region before the Upper Atbara Sitiet Dam Archaeological Salvage Project. Arkell and Shiner had worked near Khasm el-Girba as had the joint archaeological mission of the University of Khartoum and Southern Methodist University (Marks et al. 2009, 138-139) and the Italian Archaeological expedition to the Sudan at Kassala directed by Rodolfo Fattovich. The Italian Archaeological Expedition to the Eastern Sudan from the University of Naples is ongoing (Manzo 2012a; 2012b; 2012c). As a result of the survey carried out by NCAM in 2010 it is clear that the area has great archaeological potential. Also the geographical location of the region favoured possible relations with the region of the Island of Meroe as it is located in the territories between Aksum and Meroe. Axumite texts mention the Khasa people (Edwards 2004, 184) who were probably the same Khasa who live around Kassala district. In light of this it may be

suggested that the area of upper Atbara lay along the route taken by King Aezanes during his campaign to Meroe, and possibly along the route taken to establish contact which the Christian Kingdom of Alwa (Welsby 2002, 215). At very least it may be the same road which was taken by the Mek Nimer to avoid the aggression of the Turks after the death of Ismail Pasha. These possibilities increase the importance of launching intensive archaeological rescue operations, since the area will disappear as a result of the dam's construction.

Dating the excavated sites is considered crucial, as little datable material such as pottery has been found. Samples for C¹⁴ dating have been collected from amongst the bones for further analysis and interpretation, but by comparison with the previous archaeological work a preliminary dating could be suggested.

In most of the excavated tombs a circular to oval shaft sealed by a stone blocking is the common type with an oval-shaped burial chamber centred on the shaft or a side niche. The extended position is the most common burial tradition in the sites excavated in the region, with a low proportion of flexed and contracted inhumations. In most cases the presence of grave good as well as traces of tomb plundering are features associated with the flexed and contracted burials.

There is a great variation in orientation of the deceased, compared with the situation observed in north and central Sudan especially during the Christian and Islamic periods. The orientation of the Christian deceased was north east-south west and probably also north-south, while Muslim graves were aligned east-west or north west-south east.

The archaeological sites within the area endangered by the building of the dam on the upper Atbara are varied both in type and size, but they are of considerable importance and they offer the potential to increase our understanding of the ancient history of the Sudan.

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Table 1. List of the archaeological sites on the western bank of the River Atbara.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	Description	Excavation
ASW 1	N 14° 16.249' E 35° 53.534'	Settlement	Scatter of grinders, stone tools, potsherds and lithics on the surface	Only surface collection
ASW 2	N 14° 16.032' E 35° 53.528'	Settlement	Scattering of grinders, stone tools, potsherds and lithics on the surface	Only surface collection
ASW 3	N 14° 16. 099' E 35° 53.245'	Cemetery	8 circular tumuli of black sandstone, 4-10m diameter	3 tombs
ASW 4	N14° 16.259' E 35° 52.729'	Cemetery	15 circular tumuli of sandstone, 3-8m diameter, some eroded by the rain	3 tombs and 1 trench
ASW 5	N 14° 16.150' E 35° 52.269'	Cemetery	8 circular tumuli of sandstone, 3-7m diameter disturbed by rain and recent settlement	2 tombs
ASW 6	N 14° 15.582' E 35° 53.470'	Settlement	Scattering of stone tools, potsherds, beads, cowrie shell and irregular sandstone block contains a cross	Surface collection
ASW 7 ASW 8	N 14° 15.540' E 35° 53.270'	Cemetery	14 circular, rectangular and oval-shaped sand- stone and gravel superstructures disturbed by a recently constructed village	2 tombs
ASW 9	N 14° 14.992' E 35° 53.627'	Cemetery	8 circular tumuli of sandstone and fragment of petrified wood, 3-5m diameter. Scatter of petrified wood and animal bones on the surface	1 tomb and surface collection
ASW 10	N 14° 14.829' E 35° 53.720'	Cemetery	Circular sandstone superstructures, 3-5m in diameter. Scatter of petrified wood and animal bones on the surface	2 tombs and surface collection
ASW 11	N 14° 14.850' E 35° 54.016'	Cemetery		The inhabitants refused to allow the rescue work
ASW 12	N 14° 14.835' E 35° 54.125'	Settlement	Scatter of stone tools and potsherds	Surface collection
ASW 13	N 14° 14.462' E 35° 54.726'	Cemetery	13 tombs with circular superstructures covered with black stones	Destroyed completely by dam activities
ASW 14	N 14° 13.502' E 35° 54.865'	Lithic tools workshop	Scatter of lithic tools + 1 circular tumulus of sandstone 8m diameter and 500mm high	1 tomb and 1 trench
ASW 15	N 14° 13.533' E 35° 55.136'	Cemetery	12 tombs covered by stone superstructures, 5-10m in diameter	Destroyed completely by dam activities
ASW 16	N 14° 13.355' E 35° 54.834'	Cemetery	14 tombs, flat-topped circular stone super- structure, 5-8m in diameter, some within the Muslim cemetery	7 tombs
ASW 17	N 14° 13.162' E 35° 54.849'	Cemetery	8 circular tumuli of sandstone and river stones, 6-12m in diameter	3 tombs
ASW 18	N 14° 13.044' E 35° 54.634'	Settlement	3 bases of rounded hut recently used, scattering of stone tools and potsherds	Surface collection
ASW 19	N 14° 13.211' E 35° 54.437'	Cemetery Settlement	8 circular tumulus of sandstone, dense scatter of fine stone tools and decorated potsherds	3 tombs 2 trench
ASW 20	N 14° 12.456' E 35° 54.216'	Tumuli	High rounded mound of sandstone, 14m in diameter and 5m high. On the top of the mound located the tomb of Sheikh Elshareef el-Maki surrounded by recent Muslim tombs	Documented
ASW 21	N 14° 12.000' E 35° 54.016'	Settlement	Recent foundation remains of 6 round structures, 4m diameter of white sandstone	Documented
ASW 22	N 14° 10.685 E 35° 54.515	Settlement	Scattering of potsherds resembling Christian pottery, also stone object	Surface collection
ASW 23 ASW 24	N 14° 09.032' E 35° 55.413'			The inhabitants refused to allow the rescue work
ASW 25	N 14° 06.161' E 35° 56.128'	Cemetery	15 tombs marked by high rounded mound of sandstone, 3-9m in diameter	3 tombs

Table 1. List of the archaeological sites on the western bank of the River Atbara (cont.).

Site	Location	Туре	Description	Excavation
ASW 26	N 14° 06.091' E 35° 56.793'	Cemetery	50 tombs, 35 circular tumuli, oval-shaped within Muslim cemetery	12 tombs
ASW 27	N 14° 05.455' E 35° 56.793'			Work stopped by locals
ASW 28	N 14° 14.922' E 35° 54.292'	Settlement	Foundation of rectangular structure (fort) facing the River Atbara, and a circular structure	Documented
ASW 29	N 14° 23 801' E 35° 51.618'	Fossilised park	Concentration of fossilized animal bones and wood	8 trenches
ASW 30	N 14° 16.124' E 35° 52.283'	Cemetery	3 tombs, circular tumuli and some human skeletons visible on the surface	2 graves

Table 2. Excavated tombs.

<u>Sites</u>	<u>Individuals</u>	Orientation	<u>Sex</u>	Position
ASW 4/2+ASW 101+ASW 19/2	1	North-south	Female	Extended
ASW 19/1	1		Male	Flexed
ASW 26/11d	2		Male + female	Extended
ASW 30 sk 1	1		Male	Contracted
ASW 30 sk 2	1		5	Flexed
ASW 3/3	1	East-west	Female	Extended
ASW 4/3	4		2 male + 2 female	2 extended
ASW 16/11	1		5	Flexed
ASW 17/3a	1		Male	Contracted
ASW 25/2 ASW25/3	1		Male – female	5
(ASW 26/4 + ASW 26/8+ASW 25/3)	1		Female	5
ASW 25/2	1		male	?
ASW 7/1	1	NE-SW	Male	?
ASW 10/2	2		Male +?	Extended
ASW 16/1	1		5	Extended
ASW 19/3	1		Male	Extended
ASW 4/1+ASW 17/3	1	NW-SE	Male	Extended
ASW 3/2	1		5	Contracted
ASW 14/1+ASW 7/2	1		5	5
ASW 26/5+ASW 26/10	1		Male + female	?
ASW 5/1+ASW 5/2	1	Unclear	?	5
ASW 17/2+ASW 25/9	1		Male	5
ASW 9/1	5		5	5
ASW 7/1a	3		Male	5
ASW 25/1	3		Male females	5
ASW 26/11	2		Male + female	3



Gabati

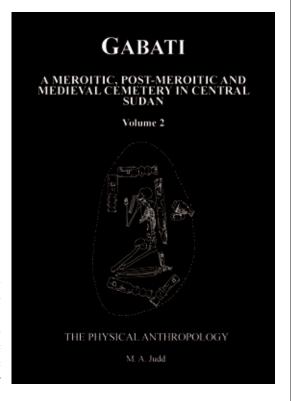
A Meroitic, Post-Meroitic and Medieval Cemetery in Central Sudan. Vol. 2: The Physical Anthropology

by Margaret A. Judd, with a contribution by David N. Edwards London 2012

xii + 208 pages, 110 tables, 15 figures, 66 maps, 73 colour plates ISBN 978 1 901169 19 7

The cemetery at Gabati, dating from the Meroitic, post-Meroitic and Christian periods was excavated in advance of road construction in 1994-5, the detailed report being published by SARS in 1998. This complementary volume provides an in-depth analysis of the human remains. A final chapter, a contribution from David Edwards, the field director of the project, in conjunction with Judd, assesses the archaeological results in light of continuing research in the region over the last decade and more.

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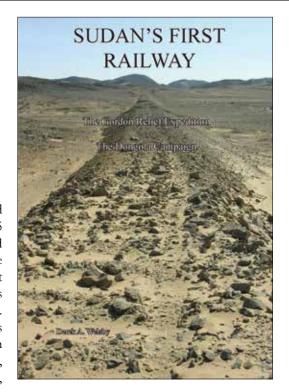
Sudan's First Railway The Gordon Relief Expedition and The Dongola Campaign

by Derek A. Welsby

London 2011

149 pages, 6 tables, 47 figures, 173 colour and 19 b&w plates ISBN 978 1 901169 1 89

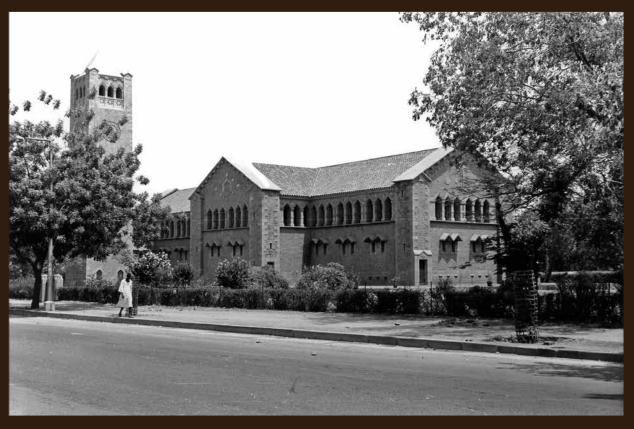
Begun in 1875 by the Egyptian khedive, Ismail Pasha, the railway played an important role during the Gordon Relief Expedition of 1884-5 and Kitchener's Dongola Campaign in 1896. It was abandoned and cannibalised to build other railways in Sudan during the first decade of the 20th century. For much of its course it runs through the desert and in those areas the roadbed, the associated military installations and the innumerable construction camps are extremely well preserved. This book is the result of a photographic survey of these installations together with the detailed archaeological surveys undertaken within them. A report on the artefacts, which includes personal equipment, ammunition, fragments of rolling stock, bottles, tins and ceramics, completes the volume.



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Khartoum. The Republican Palace, once the Governor General's residence, in 1968 (photo SARS Hawkes Archive HAW P091.01).



Khartoum. The Anglican cathedral in 1968. Now minus its bell tower it houses the Republican Palace Museum (photo SARS Hawkes Archive HAW P090.01).