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Kadero Preliminary Report, 2003

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KADERO

PRELIMINARY REPORT, 2003

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The excavations at Kadero were continued in 2003, between November 15 and December 2,¹⁾ the season being cut short by an archaeological reconnaissance in the region of the Fourth Cataract scheduled to run immediately afterwards and engaging most of the Kadero team.

The goal was to explore the western part of a midden linked with the southern settlement,²⁾ placing special emphasis on the stratigraphy in this part and the accumulated material, the botanical and animal remains in particular. A trench 20 by 2 m was traced in the southern part of the mound (Fig. 1) and excavated by individual squares of 2 by 2 m (nos. 1000-1009) to a depth of 1.0 m.

1) The field party comprised Prof. Dr. Lech Krzyżaniak, director and archaeologist; Prof. Dr. Michał Kobusiewicz, archaeologist; Prof. Dr. Wojciech Stankowski, geomorphologist; Messrs. Przemysław Bobrowski and Maciej Jórdeczka, archaeologists. The National Corporation of Antiquities and Museums was represented at the site by Ms Khuda Magzoub. This report was collated from a rough draft that Prof. Krzyżaniak prepared but did not revise before his untimely death in July 2004.

2) For earlier communiqués and reports on the work at Kadero published in the *Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean* bulletin (with further references), cf. vols. I (1990), 73-74 (in Polish); II (1991), 26-28; IV (1993), 94-97; V (1994), 111-114; IX (1998), 154-157; XI (2000), 223-226; XIII (2002), 227-233.

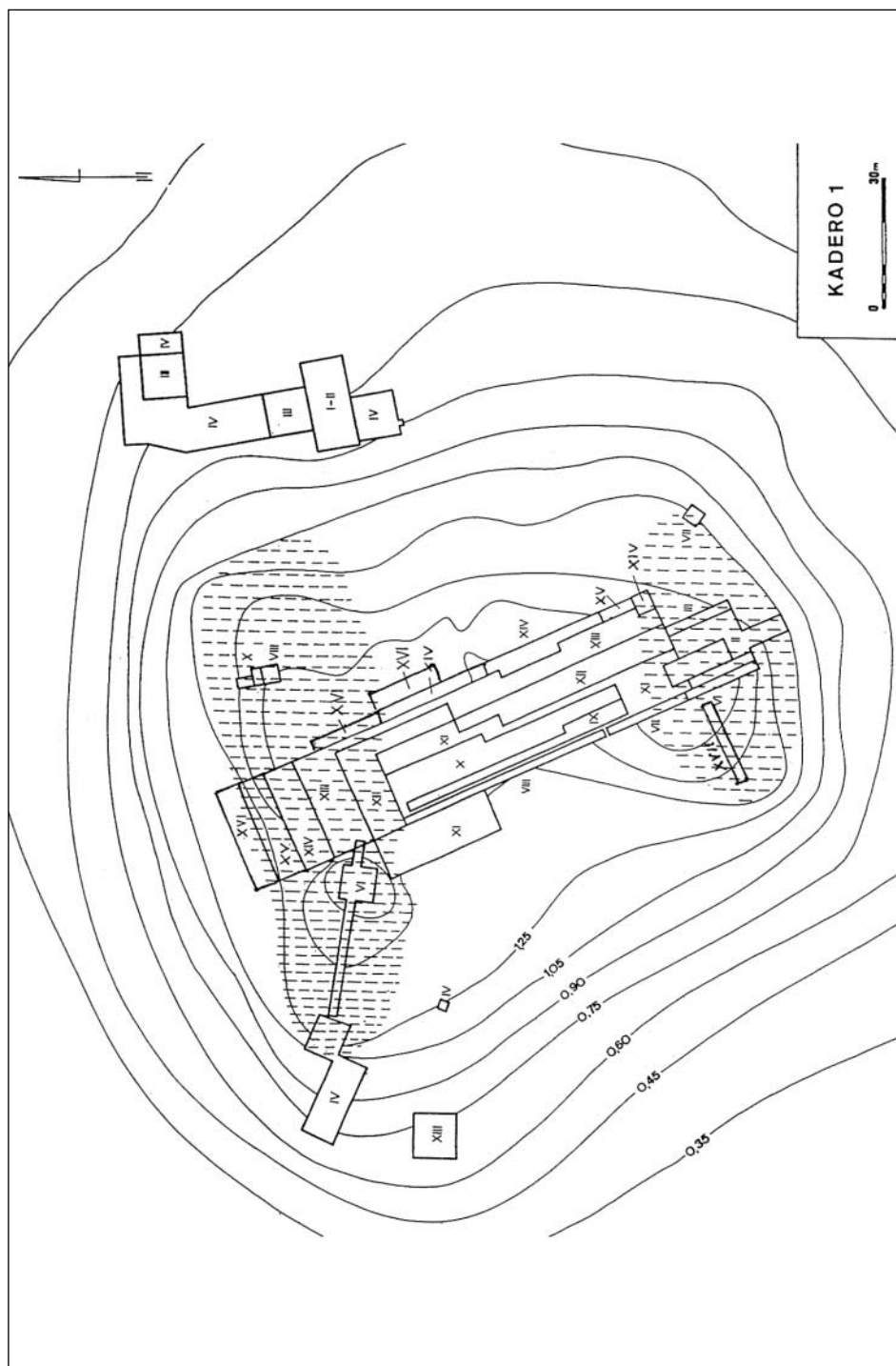
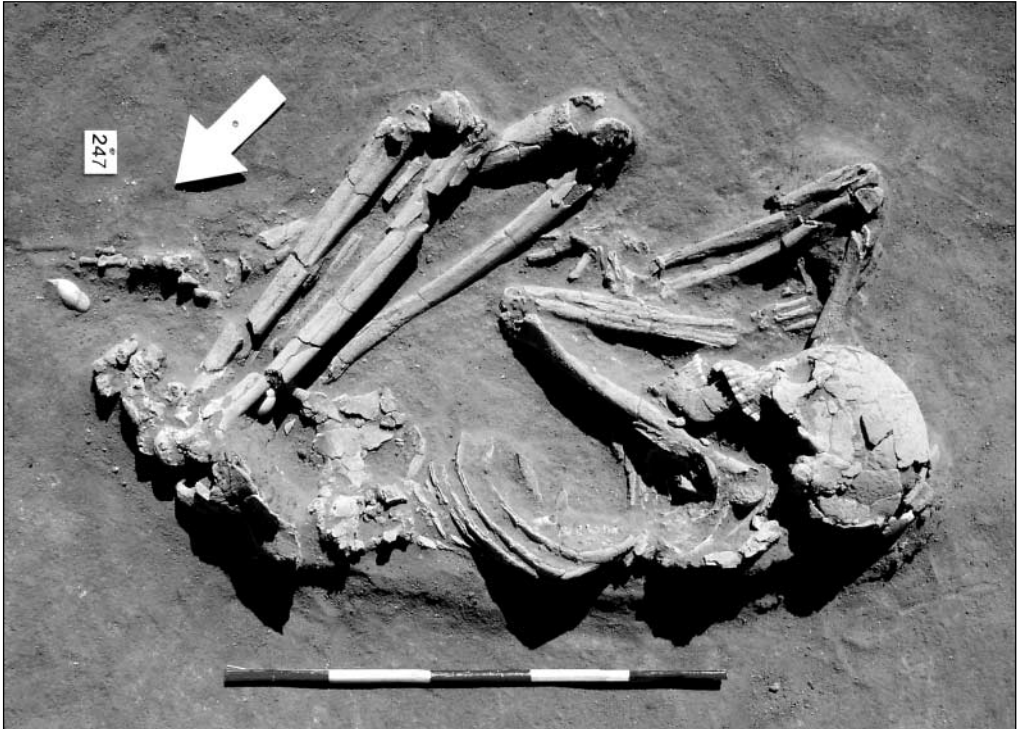


Fig. 1. Plan of the Kadero site showing the progress of excavations; Roman numerals indicate the season (XVII being the most recent). Dashed area indicates location of the Neolithic middens (Drawing J. Kędełska)

NEOLITHIC MIDDEN

The remains of the midden were found in a layer 0.20 m thick in the easternmost square (no. 1009), thinning gradually to 0.10 m to the west of the mound (square no. 1000). The artifacts found in this layer are characteristic of the Khartoum Neolithic represented by pottery and a variety of lithics including fragments of upper and lower grindstones. Samples of the botanical and animal remains, as well as charcoal from this layer were collected for further analysis, including specialized identification and radiocarbon dating. They should shed light on an exact chronology of the Neolithic climate in the Central Sudan.

It seems that the settlement remains found in the trench excavated this season originated from the eroded part of the Neolithic midden which was excavated during the first several season at this site; it is thought that originally this midden may had been much less extensive in area but considerably higher, constituting the summit of the southern part of the Kadero mound. The rather unexpected discovery of two Neolithic burials in this trench (graves nos. 247, 248) (*Fig. 2*) would stand in support of this view; it is more than likely that the pits for these inhumation burials had not been dug into a functioning midden.



*Fig. 2. Neolithic grave no. 247
(Photo L. Krzyżaniak)*

SITE PROTECTION

In an effort to minimize unintentional damage to the Kadero site, a ditch was excavated around the entire mound making it much more difficult for vehicles, lorries in particular, to drive across the site – a frequent phenomenon in the past few years. Warning of the ditch is given by

a bank of soil that was raised on its outside perimeter and a series of cement posts, painted red and white, mounted along its top. It is also hoped that after a few rainy seasons, the ditch will be overgrown by a thick hedge of sorts, naturally fencing in the site.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

This season we also had the opportunity to conduct a field school for students from the Department of Archaeology of the University of Juba (campus in Khartoum North). The training was supervised by Dr. Abderrahim M. Kebir, head of the

Department and originator of the idea (*Fig. 3*). Training in the field for a large group of Sudanese archaeology students on a site that belongs to their national heritage was truly a rewarding experience for our entire field party.



Fig. 3. Field training for students of archaeology from the University of Juba (Photo L. Krzyżaniak)