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PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE SECOND AND THIRD FIELD SEASONS AT THE BRONZE AGE CEMETERY MOG034 ON MOGRAT ISLAND, SUDAN

Archaeological investigations on the cemetery site MOG034 continued in autumn 2014 and spring 2015, as part of the Mograt Island Archaeological Mission.¹ In the 2014 season, the excavation of the Terminal Neolithic feature F072 was completed.² Work at the site proper was then supplemented with a survey of the Bronze Age burial landscape of Mograt, which has now covered about two thirds of the island.³ Photogrammetry, which had first been used on an experimental basis in 2014, became an integral part of the methodological process during the 2015 excavation.⁴

The current paper presents the excavations at the southwestern crest of the main ridge of MOG034, which took place in January and February 2015 (fig. 1: F025+F028–F034). This area was chosen for investigation because of its unique morphology – stratigraphically overlapping and abutting superstructures – otherwise absent from the site (fig. 2).⁵ The first step was to divide the area into several trenches and to document all surface features in detail. Due to the unexpectedly high number of burials, the excavation of some smaller features will be completed in the upcoming project year.

The cemetery part in question comprises an area of 17.5 x 15m (EW/NS) and is dominated by a large tumulus (F028) to which adheres several features, presumably dome graves, which are only tentatively defined by dense layers of large stones i.e. up to 50 cm in size of the local metamorphic rock (F029A, F031, F031A, F032, F032A, F034A, F108; fig. 3). These features were excavated and only the spaces underneath several superstructures remain to be investigated after the removal of these superstructures, work which is scheduled for the coming project year. In the north, east and south, two small cairns (F030, F034) and a tumulus surround (F033) the described cluster. Another small tumulus (F029) is situated right on top of the features (F028, F028A, F029A, F031), while one further tumulus (F025) was constructed about 6m to the south. Southwest and northwest of the unspecified dome grave area, other graves without noticeable superstructures were exposed during the surface cleaning (F109, F110). Two graves which show a cover of small stone slabs have not yet been excavated due to time constraints (fig. 3: lower left part); they will be investigated in the forthcoming season.

F028/F028A

The main feature of the investigated area, F028, is a tumulus of ca. 9.5 x 11m (EW/NS). Morphologically, it resembles F001 and F004.⁶ In contrast to feature F004 as F028 shows a layer of smooth, greenish/yellowish stones which have been deposited on top of the inner filling of its ring structure. At the outset of the excavation, the disturbance of the tumulus was evident due to a large number of rocks covering the central part of the superstructure.⁷ They appeared to

1 For previous work see Weschenfelder and Rees 2014. The 2014 field team comprised the author and Florian Kirschner (survey) and Gareth Rees and Andrew Greef (excavation); the 2015 team comprised the author, Andrew Greef, Florian Kirschner, Kateryna Kortschagina and Kay Kossatz. In both seasons the teams were supported by Hassan Mustafa Alkhalid in his capacity as NCAM inspector. I would like to thank all team members as well as our local workmen and supporters for their dedicated participation in the project. I thank Claudia Näser, Petra Weschenfelder and Gemma Tully for their comments on a first version of this paper.

2 See Weschenfelder, this volume.

3 The survey will be completed in the upcoming project year. The processing of the survey data and material has just started.

4 Christopher Sevara is thanked for providing a trial license of Agisoft PhotoScan and for sharing his knowledge and ideas.

5 The elevation model of 2014 shows F031 as a well distinguished feature, but this was not as clear during survey and excavation.

6 Cf. Schulz 2008 and Weschenfelder and Rees 2014: 147–149, fig. 4.

7 Small animal bones as well as tunnels indicate minor disturbances by rodents, probably mice, in almost all features and substructures.



Fig. 1: Plan of site MOG034 (drawing: Gareth Rees)

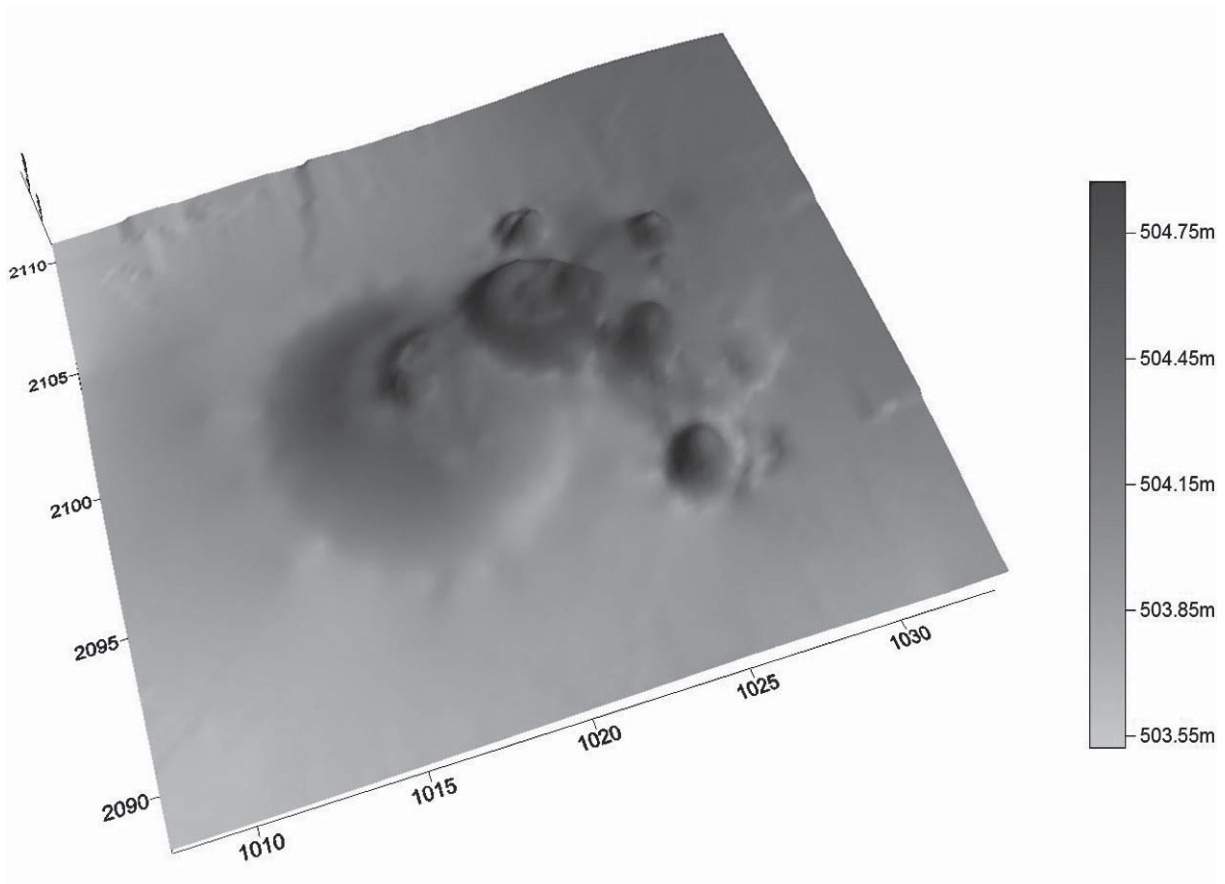


Fig. 2: Elevation model of F025, F028–F034, using local datum (cartography and graphic implementation: Gareth Rees)

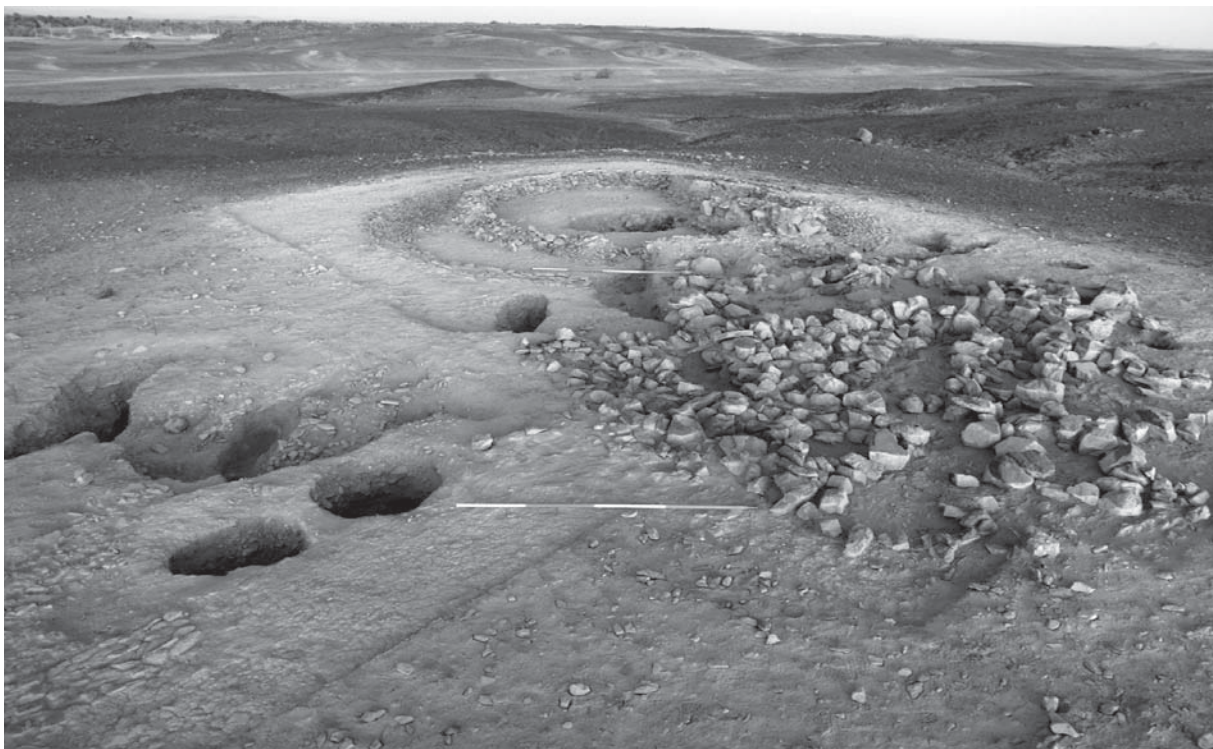


Fig. 3: Excavated area viewing northwest (photograph: Jens Weschenfelder)



Fig. 4: Top: excavated sediment trap and burial pit (photograph: Florian Kirschner, Andrew Greef), bottom: section of the sediment trap (photograph: Andrew Greef)



be another superstructure (F028A), which had potentially been constructed as a dome grave or cairn, directly on top of feature F028. Prior to this re-occupation by F028A, the inner ring structure which rose up to 0.45m above the ancient building horizon had presumably been the highest elevation of F028. This characteristic, as well as a dense pavement around the main superstructure, find parallels in features F001 and F004. The sub-circular burial pit of F028, measuring about 1.5 x 1.7m (NS/EW) and up to 0.8m in depth, was dug into an oval sediment trap of 2.5 x 1.8m (NS/EW). Big stones lining the edge of the burial pit show parallels to the Kerma graves F004 to F008, excavated in 2014 (fig. 4). Only a few bone fragments of the original burial of F028 could be recovered from the floor of the burial pit. The sparse skeletal remains did not allow for an age or sex determination. The original fill, still present at the southern end of the pit, contained fragments of

Neolithic pottery. The pit had subsequently been reused for three later burials, which had heavily disturbed the original interment. These burials, laid one above the other, were all male adults (F028A: SK02, SK03, SK04; fig. 5). The skeletal remains of another female adult (F028A: SK01) were dispersed on the surface close to the remains of the superstructure of F028A, probably as a result of grave robbing. No grave goods were found *in situ*, but several heavily fragmented ceramic vessels from different contexts were recovered. Their analysis is ongoing. Due to the morphological similarities with F001 and F004, feature F028 can be dated to the Kerma period. The construction of F028A can only be dated in a wider range from possibly the New Kingdom up the Napatan/Early Meroitic period. Stratigraphically, F028A underlies F029 which is one of the latest graves in this cemetery area (see below).

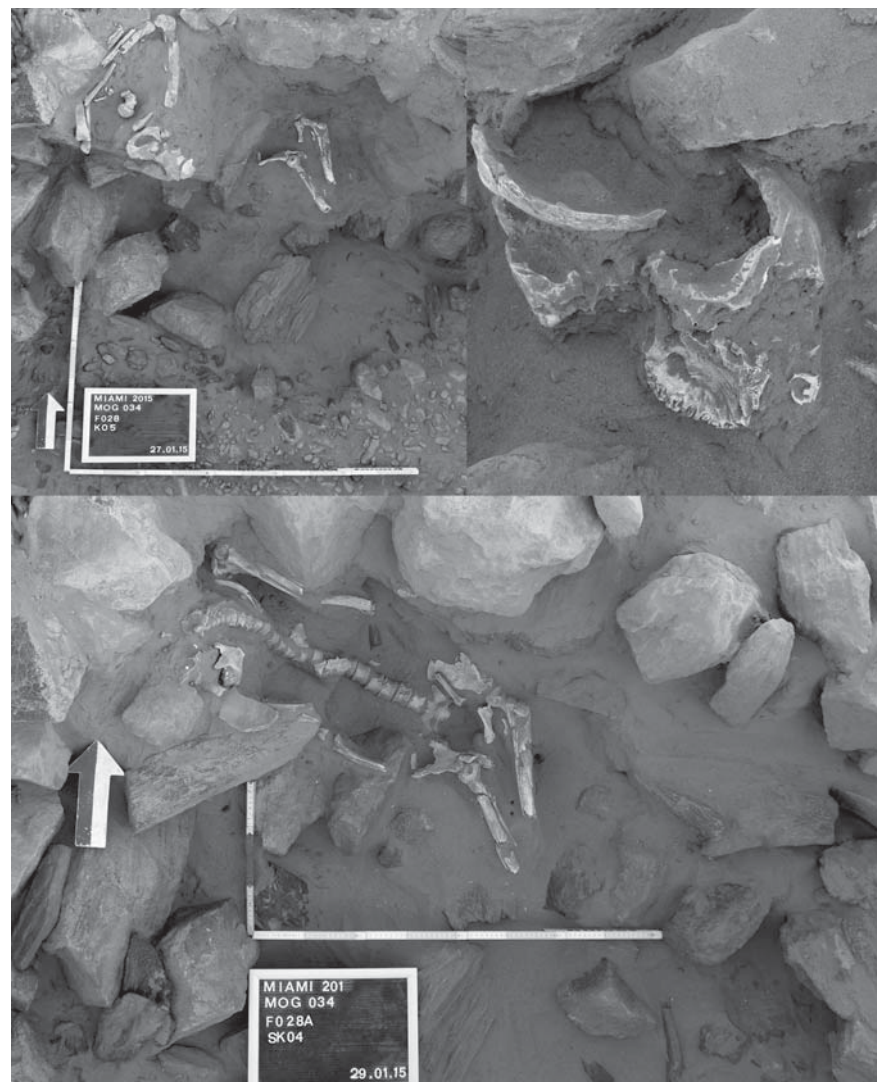


Fig. 5: Top left: SK03 and SK04 of F028A (photograph: Florian Kirschner, Andrew Greef), top right: SK01 of F028A (photograph: Jens Weschenfelder), bottom: SK04 of F028A (photograph: Florian Kirschner, Andrew Greef)

THE EASTERN DOME GRAVE AREA

During the first reconnaissance of MOG034 in spring 2014, a dense bone scatter as well as half of a human skull were found at the surface in the eastern part of the area. The bones were covered with sediment to be examined later. They appeared with features of indistinct morphology which were numbered F031 and F032 and an additional area of stone collapse in the east, which only later turned out to be the remains of dome graves (fig. 6: lower photograph). In all, seven burials were excavated in this area. Superstructures F031 and F032 seem to have been two well-built dome graves, constructed of two rings, of which three layers were still intact. These structures had been partly filled with silt and small gravel which had apparently accumulated after tomb robbers had removed the upper layers of the dome

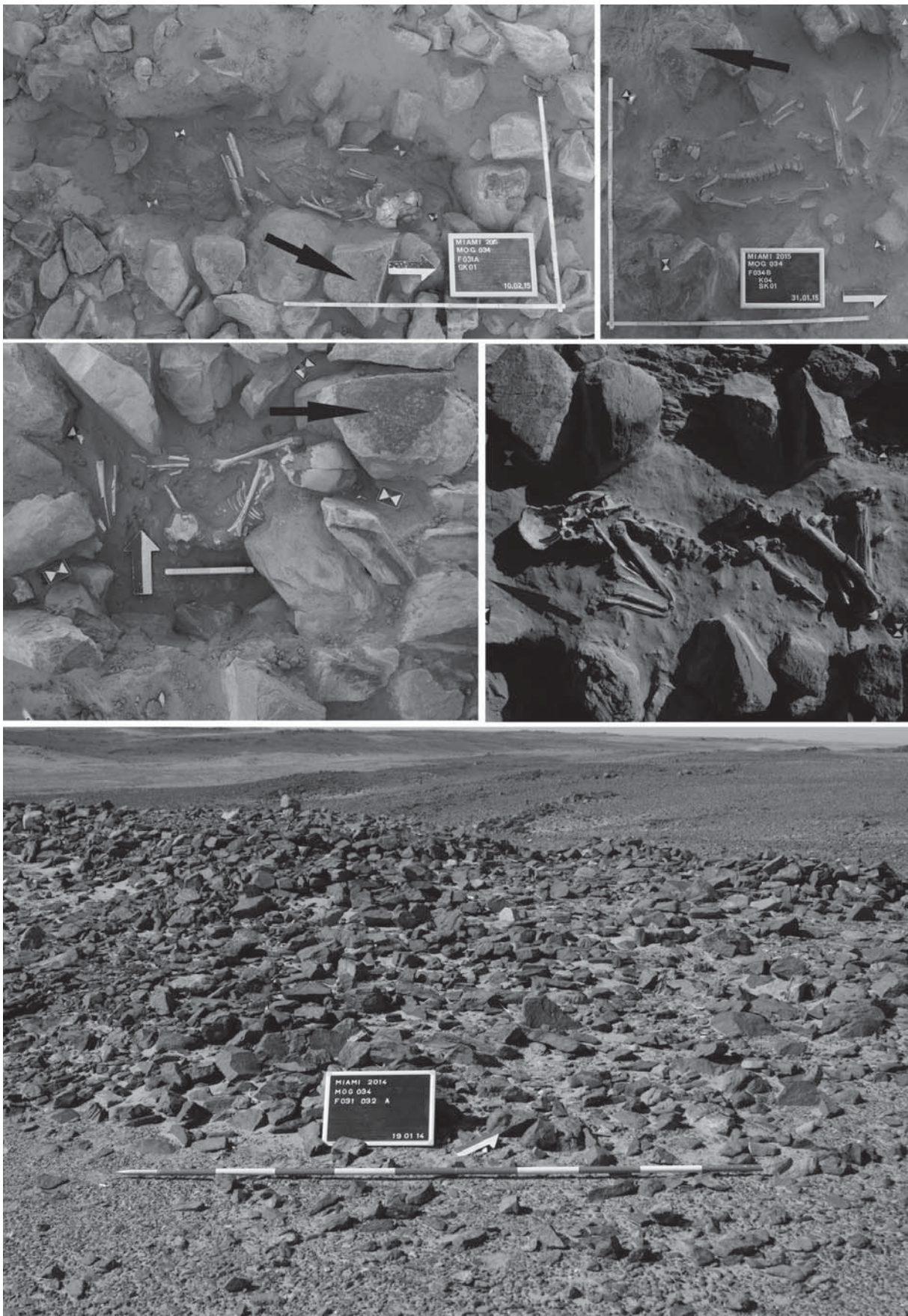


Fig. 6: Top and centre: red quartzite/granite stones set close to the heads of the burials (photograph: Jens Weschenfelder, Florian Kirschner, Andrew Greef), bottom: overview of the eastern dome grave area before excavation (photograph: Jens Weschenfelder)

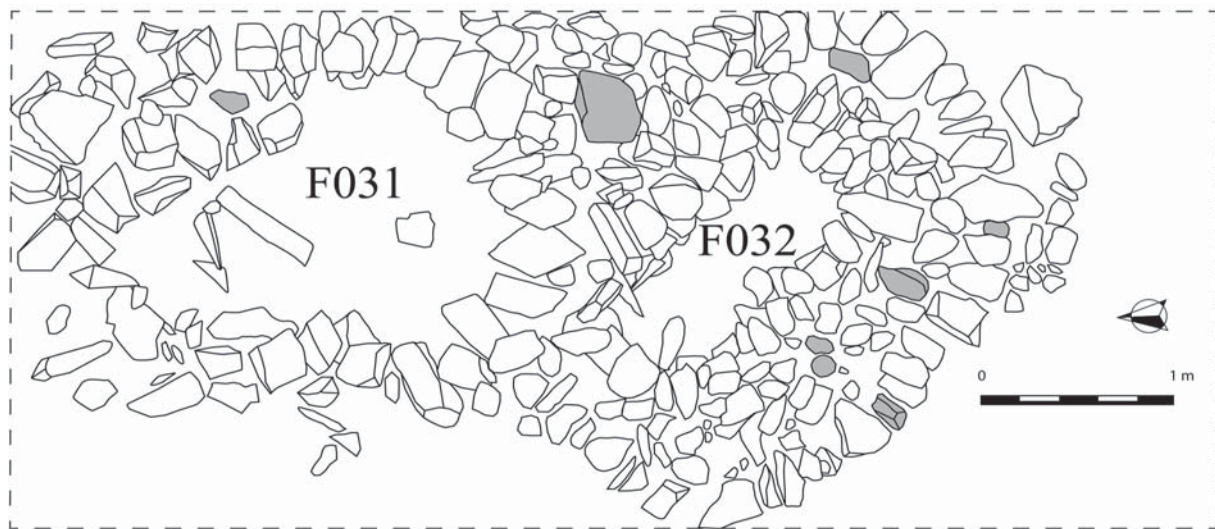


Fig. 7: Plan of F031 and F032 after excavation (drawing: Jens Weschenfelder)

(fig. 7). The other graves had been placed around them, but were constructed less carefully than F031 and F032. Of them, only one or two layers of set stones were preserved and they had no distinguishable ring structures. The burials in these structures had been placed directly on the natural outcrop which constituted the ancient surface in this part of the cemetery, partially covered by a thin layer of silt – probably of aeolian origin –, in a flexed position, either on the left or the right hand side or on the back. The only exception to this is F108 which is a flat oval pit into which the body of a non-adult individual had been placed. The area was heavily disturbed. The stones, which had originally constituted the superstructures of the dome graves seem to have been partly reused, either in feature F028A or in the smaller cairns surrounding the area. It is remarkable that despite the disturbance of the superstructures, the burials were in extraordinarily good condition and still contained grave goods *in situ*. Positioning of the bodies varied, but the grave superstructures seem to have been built in a quite uniform way with local metamorphic black rocks used for the construction and a single reddish granite or quartzite block being placed near the head of the deceased (fig. 6: black arrows). The palaeoanthropological analysis is still in progress.

The burials of features F031, which contained an older male individual, and F032, the skeleton of which still needs to undergo anthropological analysis, provided some unexpected grave contents. The individual in F031 was placed in a flexed position on the right hand site, head towards north, facing west. It had only been slightly damaged by big elongated rocks that had presumably served as cover blocks of the dome grave construction directly above the body.

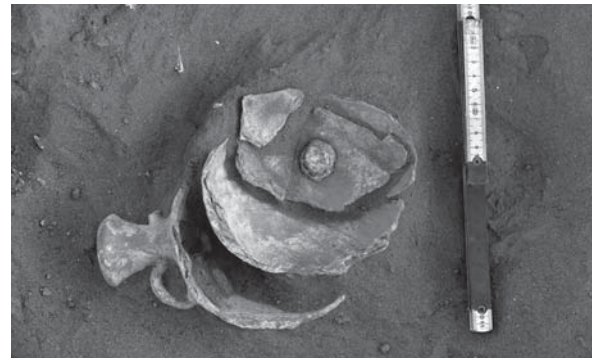


Fig. 8: Pilgrim flask with metal seal of F031 *in situ* (photograph: Florian Kirschner)

The 'chamber' which was thus formed measured 2.4 x 1.3m (SE-NW/NE-SW). The body only occupied its western part while the eastern part contained one half of a handmade bowl. Underneath the upper part of the legs of the body – the position of which was possibly caused by the collapse of the superstructure – a fragmented marl clay pilgrim flask with a metal seal on top was found,⁸ apparently originally deposited after fragmentation in antiquity as a package of sherds (fig.8). The burial in F032 provided even more extraordinary finds, even though its superstructure was also no longer intact. The body, which still awaits anthropological analysis, was placed in an oval ring of stones, still up to three layers high, in a flexed position on its right hand side, head to the west, facing south. Directly in front of the head, on top of the hands, a complete pilgrim flask⁹ was found (fig. 9).

8 The body of the vessel consists of two wheelmade parts with handles and neck attached; cf. El-Din 2006: 20, type 2 or 4.

9 Cf. El-Din 2006: 7–11; Lohwasser 2012: 218 for the dating of pilgrim flasks from the New Kingdom onwards.



Fig. 9: Burial of F032 with pilgrim flask (photograph: Jens Weschenfelder, Florian Kirschner)

From underneath the torso a scarab, presumably of faience, was recovered. It shows a kneeling Hapi holding a lotus flower in each hand (fig. 10). The characteristics of the beetle, namely the shape of the

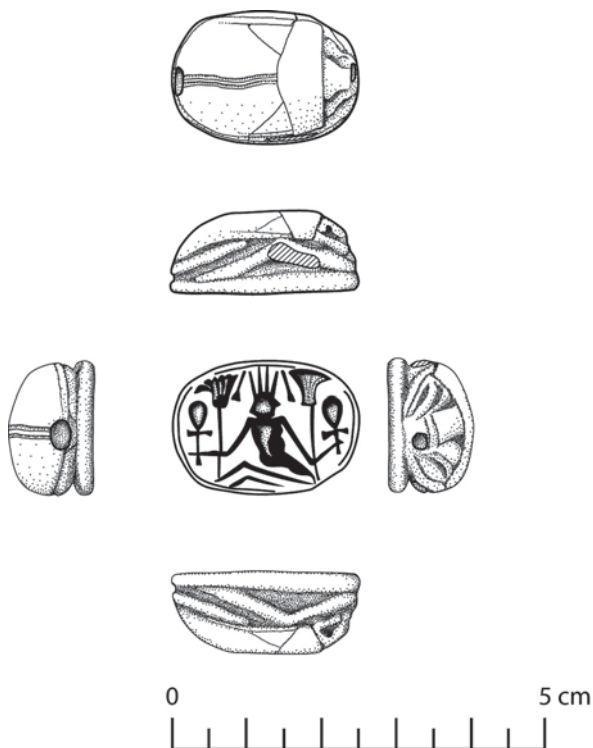


Fig. 10: Scarab found under the torso of the body of F032 (drawing: Jens Weschenfelder, Kateryna Kortschagina)

prothorax, the elytra and the V-shaped markings on the shoulder, as well as the distinctly formed legs, point to a date for the scarab from the New Kingdom onwards, possibly into the Late Period.¹⁰ Behind the skeleton, the exact half of a handmade bowl came to light. A similar find derives from F031 and F031A, the burial of an adult female. These bisected bowls can thus be regarded as a characteristic of interments of this chronological range. As no fragments of the other half of any of the bowls were found, it seems that the second half had been removed intentionally – signaling a so far unreported concept of sharing or division. The preliminary analysis of the finds and the morphology of the grave superstructures suggest a dating of this group of graves into the late New Kingdom or the Napatan period.

'SATELLITE STRUCTURES'

Two small cairns, built of medium and large rocks – F030 of 1.6m in diameter, 0.28m high and F034 of 1.8m in diameter, 0.35m high – as well as a small tumulus of small to large rocks and silt – F033 of 2.2m in diameter, 0.45m high – were situated at the

¹⁰ Cf. Regner 1995: 38, inv.no. 35; Rowe 1936: xvi, xxx–xxxii; Petrie 1917: pls. LXI–LXII, types F, G; Williams 1990: 51, pl. 10.



northern, eastern and southern edge of the investigated area. In terms of stratigraphic relations,¹¹ F034 is younger than the presumed dome grave F031. The small circular to oval burial pits of these three structures were dug into the silty sediment or carved directly into the bedrock. They all contained burials of infants under the age of one. The only grave goods were a few beads in the disturbed burial of F034. The bodies were placed in a flexed position either on the left or the right hand side, no general orientation could be detected (fig. 11). The overall stratigraphic sequence of the area suggests that these features are chronologically close to F029.¹² With this in mind, one could interpret the individual body positions as being oriented towards this grave.

SUB-RECTANGULAR PIT GRAVES

The southern part of the examined area produced five graves with burial pits of sub-rectangular shape, but no distinguishable superstructures.¹³ The bodies in pits F033A, F033C and F110 were placed in a stretched position on the back or slightly turned to the side, NW-SE oriented, head to the west. The pit F033C contained large rocks which had functioned as a cover of the burial, well underneath the ancient building horizon (fig. 12). An infant burial (F033: SK02) was situated directly on top of F033C, nested in-between these cover stones, but underneath the cairn of F033, which had been constructed to cover F033 (SK01) described above. This means F033: SK02 and F033C predate burial F033: SK01. Feature F033A contained the body of an older male individual (SK01) and directly on top of it was the intrusive burial of

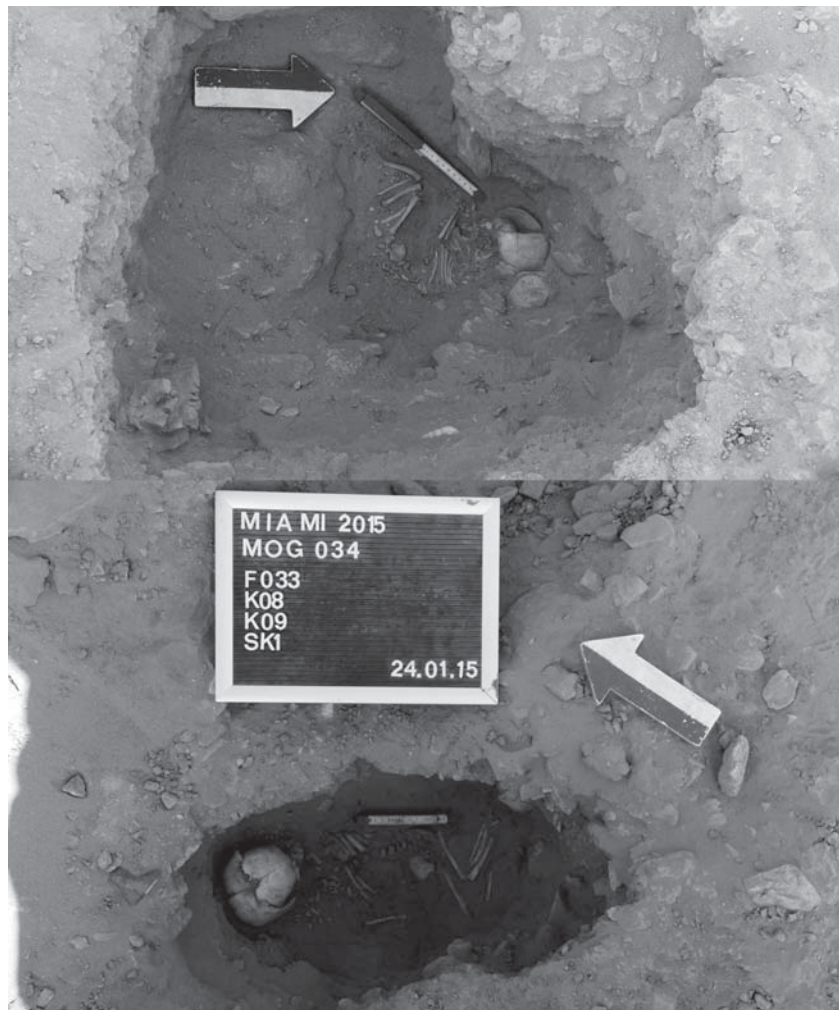


Fig.11: Top: burial of SK01 of F030 (photograph: Andrew Greef), bottom: burial of SK01 of F033 (photograph: Florian Kirschner)

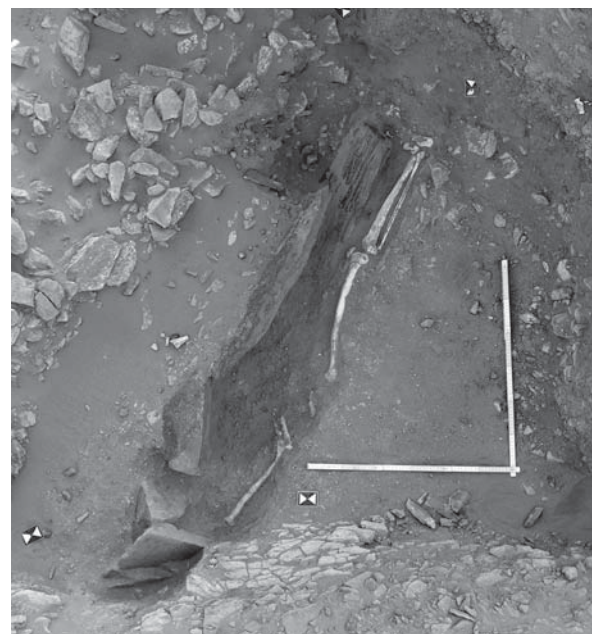


Fig. 12: Excavation of SK01 of F033C in progress (photograph: Jens Weschenfelder)

11 The superstructure of F034 was constructed on top of F034B, one of the dome grave type structures, which in turn abuts F031.

12 For the latter see the next but one paragraph.

13 Two of these graves show a layer of small stone slabs on the surface. They will be examined in the upcoming season.



Fig. 13: Excavation of SK01 and SK02 of F033A (photograph: Jens Weschenfelder, Kateryna Kortschagina)



a non-adult (SK02), covered with huge stone slabs. The latter burial had been carefully placed directly on top of the earlier body, disturbing it only slightly (fig. 13).¹⁴ No grave goods were found *in situ*, but some ostrich eggshell beads and an agate arrowhead came from the fill of F033A. Due to the disturbance of the burials, the existence of a superstructure built of stone slabs – comparable to the finding at the two features which remain to be studied – can only be assumed. The sub-rectangular pits with bodies in a stretched position could indicate a Napatan date.¹⁵

THE TUMULUS ON TOP

F029 – a carefully constructed tumulus of 4.5 x 4.1m (NS/EW), up to 0.55m high (fig. 14) – was built directly on top of the pavement of F028, also covering parts of features F028A, F029A and F031. The upper part of its superstructure contained numerous pottery fragments, possibly from earlier burials in F028, F028A or the dome graves to the south-east.¹⁶ The body of F029A was very possibly relocated during the construction of F029. The central part of the superstructure was disturbed, showing a typical funnel-shaped robbers' pit filled with silt and large rocks. Curiously enough, it only cut the upper layers of the original fill of the pit and left the actual burial almost undisturbed: Only the left hand of the skeleton had been reached and disassembled. The substructure was an oval pit of 1.35 x 0.8m (NS/EW), which had been carved directly into the bedrock. It contained the body of an adult placed in a flexed

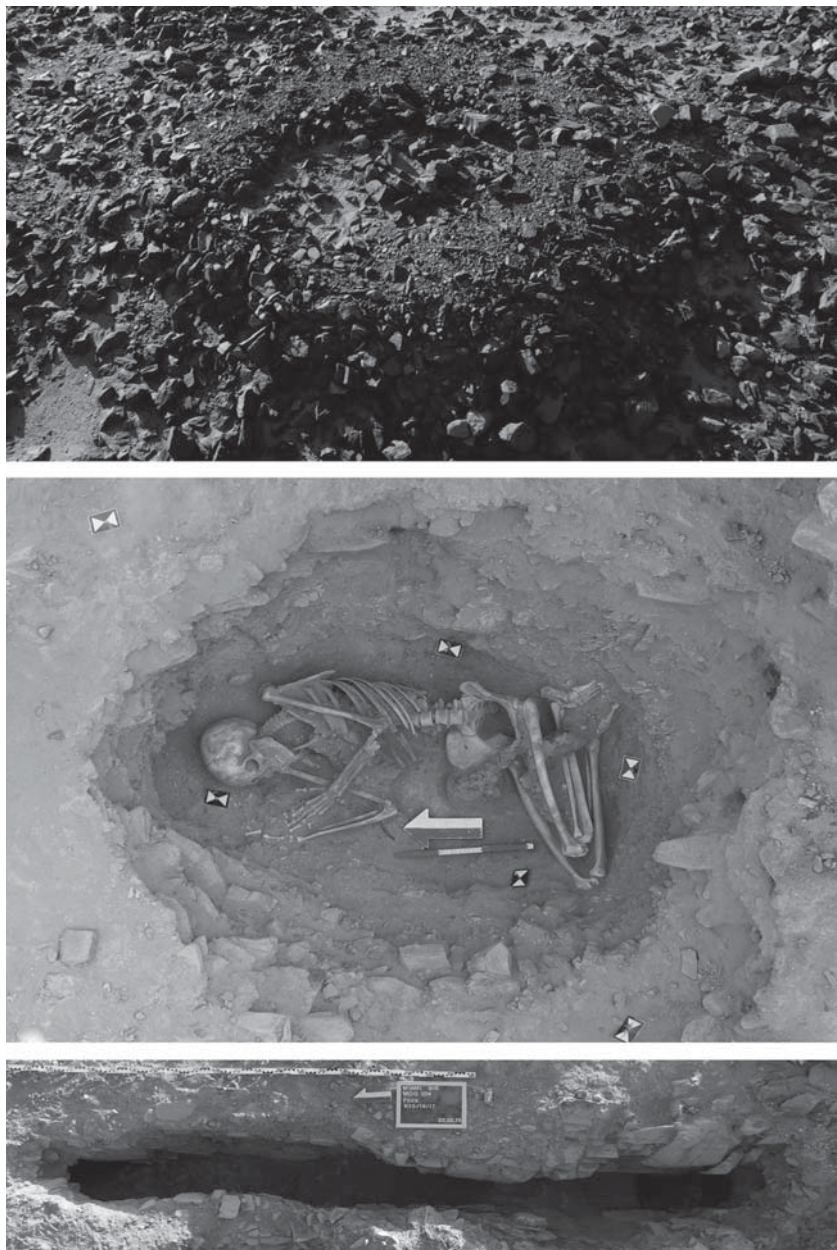


Fig. 14: Top: tumulus F029, centre: burial of F029, bottom: cut north of F029 after excavation (photograph: Jens Weschenfelder)

position on its right hand side, head to the north, facing west.¹⁷ It lay on a woven cloth and the lower body part was covered by leather, possibly from a loin cloth. The only grave goods were several beads found near the neck of the deceased. The relative stratigraphic position of this grave on top of the surrounding features suggests a date in the later Napatan or possibly early Meroitic period.

14 The right patella of SK01 was found in an upper part of the filling of the grave pit above the burials.

15 Cf. Lohwasser 2012: 49–50 for similar characteristics at the Napatan cemetery in Sanam.

16 The ongoing analysis of the pottery is hoped to reveal the original position of the vessels in the excavated area.

17 The palaeoanthropological analysis of the individual is pending.

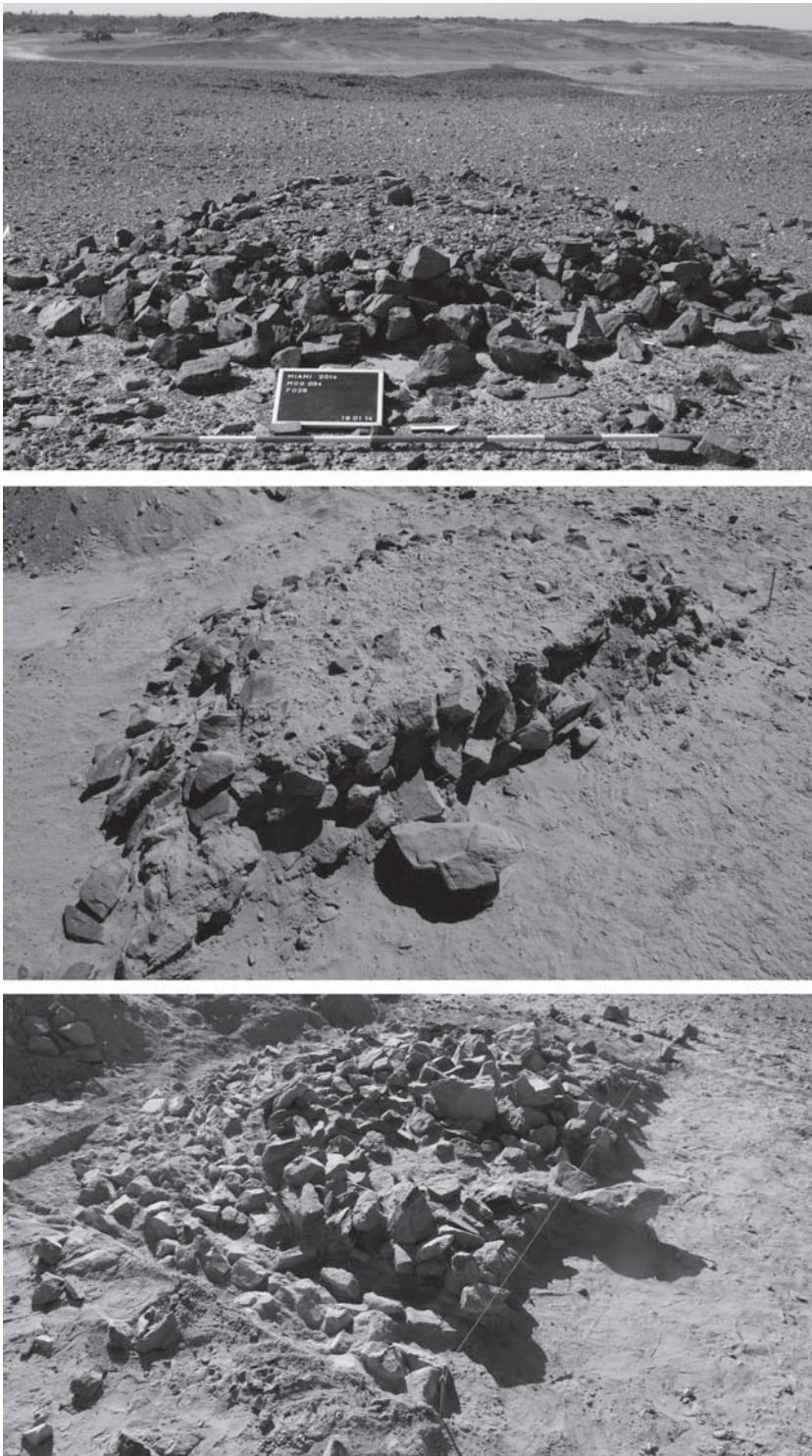


Fig. 15: Superstructure of F025 before and during excavation (photograph: Jens Weschenfelder)

IRREGULAR BURIALS

Some burials of the examined area do not fit into the general pattern of burial practices witnessed at the site. The surface clearing exposed some flat medium-sized stones, arranged irregularly in a single layer, covering an area of c. 1.75 x 0.95m (NS/EW). This

feature, numbered F109, covered a sub-circular to oval pit with a non-adult individual in tightly flexed position on the right hand side, head to the north, facing west. The body just fitted inside the pit, and no grave goods were found. This burial could be of Napatan date to judge by its similarities with the sub-rectangular graves.

Feature F025, south of the group of presumed dome graves (F031, F032), also shows some unusual traits. The sub-circular tumulus of 3.7 x 4.3m (NS/EW) and 0.5m height gives the impression of having been reconstructed in antiquity, as it contains a number of unpatinated stones in its lower layers (fig. 15). It held two intrusive burials, which disturbed the original burial, and the reconstruction of the superstructure was most probably connected to the interment of the last one of these. In the western part of the feature a fragmented pavement was still detectable during the excavation. This morphological trait could date the original construction to the Kerma period. The original substructure was probably an oval to circular pit of 0.5m depth, carved into the bedrock, but its shape was changed when it was reworked for the secondary interments. Of the original burial of an older male adult (SK01), only the head – in the southeast of the grave pit, facing north –, parts of the shoulder and the spine as well as parts of the upper arms and hands were preserved (fig. 16).

The heavy disturbance of the burial occurred when another oval pit was dug later to receive the interment of a female adult (SK03). The latter was placed in a flexed position on the left hand side, head to the west, facing north, presumably on a mat, to judge by impressions in the compacted sand underneath the burial. A solid iron anklet was found attached to the



left lower leg.¹⁸ Some remains of wood from near the head could be 14C-dated and gave a date in the early Meroitic period:

POZ-72732 (MIAMi15
MOG034-F025.25):

2130 ± 30 BP

68.2% probability

202BC(68.2%)108BC

95.4% probability

350BC(10.5%)308BC

210BC(84.9%) 52BC

Directly on top of this intrusive Meroitic burial another burial of an infant had been placed and covered with big stone slabs (SK02).¹⁹ In the southern part of the pit of this Meroitic burial another pit was detected but due to time constraints will be excavated in the forthcoming season. Interestingly, the superstructure was carefully reconstructed after the last burials had been placed into F025.

STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE

After a first evaluation of the excavation data, the sequence of usage in the explored area of MOG034 seems to start with the large tumulus F028 and possibly the original structure of F025 in the Kerma period. In the late New Kingdom or the Napatan period, the area was (re)occupied with the dome graves and the sub-rectangular grave pits for which no (characteristic) superstructure could yet be ascertained. Unfortu-

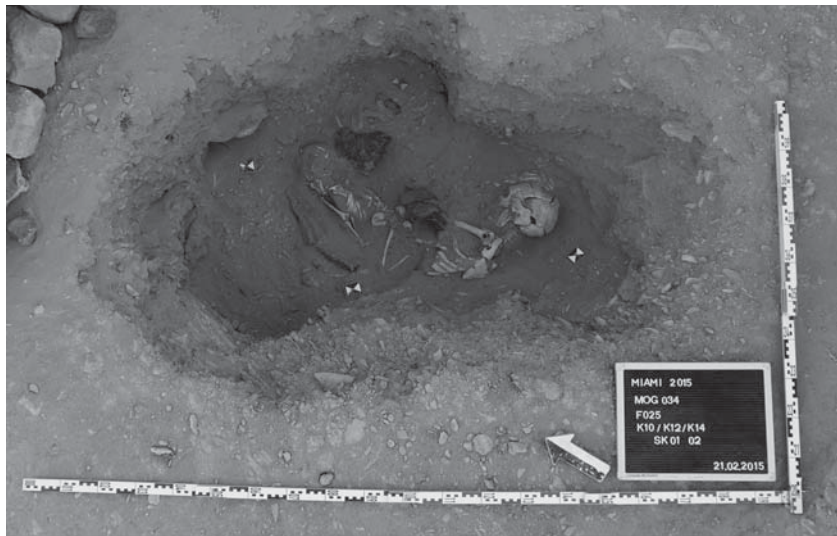


Fig. 16: Burials of F025, top: SK01 and SK02, centre: SK03, bottom: detail of the iron anklet of SK03 (photographs: Jens Weschenfelder, Kay Kossatz)

18 Cf. Williams 1991: 184 for a rare example of a heavy iron anklet at Serra, Cemetery 25; Krzyżaniak 1997: 156 for the burial of a woman with iron anklets in a Late Meroitic grave in Kadero.

19 This type of intrusive burials is comparable to the non-adult burial in F033C which had been placed directly on top of the presumably Napatan burial in F033C and might therefore also be of early Meroitic or later date.

nately, the lack of finds from these graves makes it difficult to establish an internal dating sequence for these two types. The cairns and the small tumulus (F030, F033, F034) surrounding the central part of the excavated area seem to relate to F029 – indicating that they could all be of the same date. The material from which these superstructures were constructed



might partly be reused blocks from the dome grave area. So far no date closer than the Napatan era could be established for this group. The latest graves appear to be the secondary burials in F025 and F033C. They are characterised by a cover of medium to large stone slabs directly on top of the body and the singular find of the iron anklet (F025: SK03). Starting from the date obtained for SK03 of F025, these burials prove the continued use of the burial ground into the Meroitic period (fig. 17).²⁰

POTTERY

The (ongoing) analysis of the pottery has already revealed a wide range of handmade and wheelmade shapes including an unexpectedly high amount of imported vessels, pilgrim flasks, jars and possibly amphorae, from Egypt. These imports – together with the large size of dome graves F031 and F032 and the scarab from SK02 of F032, in comparison to the other dome graves and sub-rectangular graves without any grave goods – may hint towards an elite status of the tomb owners. Despite the fact that sherds of individual vessels were widely distributed over large areas and through different contexts, some (reconstructed) vessels can potentially be attributed to individual burials. In this respect, a narrow, elongated, possibly natural cut north of F029 has to be mentioned (fig. 14, lower part). In the upper part of its fill, a large amount of fragmented wheelmade pottery, including several pot stands and small closed pots, were found. This cut could have been used as a disposal area for the pottery during or directly after the funeral or later ceremonies.²¹ From the pottery found, it is clear that this feature was used during the second main occupation phase of the area from the later New Kingdom or the Napatan period onwards.

CONCLUSION

The area of MOG034, which was excavated during the 2015 spring season, significantly deviates from other parts of this cemetery.²² While previously explored parts show groups of similar superstruc-

tures built closely together, features F025 to F034 constitute an area of various diverse grave types abutting and overlaying one another. This situation underlines the extended occupational history of this area – which is probably due to its prominent position on one of the highest elevations of the ridge over which MOG034 extends.

The internal structuration of the explored grave clusters, their chronological relationship and potential references to each other still need to be studied in greater detail. In view of the limited amount and nature of the finds, and their relocation due to disturbance and grave reuse, the morphological analysis of the architectural features of the individual graves will continue to play a major role in this respect. Of particular interest is the identification of one (F025: SK03), or possibly several, Meroitic burials, as these have been virtually absent from the archaeological landscape of Mograta and the wider region so far. This find considerably enriches our understanding of the dynamics and the developments of funerary practices on Mograta after the Napatan period and can potentially help us to better understand the occupational history of the island in this era.

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- 20 Cf. Williams 1985: 166 for the common reuse of older graves in the Meroitic period.
- 21 Cf. Seiler 1995: 193, 197 for another instance of the intentional deposition of fragmented pottery used in the graveside rituals at tomb superstructures in New Kingdom Thebes and for methodological reflections apropos of this finding.
- 22 Cf. Weschenfelder and Rees 2014.

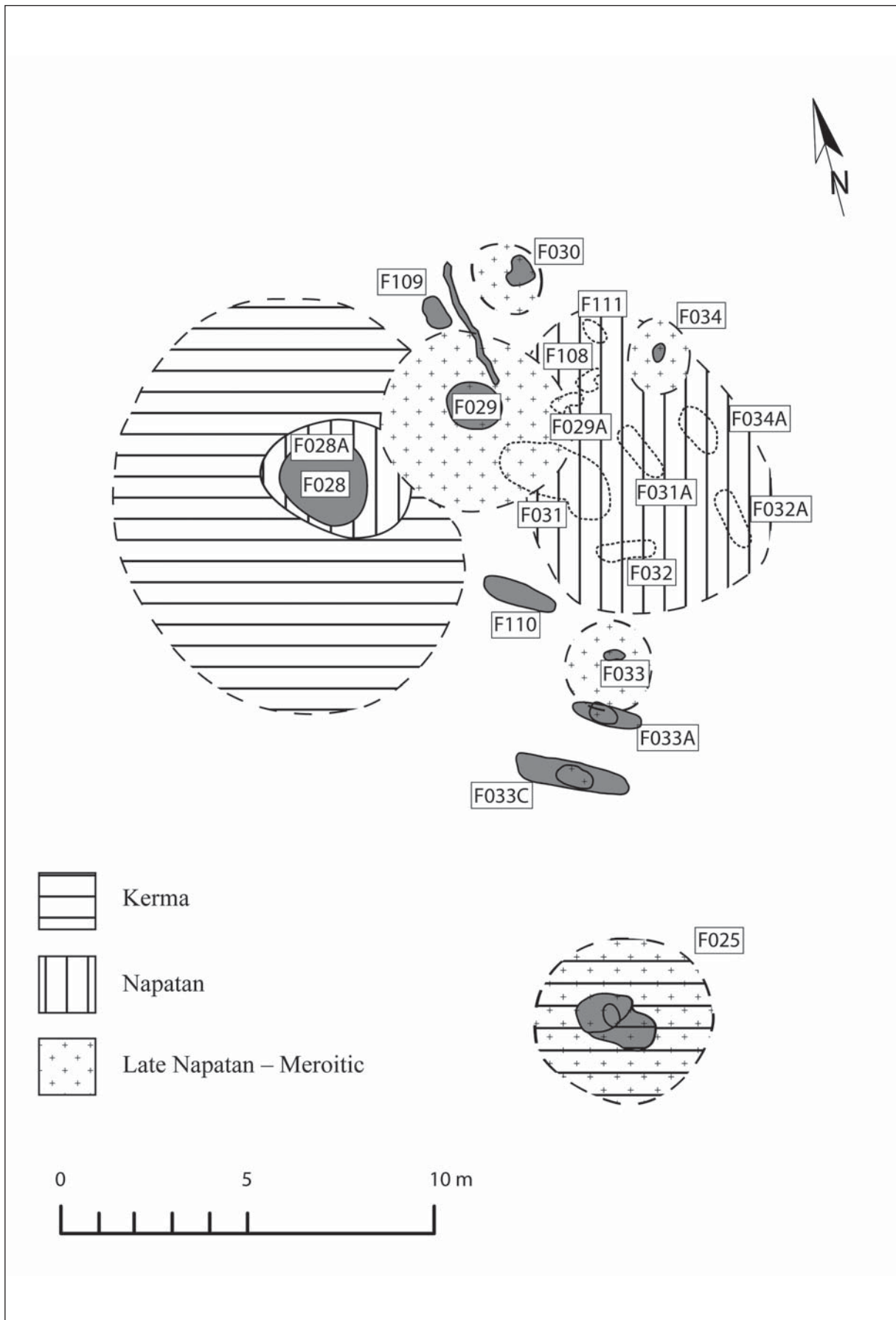


Fig. 17: Plan of the excavated area, with periods of occupation indicated (drawings: Christiane Dorstewitz, Jens Weschenfelder)



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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Der Artikel stellt die Ergebnisse der Grabung auf dem bronzezeitlichen Friedhof MOG034 während der Frühjahrskampagne 2015 dar und schließt damit an den vorjährigen Bericht zu diesem Friedhof (Weschenfelder & Rees, *MittSAG* 25, 2014) sowie an die gesonderte Vorstellung einer 2014 freigelegten endneolithischen Gräbergruppe (Weschenfelder, im vorliegenden Heft) an.

Das im Frühjahr 2015 untersuchte Grabungsareal liegt auf dem südöstlichen Teil des Hauptkamms, über den sich der Friedhof MOG034 erstreckt. Es ist durch eine große Dichte aneinandergrenzender und sich direkt überlagernder Graboberbauten gekennzeichnet. Der größte Oberbau in dieser Gruppe ist ein Tumulus der Kermazeit, der im Aufbau mit den in vorangegangenen Grabungen untersuchten Tumuli F001 und F004 vergleichbar ist. Die zugehörige Bestattung war stark gestört und wurde in den nachfolgenden Perioden, vermutlich in der napatanschen Zeit, mehrfach für wiedergenutzt.

Östlich an diesen 'Haupttumulus' schließt sich ein Areal aus stark verstorzen bzw. beraubten dome graves an. Diese bereits von anderen Fundplätzen auf Mogrät sowie am 4. Nilkatarakt bekannte Grabform besteht aus einer kuppelartigen Aufsichtung von Steinblöcken, die den auf dem antiken Begehungshorizont abgelegten Toten überdeckt. Die außergewöhnlichen Funde von zwei Pilgerflaschen und

einem Skarabäus, die ägyptische Importe darstellen, weisen diese Gräber in die napatansche Epoche.

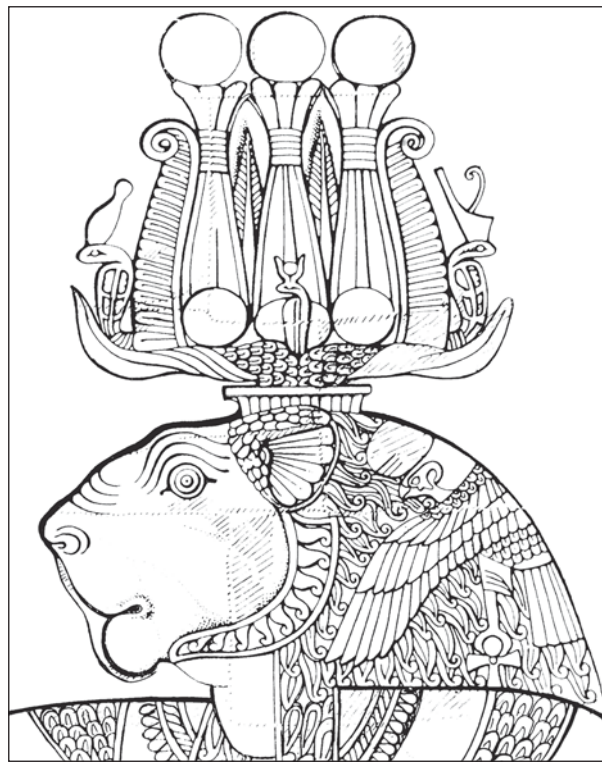
Stratigraphisch jünger sind kleinere Steinsetzungen in Form zweier Hügel und eines Tumulus, die den zentralen Bereich des Areals umgeben. Diese drei Oberbauten sind mit Bestattungen von Kindern im Alter von 0 bis 2 Jahren assoziiert, die jeweils in enger Hockerstellung in ovalen Grabgruben niedergelegt wurden. Ihr Aufbau sowie ihre räumliche Anordnung und Ausrichtung auf den stratigraphisch nachweislich jüngsten Tumulus im Zentrum des Areals legen eine Datierung in die napatansche bis meroitische Epoche nahe.

Für Mogrät bislang ungewöhnlich sind mehrere oberbaulose Anlagen mit länglichen Grabgruben, in denen der Verstorbene in gestreckter Lage auf dem Rücken oder leicht auf die Seite gedreht niedergelegt wurde. Da diese Bestattungen beigabenlos und mit den umliegenden Gräbern nicht eindeutig stratigraphisch in Beziehung zu setzen sind, können lediglich morphologisch ähnliche Grabstrukturen zum Vergleich herangezogen werden; sie weisen wieder in die napatansche Zeit.

Einige ungewöhnliche Bestattungsanlagen stellen Mischformen dar und datieren vermutlich in die napatansche oder meroitische Zeit. Ein separierter Tumulus im Süden des Grabungsareals wurde wahrscheinlich in der Kermazeit gebaut, aber in der frühmeroitischen Epoche wiederbenutzt. Die Erstbestattung war vom Brustkorb abwärts durch zwei intrusive Nachbestattungen gestört. ¹⁴C-Datierungen an Holzproben sowie die Beigabe eines massiven eisernen Fußrings bezeugen die späte Datierung der späteren Bestattungen.

Die Analyse der Funde, speziell des umfangreichen Keramikkorpus, aus dem hier vorgestellten Areal ist noch nicht abgeschlossen. Bereits jetzt fallen aber die vergleichsweise hohe Zahl ägyptischer Importe sowie das breitgefächerte Spektrum handgemachter und scheibengedrehter Ware auf. Auch die lange, mehrere Perioden umfassende Nutzung sowie die exponierte Lage im Gesamtgebiet des Friedhofs deuten darauf hin, dass dieses Areal von besonderem Interesse für das weitere Verständnis der Entwicklung der funeren Landschaft auf Mogrät in der Bronzezeit und darüber hinaus bis in die meroitische Epoche sein wird.

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Angesichts der Tatsache, daß die globalen wirtschaftlichen, ökonomischen und politischen Probleme auch zu einer Gefährdung der kulturellen Hinterlassenschaften in aller Welt führen, ist es dringend geboten, gemeinsame Anstrengungen zu unternehmen, das der gesamten Menschheit gehörende Kulturerbe für künftige Generationen zu bewahren. Eine wesentliche Rolle bei dieser Aufgabe kommt der Archäologie zu. Ihre vornehmste Verpflichtung muß sie in der heutigen Zeit darin sehen, bedrohte Kulturdenkmäler zu pflegen und für ihre Erhaltung zu wirken.

Die Sudanarchäologische Gesellschaft zu Berlin e.V. setzt sich besonders für den Erhalt des Ensembles von Sakralbauten aus meroitischer Zeit in Musawwarat es Sufra/Sudan ein, indem sie konservatorische Arbeiten unterstützt, archäologische Ausgrabungen fördert sowie Dokumentation und Publikation der Altertümer von Musawwarat ermöglicht. Wenn die Arbeit der Sudanarchäologischen Gesellschaft zu Berlin Ihr Interesse geweckt hat und Sie bei uns mitarbeiten möchten, werden Sie Mitglied! Wir sind aber auch für jede andere Unterstützung dankbar. Wir freuen uns über Ihr Interesse!

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