

The Recent Archaeological Discoveries – White Nile 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Season 2006-2008 (Khidir Adam Eisa)

Our ongoing archaeological activities in the area and the coverage of the White Nile Sugar Scheme Project (165,000 fedans) aimed at rescuing the archaeological sites endangered by the execution of this project, particularly the sugar factory construction area i.e. Wad El-Magzoub site, the most important one among others. It lies about 2.5 km east of Ab-Helageim village and 1.5 kms west of El-Hidaib village on a rather elevated plateau (450 x 350 m in area), the surface of which is covered with a density of pot-sherds with varied decorations, and some complete destroyed pottery vessels (by local soil diggers), disturbed human skeletons, and various types of stone tools (hand axes, fragments of mace-heads, archer looses, grinders ...), animal bones and beads. The site is mostly interrupted by the Muslim burials (among them is that of the renowned holy man in the area, Wad El-Magzoub) and the soil diggers. We concentrated on excavating the less destroyed parts of the site, and discovered 10 burials *in situ*, with different orientations, and some of the funerary finds *in situ* also. Some date to the Neolithic period, and others to the Meroitic and late Meroitic periods. Various archaeological potentials besides the inhumations confirmed by surface finds, funerary furniture such as the hand made decorated pottery sherds similar to Meroitic ones, while others resemble the White Nile traditions discovered on other sites (Debbat Farah, Goz Farah, Goz Abd El-Hady in Kawa area), and some sherds are similar to those of the Neolithic period. Other finds discovered were hand axes. Hammer stones, archer looses, pottery vessels, iron objects (spear and arrow heads) and various types of beads most probably are of Meroitic date. So a rich site, even greatly suffering from destruction, but still very informative, proves its importance since antiquity.