



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Nahla Archaeological Project (NAP) summary of two field seasons 20232024

KOLINSKI R.^{1*}

¹ Faculty of Archaeology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland

*Corresponding author

Abstract

NAP was launched in 2023 to study settlement history in the Nahla valley, which occupies an area of 700 km² in northern Iraqi Kurdistan. The project focused specifically on how cave sites had been used by the local population and how the Christian communities present in the valley since the Middle Ages had taken advantage of its specific conditions to thrive. Two field seasons revealed a very rich cultural and heritage landscape consisting of nearly 30 settlement sites, over 70 cemeteries, almost 40 caves, as well as numerous well- or not so well-preserved structures (12 churches, 5 mosques, and 27 water mills of the Greek type). Moreover, a system of irrigation installations and related terracing was identified, clearly related to the settlement network and plausibly dating to the medieval period as well. Last but not least, a series of radiocarbon dates of mortar used in the construction of the churches provided the first dataset on the chronology of these structures, which until now has only been an object of speculation.

Keywords

Mesopotamia, survey, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Islamic

Session

3. Heritage and archaeology

Type of paper

Oral presentation