



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Aqar Quf 2024. The first season of archaeological excavations and conservation by the Iraqi-Italian Expedition

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## Abstract

The first campaign of renewed archaeological excavations and conservation at Aqar Quf/Dur-Kurigalzu (Abu Ghraib, Baghdad) took place in 2024 under the joint auspices of the University of Bologna and the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, with funding also from the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. A survey over half of this 425-hectares large site has been carried out, both topographical as well as archaeological, revealing a dense urban pattern, confirmed also by preliminary geomagnetic investigations, and a possible harbor. The epigraphic survey documented 500 bricks with a stamped cuneiform inscription in the structures of the temple area. Four excavation areas have been opened, one in the temple area along the 1978-1979 Iraqi excavations and three in the vast palatial compound at Tell Abyadh. Here, we have investigated different sectors, both functionally and topographically, assessing the stratigraphy of the upper phases. Conservation activities were carried out in all areas, especially in spots at risk of collapse of the ziqqurat, while we have also started the rehabilitation of the archaeological park.

## Keywords

Aqar Quf, Dur-Kurigalzu, excavations, conservation, Iraq

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