



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Exploring the city plan of early Islamic Qurh / al-Mabiyat (al-Ula, NW Arabia)

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Abstract

Between 2022 and 2024, an interdisciplinary project by the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) and the Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU) investigated the extensive city complex at the site of al-Mabiyat identified as Qurh in the Wadi al-Qura by A. Nasif (1979), one of the most important settlements of the early Islamic period in Northwest Arabia. While previous investigations by the Department of Antiquities (1984-1985) and King Saud University (2004-2019) focused on the excavation of residential areas, the project aimed to develop a more holistic picture of the settlement at the site. One focus was to gain a better understanding of the urban layout of the city as well as its space use and distribution patterns. Non-invasive research methods such as a geophysical prospection, remote sensing data analysis and a systematic ground survey form an integrated and comprehensive data set to be analysed. In addition to the presentation of a new city map of Qurh with gates and a street network, the potential and limitations of using this data for different types of reconstruction will be discussed.

Keywords

Qurh/al-Mabiyat, Early Islamic period, Urban archaeology, Survey

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