

# K E R M A

2008 - 2009

SOUDAN

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Université de Neuchâtel  
Documents de la mission archéologique suisse au Soudan  
2009 | I

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I M P R E S S U M

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## RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION

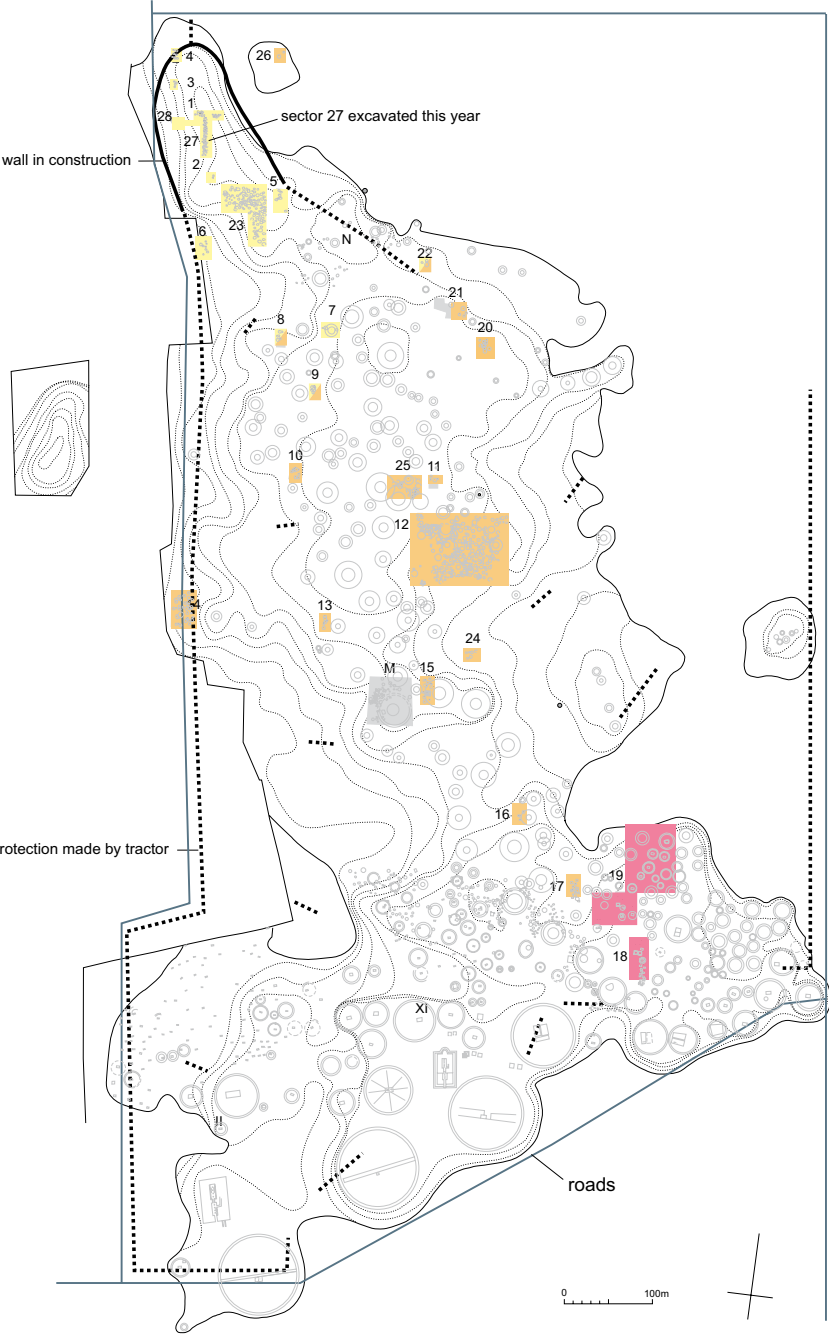
Due to the popularity of the Museum and the site of Kerma, it was necessary to consolidate the stairs leading to the top of the western Deffufa. Cement stairs were built in order to encourage access via them and thus preserve the rest of the temple. In the future, a small wall will be built in the eastern part to block the access to the top from any way other than the stairs.

This year the eastern cemetery suffered from the building of many irrigation canals, which resulted in the increase of lorry traffic and the creation of many new roads across the necropolis. The cultivators maintain their pressure and continually try to extent their agricultural fields in the direction of the cemetery. In response to this situation and in agreement with Mr. Abdelhai Abdelsawi, inspector and curator of the Kerma Museum, we decided to build a *galus* wall that will surround the graves of the entire area and close it to car and lorry traffic (fig. 27). Due to its cost, the construction will take 3 to 5 years to complete. As we cannot wait so long to protect the cemetery, an embankment produced by a tractor was made along the limit of the governmental parcel and a new road has been created (fig. 28).



Figure 27 | Protective wall made of *galus* during construction.

Figure 28 | Plan of the eastern cemetery with the excavated sectors during these last thirty years and the measures of protection taken against the destruction made by vehicular traffic.



Thus, in these circumstances, it was essential to designate a new *gaffir* to watch over the eastern cemetery so that this year's protective measures would not be destroyed after our departure as we strive to preserve this extraordinary funerary area. In agreement with Mr. Abdelhai Abdelsawi, we propose as a *gaffir* the *rais* Khidir Magboul, who has been working with us in the eastern cemetery for the last ten years and who agreed to move with his family to a house near the cemetery.

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#### FIGURE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## SUMMARY

Matthieu Honegger & Charles Bonnet	Archaeological excavations at Kerma (Sudan) • Preliminary report to the 2008-2009 season
Matthieu Honegger & Bastien Jakob	The early Holocene sequence of Wadi el-Arab
Matthieu Honegger	The Pre-Kerma agglomeration
Matthieu Honegger & Jérôme Dubosson	Ancient Kerma graves of the eastern cemetery
Camille Fallet	Palaeoanthropology of human skeletal remains found in the Ancient Kerma graves
Charles Bonnet	Dukki Gel: temples and fortifications
Philippe Ruffieux	The pottery of Dukki Gel
Matthieu Honegger	The Kerma Museum
Matthieu Honegger & Charles Bonnet	Restoration and preservation