The Evolution of the Assyrian Landscape in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

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The Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey
Research Goals 2012-2017
The Imposed Landscape of Assyria?
Field & Lab Methods
Remote Sensing Sources

Qasr Shemamok, 50 ha Assyrian City
The “Drone Revolution” in Archaeology
Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey, Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Field Survey 2012-2017

ESRI ArcPad + Trimble Geo7X
Day 1: Drone Team Planning & Flight

DJI Phantom 4
Pilot Khalil Barzinji
Day 1 evening: Lab-based processing
Day 2: Lab Ortho/DEM Generation & Planning
Day 3: Field Team revisit and artifact collection
Mobile GIS using ArcGIS Online
Visualization and Analysis

Photogrammetry-derived model of Qasr Shemamok, an Assyrian city (ca. 1500-600 BC)

https://sketchfab.com/epas
The Neo-Assyrian Landscape
EPAS Field Results 2016-2017
The Uruk Presence in Erbil
Assyrian Urbanism: Site 2 Qasr Shemamok (Kilizu)
EPAS Settlement: LBA to Neo-Assyrian
Settlement History of the Erbil Plain

Archaeological Period

- 01 Hassuna
- 02 Halaf
- 03 Ubaid
- 04 LC 1-2
- 05a Southern Uruk
- 06b LC 3-4
- 06 Ninevite 5
- 07 Late EBA
- 08 MBA
- 10 LBA
- 11 Neo-Assyrian
- 13 Seleucid
- 14 Parthian
- 15 Sassanian
- 16 Sas- Early Islamic
- 18-20 Mid-Late...

Total Sites

- 2013 Sites
- 2012 Sites
- Settled Area

Total Area (Hectares)
## Neo-Assyrian population density

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Sites/km²</th>
<th>Area (ha)</th>
<th>Average Size (ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Jazira Project</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>123.00</td>
<td>1.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell Beydar Survey</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>97.00</td>
<td>2.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell Hamoukar Survey</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>70.59</td>
<td>3.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erbil Plain, SW zone</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>243.76</td>
<td>2.23(2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on Wilkinson et al. 2004 Table 14.2, Ur 2010 Table 6.10.  
(1) The total area of the Tell Beydar Survey excludes a 136 km² basalt plateau with thin soils that was largely unsurveyed.  
(2) The average size for Neo-Assyrian sites in the EPAS Lower Siwasor zone excludes 50-ha Qasr Shemamok.
EPAS Settlement: Neo-Assyrian to Hellenistic
The Zaga Canal
Sennacherib’s Bastora Canal Hypothesized Route to Erbil (Safar)
Sennacherib’s Bastora dam and canal head
Erbil Directorate of Antiquities excavations at the Bastora Dam, January 2017

Nader Babakir, Director of Antiquities, Erbil Governorate
EPAS 2017: Kurdistan-based team

Mohammed Lashkri

Khalil Barzinji

Aram Amin

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- State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, Baghdad

Harvard University

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- American School of Prehistoric Research

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