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Combined Prehistoric Expedition Survey in the area of Fayum, Bahariya and Farafra Oases and Sinai

During 2010 spring season the Combined Prehistoric Expedition of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences carried out field prospection in the Northern Egypt in the area of three oases (Fayum, Bahariya and Farafra) as well as on Sinai Peninsula (Fig. 1). Main purpose of that research was to localize new research areas that could be of CPE scientific interest in future. The research team, directed by Jacek Kabaciński was composed of P. Bobrowski, A. Czekał-Zastawny, M. Jórdeczka and H. Królik of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology Polish Academy of Sciences and M. Masojć of Institute of Archaeology, University of Wrocław.

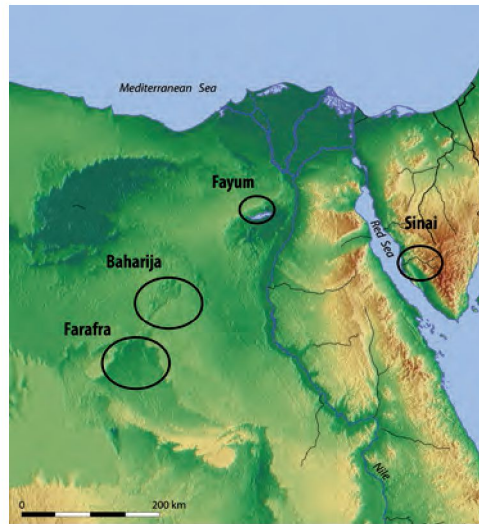


Fig. 1. Map of Egypt with areas surveyed by CPE in 2010 (map after wikipedia.org).

Altogether 46 archeological sites were discovered, of different age ranging from Middle Paleolithic to Neolithic. Every discovered site has its unique topographic (including GPS coordinates), and morphological description accompanied by set of photographs documenting its location and archaeological finds in situ.

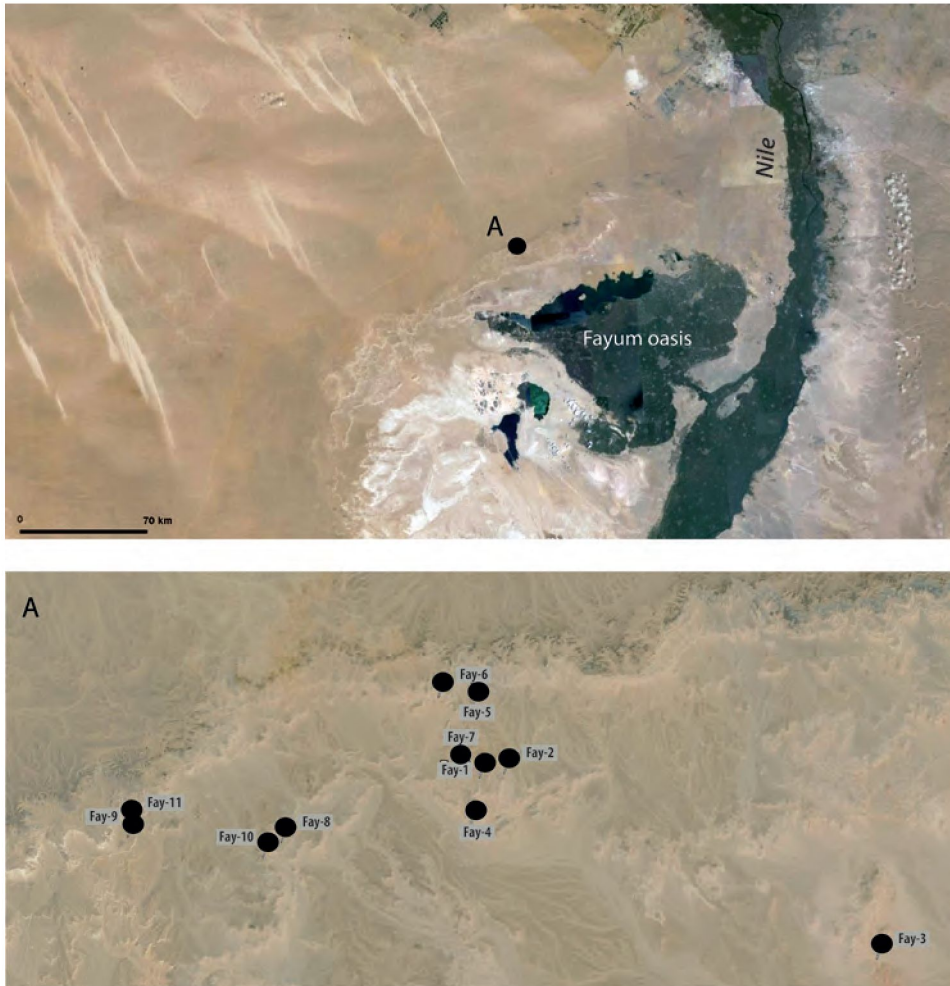


Fig. 2. Location of sites discovered in the Fayum oasis area (map after Google Maps 2010)

In the case of Fayum oasis, area located north of Qarun Lake between asphalt road from Giza to Bahariya oasis and second Miocene escarpment was searched (Fig. 2). Within that area 11 sites were recorded, spanned probably between Middle and Upper/Late Palaeolithic. On several sites artefacts related with Levallois technique or blade inventories were identified.

In Bahariya oasis area survey was performed south-west of the oasis, on the territory of Black Desert along the old track called “Old camel road” running toward Farafra oasis (Fig. 3). Here two concentrations of Middle Palaeolithic sites

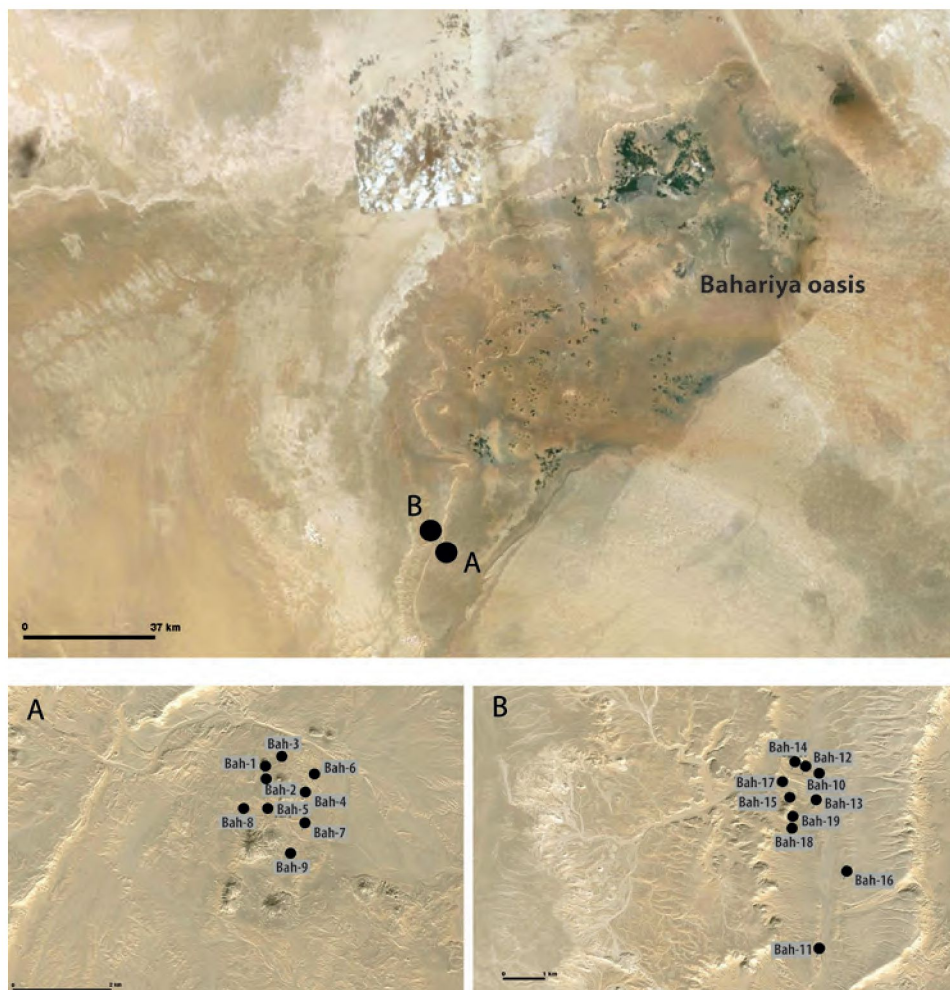


Fig. 3. Location of sites discovered in the Bahariya oasis area (map after Google Maps 2010)

with Levallois technique related finds were recorded accompanied by trace presence of younger settlements – of Upper and/or Late Palaeolithic affiliations. Altogether 19 sites occurred in that region.

Main areas of penetration in the case of Farafra oasis were located North-East, East and South-East of the oasis, in the region where numerous wells and natural water springs can be spotted. In majority that areas are heavily transformed by modern agriculture and surface observations are extremely difficult and non-effective. Very few traces of human settlement were also recorded on so called

White Desert (1 site). Only south-west of the oasis single rich site of workshop character, most probably related to Middle Palaeolithic (Levallois technique) was found, possibly associated with outcrops of hard sandstone and quartzite (Fig. 4).

At the beginning Sinai Peninsula (its middle part) was a main priority of our survey. Unfortunately, for different reasons our research, on limited scale, was concentrated in southern Sinai, in Tur area and Wadi Ferain (Fig. 5). Finally it appeared there is no access to that first region. In contrast, survey in Wadi Ferain brought into light a number of interesting and rich finds from Middle Palaeolithic to Late Neolithic. As a result 13 sites were recorded there.

Below we present a summarized description of every site recorded during the survey, according to research areas. Each site name has in front an abbreviation of a specific research area, site number after a dash and year of discovery preceded by a slash.

FAYUM OASIS

Fay-1/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 29° 36' 674"; E: 30° 27' 339"; H: 268 m a.s.l.

Site location: on a small plateau at the northern foot of a small gebel (Fig. 6).

Stratigraphy: stone materials were found on all the surface of a shelf (mostly in a secondary position) and within a small erosional wadi that cuts the plateau to the north (Fig. 7). Here numerous heavily fossilized animal bones were also recorded (Fig. 8), partially in situ, in several cm thick reddish soil (?) covered by 50-60 cm thick layer of calcified sands. On slopes of the gebel outcrops of chalcedony are visible.

Finds: Numerous cores and flakes of chalcedony including many cortex materials (Fig. 9). Cores are very simple, mostly single platform for flakes. One opposed-platform core for flakes was found. No traces of core preparation were recorded except of two cores where fragmentary crests on striking surfaces are visible. Several flakes were removed from discoidal cores. All debitage was removed by direct percussion with the help of hard hammer. Size of cores do not exceed 20 cm and blocks of chalcedony are not bigger than 30 cm in diameter. Except of a few denticulated flakes no retouched tools were present. Most probably that is a workshop located close to chalcedony outcrop.

Faunal remains discovered during the survey were a subject of subsequent geological expertize by prof. Romuald Schild and dr Bahay Issawi and it appeared that all that assemblage belongs to Miocene fauna abundant in Fayum area.

Chronology: Paleontological site (Miocene?) as far as bones it concerns. Archaeological finds related with Middle Palaeolithic?

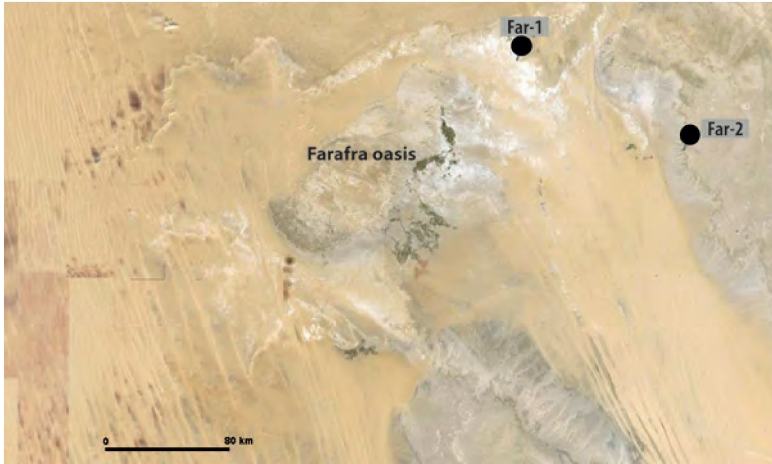


Fig. 4. Location of sites discovered in the Farafra oasis area (map after Google Maps 2010)

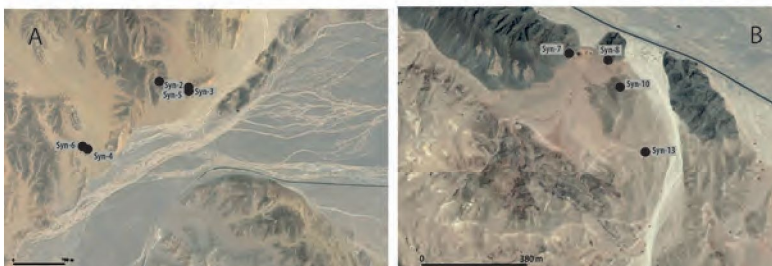


Fig. 5. Location of sites discovered in the southern Sinai Peninsula (map after Google Maps 2010)



Fig. 6. Fayum, site 1. Site location



Fig. 7. Fayum, site 1. Small wadi where animal bones are preserved *in situ*

Fay-2/2010

GPS coordinates: N 29° 36' 685"; E 30° 27' 462"; H= 267 m a.s.l.

Site location: on the remnant of a bedded sandstone inlier. Site surface is covered by a small chert pebbles and chalcedony concretions.

Finds: initial core and several flakes, all made of chert.

Chronology: ?



Fig. 8. Fayum, site 1. Fossilized bone

Fay-3/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 29° 35' 773"; E: 30° 29' 256"; H: 189 m a.s.l.

Site location: by south-eastern and southern foot of a pronounced large gebel, south of the first escarpment.

Stratigraphy: on a heavily eroded sand cover.

Finds: fossilized animal bones, including a rib, upper turtle plastron and reptile teeth. In the vicinity several eroded objects made of sandstone (including one resembling denticulated side-scraper) were found. Probably natural objects.

Chronology: Paleontological site (Miocene?) as far as bones it concerns.



Fig. 9. Fayum, site 1. Examples of chalcedony cores

Fay-4/2010

GPS coordinates: N 29° 36' 473"; E 30° 27' 279"; H= 263 m a.s.l.

Site location: north-west of site Fay-2/2010 on a eroded sandstone inlier.

Stratigraphy: that is a small chalcedony outcrop. Part of the material is placed in a secondary position.

Finds: several flakes made of chalcedony. Chalcedony nodules are small and mostly weathered.

Chronology: ?



Fig. 10. Fayum, site 5. Site location

Fay-5/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 29° 36' 978" ; E: 30° 27' 331" ; H: 293 m a.s.l.

Site location: on a terrace shelf below the first (northernmost) escarpment (Fig. 10).

Stratigraphy: most probably a surface site with materials deposited on a heavily eroded terrace.

Finds: Numerous flakes and blades made of chert including overpassed blade from opposed platform core. Circular scraper on cortex flake. Single and opposed platform cores for blades (Fig. 11).

Chronology: Upper or (most probably) Late Palaeolithic.

Fay-6/2010

GPS coordinates: N 29° 37' 029" ; E 30° 27' 163" ; H= 308 m a.s.l.

Site location: below site Fay-5/2010, on a surface covered by numerous chert pebbles.

Finds: one opposed platform core for blades exploited with hard hammer direct percussion.

Chronology: ? (perhaps the same like site Fay-5/2010).



Fig. 11. Fayum, site 5. Examples of cores

Fay-7/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 29° 36' 723"; E: 30° 27' 223"; H: 252 m a.s.l.

Site location: ca. 300 m north-west of site Fay-1/2010. In the area of chalcedony outcrops.

Stratigraphy: on a surface of a heavily eroded hillocks, in the vicinity of gebel with chalcedony outcrop (site Fay-1/2010).

Finds: three flakes made of chalcedony including one from discoidal core. Removed with the help of hard hammer direct percussion.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic?

Fay-8/2010

GPS coordinates: N 29° 36' 455"; E 30° 26' 338"; H=264 m a.s.l.

Site location: within a small wadi.

Finds: nosed endscraper (or perforator) made of flat chert concretion. In a secondary position.

Chronology: ?

Fay-9/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 29° 36' 524"; E: 30° 25' 590" ; H: 269 m a.s.l.

Site location: on an eastern foot of a sandstone gebel (see site Fay-11/2010)

Stratigraphy: surface Finds, partially in secondary position ?

Finds: unfinished bifacial point, Levallois cores, flakes and blades, opposed platform core, single, heavily fossilized bones.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic, Upper Palaeolithic.

Fay-10/2010

GPS coordinates: N 29° 36' 397"; E30° 26' 242"; H= 264 m a.s.l.

Site location: on a flat top of a sandstone gebel (inlier).

Stratigraphy: Finds collected from a surface covered with numerous chert pebbles.

Finds: core for flakes with prepared back (crested), double platform core for flakes, single platform core for blades and flakes, initial flake core, several blades and flakes, tablet, endscraper on a blade and blade with use-retouch(Fig. 12).

Chronology: Upper/Late Palaeolithic.

Fay-11/2010

GPS coordinates: N 29° 36' 578"; E 30° 25' 590"; H= 287 m a.s.l.

Site location: on a top and slopes of a sandstone gebel. On the foot of that gebel site Fay-9/2010 is located.

Stratigraphy: Finds were recorded in a dusty, reddish-orange sands (perhaps remnants of a paleosoil).

Finds: two Levallois cores for flakes, several initial cores and unfinished side-scraper.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic

BAHARIYA OASIS**Bah-1/2010**

GPS coordinates: N: 27°55' 094"; E: 28° 33' 600" ; H: 174 m a.s.l.

Site location: within the concentration of gebels, between Bahariya-Farafra oases road and an escarpment west of that road. Site is situated on a pronounced hillock, in a saddle between last two gebels from the north.

Stratigraphy: on a heavily eroded surface of the hillock.



Fig. 12. Fayum, site 10. Debitage made of chert

Finds: several Levallois cores, 3 retouched Levallois points, flakes, blades and retouched pieces. Inventory is made mostly of chert, sometimes of ferriferous sandstone. Heavily weathered.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic.

Bah-2/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 55' 010"; E: 28° 33' 599"; H=173 m a.s.l.

Site location: on the eastern edge of a small wadi separating two groups of small gebels.

Stratigraphy: on a flat surface (ca 100 sq. meters) covered by chunks of a ferriferous sandstone

Finds: 5 flakes removed from single platform core and 2 cortex flakes, all made of a light brown chert. Heavily weathered.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic

Bah-3/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27°55' 155"; E: 28° 33' 717"; H: 168 m a.s.l.

Site location: within the concentration of gebels, between Bahariya-Farafra oases road and an escarpment west of that road. At a low, southern terrace of a small wadi on the northern side (Fig. 13).

Stratigraphy: on a heavily eroded surface of the terrace.

Finds: very numerous Lavalloisian materials (cores, tools and debitage – Fig. 14) spread over few hectares. Most probably a large settlement – base camp. Lithics made mainly of chert, sometimes of a ferriferous sandstone.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic.

Bah-4/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 54' 909"; E: 28° 33' 851"; H=170 m a.s.l.

Site location: eastern edge of a small wadi between two aggregations of gebels, on south-western side of the gebel and ca. 300 meters south of site Bah-2/2010.

Stratigraphy: Site seems to be completely deflated. Artefacts were dispersed on the area of ca. 100 sq. meters between scraps of a black ferriferous sandstone.

Finds: Sixteen flakes (including cortex, from single and multiple platform ones), flake end-scraper and flake with notch. All finds are made of chert and arte intensively polished by aeolian processes.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic.

Bah-5/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 54' 823"; E: 28° 33' 591"; H: 171 m a.s.l.

Site location: within the concentration of gebels, between Bahariya-Farafra oases road and an escarpment west of that road, south of the most northern aggregation of gebels, on the low, southern terrace of a small wadi.

Stratigraphy: artefact were collected from a surface of a heavily eroded terrace.

Finds: one Levallois core and several flakes, all made of chert.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic.

Bah-6/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 55' 019"; E: 28° 33' 927"; H=170 m a.s.l.

Site location: on eastern side of gebels aggregation, on southern edge of the wadi.

Stratigraphy: artefacts were concentrated within the area 20 x 20 m, on the surface of a terrace covered by scraps of a black ferriferous sandstone.

Finds: two Levallois cores, side burin on truncation, six flakes, including Levallois ones.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic.



Fig. 13. Bahariya, site 3. Site location



Fig. 14. Bahariya, site 3. Levallois materials

Bah-7/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 54' 716"; E: 28° 33' 828" ; H: 162 m a.s.l.

Site location: within the concentration of gebels, between Bahariya-Farafra oases road and an escarpment west of that road. On eastern side of a central aggregation of gebels, on a low wadi terrace.

Stratigraphy: artefacts were collected from a heavily eroded surface of the terrace.

Finds: Levallois core, several flakes and blades including retouched forms (Fig. 15). Made mostly of chert.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic.

Bah-8/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 54' 835"; E: 28° 33' 429"; H=163 m a.s.l.

Site location: at the foot of a gebel on south-western edge of the wadi.

Stratigraphy: artefacts were collected from an eroded sandy surface of ca. 100 sq. meters.

Finds: flake from single platform core, two unidentified flakes from quartzite sandstone, all weathered.

Chronology: ?

Bah-9/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 54' 535"; E: 28° 33' 712"; H: 175 m a.s.l.

Site location: within the concentration of gebels, between Bahariya-Farafra oases road and an escarpment west of that road. South-eastern foot of central aggregation of gebels, on a low, northern terrace of a small wadi.

Stratigraphy: artefacts were collected from a heavily eroded surface of the terrace.

Finds: several Levallois flakes, single denticulated flake, all made of chert.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic.

Bah-10/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 57' 248"; E: 28° 32' 951"; H=199 m a.s.l.

Site location: on a northern edge of a wadi that is cutting the foot of the gebel located between two tributaries of a large wadi.

Finds: four rounded stone constructions (Fig. 16) with an average diameter of ca. 80 cm (fire places ?) Above the constructions Levallois core, two cores for blades and two flakes were found.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic.



Fig. 15. Bahariya, site 7. Levallois materials



Fig. 16. Bahariya, site 10. Stone construction

Bah-11/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 55' 831"; E: 28° 32' 742"; H: 203 m a.s.l.

Stratigraphy: artefacts were collected from a heavily eroded surface of the terrace.

Finds: numerous Levallois cores, flakes and blades, Levallois points, few side-scrapers, other retouched forms including denticulated ones (Fig. 17). All made of chert.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic.

Bah-12/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 57' 311"; E: 28° 32' 786"; H=206 m a.s.l.

Site location: northern edge of a wadi oriented east-west. On a first terrace, ca. 9 meters north

Stratigraphy: finds are recorded on the surface of the terrace.

Finds: Workshop in the form of dense concentration of finds with a diameter of ca. 1.5 meters related to elaboration of fine quartzite sandstone (Fig. 18). Within a concentration ca. 100 flakes, 2 blades, 3 initial cores, pre-core ca. 25 cm long for blade production were encountered.

Chronology: Late Palaeolithic?

Bah-13/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 57' 022"; E: 28° 32' 841"; H: 202 m a.s.l.

Site location: on a western edge of a large wadi oriented north-east, by a place where a smaller wadi is joining the large one from the west (Fig. 19).

Stratigraphy: finds are recorded on the surface of a heavily eroded terrace.

Finds: two kinds of material. First group comprises numerous Levalloisian artefacts, like Levallois cores (Fig. 20), points, side-scrapers blades and retouched flakes. Beside above finds clearly visible concentration of numerous slim blades removed from single platform cores with lisse butts (Fig. 21).

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic, Upper or Late Palaeolithic.

Bah-14/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 57' 356"; E: 28° 32' 705"; H= 205 m a.s.l.

Site location: on an island placed between two arms of a wadi, on a northern edge of wadi that runs from east to west. Site is located on the top of the hillock and probably is connected with the exploitation of raw material (sandstone).

Finds: large hand-axe and another unfinished made of a banded sandstone (Fig. 22), 1 flake, 1 single platform core for flakes. Artefacts are weathered.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic.



Fig. 17. Bahariya, site 11. Levallois materials



Fig. 18. Bahariya, site 12. Concentration of stone material



Fig. 19. Bahariya, site 13. Site location



Fig. 20. Bahariya, site 13. Levallois materials



Fig. 21. Bahariya, site 13. Blades made of chert



Fig. 22. Bahariya, site 14. Bifaces

Bah-15/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 57' 060"; E: 28° 32' 639" ; H: 238 m a.s.l.

Site location: Sites Bah-15, Bah-17, Bah-18 and Bah-19 are located within a small basin surrounded by few gebels. Site Bah-15/2010 was found on a heavily eroded culmination of a most south-eastern gebel.

Stratigraphy: surface collection. Artefacts are relatively fresh suggesting that were exposed recently.

Finds: few dozen of artefacts made of chert, including Levallois cores, blades and flakes, single side-scrapers and retouched pieces.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic.

Bah-16/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 56' 425"; E: 28° 33' 016"; H=203 m a.s.l.

Site location: on north-eastern edge of a large wadi.

Stratigraphy: finds discovered on a surface of a terrace segmented by a heavy erosion and covered by numerous chert pebbles and chunks of sandstone and chert.

Finds: single platform core and 5 flakes of chert. All polished by aeolian processes.

Chronology: ?

Bah-17/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 57' 190"; E: 28° 32' 590" ; H: 208 m a.s.l.

Site location: sites Bah-15, Bah-17, Bah-18 and Bah-19 are located within a small basin surrounded by few gebels. Site Bah-17/2010 was found by the northern mouth of the basin on a low southern terrace of a wadi.

Stratigraphy: finds were recorded on a heavily eroded surface of the terrace.

Finds: few dozens of Levallois cores, flakes, blades and retouched tools. All made of chert.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic.

Bah-18/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 56' 806" ; E: 28° 32' 627" ; H: 206 m a.s.l.

Site location: sites Bah-15, Bah-17, Bah-18 and Bah-19 are located within a small basin surrounded by few gebels. Site Bah-18/2010 was found by the southern mouth of the basin, on north-eastern edge of a wadi oriented north-west – south-east, that surrounds the basin from south-west and south.



Fig. 23. Bahariya, site 18. Biface

Stratigraphy: finds recorded on a heavily eroded surface of wadi's terrace.

Finds: Acheulian hand-axe, triangle in shape, heavily weathered (Fig. 23), Lavallois core and several Levallois flakes including some retouched forms.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic

Bah-19/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 56' 902"; E: 28° 32' 642"; H: 199 m a.s.l.

Site location: sites Bah-15, Bah-17, Bah-18 and Bah-19 are located within a small basin surrounded by few gebels. Site Bah-18/2010 was recorded on a north-eastern terrace of a small wadi that cut the basin, close to its south-eastern mouth.

Stratigraphy: materials were located on a heavily eroded surface of the terrace.

Finds: several Lavallois flakes and blades made of a ferriferous sandstone.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic.

FARAFRA OASIS**Far-1/2010**

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 21' 379"; E: 28° 10' 228"; H: 120 m a.s.l.(?)

Site location: on a heavily eroded limestone plateau.

Stratigraphy: surface finds, in secondary position.

Finds: 1 core trimming flake, 1 piece of pottery.

Chronology: ?

Far-2/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 27° 04' 617"; E: 28° 42' 006"; H=149 m. a.s.l.

Site location: on a southern edge of a large wadi (wadi Karawein) running down from the escarpment.

Stratigraphy: finds discovered on the surface covered by weathered grey quartzite and quartzite sandstone (Fig. 24). Finds were found within the area of several hectares.

Finds: very rich site containing 2 cordiform bifaces (Fig. 25), side-scrapers, Levallois cores (Fig. 26) and flakes, single platform cores, hundreds of flakes, single blades.

Chronology: Middle and Upper/Late Palaeolithic.

SINAI PENINSULA**Syn-1/2010**

GPS coordinates: N: 28° 21' 766"; E: 33° 37' 598"; H: 56 m a.s.l.

Site location: within a large wadi oriented north-west – south-east.

Stratigraphy: on a surface of wadi deposits, in secondary position.

Finds: 1 end-scrapers on flake, 1 flake, 1 cortex flake with denticulated retouch. All made of chert.

Chronology: ?

Syn-2/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 28° 45' 838"; E: 33° 21' 154"; H=191 m a.s.l.

Site location: on a northern edge of Wadi Ferian (*ca.* 20 meters from the very edge), on the southern slope of promontory formed in the place where small tributary joins Wadi Ferian.

Stratigraphy: on the surface covered by chert and quartzite chunks.

Finds: 2 blades and 7 flakes from different types of cores.

Chronology: ?



Fig. 24. Farafra, site 2. Site location



Fig. 25. Farafra, site 2. Biface

Syn-3/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 28° 45' 48.74"; E: 33° 21' 16.75"; H: 193,9 m a.s.l.

Site location: on a distinct promontory on the northern side of Wadi Ferian. Promontory was formed in the place where 2 small wadis join Wadi Ferian from the north.

Stratigraphy: archeological material was found on the surface of promontory.

Finds: Numerous finds made of brownish chert. Flake technology. Several cores with changed orientation for flakes exploited with a direct percussion of a hard hammer. No core preparation observed. Debitage composed mostly of flakes, blades are short and very rare. Few tools: 2 end-scrapers on flakes, 1 denticulated side-scraper. Lithics cover all the surface of promontory sometimes forming small concentrations. On a culmination of promontory a stone construction measuring 3,5 x 2,2 m and oriented north-south was recorded (Fig. 27). It is built of vertically embedded stones not larger than ca. 50 cm in diameter. Inside the construction 2 cores with changer orientation for flakes and several flakes were recorded.

Chronology: Upper Palaeolithic? Chronology of stone construction the same as lithics or younger.

Syn-4/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 28° 45' 604"; E: 33° 20' 825"; H=184 m a.s.l.

Site location: on southern slope of an inlier formed by Wadi Ferian and unnamed wadi being its right tributary.

Finds: single platform cores and cores with changed orientation for flakes, few flakes and retouched chunk. On the surface concentration of stones, ca. 1.6 x 2 m was recorded (fire-place ?; Fig. 28). Most probably site is connected with the extraction of chert.

Chronology: ?

Syn-5/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 28° 45' 48.36" ; E: 33° 21' 16.92" ; H: 163,4 m a.s.l.

Site location: on a culmination of a gebel located on the northern edge of Wadi Ferian; by the mouth of two wadis joining Wadi Ferian from the north.

Stratigraphy: surface collection.

Finds: several Levallois cores and flakes.

Chronology: Middle Palaeolithic.

Syn-6/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 28° 45' 615"; E: 33° 20' 804"; H=189 m a.s.l.

Site location: on the northern slope of a side wadi, a tributary of Wadi Ferian.



Fig. 26. Farafra, site 2. Levallois materials



Fig. 27. Sinai, site 3. Stone construction

Stratigraphy: finds were recorded in between natural chert pebbles covering the surface.

Finds: 5 single platform cores for flakes, initial core, several flakes and blades.

All the material carry aeolian polish.

Chronology: ?

Syn-7/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 28° 47' 27.33"; E: 33° 29' 34.22"; H: 346,1 m a.s.l.

Site location: on a terrace shelf adjacent from the west to a very steep slope of a gebel, on northern side of a wadi that joins Wadi Ferian from the west (Fig. 29). In that very place the wadi is widen forming a kind of a basin by its mouth. On the southern side of that basin site Syn-8/2010 is located.

Stratigraphy: finds recorded on the surface of the terrace. That is a very large site having a chance for stratigraphic connection of surface deposits with wadi beds.

Finds: Almost all finds are made of a brownish chert. Inventory has a flake character with very rare blades. Single platform, opposed platform and cores with changed orientation for flakes are present. Traces of core preparation are visible: single primary and secondary crests and lisse platforms. Within tool group very characteristic large end-scrapers and side-scrapers made of flat cortex flakes are present (Fig. 30; some of them probably served as knives) as well as high denticulated end-scrapers, denticulated flakes, massive picks with well distinguished tip (Fig. 31), Zinken-like perforator, 2 backed pieces, backed piece with second edge retouched, massive triangle. A fragment of an animal long bone was also found in between the stone artefacts.

Chronology: Neolithic, perhaps also traces of Late Palaeolithic occupation.

Syn-8/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 28° 47' 508"; E: 33° 29' 660"; H=362 m a.s.l.

Site location: eastern edge of a small wadi that joins Wadi Ferian from the south, on a slightly inclined gravel terrace having bay-like shape surrounded by high gebels from north, east and south (Fig. 32).

Finds: On the terrace few concentrations of stones are visible, probably fire-places and around them numerous lithic materials including half-products of core- or flake axes, rare flake and blade end-scrapers, knife-like forms made of flakes or flat raw chert concretions, side-scrapers, retouched and denticulated flakes, triangular points with basal retouch, leaf-point, partially bifacial, perforators, flakes and blades (Fig. 33-34).

Chronology: Neolithic.



Fig. 28. Sinai, site 4. Stone construction



Fig. 29. Sinai, site 7. Site location



Fig. 30. Sinai, site 7. End-scrapers



Fig. 31. Sinai, site 7. Picks and perforators



Fig. 32. Sinai, site 8. Site location



Fig. 33. Sinai, site 8. Choice of tools

Syn-9/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 28° 42' 081"; E: 33° 54' 051"; H: 1110 m a.s.l.

Site location: within a wadi that joins Wadi Ferian from the south.

Stratigraphy: finds were found on the western side of a wadi, close to the exposure of consolidated sands - Pleistocene sediments that are observed in Wadi Ferian.

Finds: circular stone construction with a low entrance, built of pebbles and fragments of sandstone slabs. Vertical surface of consolidated Pleistocene sands served as a back wall. Diameter of the construction is ca. 4 m, width of the corridor entrance – ca. 80 cm (Fig. 35).

Chronology: ?

Syn-10/2010

GPS coordinates: N 28° 47' 495"; E: 33° 29' 724"; H=368 m a.s.l.

Site location: on a top of a gebel near the northern side of Wadi Ferian.

Finds: single mound circulated by a row of stones, robbed. Around the mound rare chert flakes are dispersed.

Chronology: ?

Syn-11/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 28° 41' 123"; E: 33° 58' 914"; H: 1278 m a.s.l.

Site location: on a northern slope of a small gebel, on northern edge of Wadi Ferian.

Stratigraphy: surface collection.

Finds: 1 flake and one side-scraper of quartz.

Chronology: ?

Syn-12/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 28° 42' 086"; E: 33° 54' 002"; H=1121 m a.s.l.

Site location: on the edge of the southern tributary of Wadi Ferian. On a top of a hillock built of consolidated sands and gravels.

Finds: concentration of stones, ca. 1,3 m in diameter. Large granite chunks marked the outline of the construction while smaller stones were put inside. Smaller stones can be also traced in some distance from the construction (Fig. 36). Function of feature is unknown – perhaps destroyed stone mound.

Chronology: ?



Fig. 34. Sinai, site 8. Choice of tools



Fig. 35. Sinai, site 9. Stone construction



Fig. 36. Sinai, site 12. Stone construction



Fig. 37. Sinai, site 13. Grave chamber?



Fig. 38. Sinai, site 13. Core for blades

Syn-13/2010

GPS coordinates: N: 28° 47' 358"; E: 33° 29' 808"; H= 362 m a.s.l.

Site location: western edge of a small wadi that joins Wadi Ferian from the south.

Finds: Artefacts were deposited on a flat elongated hillock covered by numerous chert and sandstone pebbles. Most probably that is an outcrop of raw material. In the middle part of the hillock culmination several destroyed mounds were placed (robbed grave chambers with stone construction are visible – Fig. 37). Very rich chert material: single platform cores for blades and flakes, initial cores, Lavallois core, denticulated side-scrapers, end-scraper on blade, cleaver, retouched flakes and retouched natural pieces of chert, flakes and blades, crested blades (Fig. 38).

Chronology: Late Palaeolithic?/ Neolithic (perhaps related with site Syn-8/2010).