

Kharayeb-Jazira

The underwater visual survey at the site of Kharayeb-Jazira is an archaeological and geomorphological reconnaissance study directed by Dr. Lucy Semaan, as part of the wider Kharayeb Project (KAP) research project co-directed by Dr. Wissam Khalil from the Department of Arts and Archaeology, Lebanese University, Sidon, and Dr. Ida Oggiano from the Institute for Ancient Mediterranean Studies (ISMA) - Italian National Research Council-Rome (CNR).

In 2019, fieldwork was undertaken for a period of three weeks from the 23rd of September to the 13th of October 2019. The survey method consisted of diver-based visual surveys with the use of a diving boat. It was successful in covering an area of 8000m² in 148 dives. The HFF-Lebanon team members were able to record and characterise the underwater physical settings through direct observation, as well as accurately document and survey more than 386 archaeological object. These artefacts were all inorganic material and consisted of stone and metal anchors, pieces of pottery, tiles and other CBM, ballast, and nails. This led to a preliminary assessment of the site and established the methodology and nature of the investigation for future seasons. It is hoped that the 2019 underwater survey season would lead to a more extensive prospection in order to gather enough information to set the basis for a management plan of this possibly threatened site, and its monitoring in the future. In addition, a ceramic study is warranted due to the high amount of pottery and tiles present at the site. Petrographic analysis of the tiles would might be able to determine the provenance and potentially their intended destination and use.



Divers undertaking an underwater visual survey of the site of Kharayeb-Jazira



Kharayeb-Jazira underwater project team 2019

Adloun:

The HFF terrestrial team collaborated with the Kharayeb Archaeological Project directed by Wissam Khalil (Lebanese University, Sidon) and Ida Oggiano (CNR Rome) to survey the coastal landscape in an area of potential anchorages and coastal settlements, sites between September 23rd and October 5th. This work documented the archaeology of the area, recording 191 survey units or archaeological features, providing significant new data about the archaeology of this coastal plain and limestone uplands from Palaeolithic to modern date. The project identified, recorded and mapped seven threatened or partially destroyed sites which will be considered for heritage listing. These included a degraded tell seemingly of Persian through Late Roman date, and the remains of a Roman/Byzantine anchorage. Inland sites comprised a series of rock cut tombs, caves and press spread over more than one kilometre of limestone escarpment and a now destroyed structure built in ashlar blocks dating in use to the Roman and Byzantine periods.



Adloun escarpment. An area rich in Roman tombs, presses and quarries