

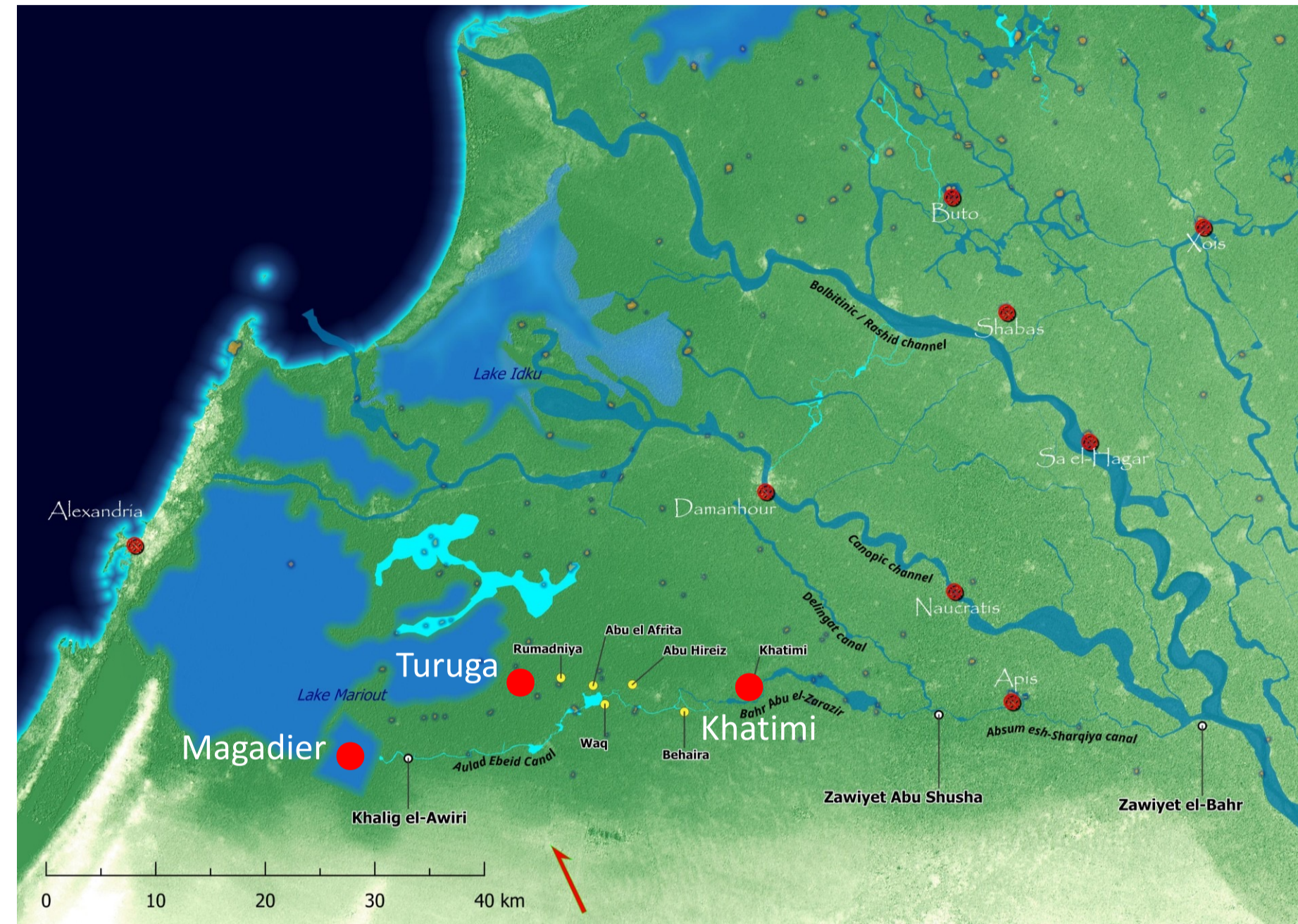
Kilns and the Khalig/Khenes: Ptolemaic period production and supply along waterways in the North-Western Delta, Egypt

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Introduction

Survey in the western Delta along the ancient waterways showed how wine & amphora production sites may have been linked. Tell Magadier/Maharrin, south of Lake Mareotis lies at the west end of a waterway, perhaps the ancient Khenes or Khalig. Tell Khatimi lies to the east of the waterway, both sites part of a landscape of wine production, perhaps managed at Psenemphaia (Kom Turuga for supply to Alexandria.



Discussion

The role of the waterway network in the west Delta was essential as it connected Canopic Branch of the Nile and the agricultural floodplain of the west Delta directly to Lake Mareotis with its numerous jetties and harbourages. From here goods, including wine, could be shipped quickly and efficiently onward to Alexandria's consumer market and beyond. The archaeology of the two sites presented here shows that agricultural production was matched by the local manufacture of packaging for the liquid products of wine and oil.

Tell Magadier (SCA100203, EES406) 150x117m

Figure 1. Reconstructed waterways in the NW Delta.

Tell Khatimi (SCA100225, EES602) 140x173m



Fig. 2. The site was once much larger.



Fig. 3. View north to the kiln area.

Comparison

Both sites have been reduced in size over the years but both preserve evidence for kilns in the form of fired bricks, slag, and pottery discards including wasters. Magnetic survey in the vicinity also showed intense anomalies suggesting that firing had taken place there. The kilns were dated by the AE1 and AE2 type of Amphorae to the Ptolemaic Period. The silted-up waterway was located south of Tell Magadier.



Fig. 6. The site has a central mound remaining.



Fig. 7 View north over mound.

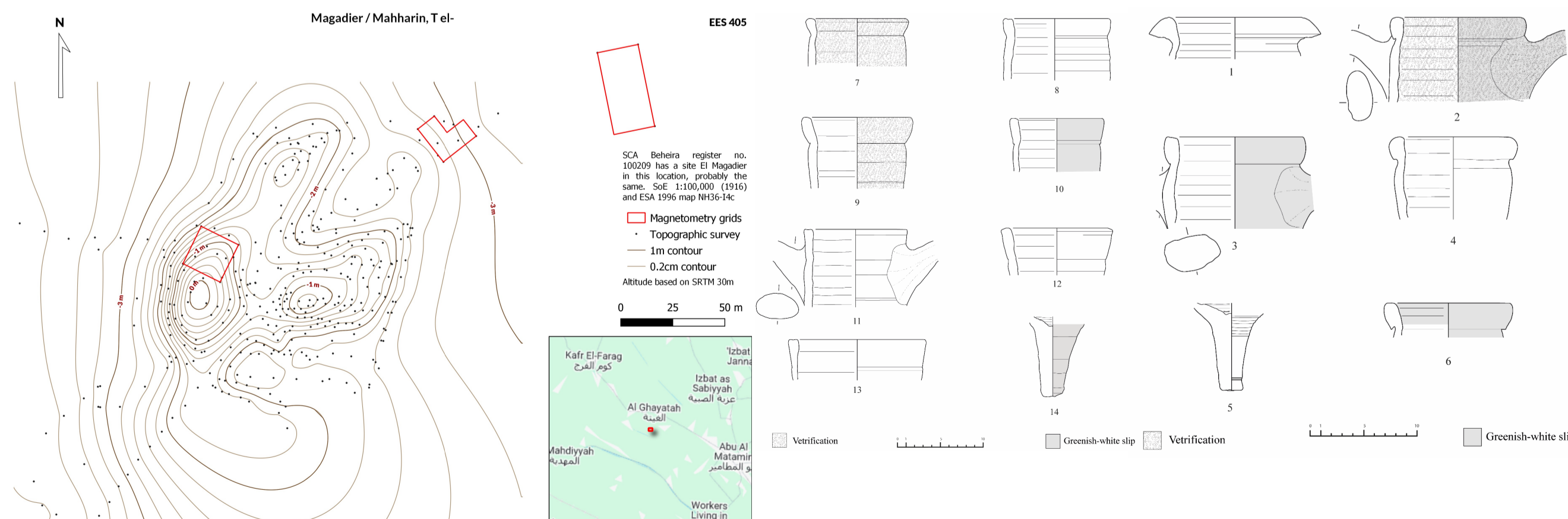


Fig. 4. Mound are mapped. Drill cores recorded the waterway to the south.

Fig. 5. AE1, AE 2, and Rhodian I-B amphorae recorded at the site, Ptolemaic period.



Fig. 8. Map of the central mound, that was covered in slag and pottery, including wasters.

Fig. 9. Pottery and slag collected at the site.

Fig. 10. AE1, AE2 amphorae, Ptolemaic period.

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