

WT1 Excavation Report

Summary

WT1 is a roughly ovoid-shaped Pan-Grave cemetery situated at the western side of Wadi el-Tawil, at the base of the escarpment. The site is relatively small, measuring approximately 20 m wide (N-S) and 30 m long (E-W), occupying a slightly raised area of ground between two occasional water channels (on the north and south sides) draining from the gebel, and gently sloping down to the east.

In 2013 a survey was conducted of the site and a two-dimensional photogrammetric plan was created. Approximately five tombs were identified but seemed to be heavily disturbed. Along with human remains, fragments of Egyptian and Middle Nubian pottery, shell, and beads, an inscribed faience scarab was recovered in the SE area of the site during a surface collection, corresponding to “Quadrant 4B” of the 2022 excavation (the three signs incised on the scarab refer to the formula “Rdi R3: given by Ra”).

In 2022 full investigation of this site was undertaken because of increased threat to the area from expanding modern construction, with the aim to establish the full extent and composition of the cemetery, and to ascertain a chronology. Unfortunately, the site was already significantly damaged and all tombs had been thoroughly robbed, leaving almost nothing *in situ*.

The site was cleared of the top sand layer in order to expose tombs and features, enabling both identification of the archaeology and photogrammetry plans to be created. This was carried out in sectors to reduce exposure to trampling and re-covering by windborne sand. Once tombs and features were identified, targeted excavation was conducted on those that were better-preserved. In total, 19 tombs were identified (13 excavated) and 32 archaeological features and 5 Offering Places (designated by Greek letters: Offering Place α – Offering Place ε) were identified and excavated.

Due to the post-depositional natural and anthropic processes heavily affecting the cemetery, skeletal remains were very fragmentary and dispersed across the burial area, as were the artefactual remains, such as pottery (Egyptian and Pan-Grave), beads (mainly in faience and ostrich eggshell), and mother-of-pearl spacers, indicating the original grave goods included in the burials. Organic remains were scarce but, according to the Pan-Grave funerary tradition in which they commonly occur, this was almost certainly due to the heavy looting of the cemetery that caused the removal of the matting, leather, and textiles on which and in which the body would have been originally interred. In fact, only two tombs provided evidence for the presence of textiles (**T1** and **T19**), only one provided evidence for matting (**T6**), and only **T10** provided evidence for possible leather.

Faunal remains, which reflect both the subsistence strategies of Pan-Grave people and a secondary sacrificial use of domesticated animals, were also recorded with some frequency. The preliminary analysis of this material indicates the presence of two different types of faunal deposits: (1) offerings of ovicaprids (sheep and goat) and bovid skulls, and (2) the

deposition of complete/semi-complete sheep and goat remains inside the burials (evidenced in **T6** and **T8**, with cranial and post-cranial bones represented).

The complete excavation of the site has enabled a unique opportunity to establish a comprehensive picture of the layout of a Pan-Grave cemetery, both in terms of the tombs themselves and the associated features. It also has provided an invaluable opportunity to understand the development and the internal organisation of a Middle Nubian cemetery.

The comprehensive looting of the site, in addition to natural processes, meant that no material was left in situ, which reduced the capacity for interpretations as to the function of features beyond a label of possible pot emplacement or location for an offering. Therefore, many of the features were of uncertain function and only their relative positions can provide evidence for their purpose or association to a particular tomb.

The core of the cemetery comprised three large tombs (**T6–T8**, approximately 4–4.5 m in diameter) with stone rings surrounding a central, roughly-circular burial cist. Several features were directly associated with **T8**, serving as Offering Places (hereafter OP) or pot emplacements: two areas of burning (**OPβ** on the southern part of the stone ring and **OPγ** to the northern side of the stone ring) and four cuts within the tomb cist walls, which created small niches that could have served as offering places within the tomb itself. In addition to these, there were fourteen archaeological features in the northwest region, most of which appear to have been associated with these initial tombs (**T6–T8**). The four features in the northeast of WT1, close to **T10** (**F18–F21**) may also fall in this category.

To the southeast of these large tombs were a series of burials (**T11–T16**, maybe **T20**) that appear to have been a later phase, comprising simpler pit burials. Although sequencing at WT1 is difficult due to the extreme levels of disturbance, the pottery (both Middle Nubian and Egyptian) indicates a later date for this area compared to the initial core area. On the west and northwest side of these tombs are nine features that appear to be associated with them. This includes a feature identified as a marker stone (**F26**) and a large burnt area (**OPδ**), located southeast of the marker stone and surrounded by a series of small pits (**F27–F29**) of uncertain function. All of these features – in both phases of the site – provide evidence of the intense funerary activity that occurred at the site, both at the time of interment and during later visits, and indicates shared (not tomb-specific) offering areas.

Analysis of the ceramic material suggests WT1 dates from the late 12th Dynasty to the early part of the 13th Dynasty, representing a long use time despite being a cemetery of relatively small proportions – potentially only three or four tombs per phase. Based on the pottery analysis, the area of **T6–T8** could have dated to the late 12th Dynasty; for example, the Egyptian pottery is earlier and fits with the pottery identified as Nubian C-Group (see pottery reports for further details). **T6** and **T7** show some similarities in the ceramic assemblages to that of T24 at SM14, the burial of a pregnant woman. The south-eastern cluster of WT1 could have represented the later phase dating to the early 13th Dynasty. In this region, **T13** and the surrounding area yielded material that suggests a date later than that of WT1's core area and T24 at SM14.

The activity in the west end of the cemetery, where at least four simple, shallow burials (**T1–T3** and **T19**) had been added, is difficult to place into the sequence for the site. The pottery and other remains provide little evidence to date them and their positioning being somewhat

separate to the rest of the cemetery provides little clarity as to their relative position in the sequence.

Several patterns/occurrences in the pottery assemblages can be highlighted (for further details, refer to the pottery reports).

- There was very little Egyptian pottery at WT1 and it was in a very poor condition.
- Egyptian pottery was mainly found in the west of the site.
- Nubian pottery sherds were more prevalent in the east of the site.
- At least five C-Group pots have been identified – an important contribution to the discussion about the simultaneous existence of Pan-Grave and C-Group cultures.
- Several decorated Nubian vessels were recovered from WT1. Although the rim-band decoration is typical for the Pan-Grave tradition, there were several designs that are unusual, such as vertical-horizontal cross-hatching.
- Sherds from a Predynastic pot were identified, found scattered across the west-east axis of the cemetery (from **T9** to **T6/T7** and **T8/T11/T12**) (a pre-dynastic vessel was also recovered from the Pan-Grave cemetery of WK11).
- A dipper juglet collected from the southeastern corner of the site, is a very rare occurrence in Egypt and dates to the mid-13th Dynasty.

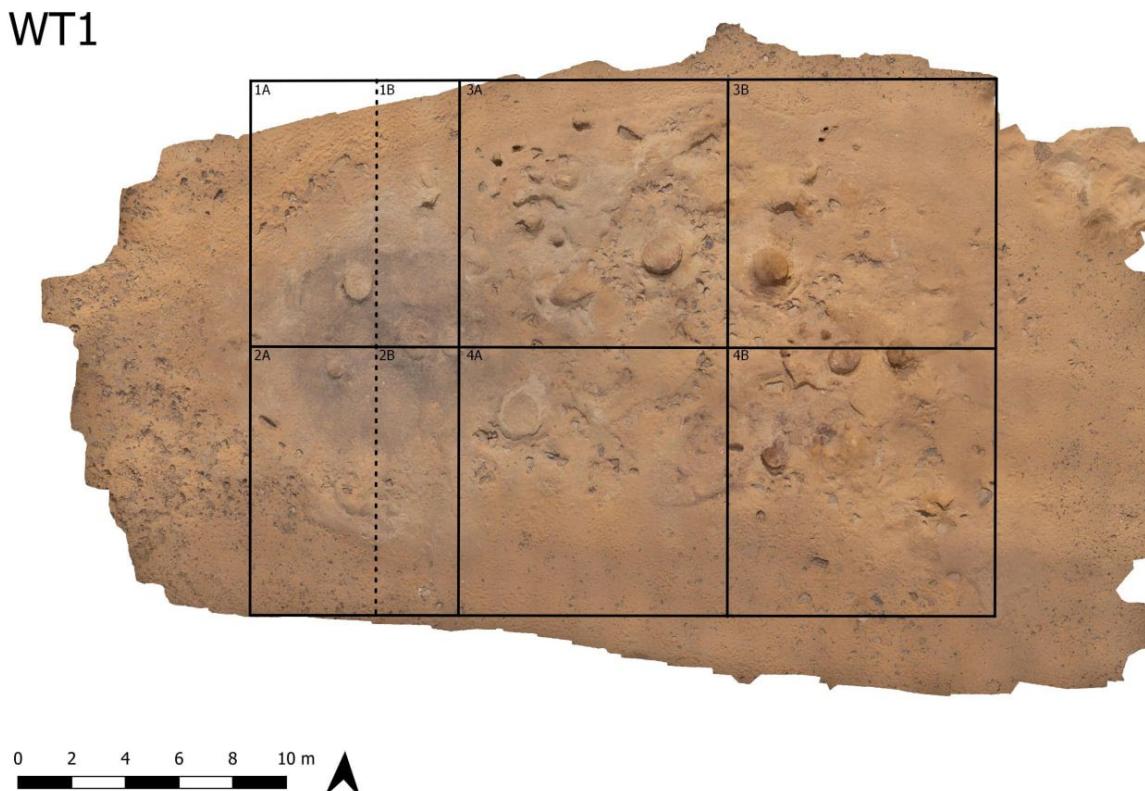
Method

The site was divided into three sectors (west, north, and south), which were then each subdivided into quadrants. This enabled features and artefacts to be approximately identified without the need for establishing a grid system. All quadrants were established according to the positions of the survey target stakes for quick reference and, therefore, were not measured into equal areas. Further subdivision of Sectors was deemed unnecessary when balanced with time constraints.

The area to the west of the visible stone rings of WT1 was labelled the western sector of the cemetery, covering an area measuring approximately 20 m (N-S) x 10 m (E-W) and divided into four quadrants, labelled 1A (northwest), 1B (northeast), 2B (southwest), and 2B (southeast). The main cemetery was divided in four parts along north-south and east-west lines, approximately 10 x 10 m, corresponding to the wooden survey targets (target numbers N-S: GCP3, GCP27, GCP8; E-W GCP5). These were referred to as the Northern Sector (3A, 3B) and the Southern Sector (4A, 4B).

After a surface collection survey was conducted, a shallow, N-S trench was opened in the eastern end of quadrant 1B to investigate the geology of this region of WT1 and explore the relationship between this area and the main region of the cemetery, particularly to understand the layers on which the tomb superstructures were constructed.

The entire Northern Sector (3A & 3B) was cleaned (removal of (L1)), revealing numerous features and tombs, some of which had not been visible on the surface and therefore had not been identified during the 2013 survey. A total of five tombs were excavated, primarily **T6** and **T8**, and two more were identified. Twenty-four features were investigated in this Northern Sector.



The entire Southern Sector (4A & 4B) was subsequently cleaned. As discussed in the following section on natural deposits at WT1, (L14) was heavily mixed with (L1) making the identification of an interface time consuming and difficult. Therefore, due to time constraints and the size of the area to clear, (L14) was removed at the same time as (L1) in order to reach more secure layers. The deposits were much deeper closer to the central E-W spine of the site but, unfortunately, not deep enough to protect the features and tombs from thorough looting and/or natural processes. Two trenches were excavated at the east and southeast edges of Quadrant 4B to investigate the extent of the cemetery in this area (southeast) and to investigate a possible spoil heap created by looters (east).

Surface Finds

In 2013 a survey was conducted at WT1, with surface finds collected and their locations recorded. Human remains, fragments of Egyptian and Nubian pottery, shell, and beads were recovered and approximately five tombs were identified. Additionally, an inscribed faience scarab was found in the southeast area of the site, corresponding to “Quadrant 4B” of the 2022 excavation. Three symbols were incised on the underside of the scarab and refer to the formula “Rdi R3: given by Ra”. No other objects of this type were found in 2013 or 2022.

A second survey of surface material was conducted at the start of the 2022 excavation season, once again recording locations of objects. All the finds from both surveys were collated in one plan, thoroughly documenting the occurrence of the material, and several points can be made about the distribution. Firstly, it is immediately evident that the site was hugely disturbed – by both natural and anthropogenic processes – and it was not possible to attribute objects or remains to specific tombs with movement evident across the site. Secondly, the objects are frequently not present within the central cists of tombs, possibly due to looting or because conditions were more exposed in these areas compared to the surrounding stoney areas, thereby creating a greater potential of movement across the site (these two factors are not mutually exclusive). Furthermore, there is a notable absence of material in the area northwest of T6 where most Features were located. This is probably due to the exposure of that side of the site subjecting it to the prevailing wind, which funnels down the wadi from north to south. Also, **F9**, **F13**, **F16** and **F17** suggest modern activity in the area, which may also be a factor to take into consideration.

WT1 Summary of Objects/Remains

Unexcavated	Excavated	Tomb No.																			
		T1	T2	T3	T4	T5*	T6	T8	T9	T10	T11	T12	T14*	T15	T19	T7	T13	T16	T17	T18	T20
		None		Nubian pottery		Egyptian pottery		Human remains		Faunal remains		Animal fur/hide		Shell		OES fragment		Mother-of-pearl		Spacer	
																					Bead
																					Lithic
																					Pebble
																					Quartz flake
																					Charcoal
																					Ash
																					Ochre
																					Matting
																					Leather
																					Textile
																					Botanical remains
																					Wood [^]
																					Hair [^]
																					Copper alloy [~]

* Not a tomb

[^] Probably modern

[~] Identification requires checking

Table 1: Finds from Tombs

Feature No.	None	Nubian pottery	Egyptian pottery	Human remains	Shell	Spacer	Bead	Lithic	quartz flake	Charcoal	Ash	Ochre	Botanical remains^
F4													
F5													
F6													
F7													
F8													
F9^													
F10													
F11													
F12													
F13^													
F14													
F15~													
F16^													
F17^													
F18													
F19													
F20													
F21													
F23													
F24													
F25													
F26													
F27													
F28*													
F29*													
F30													
F31													
F32													
F33													
F34													
F35													
F36													
F37													
OP α													
OP β													
OP γ													
OP δ													
OP ϵ													

* Unexcavated ^ Modern ~ Not a feature (number voided)

Table 2: Finds from Features and Offering Places (F1–F3 and F22 are excluded as they were relabelled as tombs: T1–T3 and T10, respectively)

Natural Deposits

L3 – Natural alluvial deposit/surface

L10 – Fine white sand (In north of Q3A it was very compact but still disintegrated to the fine sand)

L65 – Ancient alluvial surface

L78 – Natural dark layer beneath L3. Very compact but crumbly.

L153 – Dark grey, silty alluvial deposit in W of site (L2 = degraded L153). “Wild Nile”.

L164 – Bedrock

L168 – Alluvial hillwash to N of site

WT1 presents three variations of essentially the same sequence of natural deposits, with minor variations that may represent the limits of the Nile in the periods before the construction of the cemetery. The sequence of natural deposits in the western end of the site was as follows: the lowest level encountered in the west of the site was light-coloured, compacted alluvial deposit (L3). Above this was a very thin deposit of a fine, loose, white/light grey sand of ancient sand dunes (L10), which was beneath a much more compact, silty layer (L153), similar to that encountered at SM14 and WT6 and probably relates to the “Wild Nile” when it extended much further inland than the modern river course. It is only found in the western third of the site, disappearing on the western side of **T9**. Above this was a 5-10 cm deep, loose, dark grey, silty, alluvial deposit (L2) that was the degraded/eroded form of (L153). Above this was yellow, aeolian sand deposit (L1), which formed the top layer found across the site and varied in depth. In the west of the cemetery, (L1) was deepest in the low-lying channels to the north and south, with a thinner presence on the apex of the outcrop. This sequence was characteristic of the western end of the site and evident in the cuts of **T1-T3** and **T19**.

The lowest level of the central northern part of the site was sandstone bedrock (L164), visible at the bottom of **F5**, **F10** and **F14**, which was beneath the compact alluvial deposit of (L3). Above (L3) was the deposit that characterised this area of the site: a fine, white-grey sand (L10), which was also evident in the Western Sector, but it is present to a much greater extent (depth) here. Furthermore, around **T9** (and to the SE of **T9**) this deposit is much more compact, largely preserving cuts of tombs and features. However, it deteriorates into the looser sand relatively easily, returning to this state before the western limits of **T6**. The more-compact, pre-degradation variation of (L10) was probably more prevalent in this north area at the time of cemetery construction, only to later degrade, explaining why some features appear to be cut into soft sand. (L10) overlaid (L3), as encountered in the Western Sector, but this level was not reached in this location because of the significant depth of (L10) here. Above (L10) at the northern edge of the cemetery was an alluvial deposit (L168) that was created by water running down the gebel to the west (hillwash). This deposit was cut by **F4**, **F5** and **F10** so was present at least at this stage – although these features on the northern boundary of the site could be later additions to the cemetery. On the north side of this, there is still clearly a channel formed in this way. Both (L10) and (L168) were covered by the yellow aeolian sand of (L1).

The southern and eastern parts of the site have a different sequence again. Sandstone bedrock (L164) was identified in several locations across the site (such as at the bottom of **F18**, **T11** and **T15**). Above this was a very compact, but crumbly, deposit (L78), much darker in colour than (L3), ranging from a reddish yellow to a dark brown. Degraded elements of this distinctive deposit created dark inclusions within adjacent sand layers (such as (L74) in **T6**). This deposit was not visible in the north or the Western Sector of the cemetery, although it could have been at a greater depth because of the sloping topography of the site. Above this deposit was the alluvial deposit of (L3). Overlying (L3) was an alluvial deposit (L65) that was the ancient surface level at the time of the cemetery's construction – or at least the main part of it. Survival of this layer was very patchy, usually occurring around a tomb where the stone ring was built on top of it and therefore protected it (for example, on the north side of **T8**, into which **T10** is cut, as well as beneath the stone ring on the south side of **T7**) – but this was not consistently encountered across the site due to the high levels of disturbance. A compact, thin top layer covered a very crumbly, sandy body to the deposit with many small stone inclusions. It seems that the ancient surface level was at its deepest in the central E-W spine of the site (especially to the west), tapering off on all sides as nearing the edges of the site (the extent of this layer in the Western Sector beneath (L2) is unknown – if it was at all present at this more elevated point). In the majority of the Southern sector (L65) was heavily degraded, represented by a light brown sand with many small stone inclusions (L14), as well as larger stones that had originally been part of tomb rings from the centre of the cemetery. This was covered by (L1), although a clear interface between them was impossible to distinguish.

It was not possible to identify clear boundaries between some deposits within these natural sequences, without expending huge amounts of labour and time clearing large sections. Even if this had been possible, interfaces would probably have been indistinct because of the erosion and later disturbances. For example, the interface between (L10) in the north and (L14) and/or (L3) in the south and east was not visible due to tomb structures and heavy post-depositional disturbance.

Sequences of degradation are seen across the site in different deposits, highlighting the evident erosion across the landscape as different levels were exposed at different times. The analysis of pottery distribution at WT1 reflects extreme disturbance, and is suggestive of major natural events, such as flash floods, that moved objects far from their original place of deposition – offering an alternative explanation to a concentration of finds at the eastern end of the site being part of robber spoil (L112), (see Eastern Trench, below). This would also help to explain the heavily agitated stratigraphic layers. Furthermore, the degradation of these layers created the impression of very shallow burial pits (notable in the Western Sector: **T1–T3, T19**), often appearing too shallow to function as a burial, as the upper parts of smaller tombs were often completely lost. For example, in the main area of the cemetery (Quadrants 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B), features seem to have originated at the surface level of (L65), but the degradation of this level created the false appearance of shallow features, some of which would have been up to approximately 20–30 cm deeper than when excavated. When this is combined with the extensive looting activity, it is not surprising that the scale of the disturbance encountered was so comprehensive across the cemetery leaving very little *in situ*.

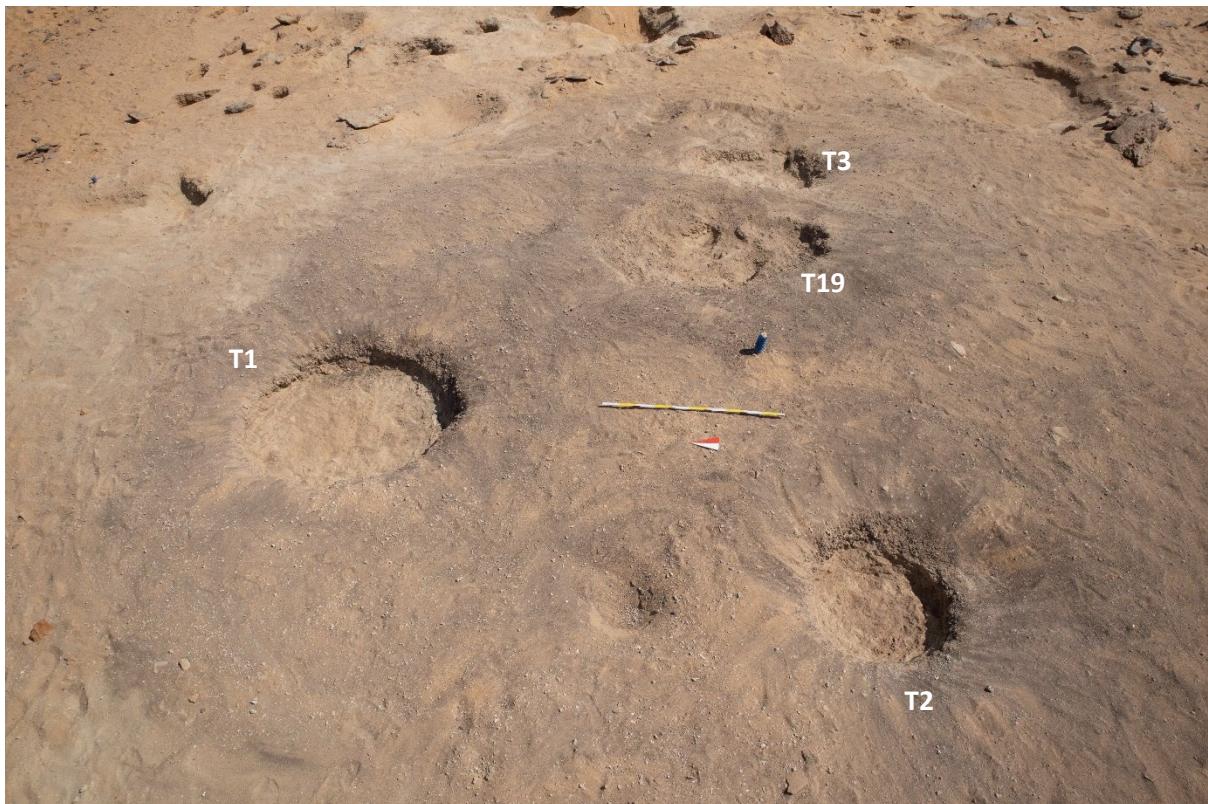
Western Sector

The western sector had no clearly distinguishable burials visible on the surface before any cleaning or excavation and there were no superstructures, although several roughly circular depressions were suggestive of features. These were moderately more defined after the removal of (L1), evidenced as circular patches of yellow aeolian sand within the grey deposit of (L2). Ten of these possible features were investigated, with four proving to be shallow, unmarked burials (**T1–T3, T19**), three were identified as features (**F14, F15, F37**), and three were ascertained to be natural depressions and not given numbers.

Three were natural depressions (not given layer or feature numbers) in Quadrant 1A, and one was a shallow, circular cut (also in Q1A), which could have been a pot emplacement (**F37: [L165]**), which was cut into the dark alluvial levels of (L2) and (L153), therefore leaving little in the way of a clear cut. Limited finds were recovered in this location, although a pot sherd was recovered within (L2) approximately 30 cm to the west. The last two possible features that were investigated were located in Quadrant 1B, bordering the main area of the cemetery. The first was thought to be a pot emplacement as there was a large pot sherd visible in the loose, aeolian sand deposit (L11) along with a human vertebra and two stones. Furthermore, a cluster of pebbles (PPA18) was located close by (but floating within (L2), so not in situ) and a cluster of pebbles (PPA16) had been recovered during the pre-excavation surface collection in roughly the same area (2 m away). It was only visible once (L2) had been removed but there was no visible cut and the feature appeared to be a natural depression. The second was a larger, oval depression with a fill deposit of yellow aeolian sand (L12) and associated with two large rocks resting on the surface of (L12). This was also a natural depression, slightly deeper in the eastern end, but no indication of a cut for a feature was evident.

Tomb 1–Tomb 3, Tomb 19

All of these tombs were shallow burials with no superstructure. They all followed the same sequence of deposits but had been heavily robbed with limited artefactual or skeletal remains present. **T1–T3** were minimally visible on the surface before any cleaning or excavation but the removal of (L1) revealed them as roughly circular areas of yellow aeolian sand (**T1: (L4); T2: (L5); T3: (L8)**) within the grey deposit of (L2). No clear cuts were discernible until 5–10 cm of the fills were removed because (L2) was degraded and very loose at the upper level; below this, however, the cuts (**T1: [L6]; T2: [L7]; T3: [L9]**) were clearly identifiable in the compact level of (L153). **T19** was not very visible even after the initial clean of the area. However, during excavation the site **T19** was located on a path regularly used so underwent a lot of trampling. This accelerated natural processes and the fill became more visibly yellow, helping the identification of the feature.



Tombs 1, 2, 3, 19. File: AKAP22B_07981



Tomb 1 (a.k.a. Feature 1)

L4 – Fill

L6 – Cut

Dimensions: 1.4 m x 1.2 m; *depth* = 0.26 m

Tomb 1 (also labelled as F1) was a simple, unmarked, shallow burial in the western extremity of WT1 (Q1A/1B), roughly circular in shape, measuring 1.4 m (N-S) x 1.2 m (E-W) and 0.26 m in depth. The walls of the cist were vertical, with only the eastern wall slightly diverging. It is almost certain that this represented only a portion of the original depth of the burial due to substantial erosion of the surface level since the construction of the tomb. There was no superstructure, although there once might have been surface treatment to indicate the presence of the tomb – but no indication of this survives today.

(1)
(4)
[6]
(2)
(153)
(10)
(3)

The tomb was heavily robbed and the fill (L4) comprised aeolian sand, which contained: human remains (bone and teeth fragments); a fragment of mother-of-pearl; 18 beads (9 OES (including 4 still attached to one another), 5 light blue/faience, and 4 black beads (stone?)), including two partially preserved strings of black (stone?) beads. Some possible textile fragments were also recovered, although a very crumbly clump (PPA17) against the north wall of the tomb disintegrated upon collection. This was one of only two tombs to contain traces of textile, the other being **T19**.

The cist of T1 was cut [L6] through (L2), (L153), and (L10), with the base of the burial coming down onto the alluvial deposit of (L3). The grey, sandy deposit of (L10) was very thin in the part of the site.



Clump of possible textile against north wall of Tomb 1 (PPA17). File: AKAP22B_01340

Tomb 2 (a.k.a. Feature 2)

L5 – Fill

L7 – Cut

L89 – Shallow cut on the S side of T2

Dimensions: 0.80 m x 0.85 m; depth = 0.28 m

Tomb 2 (also labelled as F2) was a simple, unmarked, shallow burial in the western extremity of WT1 (Q2A), approximately 2 m to the south of T1. It was circular in shape, measuring 0.8 m (N-S) x 0.85 m (E-W) and 0.28 m in depth. The walls of the cist were vertical, slightly diverging close to the mouth. As with T1, this was represented only a portion of the original depth of the burial, and there was no evidence of any kind of superstructure.

(1)	
(5)	
[7] --- [89]	
2	
153	
10	
3	

The tomb was heavily robbed with no remains *in situ* and the fill (L5) comprised aeolian sand, which contained: human remains (bone and tooth fragments), a fragment of mother-of-pearl, 24 beads (7 OES (1 larger and maybe unfinished), 6 light blue/faience, 11 black beads (stone?)).

The cist of **T2** was cut [L7] through (L2), (L153), and (L10); the latter formed the base of the burial. Unlike **T1** the tomb cut did not reach to (L3) even though the grey, sandy deposit of (L10) was very thin in the part of the site. On the south side of the southern edge of burial was an associated depression composed of a circular, very shallow cut into (L2) ([L89]: 0.20m (N-S), 0.15 m (E-W), depth: approximately 2.5 cm). It is unknown what function it fulfilled.

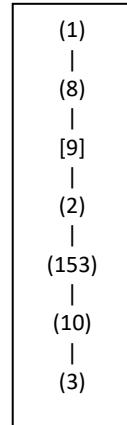
Tomb 3 (a.k.a. Feature 3)

L8 – Fill

L9 – Cut

Dimensions: 1.22 m x 0.76 m; depth = 0.25 m

Tomb 3 (also labelled as **F3**) was a simple, unmarked, shallow burial in the eastern part of the Western Sector of WT1 (Q1B/2B), approximately 4 m to the east-northeast of **T2**. It was sub-oval in shape, measuring 1.22 m (N-S) x 0.76 m (E-W) and 0.25 m in depth. The walls of the cist were vertical, only slightly diverging. The cist of **T3** was cut [L9] through (L2), (L153), and (L10); the latter formed the base of the burial, as with **T2**.



A dark concentration of possible organic sediment was recovered from an irregular depression at the bottom of the **T3**. This was sampled but after sieving it was discarded as it proved not to be organic material but probably degraded stone.

The tomb was heavily robbed with no remains *in situ* and the fill (L8) comprised aeolian sand, which contained: shell (including 1 Nerita shell, perforated for use as a bead), human remains, Pan-Grave pottery; Egyptian pottery, lithics (probably a vestige of much earlier activity, which is readily present across the landscape), quartz flake, 23 beads (21 OES small, 2 spherical black; additionally, the Nerita shell). A fragment of hair was also recovered, which was probably a modern intrusion, and a botanical sample was taken.

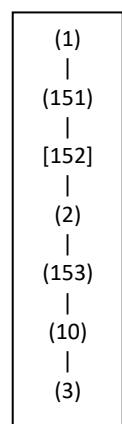
Tomb 19

L151 – Fill. Homogenous mix of friable stone (L2, L153)

L152 – Cut

Dimensions: 1.54m x 1.31m; depth = approx. 0.20 m

Tomb 19 was a simple, unmarked, shallow, sub-circular burial in the Western Sector of WT1 (Q1B/2B), approximately 1 m to the west of **T3**. It was larger than the other three tombs in this area of the site, measuring 1.54 m (N-S) x 1.31 m (E-W) and approximately 0.20 m in depth. As with **T1–T3**, this is a very shallow burial, probably because the top layer(s) through which it was cut have eroded away and only the lower part of the tomb remained. In its excavated state it appears too shallow to have been a burial but the presence of some organics, human bone, and Pan-Grave related artefacts suggests it was a burial.



The fill (L151) of **T19** consisted of a mix of aeolian sand and degraded, friable stone (L2), which was formerly (L153). This tomb contained a greater range of artefacts and organic

material than **T1–T3** and comprised: numerous shell fragments, human remains, Pan-Grave pottery, Egyptian pottery, lithics (probably a vestige of much earlier activity, which is readily present across the landscape), quartz flakes, 20 beads (20 OES), textile, and possibly a small fragment of copper alloy (this needs verification). Animal hide (with hair) was found against the northern edge of the tomb (PPA49) and possibly represented a fragment of the lining of the tomb or part of the material in which the body was wrapped. Hairs from the hide were found within (L151), towards the bottom of the tomb. This is the only tomb in the cemetery to contain animal fur/hair, and one of only two to contain evidence of textiles (the other being **T1**).

The base of the tomb was very uneven/irregular, which seems to have been caused by overcutting (by up to 20 cm) during robbing activity. This suggests that the looters also expected a deeper tomb. The cist of **T19** was cut [L9] through (L2) and (L153). These deposits were much more friable at the top of the burial – (L2) / upper (L153) – making the edge difficult to define. The bottom of the cut appeared to terminate within (L153), whereas the looting overcut continued into a thin (L10) and the start of (L3).



Animal hide with hair in north wall of Tomb 19 (PPA49, L151). File: AKAP22B_06804.

Features

Feature 37

L1 – Fill: Loose, yellow aeolian sand

L165 – Cut

Dimensions: 0.22 m (N-S) x 0.36 m (E-W); depth = approx. 0.10 m

Feature 37 was excavated at the beginning of the season and was thought to be a natural depression. Investigation of similar features (cuts) during the season made us re-evaluate this interpretation and a cut [L165] and feature number were assigned. F37 is located at the western-most edge of the cemetery in an isolated position. The feature was a shallow depression (depth: approx. 0.10 m), sub-circular in shape (0.12 m (N-S) x 0.20 m (E-W). The cut was through (L2) – the degraded form of (L153) – and through (L153). The fill of the feature was loose, yellow aeolian sand with no associated artefacts or bones.

Feature of unknown function. No finds were recovered from this feature.



Feature 37. File: AKAP22B_07979

Feature 14

L68 – Fill

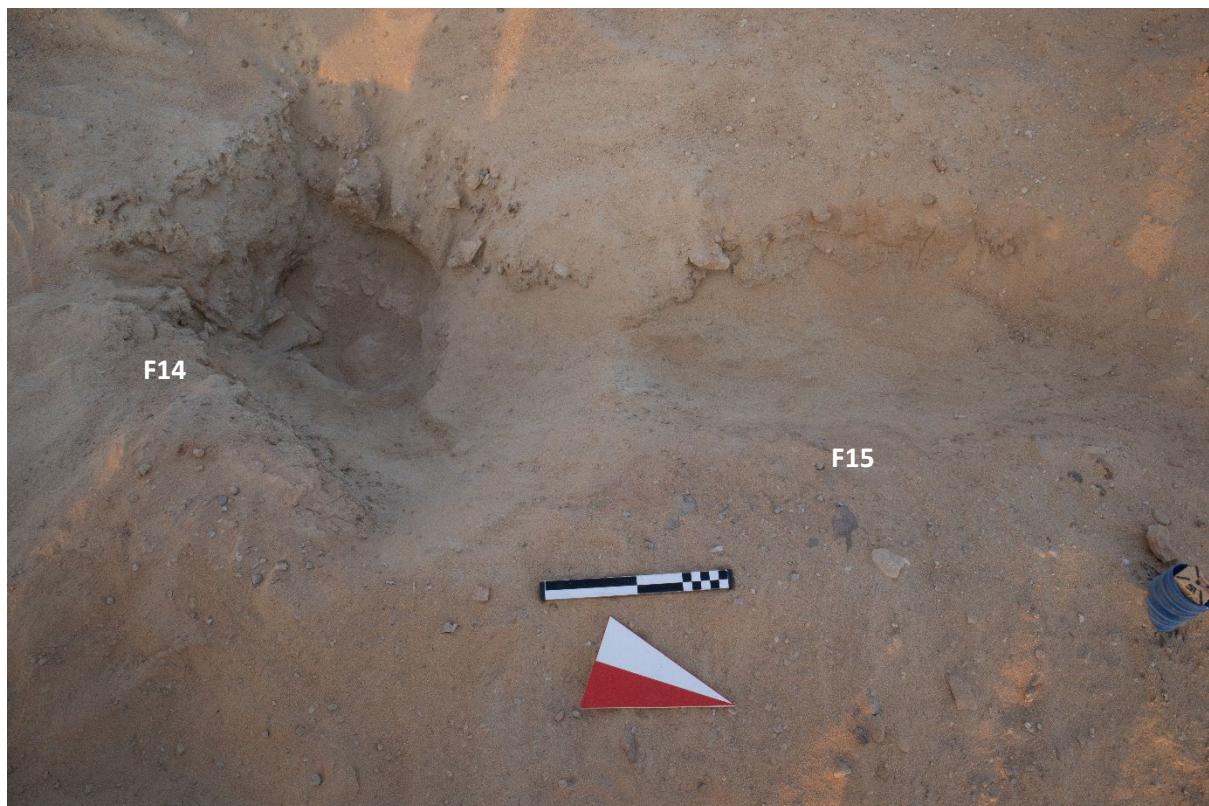
L69 – Cut

Dimensions: approx. 0.70 m (NE-SW) x 0.45 m (NW-SE); depth = approx. max 0.26 m – min 0.10 m

Feature 14 had a sub-rectangular shape with rounded corners and an irregular profile, cut into a very compact version of (L10), which was well preserved only at the south-eastern edges of the feature, and reaching the bedrock (L164) at the bottom of the cut [L69]. The base of the feature, on the north side, had a small step higher than the southern part, creating the impression of an irregular profile (rather than the original U-shaped profile). It is uncertain if this can be interpreted as a remnant of the original bottom of the feature undercut by robbers, which potentially also caused the disturbance initially identified as **F15**, to the north of **F14** (see below **F15**).

The fill of the feature (L68) was aeolian sand with only a few fragments of human bone (Tag6248) recovered from the upper part of the filling, and some artefacts (one Egyptian body sherd: Tag6250; two ochre fragments: Tag6251) from the lower part of the filling close to the bottom of the feature.

Feature 14 was of unknown function.



Feature 14 & Feature 15. File: AKAP22B_03357

Feature 15 (natural?)

L70 – Cut (a void assignment if F15 is natural)

L71 – Fill

Dimensions: approx. 0.75 m (NW-SE) x 0.42 m (SW-NE); depth = approx. 0.05 m

Based on the initial cleaning of the area in this season's excavation, this small area of loose, yellow aeolian sand (L71=L1) was thought to be the upper fill layer of a possible anthropic feature. Further investigation, however, was inconclusive and the question remained as to whether this was a natural depression. It was a very shallow (max depth: 0.05 m) sub-rectangular/oval depression with no clear cuts evident. The depression is "cut" into (L10), a fine, white sand layer that is characterised here by medium-hard compaction; the N-NE edges of the feature were made more friable by natural erosion processes and/or repeated trampling that occurred during excavation activities. The proximity of **F15** with **F14**, located just to SSW, leaves the possibility open that **F15** could have been a result of looter disturbance during the damage to **F14**.

No finds were recovered from this feature.

Northern Sector

Tomb 4

L15 – Fill

L21 – Cut

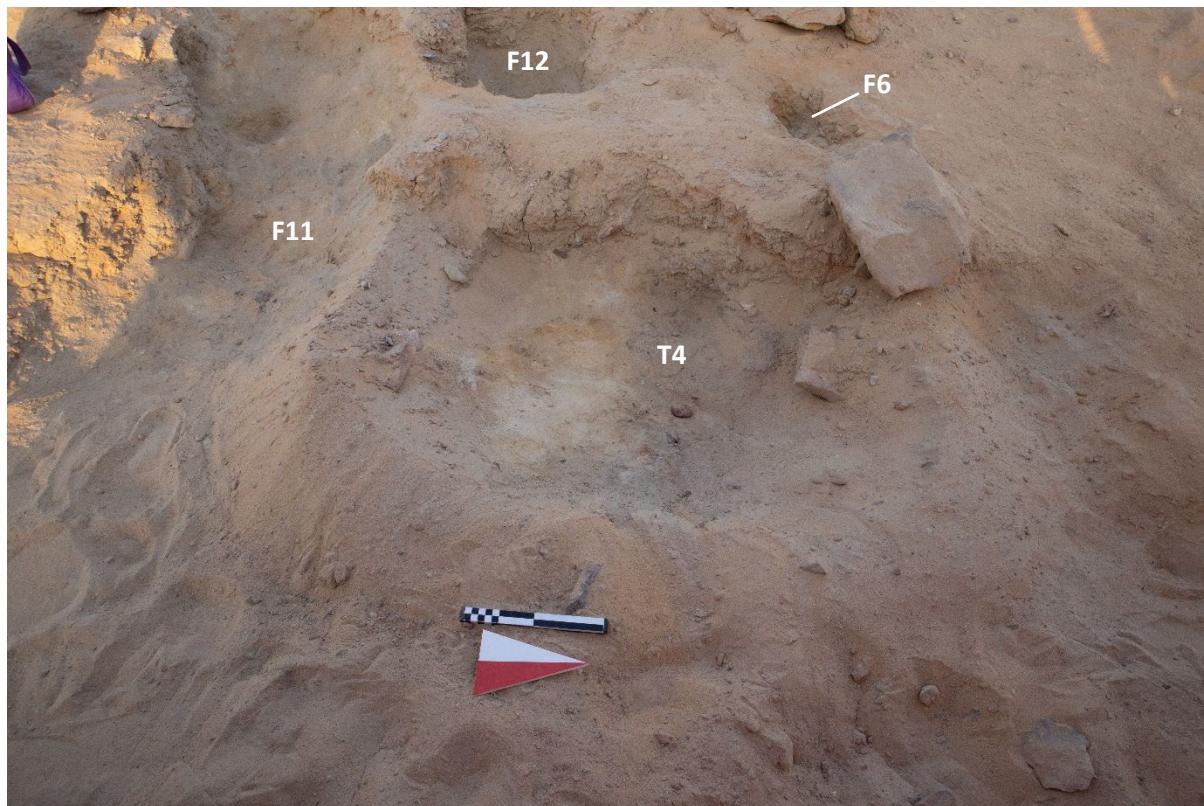
L32 – Ancient alluvial surface at time of tomb construction

Dimensions: 0.95 m x 0.83 m; depth = 0.15 m (E), 0.25 m (W)

Tomb 4 was a simple, small, shallow burial in the north of Q3A, roughly circular in shape, measuring 0.95 m (N-S) x 0.83 m (E-W). The bottom of the burial sloped from a depth of 0.15 m in the east, to 0.25 m in the west. The fill of the burial (L15) was aeolian sand with no artefacts and only a few fragments of bone from the upper part of the filling.

There were three large stones at the tomb edge, partially overhanging the cist. These could have been part of a superstructure (stone ring) but it was not possible to say for certain because there was a lot of disturbance in the area. They probably originated from a nearby structure, especially as there were several instances of stones piled up at the northern edge of the cemetery.

(1)
(15)
[21]
(14?)
(32)
(10)



Tomb 4, with Features 6, 11 and 12. File: AKAP22B_03386

On the southwest side of **T4** was a thin, brownish-yellow deposit (L32) with many small stone inclusions. It had a compact, thin, top layer that overlaid a very crumbly sandy level beneath. This was initially thought to be a surviving fragment of a mud preparation layer for a stone ring but was actually a small fragment of the ancient alluvial surface (equal to (L65) elsewhere) into which this burial was originally cut [L21]. However, this surface was incredibly degraded and manifested as (L14) making identification of the burial edges difficult. The profile of this tomb was U-shaped with vertical walls, although the cut/wall was missing on the eastern side because of the soft, loose sand (L14) that kept collapsing. The cist was cut into (L32)/(L14), down to the grey sandy deposit of (L10).

No finds were recovered from this tomb and human remains were very few and fragmentary.

Offering place α

L13 – Burnt material on south edge of Feature α

L16 – Sandy fill

L22 – Burnt area beneath sandy fill (L16)

L23 – Stone around Feature α

L24 – Cut

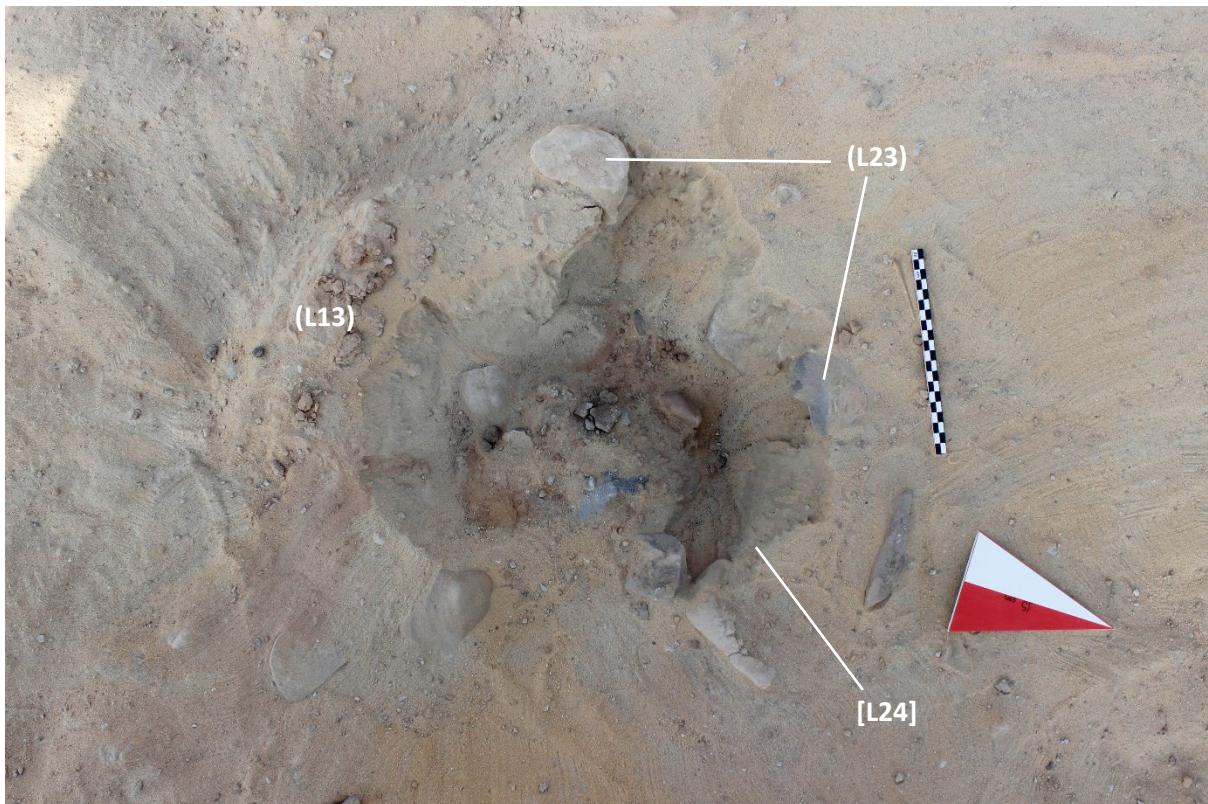
Dimensions: 0.64 m x 0.45 m (Depth = 0.11 m)

(1)
(16)
(23)
(13)
(22)
[24]
(14)
(32) == (65)
(10)

Associated with **T4**, 0.5 m to the east, was Offering Place alpha (**OPα**). This was an area of burning, measuring 0.64 m (N-S) x 0.45 m (E-W) and with a depth of 0.11 m. It was cut [L24] into (L14) – originally (L32)/(L65) – and consisted of a concentration of a fairly compact, reddish-brown deposit with occasional lenses of light grey ash detected at two different elevation points: The first (L13/L13 lower) was just below the surface aeolian sand of (L1), on the south side of **OPα**; part of (L13) was eroded and was situated upon/mixed within the sandy fill of (L16). The second (L22) was beneath a circular area of loose aeolian yellow sand (L16) underlying (L1) and above (L14). The base of **OPα** is (L14), not reaching (L10) beneath.

OPα was surrounded by a probable stone ring, at the time of excavation comprising five medium-sized stones (L23) overlying (L14). One stone element lay directly on (L22), possibly collapsed from (L13) or (L1), and another was atop the burnt (L13), which was probably not its original position.

It is not currently known what was burnt at this offering place but samples were taken of both (L13) (Tag6070-6071) and (L22) (Tag6098) for further analysis. It seems probable that this feature was contemporary with the construction of **T4**. No finds were recovered from this feature.



Offering Place α. File: AKAP22B_02510-1

Tomb 5 (Not a tomb)

L55 – Fill (equal to L1)

L56 – Stone ring / pile of stones

Based on the 2011 survey and the initial cleaning of the area in this season's excavation, this arrangement of stones (L56) was thought to be a tomb. After further inspection, however, this proved not to be a tomb, or even an archaeological feature. It was a pile of disturbed rocks sitting on aeolian sand (L1). Furthermore, no tomb cut was evident upon removal of the aeolian sand “fill” layer (L55). Very few finds and bone were recovered from this area, amounting to the following: two beads (1 OES, 1 light blue/faiience) and some shell fragments. Two phalanges of a juvenile sheep/goat (Tag6252) were also recovered but these are from the same individual as recovered from T6 (L61, Tag6258) to the south, highlighting the high level of disturbance on the site.

(56)
(1) == (55)
(10)

Tomb 6

Construction:

L52 – Stone ring of T6

L59 – Cut of T6

L77 – Small circular cut into lower SW corner of wall of burial cist/cut

L83 – Cut in the east side of T6

Fill layers:

L53 – Top layer of fill of T6 – yellow aeolian sand

L58 – Grey sand fill in T6 (beneath L53)

L60 – Yellow sand with charcoal (beneath L58)

L61 – Grey sand fill in T6, similar to L58 but with more yellow sand and small stones (beneath L58 + L60)

L74 – Fill in T6, beneath L61. Sand contains dark brown flecks and small inclusions. Reddish patches/lenses

Disturbance/degradation:

L67 – Stone ring collapse in T6 beneath L53

L75 – Stone ring collapse in T6 within the W side of the burial cut, beneath L61

Cleaning layers:

L45 – Clean of stone ring of T6 (aeolian sand = L1)

L79 – Clean of T6 between tomb ring and cist cut (for photogrammetry)

L84 – Loose aeolian sand with large stones in the area between T6 and T8 (exploratory trench with arbitrary extent)

Dimensions: approximately 4.2 m in diameter at the surface (including stone ring); 1.8 m diameter at upper, sloped cut; 1.4 m at the inner vertical cist cut. Depth = 0.85 – 0.90 m

Tomb 6 was one of the three largest tombs (the other two being **T7** and **T8**), all of which were located at the core of the site. It was a substantial construction comprising a stone ring (L52) around a central burial cist. As with all tombs at this site, it was thoroughly looted and no *in-situ* remains survived. **T6** measured approximately 4.2 m in diameter at the surface, including the stone ring (L52), 1.8 m at the upper sloped cut, and 1.4 m at the vertical cist cut.

The upper part of the inner burial cut [L59] was a sloped cut because of the soft, loose nature of (L10), which was liable to collapse/cascade during or after being dug (a phenomenon experienced by the team during our excavation). By digging the top of the burial shaft in this way it reduced collapse of loose material back into the cist. The tomb cut was much more visible in the western part of the tomb, where the harder alluvial deposit (L3) was present. The lower half of the cut became vertical when the more substantial, compact deposits of (L3) and (L78) were reached. This manner of construction resulted in a funnel-shaped tomb cut (in profile). Overall, the burial cist cut [L59] through (L65), (L10), (L3), (L78). The latter formed the floor of the cist – possibly approaching the interface between (L78) and bedrock (L164).



Tomb 6. File: AKAP22B_03594

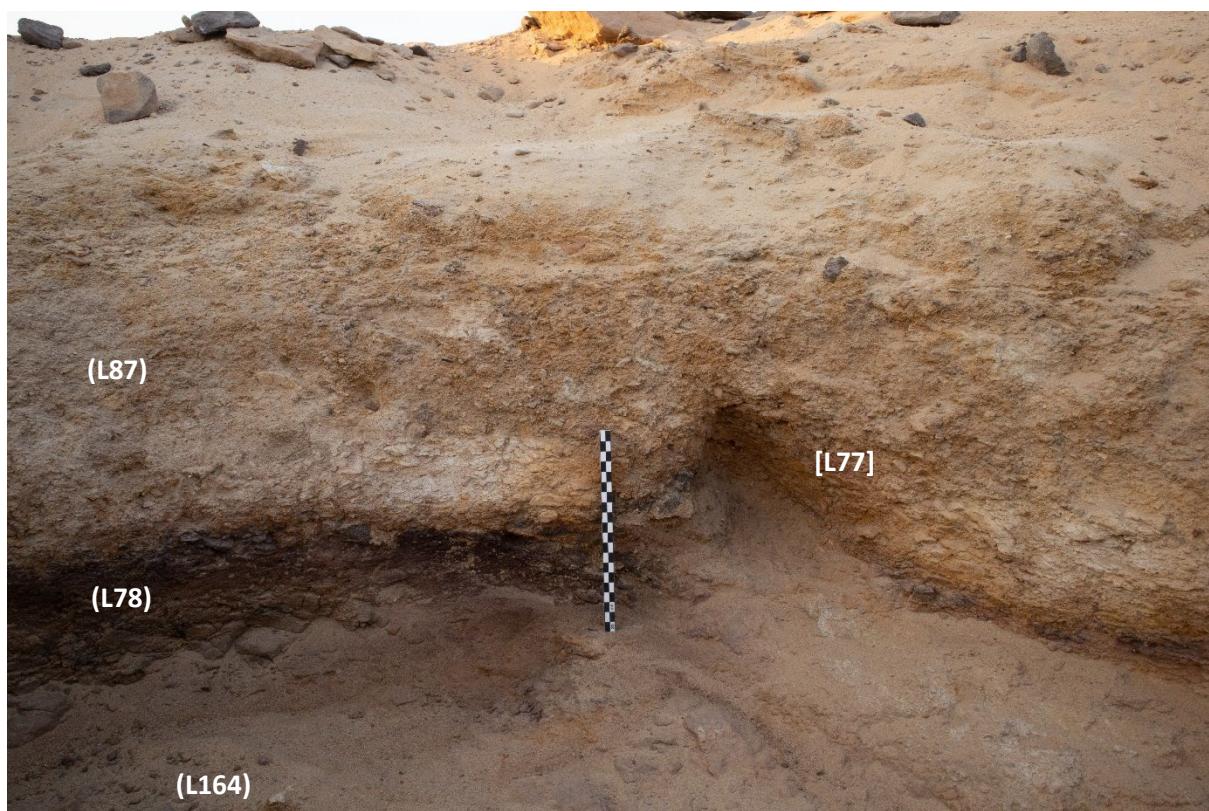
In the base of the SW edge of the tomb cist was a small, circular cut [L77]. There was no evidence to indicate its function but it was probably a space for an offering at the time of burial. The location of such a feature is unusual, however. In the northeast side of T6, on the sloping face of the burial cut, was a shallow cut [L83] for a feature of unknown function, possibly a ledge on which to place offerings.

The stone ring of T6 was relatively intact, especially compared to the ring of T8. There was no mud preparation ring present, as was the case for more complex tombs at the Pan-Grave cemeteries of SM14 and WK11. Some tombs (such as T7 and T8) demonstrate that the stone rings were constructed directly upon the ancient alluvial surface of (L65) but this is not evident here because of probable degradation of the layer. This degradation of the surface seems to have caused a general

(1)=(45)=(79)=(84)	<i>Natural accumulation</i>
(53) ----- (67)	<i>Accumulation / Ring collapse</i>
(58)	<i>Accumulation</i>
(60)	
(61)	
(75)	<i>Ring collapse</i>
(74)	<i>Accumulation</i>
[77]---[83]---(52)	<i>Features cuts in cist / stone ring construction</i>
[59]	<i>Tomb cut</i>
(65)	<i>Natural</i>
(10)	
(3)	
(78)	
(164)	<i>Bedrock</i>

subsidence/movement of the stone superstructure, in parts causing collapse.

At the base of the cist was a fill layer of pale brown sand (L74) with dark specks that are very probably a result of the natural geology (L78) into which the tomb is cut; at about the same level as the top of (L74), the wall of the burial cist changes from the light-coloured (L3) to a dark reddish-brown (in some places nearly black) deposit (L78). This appears to have been a deposit that accumulated after the tomb had been emptied during looting. This interpretation is supported by the fact that several of the recovered bones from this layer were bleached white indicating that they had been exposed to the elements for a period of time. Emphasising the disturbance caused by robbing activity, a mandible (PPA23) was found near the bottom of (L74), against the north wall of the burial cist – protected by the stone ring collapse (L75) – but the maxilla (PPA24) was found at the southern side of the cist. Even if these were from two separate individuals they were not *in situ* but had been discarded at the sides of the cist. A few botanical remains were recovered within this layer but they appeared to have been blow-in intrusions, rather than original inclusions. There were, however, some fragments of possible ancient matting. Overall relatively few artefactual and botanical remains were recovered from this bottom layer of the burial fill sequence which, again, highlights the comprehensive looting activity that has taken place. Other than the aforementioned items, the recovered material also included: bone fragments, 40 beads (16 OES, 18 light blue/faience, 5 green glazed(?), 1 white shell bead(?)), 1 Egyptian hemispherical cup (fabric Nile 1B, with a potmark on the interior wall?), and some small pieces of charcoal, which may be modern intrusions.



Feature cut in Tomb 6 cist wall (facing southwest). File: AKAP22B_07820

After (L74) had accumulated, part of the tomb's stone ring (L52) collapsed into the burial cist on the west side, leaving stones against western wall. The mandible (PPA 23) was beneath these stones and therefore protected from the weathering to which bones in the centre of the cist were subjected. On top of this, a grey sandy deposit with small stone inclusions (L61) accumulated, covering the rest of (L74) and most of (L52). This layer contained shell, animal bone, human bone fragments (including 1 burnt fragment?), Pan-Grave pottery, Egyptian pottery, charcoal, 1 complete mother-of-pearl spacer, Beads (95 beads: 48 OES, 37 light blue/faience, 9 black beads (stone?), 4 green glazed(?)).

Above (L61) was another layer of grey sand (L60), differentiated from (L61) by the presence of charcoal and fewer small stone inclusions. This appears to have been some collapse from the west side of the tomb into the cist. Very few finds were present, comprising: very few, small fragments of bone, one sherd of Pan-Grave pottery, and 6 beads (5 OES, 1 light blue/faience). A further grey sand accumulation/collapse layer (L58) was above (L60), different only by its lack of charcoal. This contained human bone and tooth fragments, two fragments of mother-of-pearl spacers, a lithic, one sherd of Pan-Grave pottery, a shell fragment, possible fragments of matting, and 73 beads (36 OES, 33 light blue/faience, 3 black (stone?), 1 white shell bead).

It is possible that the three layers of grey sand accumulation/collapse – (L61), (L60), (L58) – are all the same but have different inclusion characteristics relating to the material that was brought in with the sand – for example, the charcoal could relate to a single nearby campfire that blew in at a particular time. The final fill layer of **T6** was a deep layer of yellow aeolian sand (L53), containing stones from a second stone ring collapse (L67) and the following artefactual/organic material: shell, faunal remains (including horn), human remains (including 1 burnt fragment?), Nubian pottery (1 sherd), Egyptian pottery (2 sherds), charcoal, beads (182 beads: 97 OES small, 74 light blue/faience, 8 black, 3 white shell beads), ochre, matting, a fragment of copper alloy(?) – a very small fragment with an arched shape. From the area to the north of T6 (L1) was a sherd of Nubian pottery with incised horizontal hatching.

The finds throughout all these layers are fairly consistent and standard with expected material from Pan-Grave tombs, albeit very disturbed from robbing and only part of the picture of the original tomb. This is the only tomb that potentially has fragmentary remains of matting from the cist, which is highly improbable to reflect matting not used in the burial process; it was a common part of other Pan-Grave funerary processes, such as those at SM14. It is almost certainly a reflection of the looting behaviour, which appears to have been extremely thorough and removed nearly all remains and material from the tombs. Interestingly, the faunal remains from **T6** reflect the presence of very young sheep and goat within (or around) the tomb (see Preliminary Report on Faunal Remains). This material also reflects the high level of disturbance at the site, with a fragment of skull with goat horn from the cleaning of the stone ring (L45) (Tag6223) pertaining to the same individual as bone found within the upper fill layer (L53) (Tag6141). Just to the north of **T6**, in the surface level (L1) of the site, numerous finds were also recovered. These included nearly 300 beads, matching the proportional profile of bead types from within **T6**. Furthermore, fragments of goat bone and horn from a very young animal (Tag6566) were collected, correlating with faunal material from within the tomb.

Overall, this was a substantial tomb for which a lot of energy had gone into its construction. It was clearly one of the three most important tombs within the cemetery (along with T7 and T8), forming part of the core around which all other activity seemed to focus or respect. Unsurprisingly, looting of this tomb has been thorough and any remains that have been recovered were probably discarded by the looters or deemed of little value. The individual(s) who was/were buried within this tomb were in all probability thrown outside of the tomb – a factor supported by the amount of human bone found within the cemetery surface layers.



Photogrammetry of Tomb 6 (left) and Tomb 8 (right), post-excavation (facing north).

Tomb 8

Construction:

- L19 – Stone ring of tomb. Dark grey sandstone
- L20 – Cut of tomb
- L86 – Cut in S of T8, within sloping edge (cut into L65)
- L87 – Cut in E edge of T8 (cut into L3). Upper southern cut.
- L90 – Lower, southern cut in E wall of T8 (in L3)
- L91 – Northern, small cut in E wall of T8

Fill layers:

- L18 – Top layer of fill - yellow aeolian sand
- L62 – Grey sand fill (beneath L18)
- L64 – "Original" fill in N of tomb (cut by robber activity)
- L82 – PPA26 (T8): Thin, ashy (grey) deposit within fill layer L64
- L85 – Lower fill layer.

Disturbance/degradation:

- L63 – Robber cut, southern two-thirds of tomb
- L80 – Ring collapse (north of cist)
- L88 – Stone collapse within burial cist on N side

Cleaning layers:

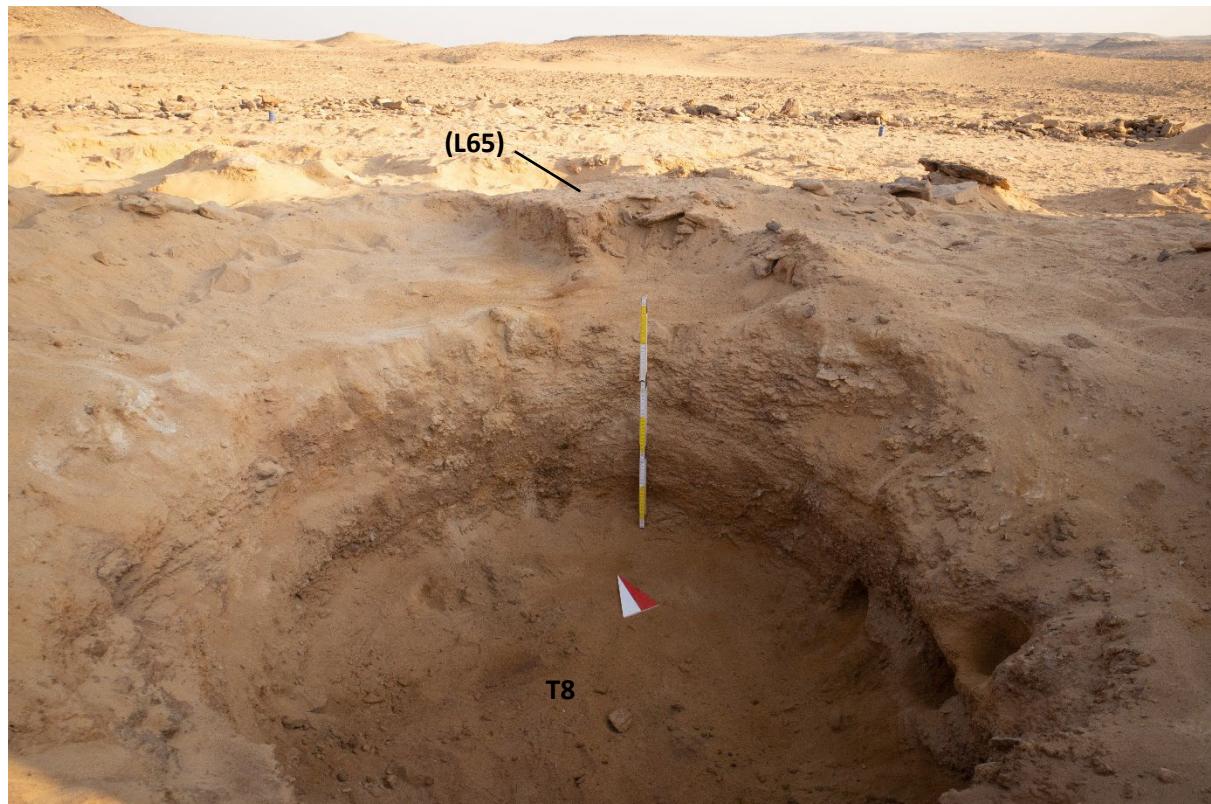
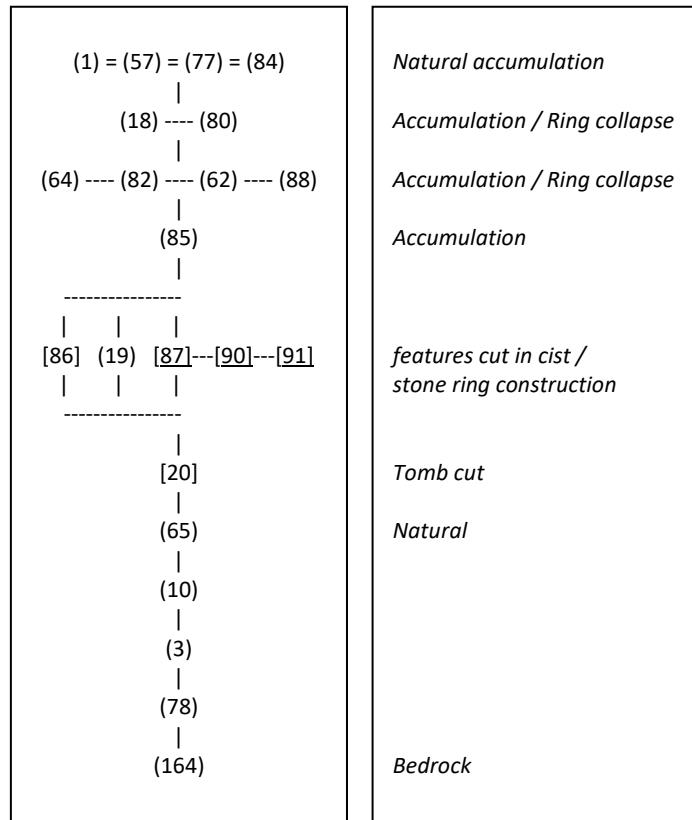
- L57 – Clean of stone ring (aeolian sand = L1)
- L77 – General clean of tomb (mainly accumulation over the last few days, and some L1)
- L84 – Loose aeolian sand with large stones in the area between T6 and T8 (exploratory trench with arbitrary extent)

Dimensions: approximately 4 m in diameter at the surface (including stone ring); 1.9 m diameter at upper, sloped cut; 1.4 m at the inner vertical cist cut. Depth = 0.9 – 1.1 m

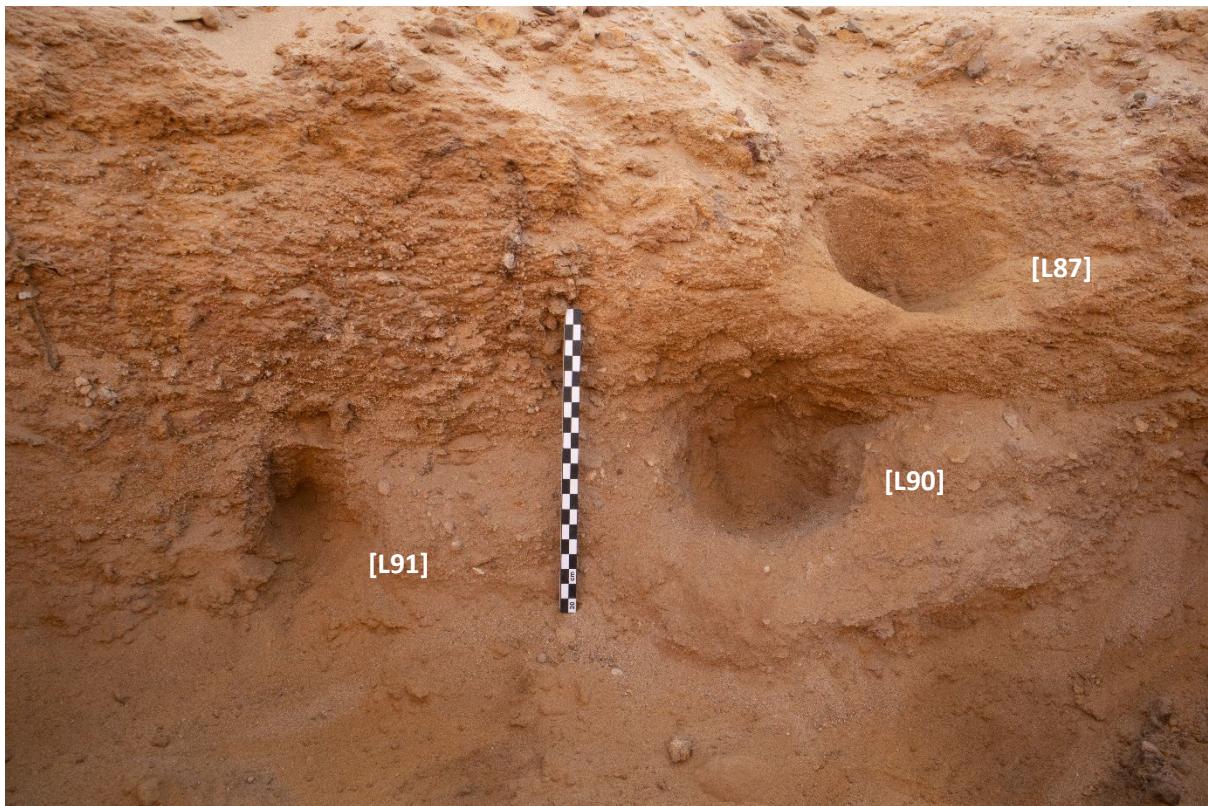
Tomb 8 was one of the largest tombs at WT1, located in the central core of the cemetery, immediately to the east of **T6**. The burial cist followed the same format as that of **T6**, with the cut [L20] initially wider (in the softer sediments), sloping down to a vertical shaft in the more compact natural layers of (L3) and (L78). The floor of the burial cist appeared to reach the upper level of bedrock (L164) – or at least the interface between (L78) and bedrock. As with **T6**, the cut was much more visible in the western part of the tomb, where the more compact natural layers of (L3) and (L78) were present.

Within this lower part of the shaft edge were a series of three small cuts located on the east side of the cist – [L87], [L90], [L91] – presumably functioning as spaces for offerings/pot emplacements at the time of burial – similar to the single example found in **T6**. There was also one [L86] located in the south of **T8** within the upper, sloping edge of the cist cut – cut into (L65). None of these features had any associated finds or organic material elucidating function.

Around the burial cist was a stone ring (L19) built directly upon a natural alluvial deposit (L65) that formed the surface of the site at the time of initial cemetery construction. At the time of excavation, very little of the stone ring remained *in situ* due to looting activity and disturbance caused by shifting sand accentuated by the degradation of natural deposits – such as (L10), and (L65), which became (L14).



Tomb 8 and alluvial deposit L65. File: AKAP22B_07854



Feature cuts [L87], [L90], [L91] in Tomb 8 eastern cist wall, facing east. File: AKAP22B_04230

At WT1 the stone rings, when they occur, were constructed directly upon the ancient alluvial surface of (L65), through which burial cists were cut. However, this layer was substantially degraded (whether through natural erosion, looting activity, or a combination of the two), with its survival largely limited to areas protected by tomb superstructures. The portion of (L65) most intact, which was located to the north of **T8**, revealed that this deposit was too substantial in coverage to be a preparation layer for the stone ring, especially when it became evident that (L14) was the degraded form of (L65). It is, however, understandable how it would be tempting to interpret (L65) as a preparation layer when looking at its distribution across the site on a plan.

There are two possible interpretations to explain the fill layers within **T8**, which largely depend on the nature of one accumulation deposit, (L64), which was more compact than the rest of the fill sequence within the burial but just as disturbed. The first explanation is that there were two fill sequences corresponding to two looting events. The second is that there was one looting event and that during accumulation a collapse and movement of part of the stone ring resulted in a more compacted area within the burial. These two explanations will be expanded upon below.

- i) There seemed to be two separate fill events within T8. Evidence of the first was restricted to approximately 0.5 m within the northern side of the tomb's stone ring and consisted of a greyish-brown sandy deposit (L64), which was relatively compact compared to the other (later?) accumulations. Unfortunately, this first fill

event did not provide *in situ* remains as it demonstrated evidence of significant disturbance.

(L64) was only present at the northern edge of the cist because it had been cut by (presumably) later robbing activity [L63], which removed the contents of most of the tomb but did not extend all the way to the northern tomb edge. This was subsequently filled with accumulation deposits representing fill event 2. The lower two-thirds of the layers of the tomb were composed of a grey sandy deposit, which were divided into two layers based, in part, on a greater concentration of small stones in the lowest, thin level (L85) but was also semi-arbitrary because of the depth of the upper deposit (L62) exceeding 0.5 m. Within L62 were large stones from the stone ring which had collapsed into the cist on the north side.

- ii) There was a single accumulation of deposits within the tomb after a single looting event. In this interpretation the compaction of (L64) in the north of the tomb would be explained by collapsed stones (L80) within the upper fill level (L18) from the edge of the tomb; this was also the cause of numerous small stone inclusions in the matrix. The apparent cut (L83) through (L64) was instead the limit of compaction, relatively unaffected by the stone collapse. The fill of T8 is, consequently, the same general event with (L62) and (L64) being contemporary and discrepancy negligible. This would appear to be the simpler explanation and is reflected in the Harris Matrix for **T8**.

In addition to some human remains, such as two long bones (ulna and radius?), (L64) contained artefacts common to this type of burial: Pan-Grave pottery (including a sherd with incised decoration forming a possible lattice motif), Egyptian pottery, mother-of-pearl spacers, and 184 beads (113 OES, 43 light blue/faience, 15 black, 1 white shell(?), 2 green glazed(?)). One very small fragment of a material that *may* be copper alloy was also recovered, which could reflect late activity in or around the cemetery. Fragments of ochre were recovered which offer hints at the treatment of the body at the time of interment, matching behaviour observed at other Pan-Grave cemeteries. Within (L64) several bones from a very young sheep/goat were recovered (Tag6304, 6317), as at **T6** which neighbours **T8** (see Preliminary Report on Faunal Remains). The occurrence of massive disturbance across the entire site requires consideration to be given to the possibility that the presence of young sheep/goat remains in both **T6** and **T8** might come from one of the tombs, not both, especially as both also had bones of this type outside of the tombs.

Both (L62) and (L85) contained human remains (possibly including juvenile bones but this needs verification), Nubian pottery ((L62) produced a sherd with incised decoration), spacers and beads ((L62), 81.5 beads: 46 OES (+ 4 consolidated with paraloid), 20 light blue/faience, 10 black, 1/2 white shell(?), 1 spherical dark red (granite?); (L85), n=46: 24 OES, 20 light-blue faience, 1 white shell(?), 1 black). Fragments of ochre were also recovered from (L85), as well as a long bone (femur distal end?), an OES bead, and a rim fragment of a Nubian ceramic vessel from the base of the tomb (PPA27).

A thin, grey, ashy deposit (L82) (PPA26) was identified within (L64), which was probably the disturbed/displaced remnants of an offering place, which possibly preceded the construction of the tomb's stone ring. This explanation is supported by a similar feature (OP γ ,

(L81); discussed below) located approximately 1 m to the northeast of (L82). Unfortunately, little more can be said about (L82) because of the ubiquitous disturbance at WT1, other than to note its presence and similarity to OP γ . There were no associated finds and the only organic material recovered were small fragments of charcoal.

The uppermost layer of the tomb, covering the other fill deposits – (L62), (L64), (L88) – was yellow, very loose aeolian sand (L18), within which was further stone ring collapse/displacement (L80) on the north side of the tomb. In addition to the usual variety of artefacts, (L18) produced a Nubian potsherd with an incised vertical-horizontal cross-hatching lattice motif under the rim, which is very rare among Pan-Grave ceramics, possibly even entirely unique (Vessel #705, see Preliminary Report on Nubian-Style Pottery). Finally, sheep/goat bone fragments representing both a very young individual and an adult (see Preliminary Report on Faunal Remains). A concentration of beads and other small finds was notable in the upper (highly disturbed) surface levels on the south side of **T8**.

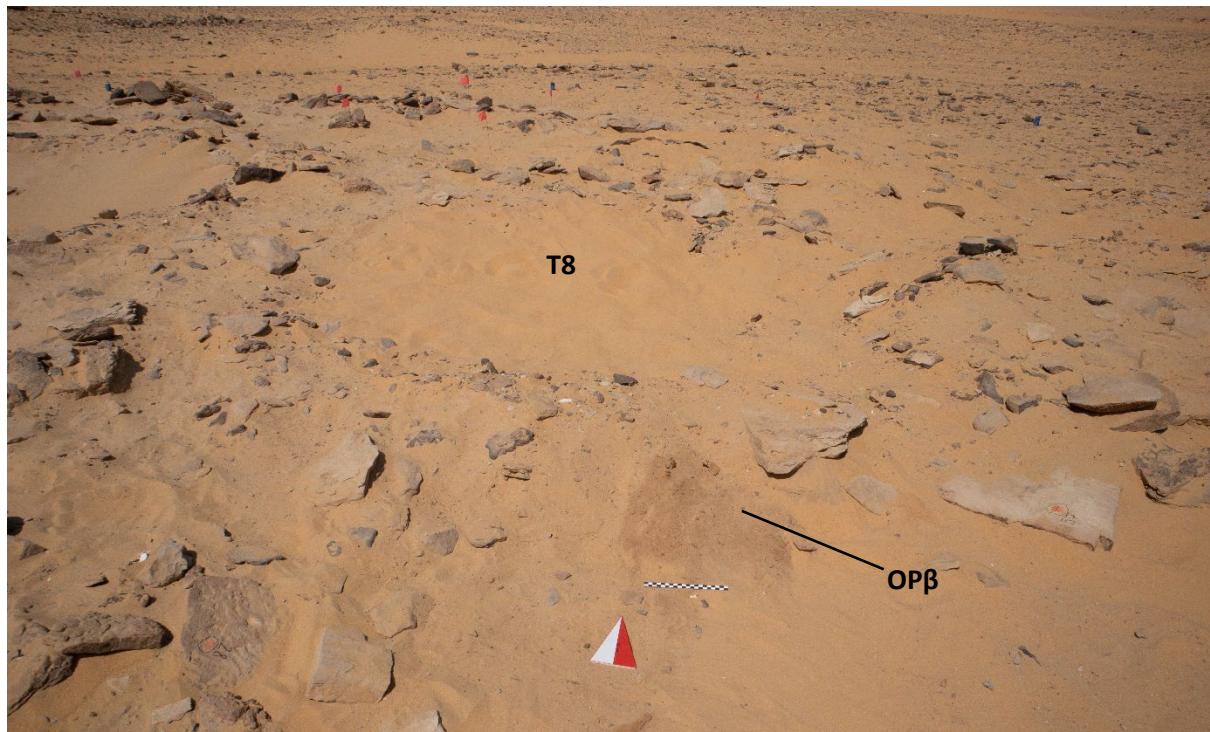
Offering place β (beta)

L17 – Burnt reddish-brown sandy deposit with charcoal and ash (associated with T8)

Dimensions: approx. 0.30 m (N-S) x 0.20 m (E-W), depth = approx. 0.02–0.05 m

At the SSE edge of **T8** was a concentration of a reddish-brown, burnt deposit with sporadic charcoal fragments and ash (L17), situated on top of the natural degraded surface deposit of (L14)/(L65), overlapping onto the outer edge of the tomb's stone ring (L19), beneath the windblown surface accumulation (L1), (L57). Due to the degraded nature of the base on which it was located, this feature was in a poor state of preservation. The colour and composition of the matrix of this deposit was the same as that of **OP α** – (L13), (L22) – in the NW of the cemetery, next to **T4**. This offering place (**OP β**) was in use after the construction of the tomb, unlike **OP γ** (L81) that was also associated with **T8**, which was part of the preparation for the burial (see below). Outside of the stone ring, on the west of **OP β** , two Middle Nubian pottery body sherds (Tag6086) and some fragments of (burnt?) bone (Tag6085) were collected; we cannot, however, say definitively whether they were associated with **OP β** , or originated elsewhere. The preliminary study of the pottery by Aaron de Souza (see Preliminary Report on Nubian-Style Pottery from WT1 2023) identified the sherds to be part of a restricted simple (RS) shallow pot (Pot #700) assigned to the C-Group ceramic tradition. A sediment sample (Tag6087, 6407) was collected from this feature for further analysis.

(1)==(57)
(17)
(14)
(19)
(65)



Offering Place β and Tomb 8. File: AKAP22B_02213_OP beta_general view (1) rev

Offering Place γ (gamma)

L81 – Thin, ashy (grey) deposit with charcoal (associated with T8)

Dimensions: 0.15 m (N-S), depth = approx. 0.01–0.02 m

On the north side of **T8** was a thin, grey, ashy deposit (L81) with charcoal inclusions that represented the location of a burnt offering place (**OP_γ**). This was only visible in the stratigraphic profile: a small depression appeared to have been cut into the natural surface layer at the time (L65), followed by either a small, *in situ* burning event or an intentional deposition of ashes and charcoal collected from elsewhere, and subsequently covered with the excavated material. The stone ring for the tomb (L19) was then constructed. No evidence of the cut for the burnt material was visible at the time of excavation (no layer number assigned) but this is the most probable explanation. The presentation and removal of an offering such as this (a “foundation ritual”) was encountered at the cemetery site of SM14, where burnt offering places were swept away prior to the installation of stone rings atop of the locations (SM14, **T20 & T21**).

Unfortunately, the quantity of surviving charcoal and ash from (L81) was insufficient to yield a proper sediment sample but one was taken nonetheless (Tag6316).



Offering Place γ (facing east). File: AKAP22B_03827_OPgamma

Tomb 9

L33 – Cut

L34 – Fill

L66 – Robber cut

Dimensions: 0.81 m (NW-SE), 0.90 m (SW-NE), depth = 0.37 m

Tomb 9 was a very shallow, sub-circular burial, which possibly originally had a stone ring. It had been very disturbed through looting activity resulting in very few fragmentary human remains, minimal Egyptian pottery, and only three OES beads within the aeolian sand fill (L34). This sand fill had accumulated after the robbing activity, with no evidence of an earlier, pre-robbing fill surviving.

The upper level of the tomb cut [L33] had not survived, suggesting a much shallower burial than it originally would have been. The remaining part of the burial was cut into (L3), laying beneath (L1). The bottom of the cist was within (L3). The majority of the base of the tomb, on the south side, extended 0.24 m deeper than the northern part due to the robber cut [L66] through the original base, creating the impression of a step (0.10 m wide, N-S) within the tomb and therefore an irregular profile (rather than the original U-shaped profile).

(1)
(34)
[66]
[33]
(3)

A large, flat stone was located on the western edge of the cist and lay directly on (L3); this was potentially a residual element of the original stone ring of the tomb but without the upper part of the tomb surviving it is impossible to say for certain.



Tomb 9, Tomb 4 and Features 11, 12, 13. File: AKAP22B_03407

There was a significant concentration of beads immediately to the south of **T9** (>400) within (L1). In the same area, a further 71 beads were recovered from **F34** (L158); compare this to similar **F35** (L160) 2 m further south, which only had one OES bead. Given the concentration of beads in this small area, it seems probably that they originated from **T9** and scattered when the tomb was looted. Similarly, those in **F34** were overspill from this activity.

Tomb 10 (a.k.a. Feature 22)

L101 – Upper (robber) cut
 L103 – Cut of burial cist

L100 – Upper fill
 L102 – Burial cist upper fill
 L121 – Burial cist lower sand fill

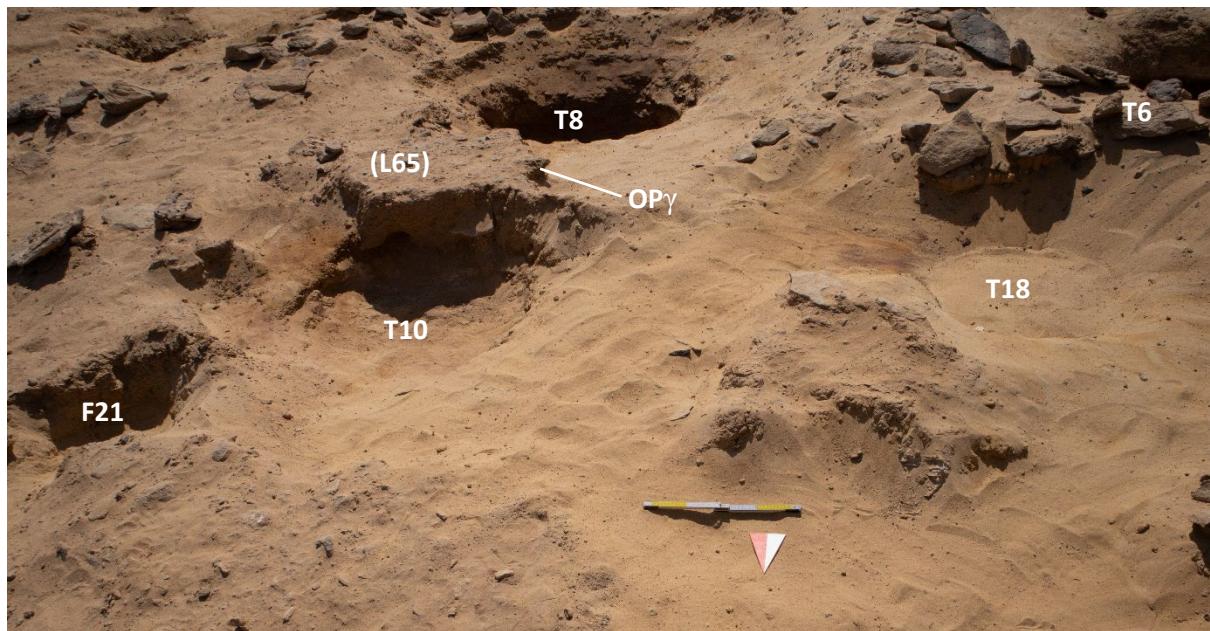
Dimensions: 1.06 m (N-S) x 1.03 m (E-W); depth = 0.43 m

(1)
(100)
[101]
(102)
(121)
[103]
(65)
(3)
(10)

Tomb 10 was a heavily looted shallow, sub-circular burial located approximately 1.5 m north of **T8**. It consisted of a central cist (L103) with an upper, very shallow, irregular cut [L101] surrounding it. The latter was probably a result of looting activity rather than having been created during the digging of the tomb to minimise sand slumping into the cist, as was the case for the larger **T6** and **T8**. The cuts were very fragile and difficult to discern, being cut into soft natural substrate: the main burial cist [L103] was cut into (L65), (L3), and probably also (L10). There was no stone ring evident for **T10** and it seems unlikely to have originally existed, but the presence of a few large stones during excavation could have been from one that had long since disappeared due to the erosion of the base sediment.

The central cist was filled by two deposits: the bottom of [L103] was covered with a thin layer of brownish-yellow sand with a lot of small stone inclusions (L121); above this was a loose, yellow aeolian sand (L102) with some white lenses (probably from (L10)) mixed into this layer, along with some very small stone inclusions that probably resulted from the degradation of the natural through which the cist is cut. Both layers contained fragments of human bone, possibly some small fragments of leather, and some beads, of which OES and light blue/faience types were found in both: L102 = 29 beads: 17 OES, 7 black, 3 light blue/faience, 1 white shell, 1 black tubular/cylindrical; L121 = 14 beads: 10 OES, 4 light blue/faience. In addition to this, (L121) contained small fragments of ochre and a small fragment of burnt wood, which was probably a windborne intrusion. (L102) contained fragments of OES and mother-of-pearl, as well as Egyptian and Pan-Grave pottery, and lithics – again, possibly intrusions. The upper fill (L100) comprised loose, yellow aeolian sand and covered the burial cut [L103] and fill (L102). It contained the same range of material found in the lower levels, including small amounts of ochre, with the only differences being the presence of a sherd of Nubian pottery with incised decoration (pot #700

defined by Aaron de Souza as probably C-Group pottery, see Preliminary Report on Nubian-Style Pottery) and the heel of a very young sheep/goat (Tag6385) (see Preliminary Report on Faunal Remains). While this consistency through the stratigraphic column is reassuring, it also indicates the possibility of intrusions throughout, bringing into question the security of assigning objects to this particular tomb. However, it does provide further evidence for the overall treatment of the bodies of the dead in the cemetery through ochre and leather.



Tomb 10, Tombs 6, 8, 18, Offering Place γ and (L65). File: AKAP22B_08017

Tomb 18

L149 – Fill (Not excavated)
L150 – Cut (Not excavated)

Dimensions: 1.1 m diameter at surface; depth unknown

(1)
(149)
[150]
(10)

Tomb 18 was unexcavated but identified during the removal of the upper, disturbed, natural layers. It was located in the north of WT1, approximately 2 m west of **T10** and 0.5 m northeast of the stone ring of **T6**. The proximity to the latter raises the question of whether it was directly related to it as a later addition, but there is nothing to support this other than the location.

T18 appeared to be a small, circular burial with no stone-ring superstructure. The fill (L149), at least in the visible upper level, was a yellow aeolian sand. If it followed the same pattern as **T10**, it would have been a shallow, heavily disturbed, circular burial, cut into very soft substrate with difficult-to-discriminate edges. No associated finds were recovered.

See T10 for photo.

Tomb 20

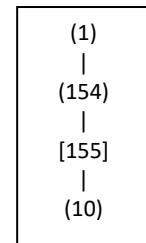
L154 – Fill (Not excavated)

L155 – Cut (Not excavated)

Dimensions: Approx. 0.8 m diameter, depth unknown.

Tomb 20 was unexcavated but identified during the removal of the upper, disturbed, natural layers in the northeast area of the WT1. It was the eastern-most tomb in the cemetery, along with **T16**, which was approximately 3 m to the south; the eastern edge of the stone ring of **T8** was approximately 3 m to the west.

T20 appeared to be a circular burial of a similar size to **T12**, which was located approximately 2 m to the SSW, and had no evidence of a stone-ring superstructure. The fill (L154), at least in the visible upper level, was of yellow aeolian sand. At this surface level, **T20** was approximately 1 m in diameter, although it was probably slightly smaller once the cut of the cist [L155] reached less disturbed levels below the surface. If it followed the same pattern as **T12**, it would have been relatively deep, cut into soft substrate with moderately clear edges. No associated finds were recovered.



Tomb 20. File: AKAP22B_08030

Features

In the northwest area of the Northern Sector of the cemetery (Quadrant 3A) were multiple features that potentially functioned as offering places or pot emplacements for the nearby tombs – or the wider cemetery, without an association to a specific tomb. It is most probable that these features related to the tombs related to the initial core of the site and the peripheral northern burials (T4, T6–T8, T9, T18 T20). This does not exclude the possibility that offerings were made here to tombs located further away.



Cluster of Features in northeast of WT1. File: AKAP22B_03417

Feature 4

L25 – Fill of F4

L26 – Cut of F4

L27 – Organic/vegetation layers (modern) in the upper fill of L25. Mammal activity.

L37 – Rodent burrow in upper level (NW)

Dimensions: 0.56 m (N-S) x 0.29 m (E-W), depth = approximately 0.3 m

Feature 4 was cut [L26] into the alluvial, hillwash deposit (L168) and was filled with loose, yellow, aeolian sand, mixed with light grey sand (L25). This feature was initially interpreted as a possible infant or child burial according to the rectangular (with rounded corners) shape of the pit, and the presence of a shallow “step” on the northern side that may have served as a place for the deposition of funeral offerings. A multi-layered organic deposit (L27), lying on the shallow northern step, was tentatively thought to be the residual remains of a possible leather bag and/or textile artefacts (e.g. matting). However, the presence of a small animal burrow [L37] in the upper northwest corner of the pit, highlighted during the excavation, proved unequivocally the modern origin of the organic material (consisting of a few leaves, dried plant material and a small feather) brought into the feature by a small mammal/rodent to provide bedding. This created the false impression of a step in the feature.

No finds were recovered, and the function of this feature is unknown.



Feature 4. File: AKAP22B_03400

Feature 5

L28 – Fill of F5

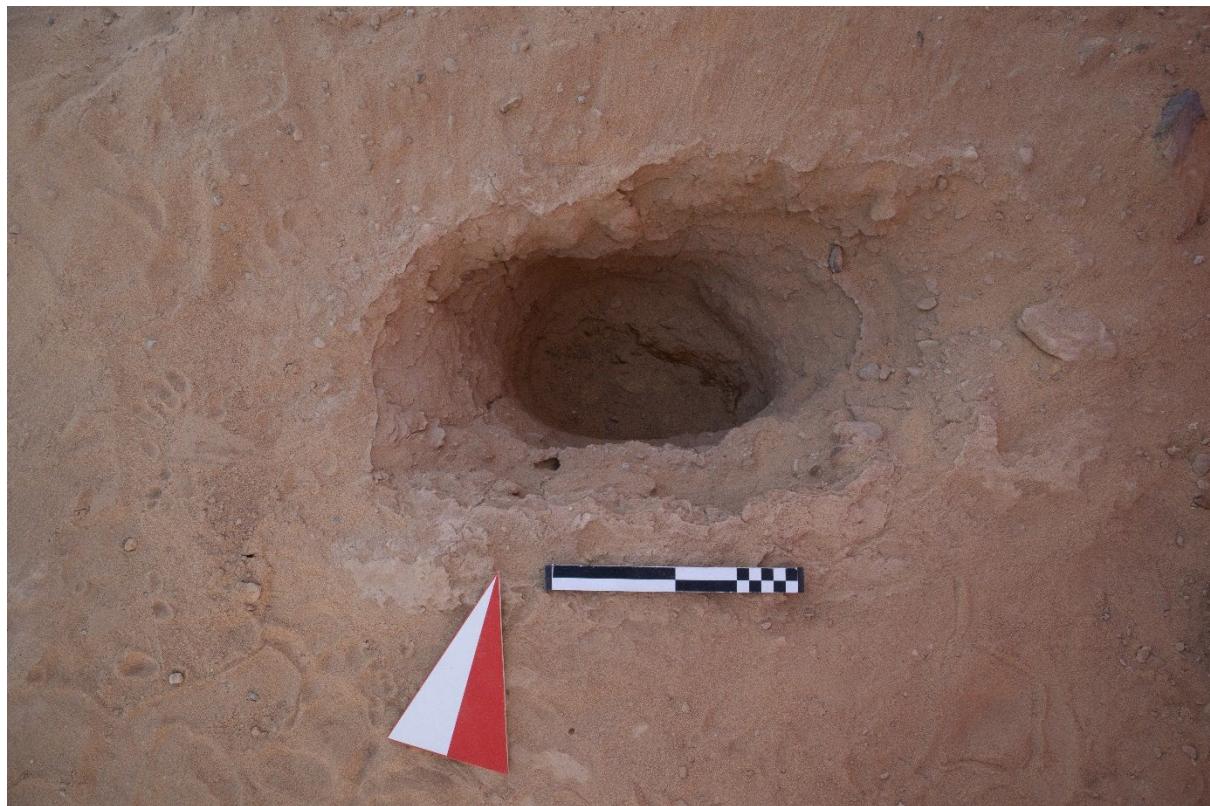
L29 – Cut of F5

L38 – Small rodent burrow in SE edge of F5 (not excavated)

Dimensions: 0.34 m (N-S) x 0.64 m (E-W), max. depth = approximately 0.30 m

Feature 5 had an elongated oval shape and an irregular west-east profile. The slightly diverging walls of the shaft were cut [L29] into (L168), with the bottom of the feature reaching bedrock (L164). The east and west walls had a small “step” 6 cm from the surface. The southeast wall presented a lower step at 0.15 m due to rodent activity [L38] that caused the disturbance on the bottom of the feature. The irregular profile and steps are probably the result of disturbance or erosion and do not seem to have been intentional facets of the feature. The fill (L28) of **F5** was loose, yellow, aeolian sand and contained only one human bone fragment (Tag6100).

This feature was of unknown function. Some characteristics (e.g. the oval shape, the medium depth) suggest that may have served as an emplacement for pot, but no pottery fragments were found in the fill or on the bottom.



Feature 5. File: AKAP22B_03405

Feature 6

L35 - Fill of Feature 6

L36 - Cut of Feature 6

Dimensions: 0.10 m (N-S) x 0.28 m (E-W), ø = approx. 0.09 m (Western pit), 0.12 m (Eastern pit)

Feature 6 was a pair of small and very shallow pits cut [L36] into (L10), separated in the middle by a “septum”. **F6** was located close to **T4** on the southeast side, and F12 on the southwest side. They had a circular shape and a rounded base, with surfaces left rough and irregular.

F6 was a feature of unknown function. Some characteristics (e.g. regular shape, small size) suggest that it may have served as a (double?) emplacement for pot(s), such as small-sized open bowls or cups, but there is no evidence of pottery fragments associated with this feature, or any other types of finds.



Feature 6. File AKAP22B_03388

Feature 7

L47 – Fill of Feature 7

L48 – Cut of Feature 7

Dimensions: 0.26 m (NE-SW) x 0.14 m (NW- SE), max. depth = 0.17 m

Feature 7 had a semi-circular shape (NE-SSW orientation) and an irregular profile, which was increasingly shallow towards the southwest. A small rodent borrow cut the north wall of the feature and may have caused the deepening of the bottom towards north. This was a feature of unknown function. No finds were recovered from the loose, yellow, aeolian sand (L47) that filled **F7**.

Feature 8

L39 - Small rodent burrow in NW edge of F8

L49 - Fill of F8

L50 - Cut of F8

Dimensions: feature 0.30 m (NE-SW), main pit 0.14 (NE-SW), max. depth = max 0.16 m (at NE), 0.05–0.11 m (towards SW)

Feature 8 had an oval shape and a U-shaped profile with a diverging wall towards SW due to the presence of two small “steps” at 5 cm and 11 cm from the surface. The bottom of the feature was irregular but rounded. A small rodent burrow [L39] cut the northwest edge of the feature. As with **F7**, **F8** was cut [L50] into (L10) and no finds were recovered from the loose, yellow, aeolian sand (L49) that filled it. This was a feature of unknown function.



Features 7 and 8. File: AKAP22B_03355

Feature 10

L40 - Fill of Feature 10

L41 - Cut of Feature 10

Dimensions: min. 0.48 m – max. 0.58 (NW-SE) x 0.90 m (SW-NE), max. depth = approx. 0.35 m

Feature 10, located on the northern border of the cemetery (northeast of **F9**) is a large depression with a sub-trapezoidal shape cut [L41] into (L168) and reaching the natural bedrock (L164) at the bottom. The SW-NE profile is irregular due to the presence of a lateral enlargement cut into the NE wall and not reaching the bottom of the feature; one possible interpretation is that the original oval pit with vertical walls (max depth: 0.35 m) and a U-shaped profile was cut/disturbed by a secondary spoil pit dug by robbers (max depth: 0.26 m). The fill (L40) was yellow, aeolian sand with some small stones, and the only finds that were recovered were three human(?) bone fragments (Tag6118).

F10 was of unknown function. Some characteristics (e.g. the oval shape and medium depth of the “original pit”) suggest that it may have served as an emplacement for pot but there is no evidence of pottery fragments related to it (in the fill or on the bottom).



Feature 10. File: AKAP22B_03393

Feature 12: infant/child burial?

L42 - Fill of F12

L43 - Cut of F12

Dimensions: max 0.37 m – min 0.33 m (NW-SE) x 0.46 m (NE-SW), depth = approx. 0.22 m

Feature 12, located to the west of **T4** and close to the northern edge of **F11**, was a very shallow, sub-oval feature with a U-shaped profile, which possibly had a stone ring. A small concentration of stone slabs, located on the W edge of the pit, lying on (L10) and/or L65 , can be interpreted as residual elements of the original stone alignment outlying the edge of the feature. There was, however, a lot of movement and disturbance of stone near to this area of the cemetery, creating the impression of stone structures (see **F9**, **F13**, **F16**, **F17**).

F12 was identified beneath (L1) and had been very disturbed through looting activity and post-depositional processes. Only a single Egyptian pottery body sherd (Tag6117) was found within the fill (L42) of aeolian sand, which had some small stone inclusions. There was no evidence of an earlier fill surviving in a primary position. The feature was cut [L43] through (L65) and (L10). The bottom of the feature was (L10).

The function of this feature can be speculated based on its size and shape (infant/child burial) but should be generally considered to be unknown, particularly because of the high level of disturbance.



Feature 12. File : AKAP22B_03380

Features 11 and 33

L30 – Fill of F11 and F33

L31 – Cut of F11

L157 – Cut of F33

Dimensions:

F11: 2.00 m (NE-SW), 0.60 m (NW-SE), depth = 0.52 m

F33: Approximately 0.6 m (N-S), 0.7 m (E-W), depth = 0.45 m

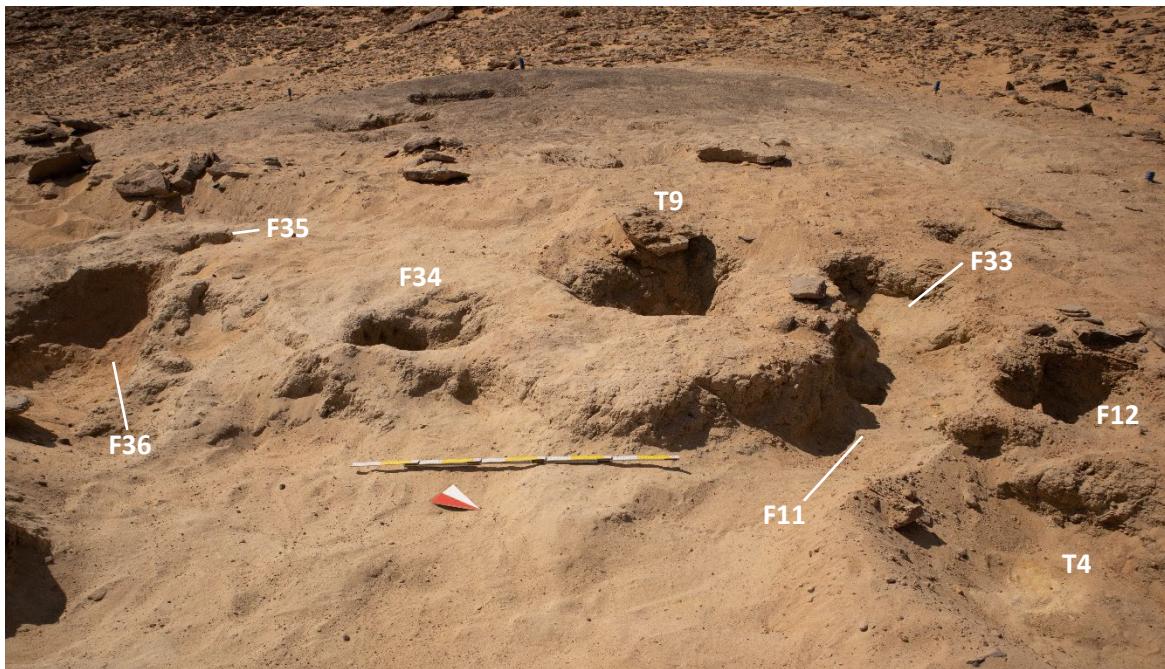
Feature 11

Feature 11 was a crescent-shaped “trench” located in the northeast of the cemetery, between **T4** and **T9**. There was no surface indication of this feature, such as stone slab alignments, but it became evident when (L1) was removed in this area. The cut [L31] of the trench was through (L10) and was most evident in the west end where the cut was through the compact version of the deposit and terminated with **F33** (see below). The eastern end of the trench could not be determined because it was cut into the very soft, loose version of (L10); the approximate position, however, was established in the proximity of **T4** because a small remnant of the original alluvial surface level of cemetery (L32=L65) was preserved on the southwest side of the grave edge. The fill (L30) of the trench was a very disturbed and deep, sandy deposit, composed of a mix of yellow, aeolian sand (L1) and the underlying fine, light grey, sandy deposit (L10) – excavated as (L1) due to time constraints and the heavily mixed nature of the deposit.

The purpose of **F11** might have been for bucraenia deposition, as animal bone/horn fragments were recovered in the vicinity on the trench, although not from within it. According to the preliminary results of the analysis carried out by Antonio Curci, several fragmentary animal bones representing two ovicaprids (a very young and a juvenile goat: Tag6566), were recovered from (L1) on the northwest edge of **T6**, outside the stone ring.

F11 had the appearance of being associated with **T9** because it respected and curved around the northern side of the burial pit of that tomb. The reality of this, however, is debateable, especially because trenches for bucraenia often seem not to have been associated with a single burial, but held a wider, more general significance for a Pan-Grave cemetery (refer to examples at WK11).

Finds associated with **F11** (L30): human remains (Tag6112, Tag6119); two Egyptian body sherd (Tag6111, Tag6120); one lithic/flint (Tag6123); two shell fragments (Tag6113: 1 perforated bivalve shell; 6125: 1 shell fragment); 49 beads (Tag6114: 1 ostrich egg-shell bead; Tag6121: 48 beads: 35 OES, 12 light blue/faience, 1 black); charcoal fragments (Tag6122); a soil sample (Tag6124: brown sediment quite compact).



Features 11, 12, 33–36, and Tombs 4 and 9. File: AKAP22B_08004

See also photos for T4 and T9.

Feature 33

Attached to the west end of **F11** was a sub-circular cut, which was identified after excavation and as such the fill was removed as one with that of **F11** (L30). It was slightly shallower than the trench of **F11** but matched the width of that feature. The function of this feature is unknown, and no finds were recorded from within (L30) at this location, but some may have become collated with **F11** finds.

Feature 34

158 – Fill of F34

159 – Cut of F34

Dimensions: 0.69 m (N-S) x 0.50 m (E-W), max. depth = approx. 0.29 m

Feature 34 was located 0.4 m southeast of **T9**, and to the northeast of **F36**. It was a shallow depression with an irregular (or “figure-of-eight”) shape in plan, and a U-shaped profile. It was cut [L159] into a very compact version of (L10), with steep edges on all sides but the northern wall which sloped more. Three small holes cut on the southwest edge of the pit were probably due to (modern) rodent activities.

The fill (L158) was a loose, brownish-yellow sand with many stone inclusions of various sizes, from small gravel to relatively large stones (15-20 cm). The remains of a nest found in the lowest part of the filling are clearly intrusive. The high number of beads (n=71) found inside this small pit should be highlighted; as noted above (see **T9**), there was also a significant concentration of beads in the area south of **T9**, very close to **F34**, which was attributed to having originated from that tomb but dispersed through looting activities. It seems probable that those in **F34** were overspill from these activities.

Feature 34 served an unknown function.

Finds associated with the fill of **F34** (L158): human bone fragments (Tag6621); one lithic/quartz (Tag6622); 71 beads: 41 ostrich egg-shell, 29 light blue/faience, 1 black (Tag6223).

Feature 35

160 – Fill of F35

161 – Cut of F35

Dimensions: 0.51 m (N-S) x 0.46 m (E-W), depth = approx. 0.21 m

Feature 35 was a small, shallow, sub-circular pit, located at the western edge of **F36**. It is similar to **F33** at the western end of **F11** but, in this case, the two features (**F35** and **F36**) are not physically attached to one another. The feature has a U-shaped profile with vertical walls that terminated at a rounded base. **F35** was cut [L161] into the very compact form of (L10), and the fill (L160) was loose sand with small stone inclusions. Finds associated with (L160) included: human(?) bone fragments (Tag6617); two Pan-Grave body sherds (Tag6618); one lithic-flint (Tag6619); and one ostrich egg-shell bead (Tag6620). The function of F33 is unknown.

Feature 36

- 162 – Fill of F36
- 163 – Cut of F36
- 169 – Western fill of Feature 36 (brown gravelly sand).
- 170 – Cut at western end of F36 through L169

Dimensions: approx. 1.00 m (NE-SW) x 1.10m (NW-SE), depth = approx. 0.52 m

Feature 36 is a “trench” with a SW-NE orientation, cut into the very compact form of (L10). The northeast edge of **F36** could not be fully identified due to the collapse of the stone ring of **T6** (L67) onto this area; this was not removed because of time constraints. The feature had a U-shaped profile and an irregular shape in plan (although it could be considered to resemble an open-ended (on the northeast side), sub-rectangular form). At the southwest end of the trench was a small, sub-circular feature (**F35**) that appeared to be associated with **F36**. The relationship resembles that of **F11** and **F33**, although in this case they are not physically connected. It is impossible to state how the trenches of F11 and F36 related – if at all – because the eastern ends of both were cut into very loose material and further obscured by collapsed/disturbed deposits. If **F36** was contemporary with **F11** (see above), **T9** could have been surrounded by an arc-shaped trench at its eastern edge (from WNW to WSW).

A very compact, light brown, gravelly sand (L169) was preserved at the western end of **F36**, against the cut [L163] of **F36**. It extended the height of the feature wall and 0.20–0.30 m inwards (eastwards) from the cut edge. A very soft version of this light brown sand with gravel inclusions (L169) was detected also in the bottom of **F36**, on the south side, as a loose layer beneath the wind-blown sand (L162). Excavation of both these fill layers was carried out as one layer because of time constraints. One interpretation is that this gravelly compact fill (L169) represented the original fill of the feature (corresponding to a degraded ancient surface or an alluvial accumulation?), which was removed by looters (secondary cut = [L170]) leaving the feature exposed; some of the compact material subsequently eroded, leaving the loose material at the bottom of the feature, which was then all covered by wind-blown sand (L162).

This feature was of unknown function, although as with **F11**, there is the possibility of an association with bucrania deposition. No evidence for this, however, was present.

Finds associated with (L162) included: human(?) bone fragments (Tag6624); one Egyptian body sherd and two Pan-Grave body sherds (Tag6625); 55 beads (45 ostrich eggshell, 9 light blue/faience, 1 spherical red (granite?)) (Tag6626); one complete mother-of-pearl spacer (Tag6627); one lithic-flint (Tag6628); two shell fragments (Tag6629).

Feature 32

- 156 – Cut of F32

Dimensions: Min. 2.0 m (NE-SW) x 0.5 m (NW-SE)

Feature 32 was a possible trench located on the northern edge of WT1. It was located beneath part of collection of stones labelled as **T5** (which turned out not to be a tomb or a

feature). The probable edges of **F32** did not become evident until after the removal of the deep and heavily disturbed (L1), which also contained light grey sand from (L10) and, therefore, the fill of this feature was removed with this material. Consequently, no finds are recorded as having come from **F32**.

F32 was cut [L156] into very soft, loose (L10), making clear definition of the trench walls almost impossible. **F32** was oriented NE-SW, with the southwest end being impossible to discern. The known extent of this feature, therefore, is unlikely to represent the full length of the original feature, which was also the case with **F11** and **F36**, further to the west. As with **F11** and **F36**, this trench served an unknown function but perhaps could have served for bucraenia deposition or some other form of offering.

Features 18–21

In the northeast area of the cemetery, to the northeast of **T10**, four features (**F18**–**F21**) were identified that were cut into the natural deposits of (L168), (L65), (L10), (L3). In the case of **F18** bedrock (L164) was reached. The edges of these features were very difficult to define because they were mostly cut through very soft deposits.

Feature 18

L92 – Fill of F18
L93 – Cut of F18

Dimensions: ø 0.42 m, depth = approx. 0.15 m

Feature 18 is a shallow depression with a circular shape and a U-shaped profile with vertical walls cut [L93] through (L3) that terminate at an irregular base on the natural rocky bedrock (L164) of the cemetery area. The fill (L92) was loose, yellow aeolian sand, equal to (L1).

This was a feature of unknown function. No finds were recovered.

Feature 19: emplacement for pot?

L94 – Fill of F19
L95 – Cut of F19

Dimensions: 0.45 m (N-S) x 0.35 m (E-W) m, main pit ø= approx. 0.17 m, depth = approx. 0.42 m

Feature 19 is a small, deep feature with a sub-oval shape and sidewalls flaring out at the mouth. Due to the very confined space, it was not possible to ascertain the stratigraphical sequence of natural layers into which the feature was cut [L95]; beyond cutting through the alluvial deposits of (L168) and (L3), it appears that a semi-compacted, windblown sandy layer is here underlying (L3). The fill of **F19** (L94) was loose, yellow, aeolian sand – equal to (L1). The presence of a small rodent tunnel in the northwest wall, which easily collapses close to the bottom, prevents us from establishing if this feature could have been used as an

emplacement for pot (a tall storage jar?) because its substantial depth, nearly double that of other features investigated at the site, may be the result of post-depositional factors of disturbance. The absence of storage jars in the Egyptian pottery assemblage from WT1 cemetery confirmed by the preliminary study carried out by Carla Gallorini (see Preliminary Report on Egyptian Pottery from WT1 2023) is in this case case significant.

Feature of unknow function. No finds were recovered from this feature.



Feature 19 and Feature 20. File: AKAP22B_06773

Feature 20

L96 – Fill of F20

L97 – Cut of F20

Dimensions: 0.25 m (N-S) x 0.26 m (W-E) m, main pit ø= approx. 0.15 m, d= approx. 0.20 m

Feature 20 was a small pit with a sub-oval shape and vertical walls slightly diverging at the mouth. It was very similar in size, and probably in function, to the neighbouring **F19** to the north. Due to the very confined space, it was not possible to ascertain the stratigraphical sequence of natural layers into which the feature was cut; as with **F19** it was not possible to identify the layer beneath the alluvial deposits of (L168) and (L3), beyond recognising a windblown sandy layer in the lower part of the cut [L97]. As recorded in **F19**, it seems probable that the bottom part of the feature was disturbed by post-depositional factors (e.g. modern animal tunnel), which caused the extension of the real depth of the feature.

Feature of unknown function. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Feature 21

L98 – Fill of F21

L99 – Cut of F21

Dimensions: ø approx. 0.60 m, depth = approx. 0.28 m

Feature 21, located to the northeast of **T10**, was a shallow depression, with a sub-circular shape and a U-shaped profile with vertical walls. The feature was filled by a mostly loose, yellow aeolian sand deposit (L98); towards the bottom this deposit became more mixed with degraded natural layer – probably (L3) – and contained a few more stone inclusions. The cut [L99] appeared to have originated at the alluvial ancient surface deposit (L65), but the edge of the feature was very hard to define because it also cut through a very soft deposit (L10? degraded (L3)?), which itself was above a loose, windblown, sandy layer similar to the one seen in the lower cuts of **F19** and **F20**.

F21 was a feature of unknown function. Finds associated with (L98): human(?) bone fragments, including a tooth fragment (Tag6384).

Features F9, F13, F16, F17

Near to “**T5**” (L56), on the northern edge of Q3A, several features of stacked stones – **F9** (L51); **F13** (L54); **F16** (L72); **F17** (L73) – presented themselves as possible archaeological features. In the same way as **T5**/(L56), these piles of stones were all resting upon and within aeolian sand (L1), with no associated artefacts, evidence of burning, buried structures, or cuts/depressions beneath them. Therefore, they have been interpreted as recent/modern constructions, built from material found within the cemetery – particularly stone rings of tombs.

Feature 9

L51 – Stones/slabs within/above L1, above L3

Dimensions: approx. 0.30 m (N-S) x 0.80 m (E-W)

F9 (L51), located to the north of **T4**, was a crescent-shaped stone arrangement, measuring 0.3 m (N-S) by 0.8 m (E-W), which was initially thought to be a possible barrier protecting a (modern?) fireplace from the prevalent northerly wind. Although there was no indication of any burning, this may have taken place on the aeolian sand surface and been removed by wind. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Feature 13

L54 – Stones/slabs above L1

L113 – Loose (aeolian) yellow sand. Windblown sand accumulation (equal to L1)

Dimensions: 1.45 m (N-S) x 0.95 m (E-W)

F13 (L54) was a modern, sub-circular, stone structure located to the north of **F16**, above (L113/L1). The presence of plastic and paper elements within the loose, aeolian sand beneath some stone elements (L113), under some stones proves unequivocally that this structure was recent and due to a collection (casual accumulation?) of stones that probably originated from the stone ring(s) of nearby graves. Human bone fragments (Tag6463) and three beads (Tag6464) found in (L113), between the stone elements, were clearly in a secondary position.



Feature 13. File: AKAP22B_03397

Feature 16

L72 – stones/slabs accumulation above L1

Dimensions: 0.70 m (N-S) x 0.70 m (E-W)

F16 (L72) was a circular, stone structure above L1, located to the east of **T4** and to the northwest of **T6**. As the other stone structures located nearby, it appears to be a modern collection (accumulation?) of sandstone slabs, probably from material originally belonging to the ring(s) of nearby graves (e.g. **T6**). Several artefacts were found in (L1) scattered among the stones but were clearly all in a secondary position: one Egyptian pottery sherd, Tag 6255; three shell fragments, Tag 6256; seven beads: Tag 6257.



Feature 16. File: AKAP22B_03394

Feature 17

L73 – Sandstone rocks arranged above L1 and above/within L3

Dimensions (L73): 1.0 m (N-S) x 2.4 m (E-W)

F17 (L73) was a collection of sandstone slabs sitting on aeolian sand (L1) in a rectangular arrangement immediately to the north of the feature labelled as “**Tomb 5**” (which was not a tomb nor an archaeological feature). After the removal of (L1) it was found that some stone elements were directly resting above/within (L3). No finds were recovered from this feature.



Feature 17. File: AKAP22B_03425

Southern Sector

Tombs

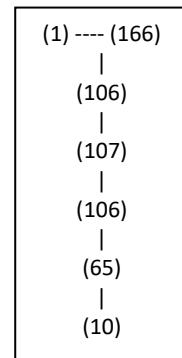
Tomb 7

L106 – Fill (not excavated)

L107 – Stone ring

L166 – Cleaning of stone ring

Dimensions: overall diameter (including stone ring) = approx. 3.0 m; burial cist diameter = unknown but probably approx. 1 m.

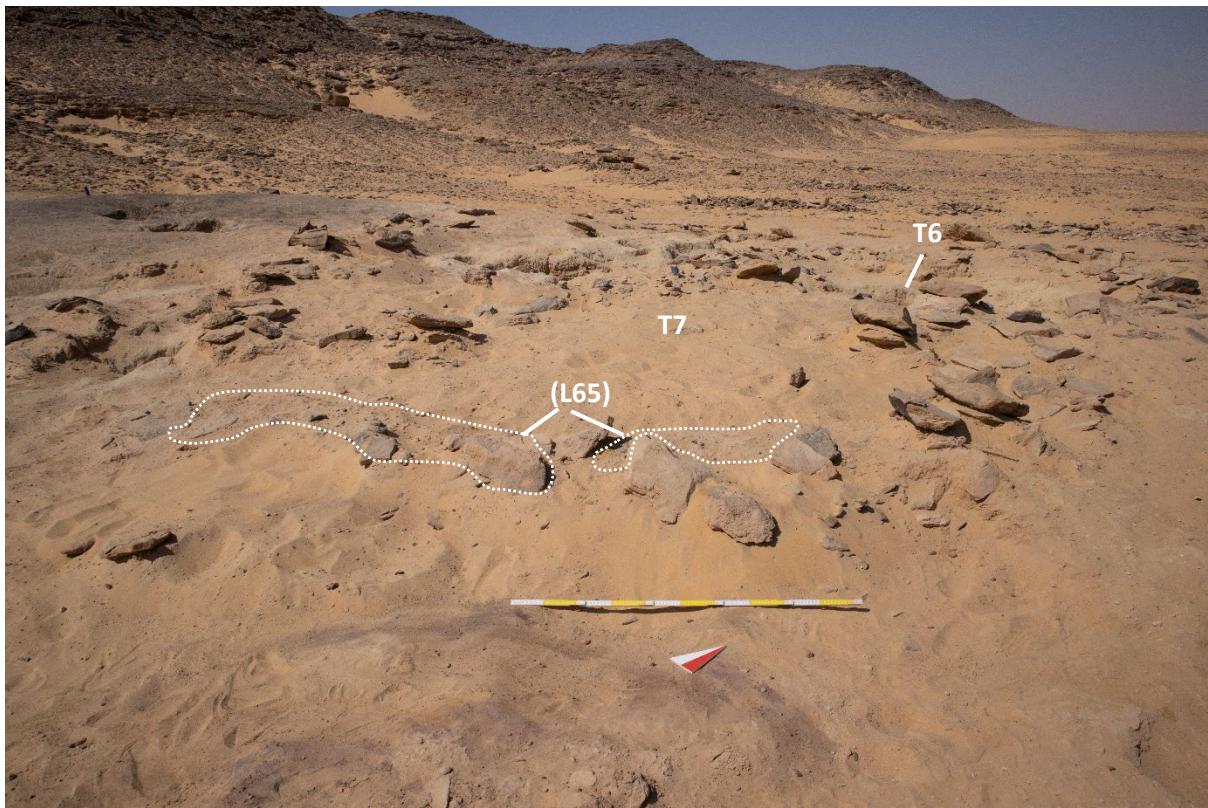


Tomb 7 was one of the largest of the tombs at WT1, commensurate in size with **T6** and **T8** at the surface level, and visible prior to any excavation or cleaning of the surface deposits. It was located on the south side of **T6**, close enough that the two tombs could have been touching but the disturbance to both makes it hard to discern whether this was the case. **T7** was not excavated due to time constraints; two of the three large tombs had been excavated so it was decided that **T7** would provide little additional information, especially as it was undoubtedly looted, and other areas of the cemetery required further investigation.

As with **T6** and **T8**, **T7** had a clear superstructure in the form of a stone ring (L107). Although the strong ring was also heavily disturbed at **T7**, it provided protection for further evidence of the natural alluvial deposit of (L65) which survived in large parts beneath (L107).

Given the nature of the natural deposits on which the tomb was constructed, it is probable that it followed the same structure as **T6** and **T8**: a funnel-shaped profile comprising a sloped cut in the upper level (L10), followed by a vertical central cist once the compact levels below were reached – (L3), (L78); these may have been reached at a higher elevation in the south of **T7** because the sequence of natural layers changed in the vicinity, but was not fully determined during the excavation season.

The only artefacts recovered from this tomb came from a clean of the surface deposit overlying the stone ring (L166), comprising: human bone, Pan-Grave and Egyptian pottery, beads (40), a bovid horncore fragment, and goat horncore fragments (Tag6614).



Tomb 7 and (L65) beneath (L107). File: AKAP22B_08080

Tomb 11

L114 – Top aeolian fill layer with stone inclusions

L116 – Fill within defined cist cut (L117)

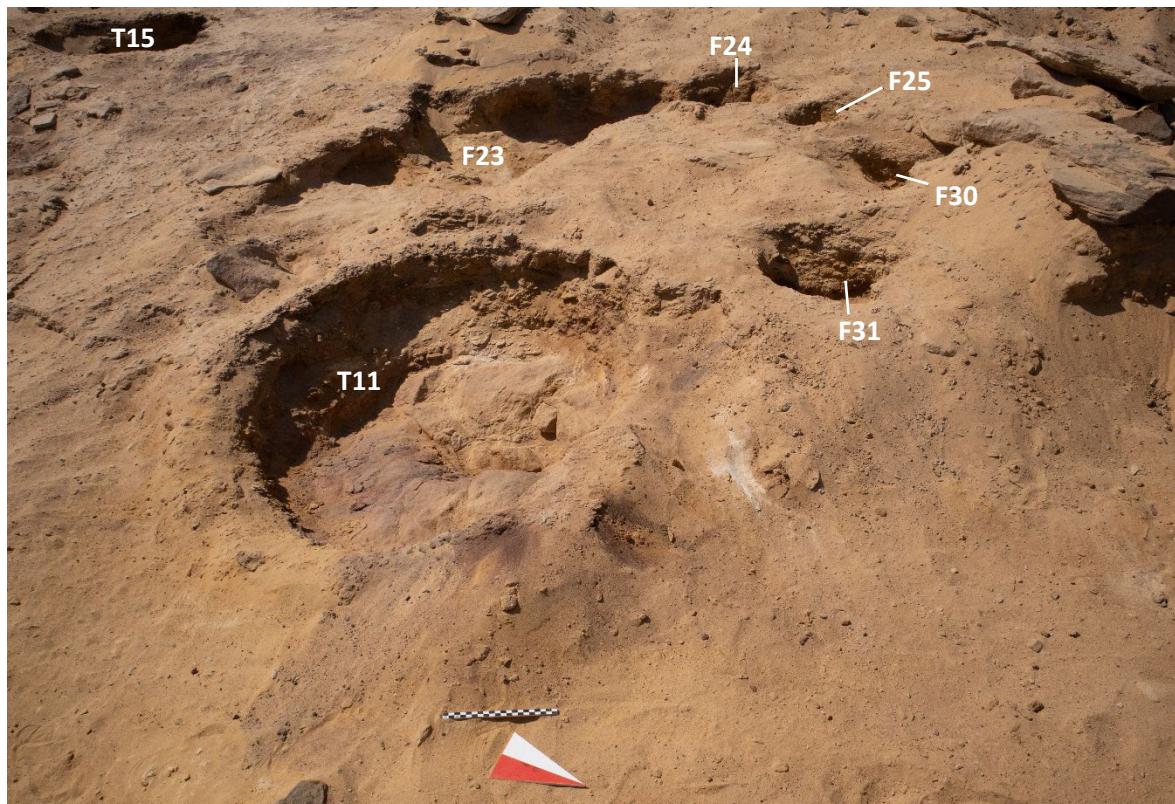
L117 – Cut of tomb

Dimensions: 1.08 m (N-S), 1.2 m (E-W); depth = 0.36 m

(1)
(114)
(116)
[117]
(65)
(3)
(78)
(164)

Tomb 11 was a small, very shallow feature in the east of WT1, probably a tomb, consisting of a simple cut [L117] into the natural stratigraphy (L65, L3, L78) down to bedrock (L164). The upper/surface natural deposits were very disturbed in this area, so it is probable that this tomb was originally at least twice the depth of that encountered during excavation. Similarly, the diameter of the cist was smaller than expected, based on the tomb's above-ground visibility prior to excavation (c. 1.4 x 1.1 m). No direct evidence of a superstructure to this burial was evident at the time of excavation, although there is a possibility that one did originally exist because (L65), the ancient alluvial surface, survived in a ring surrounding most of the tomb edge but was absent through disturbance in most of the cemetery. This fragmented survival of (L65) was also encountered at **T7** (south side) and **T8** (north side) where stone rings protected the deposit.

The fill of **T11** was natural accumulation and divided into two layers. The lower fill (L116), comprising the majority, was consistent throughout the tomb and consisted of loose, yellowish-brown sand with few inclusions. The upper fill (L114) was mixed with the surface level (L1) and consisted of yellow aeolian sand with small stone inclusions.



Tomb 11, Tomb 15, Features 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31. File: AKAP22B_08042

It seems that there was some natural fragmentation of the bedrock, giving a very uneven base to the burial. This seems more probable than looting attempts having overcut the bottom of the burial, as encountered at **T9**.

Small amounts of human bone were recovered from **T11**, along with shell, three spacers, 25 beads, Egyptian pottery, and Pan-Grave pottery. Of the latter, two sherds of a black, burnished vessel with a rim band marked by incised lines (cross-hatched motif) were associated with **T11**, one from within the tomb (L114) and one from southeast of the tomb within the surface layer (L1).

Tomb 12 and Tomb 16

L128 – Upper fill (T12 & T16)

L129 – Cut (T12)

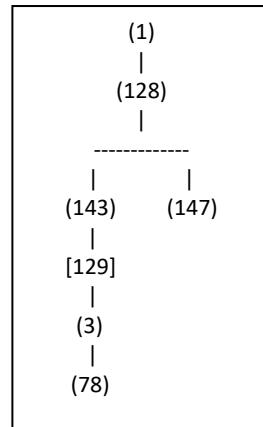
L143 – Lower fill (T12)

L147 – Lower fill (T16) (not excavated)

Dimensions:

T12: 0.8 m (N-S), 0.9 m (E-W), depth = 0.61 m

T16: approx. 1 m diameter at surface, depth unknown



Initial cleaning of this area, removed as (L1), presented two burials in this area: **T12** and **T13**. As with much of the western and southern areas of WT1, (L1) and (L14) were mixed due to the ubiquitous disturbance (natural and anthropomorphic), including the deposit covering these tombs. Further defining of **T12** through the removal of aeolian sand upper fill (L128) revealed that there were, in fact, two closely positioned burials (**T12** and **T16**), rather than a single, large one. New fill layers were assigned to reflect that there were two separate tombs – **T12**: (L143); **T16**: (L147) – and, therefore, can be considered as semi-arbitrary divisions from (L128). The constraints we faced on time and labour meant only one could be excavated; **T12** was selected and **T16** (L147) remained unexcavated but was expected to match the situation in **T12**.

T12 was a circular burial with no superstructure. It consisted of a cut [L129] through (L3) and (L78), not quite to the depth of bedrock (L164). There was some degradation to the base of the tomb, but not to the level of that encountered in **T11**, creating an uneven surface to the floor of the burial cist.

The fill of **T12** beneath (L128) was also natural accumulation, excavated as a single, homogenous layer (L143). The matrix of this lower deposit was the same as that above, apart from the occurrence of a lot more stone inclusions. It should be noted that the finds from (L128) could have been from either **T12** or **T16** because this upper layer was removed prior to the distinction of two burials, so L143 should be considered more secure (relative to the largescale disturbance at WT1). It appears that there was a consistency of finds between (L128) and (L143), but it is worth noting the difference in the presence of pottery: Pan-Grave pottery was recovered from (L128) (including a sherd from a black burnished vessel with rim

band marked by incised lines forming a cross-hatched motif), whereas Egyptian pottery was recovered from (L143). Human bone fragments (including a mandible, PPA43), charcoal, and beads (OES and light blue/faience) were recovered from both layers, while a single spacer was recovered from (L143).



Tomb 12 and Tomb 16. File: AKAP22B_08037

Tomb 13

L130 – Fill (not excavated)

L131 – Cut (not excavated)

Dimensions: Approx. 1.1 m diameter at surface, depth unknown.

T13 was part of a cluster of unmarked pit burials in the southeast of the cemetery (along with **T11**, **T12**, **T14** and **T16**), identified after the substantial surface layer (L1) was removed. It was not excavated but appeared quite large, comparable to the dimensions of the cists of **T6** and **T8**. It is improbable, however, that **T13** was of these proportions. A more plausible explanation is that it is of a similar size to **T11** and **T12**, suggested by the degradation of the edges of the cut [L131], particularly on the southern side, thereby creating the impression of a larger cist. **T12** had a similar appearance prior to excavation.

The fill layer (L130) within **T13** was the same as upper fills found across WT1, comprising loose, yellow aeolian sand. No finds were recovered.

(1)
(130)
[131]
(3)



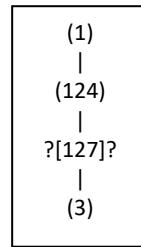
Tomb 13, Tombs 11 and 12. File: AKAP22B_08055

Tomb 14

L124 – Fill of possible tomb (loose, yellow aeolian sand)

L127 – Cut of T14 [void if not a tomb]

Dimensions: 0.8 m (N-S) x 0.9 m (E-W), depth = 0.26 m



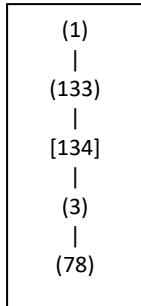
Tomb 14 is a circular feature in the southeast of WT1 that may have been a tomb, but this interpretation remains uncertain. Prior to excavation, there looked to be a circular cut [L127] with dimensions similar to those of **T11** and **T12**, filled with a loose, yellow aeolian sand (L124). Furthermore, the location of OPδ less than 1 m away on the northwest side of the feature is suggestive of a connection. Upon excavation, however, no edge/cut was evident on the south and east sides making the interpretation of it being a tomb very questionable. If **T14** was a tomb, it was cut into very soft deposits and only the lower part of it survived. It seems more probable that this was a natural drop in the topography, appearing as a ‘cut’ on the north and west sides, against which sand had accumulated, giving the impression of a burial cist. It seems improbable that the south and east sides had degraded to such an extent. Additionally, no finds we recovered from the fill of the feature (L124).

Tomb 15

L133 – Fill

L134 – Cut

Dimensions: 1.12 m (N-S) x 1.04 m (E-W); depth = 0.35 m



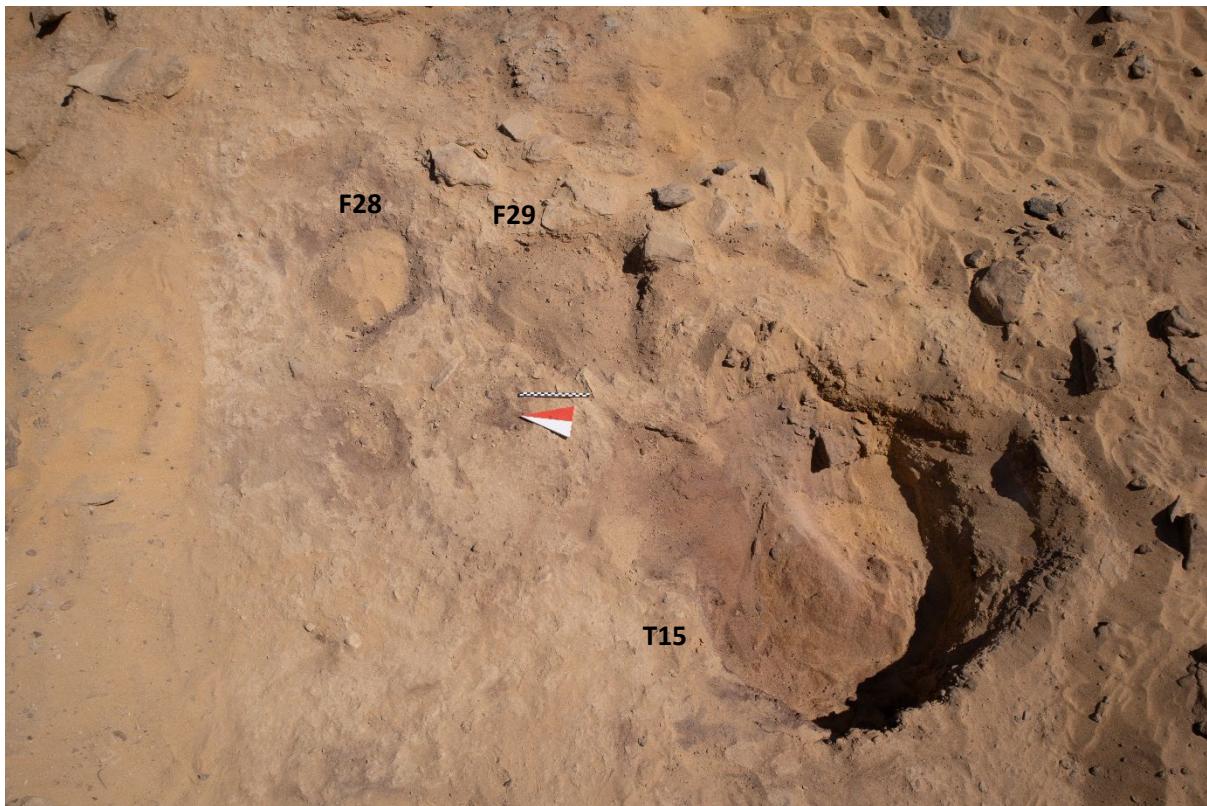
T15 was a circular, shallow feature located in the southeast of WT1, to the west of **T14** and **Opδ**. The identification of this feature being a burial is open to re-interpretation. Other than comparative features elsewhere in the cemetery, especially in terms of dimensions, there was nothing to prove or disprove that this was a burial. **T15** effectively contained no finds, with the only exception being two minuscule fragments of bone that were probably windblown intrusions.

The cut [L134] of **T15** was shallow, although almost certainly originated from a higher level than that visible today. For example, the alluvial deposit of (L65) was not evident in this area, probably eroded by natural and anthropogenic forces. The walls of the burial cut are extremely friable, but it is clearly not a natural depression. The surviving natural layers through which (L134) cuts are (L3) and (L78), with natural bedrock (L164) at the base of the feature.

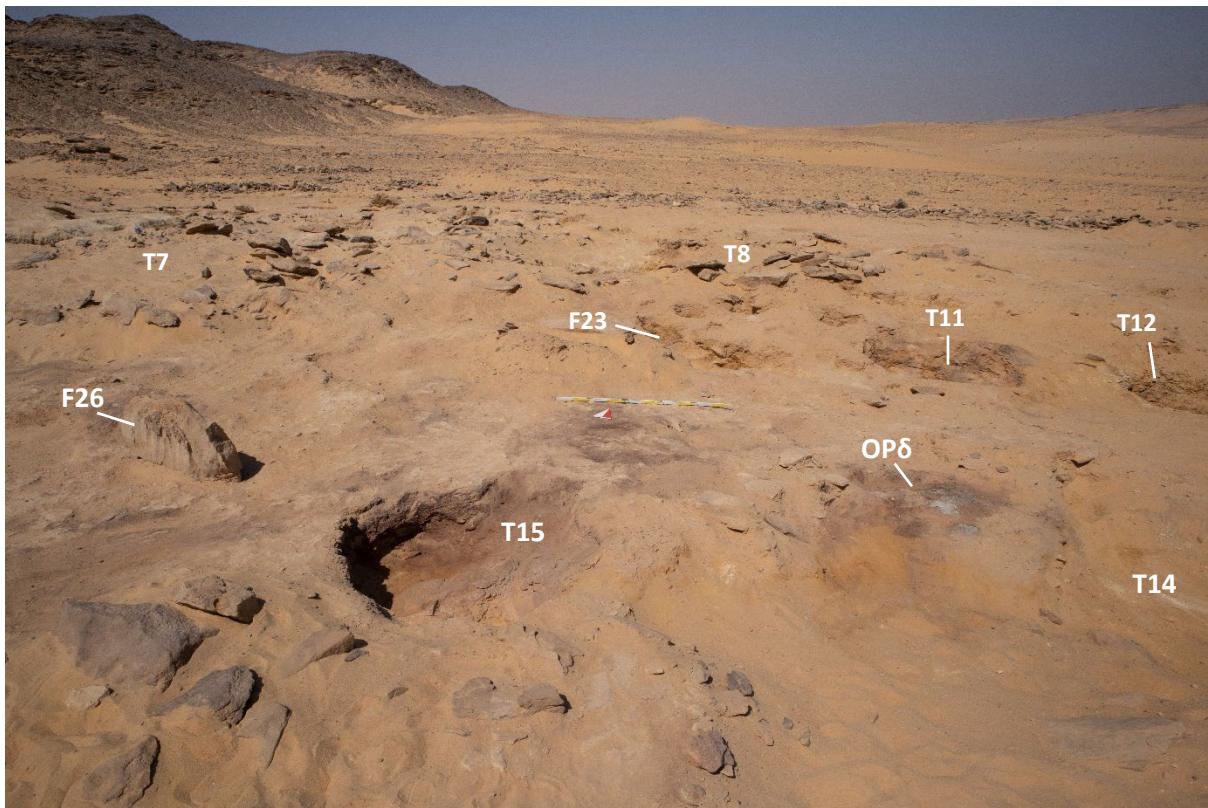
The fill (L133) was a yellowish-brown sandy layer with darker brown sandstone degradations, all of which represented accumulation deposits. A patch of very degraded sandstone on the northern edge of the tomb was almost certainly responsible for the colour of

the fill's matrix. This patch of degradation initially gave the appearance of a burnt area, but no ash or charcoal was present.

Immediately to the northeast of **T15** were **F28** and **F29** (see below). To the north of **T15** was a small, localised patch of reddish-brown, coarse, sandy deposit with many small stone inclusions (L110), which resembled some of the fill of **T15** (L133) and was also not a burnt deposit (for example, it was markedly different to the burnt deposit of **Opδ**, located approximately 2 m to the ESE). This layer was evident once (L1) was removed and it was atop of (L3). It is not easy to explain this deposit because it appears to be a degraded form of (L78), which is beneath (L3). It was suggested that it was the remnants of spoil from a nearby tomb mixed with surface sand. However, if this was spoil, it is surprising that it was directly on top of (L3) and would lead to the suggestion that the tomb was robbed not too long after use. Alternatively, this could be the surviving results of a natural phenomenon reflecting patterns of wind/sand movement that we cannot currently explain.



Tomb 15, Features 28 and 29. File: AKAP22B_06143



Tombs 15, Offering Place δ, and Feature 26, with Tombs 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, and Feature 23.
File: AKAP22B_08073

Tomb 17

- L144 – Top layer clean/definition of T17
- L145 – Yellow aeolian fill of defined cut of cist (not excavated)
- L146 – Cut (not excavated)

Dimensions: Approx. 1 m diameter at surface, depth unknown

Tomb 17 was a circular, simple pit burial located in the southwest of WT1, approximately 2.5 m southeast of **T3** and 4 m southwest of **T7**. This tomb was not excavated, although the surface level (L144) was removed and the extent of the burial was defined, revealing an aeolian sand fill (L145) within a circular cut [L146] into (L3) and (L10).

There are stones on the southern side of the tomb, giving the appearance that a stone ring might have once been present. However, this seems unlikely and they were almost certainly displaced from elsewhere – if not by natural processes, then perhaps stones were removed from **T7** for a transient purpose, as encountered in the northeast of the site, such as at **F9, F13, F16**. Furthermore, the entire northern half of the burial lacks any signs of a stone superstructure, reinforcing the interpretation of simple pit burial without surface elaboration.

(1)
(144)
(145)
[146]
(3)
(10)

As a result of **T17** not being fully excavated, all the finds came from the surface layer covering the burial cist (L144) and are, therefore, of questionable connection to this particular tomb. Along with some fragments of human bone, Pan-Grave and Egyptian pottery were recovered, together with shell, beads (9 OES), quartz flakes, and ochre. (L144) was a heavily mixed combination of (L1), (L2) and (L10), a state that may have been exaggerated through trampling during the excavation of this site because this tomb was in the path used for transporting buckets to the sieving and spoil area.



Tomb 17. File: AKAP22B_07956

Offering Places and Features

Two offering places were excavated in the Southern Sector of WT1, one in the southeast

In the southeast of WT1 were a series of features (**F23–F31**) that seem to relate the second, later phase in the sequence of this cemetery. All but one (**F26**) were located southeast of **T6** and **T8** but northwest of **T11–T16**; **F26** was located to the west of **T15**. In the same trend seen in the north of the site (probable earlier phase), these features occupy the same position relative to the tombs (northwest), and potentially represent offering places or pot emplacements.

Offering Place δ

L104 – Burnt deposit (PPA34)

Dimensions: 0.84 m (N-S) x 0.94 m (E-W), depth = approx. 0.04–0.05 m

Offering Place δ was in the southeastern area of the cemetery, between **T13** (to the northeast), **T14** (to the southeast), and **T15** (to the southwest).

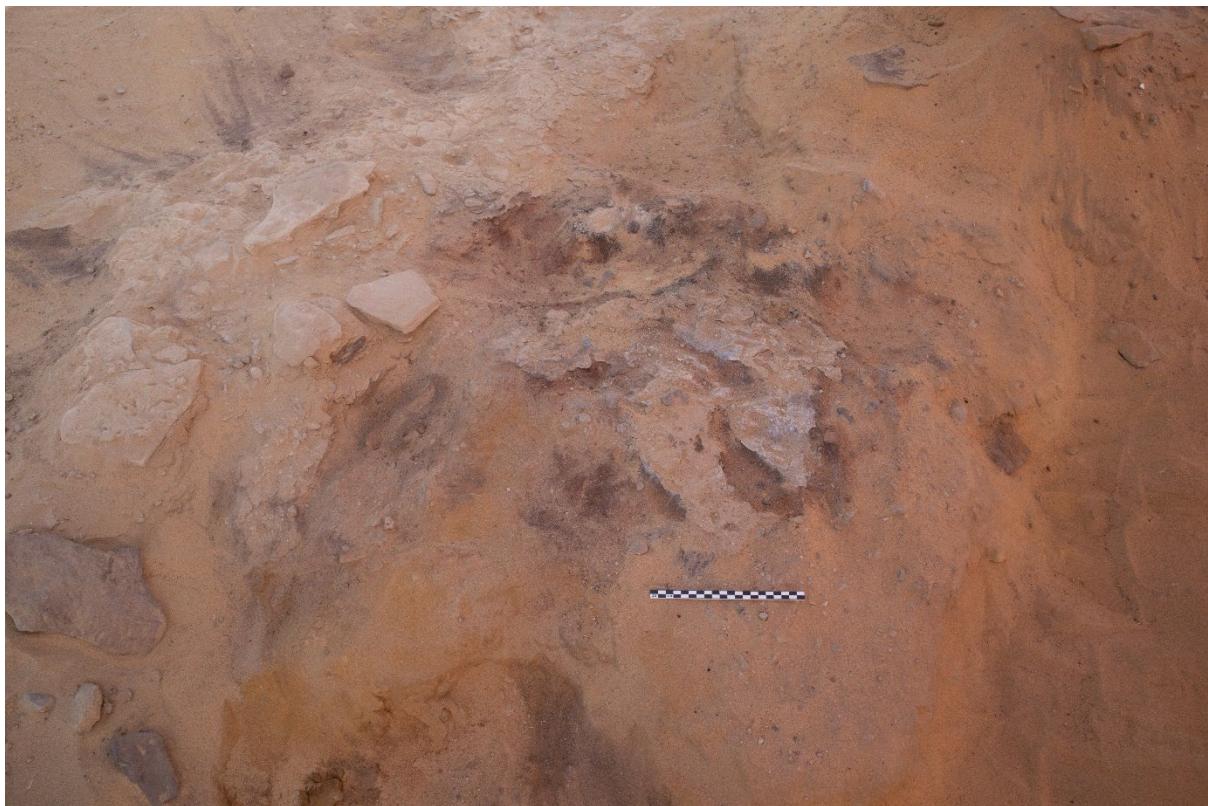
It consisted of a large and stratified accumulation of ashes and charcoal (L104, PPA34) beneath three stones found centrally on top of the deposit. Due to the high disturbance that has affected the site, it is not clear whether these rock elements were the residual part of a stone alignment originally related to the offering area or the accidental effect of a displacement due to post-depositional processes (natural erosion/trampling). The multi-layered deposit (L104) became evident upon the removal of (L1) and was on top of (L3); it is possible – although unlikely – that there was also a thin lens of a degraded version of natural layer (L78) between (L104) and (L3) but this is not certain. There was a nearby thin layer of such a deposit (see **T15** above), but it is unclear whether it extended this far east.

Three small, circular pits, all similar in size, were in the vicinity of **OPδ** (L104): **F27** to the east and **F28** and **F29** to the west (see below). It is unknown whether they had a direct association with **OPδ** or were part of an accumulation of features in the same area. No finds were recovered from **OPδ**, other than charcoal and ash. A sample of the burnt deposit (L104) was collected (Tag6420; Tag6438).

Offering Place ε

L167 – Stones around a bivalve shell (PPA42)

Offering Place ε comprised a shell – a wide, flat mother-of-pearl(?) bivalve shell – set on the ground and surrounded by a series (three or more) large stones (L167), which were probably part of a more complex stone structure that has since been completely displaced. The offering area is located in an isolated position on the southern fringe of the cemetery area, approximately 2.5 m SE of **T17**. The fragmentary bivalve shell (Tag6520) was lying within (L1) or in/at the possible interface between (L1) and (L14), the natural degradation of the ancient alluvial surface layer of the cemetery (L65) on which this feature was probably originally placed.



Offering Place δ. File: AKAP22B_05387_OP delta_detail (1)

(See also photo for **T15**).



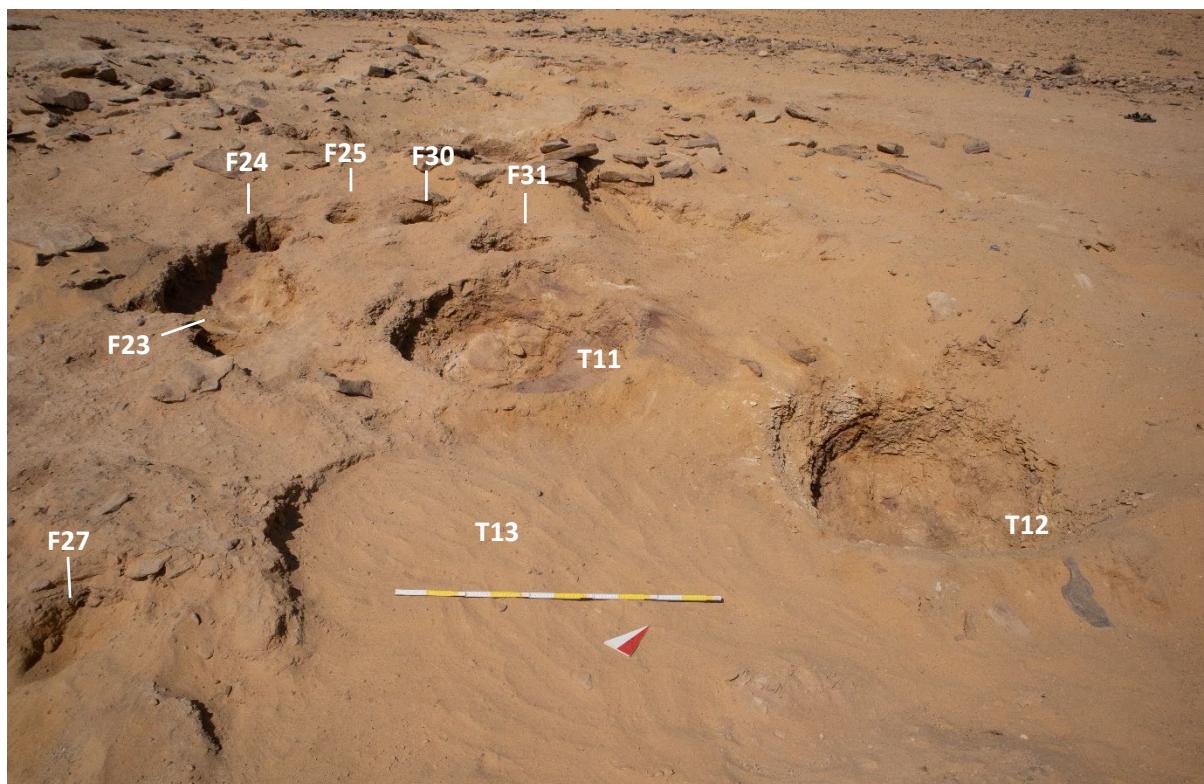
Offering Place ε. File: AKAP22B_06115

Features 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31

A cluster of five different features (**F23** and **F24**, **F25**, **F30**, **F31**) were identified in the area immediately to the south-southeast of the stone ring of **T8**, corresponding to the southeastern border of the cemetery area marked by the presence of five small tombs: **T11–T14**, **T16** (six if **T15** is included as a tomb). Based on their spatial proximity, these features seem to be part of a possible “complex” arguably focused on a linear depression (**F23**, a possible “trench”). Around this, four, similarly sized, small holes (**F24**, **F25**, **F30**, **F31**) were arranged in an arc-shaped alignment, emerging from the northern end of the trench (**F23**) in a north-easterly direction.

The homogeneous characteristics of these four features (sub-circular shape, shallow depth) suggest that they could originally have the same/similar function, although it remains uncertain. Placed between **T8** and **T11**, they may have been related to both burials or, alternatively, been focused on the later-phase tombs to the southeast.

The deposits filling these features were heavily disturbed and the artefacts (see below) were all recorded in a secondary position: loose in the sandy soil matrix. The top fill layers of **F24** and **F25** were excavated as a single deposit (L115) when excavating **F23** because they were all thought to be **F23** until the cut edges became clear. Finds from this layer (L115) include: human(?) bone fragments (Tag6470); Egyptian and Middle Nubian pottery (Tag6471); one fragmentary perforated shell (gastropod) (Tag6472); 39 beads (21 ostrich egg-shell, 10 light blue/faience, 8 black (Tag6473).



Features 23, 24, 25, 27, 30 and 31, and Tombs 11–13. File: AKAP22B_08034

Feature 23

L115 – Fill of F23, F24 and F25

L118 – Cut of F23

Dimensions: 1.24 m (N-S) x 1.25m (W-E), depth = approx. 0.30 m

Feature 23 was a large, shallow depression of irregular (but linear) shape in plan, with a U-shaped profile and irregular walls. The feature was cut [L118] through (L3) and (L78). The fill (L115) was a fine, yellow, sandy layer with small-medium stone inclusions. The function of this feature is unknown, but it might have been for the deposition of an offering, perhaps even bucraenia, based on the proportions of the feature (see also **F11** and **F36**).

Feature 24

L115 – Fill of F23, F24 and F25

L119 – Cut of F24

L122 – Bottom fill layer of cut L119 in F24

Dimensions: 0.40 m (N-S) x 0.30 m (W-E), depth = 0.34 m

Feature 24 was a small, shallow, roughly circular pit, with a U-shaped profile and irregular walls, attached to the north end of **F23**. It was originally thought to be part of **F23**, so the upper level was excavated as the same deposit as **F23** (L115) but during excavation it became evident that the circular depression was a separate feature. Once the cut [119] of **F24** was clearly identified, a new layer number was assigned to the lower filling layer of the pit (L122). The change was largely arbitrary, although (L122) did contain very small stone inclusions that were not present in (L115). **F24** was cut through (L3). This was one of four very similar features arranged in an arc, but all were of unknown function.

Feature 25

L115 – Fill of F23, F24 and F25

L120 – Cut (circular) to NW of cut L119 (F24)

L123 – Bottom fill layer of cut L120 in F25. Loose (aeolian) yellow sand with very small stone inclusions.

Dimensions: 0.32 m (N-S) x 0.28 m (W-E), depth = 0.20 m

F25 was a small, shallow, roughly circular pit with a U-shaped profile and irregular walls. It was originally thought to be part of **F23**, so the upper level was excavated as the same deposit as **F23** (L115) but during excavation it became evident that the circular depression was a separate feature. Once the cut [L120] of **F25** was clearly identified, a new layer number was assigned to the lower filling layer of the pit (L123). This differed little from the upper layer of fill (L115) in that very small stone inclusions were present; otherwise, the change was arbitrary. **F25** cut through L3. This was one of four very similar features arranged in an arc, but all were of unknown function.

Feature 30

139 – Fill of F30

140 – Cut of F30

Dimensions: 0.34 m (N-S) x 0.54 m (W-E), depth = 0.18 m

Feature 30 was a small, shallow, sub-circular pit with a U-shaped profile, located northeast of **F24** and **F25**, and west of **F31**. The cut [L140] of the feature was more uncertain on the eastern side, cutting through (L3). The fill (L139) was fine aeolian sand with no inclusions, yielding only one light blue/faience bead (Tag6522). This was one of four very similar features arranged in an arc, but all were of unknown function.

Feature 31

141 – Fill of F31

142 – Cut of F31

Dimensions: ø 0.44 m, depth = 0.25 m

Feature 30 was a small, shallow, roughly circular pit with a U-shaped profile. The feature was cut [L142] through (L3). The fill (L141) was brownish-reddish sand with white patches and small stone inclusions, yielding only one ostrich egg-shell bead (Tag6523). This was one of four very similar features arranged in an arc, but all were of unknown function.

Feature 26

L105 – Marker stone

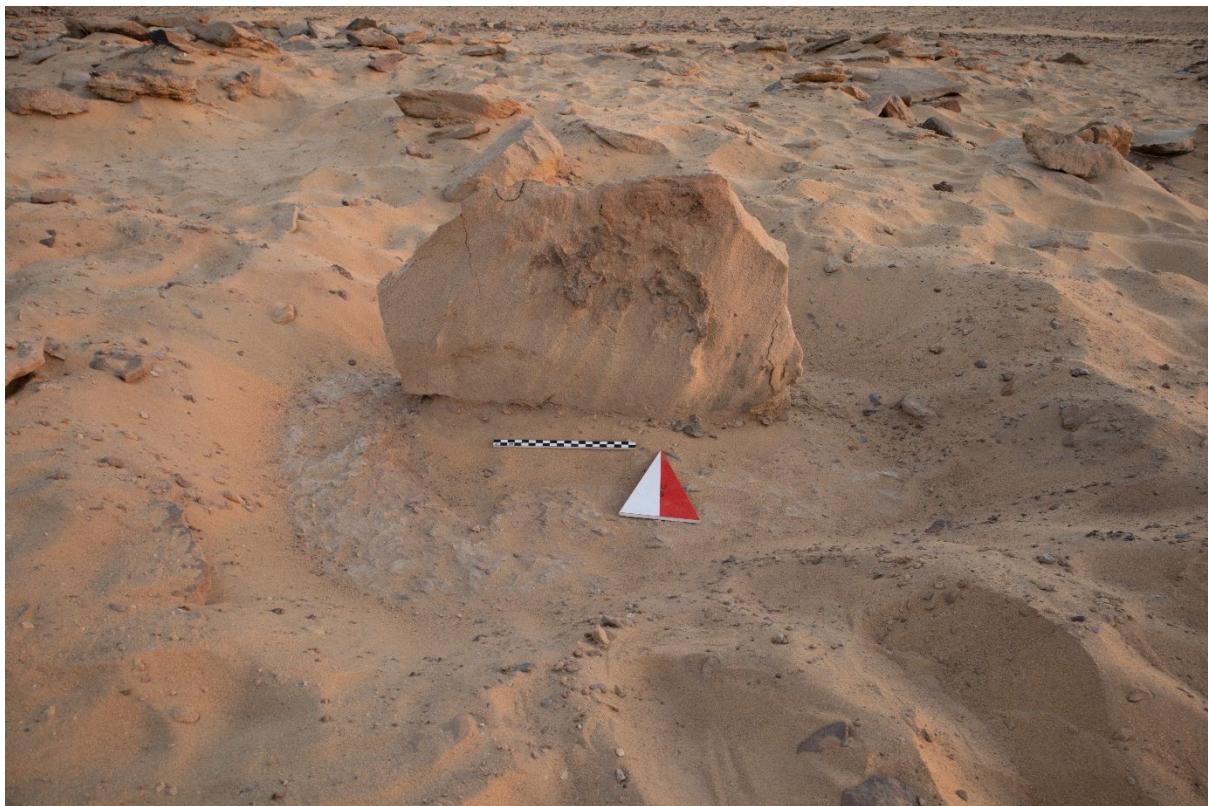
L108 – Cut around/beneath marker stone

L109 – Fill of cut around/beneath marker stone

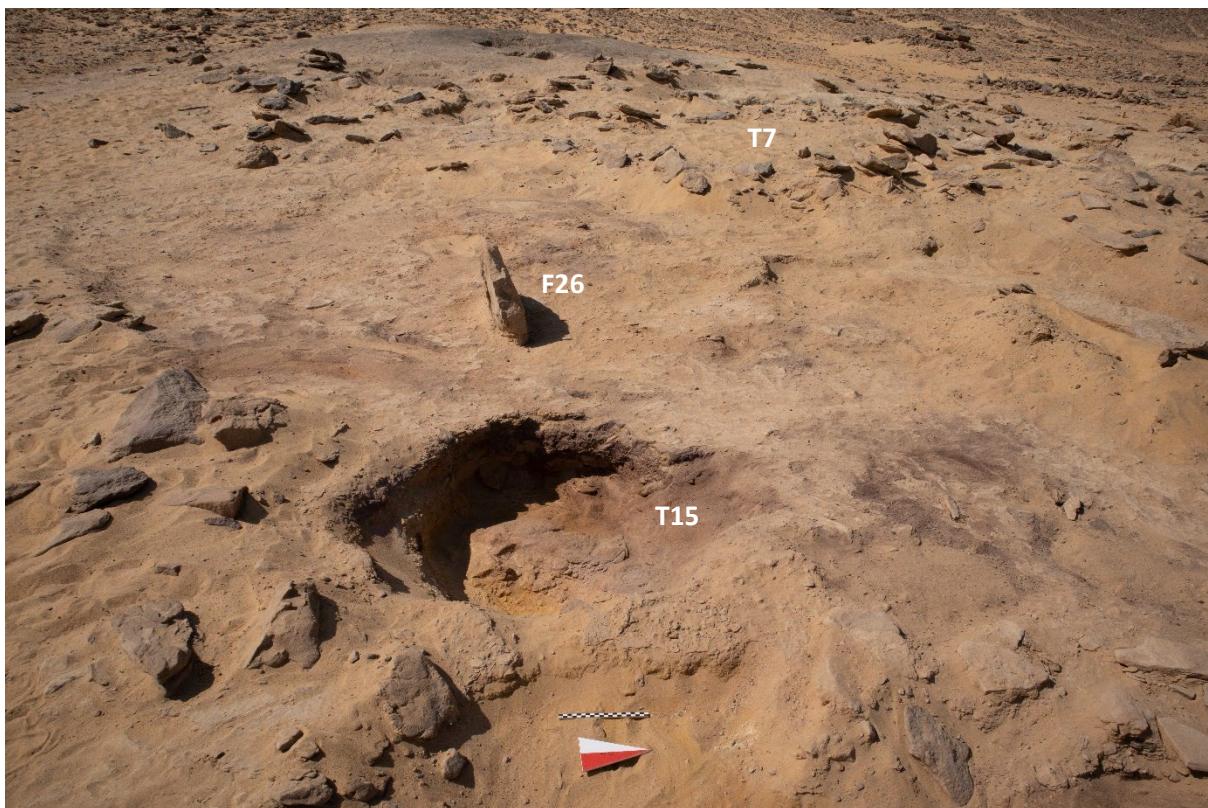
Dimensions of the stone slab/marker stone: 0.63 m (W-E), height = 0.39 m

Dimensions of the “cut” beneath stone slab/marker stone: 0.38 (N-S) x 0.68 m (W-E), depth = 0.05 m

Feature 26 was a single, large sandstone slab (L105) positioned in an upright position on the southern fringe of the cemetery, approximately 1 m to the west of **T15**. This feature was potentially a marker stone for the cemetery and not for a specific tomb. It seems improbable for a stone slab to be in this orientation (on its narrow edge) without deliberate placement. Furthermore, the northern face of the stone (receiving the prevailing wind) looked weathered. There appeared to have been a narrow cut beneath the standing stone but after the removal of the slab the supposed cut turned out to be only a very shallow, irregular depression, which was probably natural, and filled by a thin layer of yellow, aeolian sand (L109=L1). The marker stone (L105) was sitting upon (L109) and (L3).



Feature 26 (Marker stone). File: AKAP22B_05266



Feature 26 (Marker stone) with Tomb 7 and Tomb 15. File: AKAP22B_08088

Feature 27

- 125 – Fill of F27
- 126 – Cut of F27

Dimensions: 0.36 m (N-S) x 0.33 m (W-E) m; d= approx. 0.26 m

Feature 27 was a small, shallow, roughly circular pit with a U-shaped profile and irregular walls. It was located to the northwest of **Offering Place δ**. The feature is cut [L126] through (L3), and the fill (L125=L1) was loose, yellow, aeolian sand, from which no finds were recovered. **F27** was a feature of unknown function.

See photo for **F23-F25**

Feature 28

- 135 – Fill of F28 (not excavated)
- 136 – Cut of F28 (not excavated)

Dimensions: 0.31 m (NS) x 0.36 m (E-W), depth unknown

Feature 28 was a small, sub-circular feature, located approximately 1 m to the west of **Offering Place δ** and 1.2 m to the northeast of **T15**. It was one of two similar features (the other being **F29**) 0.2 m apart in a north-south alignment; **F28** was the northern of the two. This feature was not excavated. The cut [L136] was into (L3) and was the fill (L135) was a loose, yellow, aeolian sand, from which no finds were recovered.

See **T15** photo.

Feature 29

- 137 – Fill of F29 (not excavated)
- 138 – Cut of F29 (not excavated)

Dimensions: 0.54 m (N-S) x 0.47 m (E-W), depth unknown

Feature 29 was a small, sub-circular feature, located approximately 1 m to the west of **Offering Place δ** and 0.5 m to the northeast of **T15**. It was one of two similar features (the other being **F28**) 0.2 m apart in a north-south alignment; **F29** was the southern of the two. This feature was not excavated. The cut [L138] was into (L3) and was the fill (L137) was a loose, yellow, aeolian sand, from which no finds were recovered.

See **T15** photo.

Trenches

Two trenches were excavated at the eastern end of WT1 to investigate the extent of the cemetery.

Eastern Trench

At the eastern limit of the cemetery (on the northern edge of Q4B), a trench approximately 1.5 m wide was excavated from the edge of the known location of tombs eastwards (by approximately 4 m) to explore the deposits in this vicinity and ascertain the extent of the cemetery. The surface layer (L1) was much thinner here and overlaid a browner, sand deposit with many small-to-medium-sized stone inclusions (L112). This was notably different to the windblown sand across the rest of the site. Although no further features or tombs were revealed, there were many artefacts, which included: two medium-sized fragments of leather, Ptolemaic/late Roman(?) pottery fragment, decorated PG pottery, and 241 beads (226 OES, 14 light blue/faience, 1 black). This, combined with the modern intrusions (two large pieces of charcoal close to the surface and three toffee candies in wrappers), indicated that this might have been the spoil heap from nearby looting activities in the cemetery.

(1)
|
(112)
|
(3)

Beneath this spoil was the alluvial deposit of (L3) into which several small cuts/depressions became evident; these might have been additional features (pot emplacements/offering places) or they might have been natural depressions filled with aeolian sand but they were not excavated because of time pressures.

South-eastern Trench

In the southeast corner of WT1, from the edge of **T14**, a trench was excavated extending further southeast to confirm that the cemetery did not continue beyond the limits of the excavation. It was approximately 2 m wide and extended for approximately 8 m. The surface level (L1), which contained many large stones, was removed down to the more compact (L3). Several possible features were explored but all turned out to be natural depressions in (L3), even when surface stones suggested otherwise; L3 was very eroded in large parts of this lower-lying area. For example, one cluster of stones that were located very near to a small cluster of human bones (PPA50) was thought to be situated above a burial cist but the possible feature was a natural depression with irregular edges.

(1)
|
(3)

Bone and artefacts were recovered from the trench but they were not associated with anything of note and were part of a dispersal of material found across the site, whether resulting from natural or anthropogenic processes.

Miscellaneous layers

L111 – Clean of Southern Sector (Q4A & Q4B) for photogrammetry

L132 – Clean of Q3A and Q3B (beneath L1) for photos

L148 – Clean of Q4B for photogrammetry