

## Neolithic flints from Merawah



Picture by John Nowell, L.R.P.S.

During the first season of work in March and April 1992 of the Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey Project, the survey team, led by Dr. Geoffrey King, of the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University, located an important Stone Age (Neolithic) flint site on the island of Merawah, off the coast of Abu Dhabi, (ABBA SQUARE : TA 25).

The site was on a raised bluff on the western end of the island, over looking the channel running between Merawah and Liffiyah. Nearby were a number of cairns, perhaps burials, although they have yet to be investigated.

The finds on the site itself included several small stone structures and a substantial number of fine arrowheads and small spearheads, suggesting that the area had been used by fishermen as a base from which to hunt fish and possibly dugongs.

The picture above illustrates a representative sample of the flint finds, many of which represent 'State-of-the-art' weapons technology for the period. Another picture is on our Arabic front cover.

The Merawah site is the best of its kind yet found in the

UAE, both from the point of view of the flint finds and because of the other associated material and constructions.

Tentative dating suggests only that the arrowheads, on the basis of comparisons with other finds in the region, are probably more than 4,000 years old. The site will be fully examined at a later date, in the hope that associated material will permit a more definitive dating.

The Archaeological Survey, which completed a second season of work in mid-April 1993, was established on the directives of UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan, and is under the patronage of Chief of Staff Major General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan. Sponsorship for the 1992 season was provided by ENHG Patron Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak al Nahyan, with support from a number of major Abu Dhabi companies, including several Corporate members of the Emirates Natural History Group. Main sponsor for the 1993 Survey was the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, ADNOC, Group of companies, with airline tickets being provided in both years by UAE national carrier Emirates.

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