

Tell Kufrein Survey and Excavation latest report (December 2002)

Two initial seasons of archaeological work were conducted at Tell Kufrein (Jordan) during May and November 2002 by a team from the University of Ioannina under the direction of Professor Thanasis Papadopoulos, who are all HSNES members. The project was funded by the Greek ministries of Culture and Foreign Affairs and hosted by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem at St George's Monastery in Madaba.

The site of Tell Kufrein (locally known as Tell Shirup) is located one kilometre north of Wadi Kafrein, an important east-west route directly leading to Jericho to the west. Tell Kufrein stands approximately 35 meters high, but much of this is part of a natural rock out crop which is visible even on the summit of the tell.



Tell Kufrein (photo by K.D. Politis)

The first season in May, focused on making a comprehensive topographic map of the site and conducting a survey to collect all archaeological material from the surface of the tell. The site extends some 45,000 m². A 1: 300 scale contour map was made of the entire site at .5 meter intervals. The finds collected from the surface of these areas included pottery and stone vessel fragments, flint tools and metal work. These were cleaned, sorted, recorded and carefully studied. Preliminary results revealed an Early Bronze Age to late Hellenistic/Roman occupation of the site, with a main presence during the Iron Age period.

The first season of survey work served as a good basis for systematic excavations during the second phase in November which included three 5m x 5m trial trenches. In all those trenches, L 18, N 18 and P 12, Iron Age I-II period walls and associated material were uncovered. This confirmed Tell Kafrein was an important late Iron Age site with Old Testament associations.

Further excavation seasons are planned for the future. For all those interested in participating please contact Professor Th. Papadopoulos, Dept. of History and Archaeology, University of Ioannina (<http://www.uoi.gr/>), or [contact us](#).