



Fig. 2. Central Area of Kom el-Hisn. The line marks the series of auger samples described in fig. 3. The various black rectangles and squares in the bottom left represent our excavation units (correct in orientation and relative size but not drawn to scale). The black square to the west indicates the location of Old Kingdom occupations discovered and partially excavated in 1986. There is a substantial Old Kingdom wall and settlement under the modern village, and we suspect that Old Kingdom occupations extend far beyond the two areas of excavation. The single black square on the auger-line represents one of our geological test-trenches.

imagined characteristics are mutually exclusive, and that these characteristics are not likely to have unique reflections in the archaeological record. The accuracy of any such models could never be conclusively "proven," and we use them mainly as a basis to specify the variable interactions of potential importance to our analyses.

#### The Archaeological Evidence from Kom el-Hisn

In two previous seasons of excavation, we have attempted to evaluate these models and other

hypotheses about Kom el-Hisn. Although the inscribed statuary and other epigraphic materials at Kom el-Hisn have been studied for more than a century,<sup>42</sup> and the rich cemeteries of the (mainly) First Intermediate Period and New Kingdom Periods have been excavated,<sup>43</sup> our own

<sup>42</sup> Reviewed by P. Brodie, W. Coulson, A. Leonard, Jr., and D. Silverman in W. Coulson and A. Leonard, Jr., eds., 81-85.

<sup>43</sup> For example, A. Hamada and M. el-Amir, "Excavations at Kom el-Hisn 1933," *Annales du Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte* 46 (1947) 101-41; A. Hamada, and S. Farid, "Excavations at Kom el-Hisn 1945," *Annales du Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte* 46 (1947) 195-235. "Excavations at Kom el-Hisn