

# Roman and Early Christian burial complex at Leptiminus (Lamta): second notice

Nejib Ben Lazreg, Susan Stevens, Lea Stirling, and Jennifer Moore

## Introduction

In 1999 and 2000, a rescue excavation was undertaken on a tract of land (labelled Site 304) enclosed by modern streets and houses in Dhahret Slama, a western suburb of the modern town of Lamta on the E coast of Tunisia. This NW edge of the modern town is built over the S and SE part of the Roman harbor town of Leptiminus (fig. 1). Those excavations revealed a Roman necropolis with monuments and rock-cut tomb chambers (*hypogea*), and a subterranean building with Christian funerary mosaics attached to an extensive, and hitherto unexplored, system of catacombs.<sup>1</sup>

Land adjacent to Site 304 had been excavated previously, revealing other parts of the same "East Cemetery" (Site 200 [1992] and Site 302 [1999]), including a mausoleum, the opening to a catacomb, enclosure walls, and mortared tomb-markers which range from the late 2nd through the 4th c.<sup>2</sup> Concentrations of kiln bricks and wasters provided clear evidence of pottery produc-

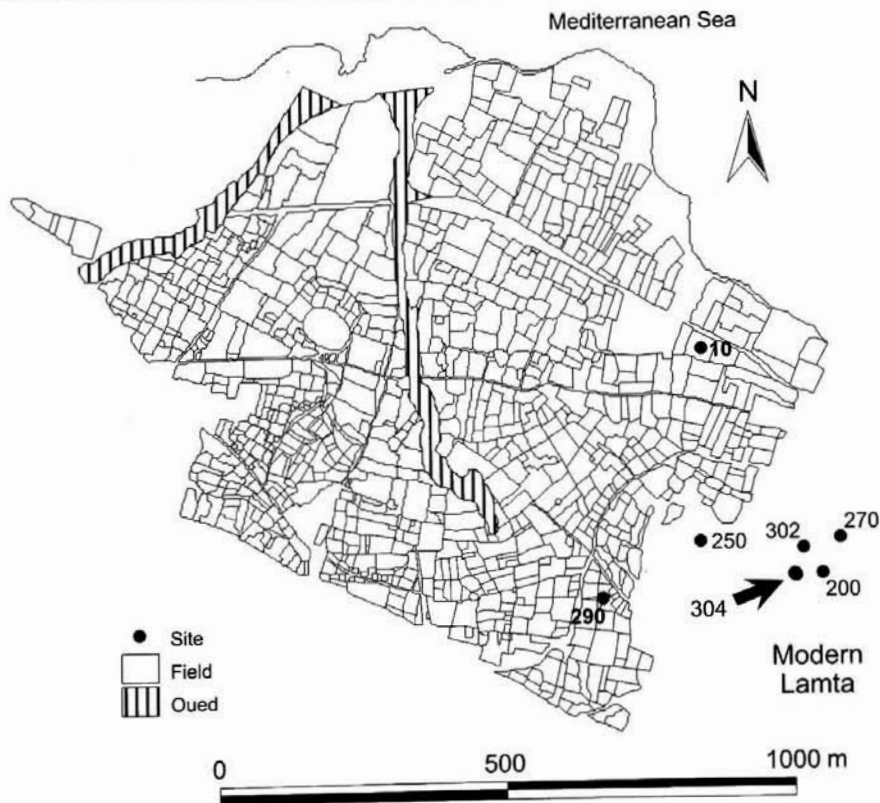


Fig. 1. Plan of Leptiminus showing the East Cemetery (Site 304) in relation to other excavated sites.

- 1 N. Ben Lazreg, "Roman and Early Christian burial complex at Leptiminus: first notice," *JRA* 15 (2002) 336-45.
- 2 N. Ben Lazreg, "Un cimetière romain sur Jebel Lahmar près de Dhahret Slama: fouille de sauvetage (Site 200)," in L. Stirling, D. Mattingly, and N. Ben Lazreg (edd.), *Leptiminus (Lamta), report no. 2* (*JRA Suppl.* 41, 2001) 409-11 [henceforth *Leptiminus 2*]; L. Stirling, D. Stone, N. Ben Lazreg *et al.*, "Roman kilns and rural settlement: interim report of the 1999 season of the Leptiminus Archaeological Project," *EMC* n.s. 19 (2000) 214-17.