This report summarizes the results of an intensive archaeological survey of the proposed Baardheere Reservoir, upper Jubba River basin, southern Somalia (Fig. 1). The survey, undertaken over a 42-day period during September and October, 1987, represents one component of the Jubba Environmental and Socioeconomic Studies, a three-year cooperative program of river basin investigations conducted by Associates in Rural Development of the United States Agency for International Development and the Government of the Somali Democratic Republic.

The main objectives of the survey were to locate and describe prehistoric and historic sites in the proposed reservoir basin and to formulate a plan for minimizing damage and/or loss of the archaeological data resulting from reservoir construction and impoundment. The survey team consisted of the authors as team leaders, seven additional American archaeologists and eight Somali counterparts.

In 1986 a brief archaeological reconnaissance of the 420 km² study area by the authors identified three major physiographic zones:

- a southern section, characterized by narrow gorges extending from the dam site north to just below Buurdhuubo, a distance of about 80 km;
- a generally flat, open central section proposed as the main reservoir and extending some 33 linear km from just south of Buurdhuubo north to Durole; and
- a northern section, 80 linear km of narrow gorges and open terrain stretching from a few kilometers above Durole to Luug.

The 1987 survey personnel were divided into three crews: two crews surveyed the northern and southern sections, one on each side of the river, and the third crew surveyed the central section. The crews in the remote southern and northern sections used camels for transport, while vehicles were used in the central section. All survey was conducted on foot. We estimate that about 90% of the southern section was examined. In the central section, a 5% systematic stratified survey coupled with a survey of all major togga (wadis) resulted in 15% coverage. In the northern section, several strategies were employed to provide an estimated 50% coverage.

The survey discovered 686 sites, comprised of six site types. The first and most common are open-air lithic scatters, which account for 394 sites distributed throughout the reservoir area. The lithic scatters were classified as dating to the Middle Stone Age (MSA) and/or the Later Stone Age (LSA). Based on typological and morphological analyses of artifact types, three subdivisions of both the MSA (Big MSA, Little MSA, Undifferentiated MSA) and LSA (Blade LSA, Micro LSA, Undifferentiated LSA) were established.

The second site type is open-air ceramic scatters. Usually found in direct association with stone artifacts of varying ages, there were 100 such sites scattered throughout the reservoir area. In most cases the stone artifacts and ceramics are not contemporary, as most of the ceramics appear to be relatively recent in age.
Fig. 1. Location of project area.
(perhaps only the last few hundred years). However, it is possible that some sites represent LSA and/or Pastoral Neolithic encampments.

The third type is caves and rockshelters. These are restricted entirely to the southern gorge section, where 23 inhabitable caves and shelters were recorded. Artifacts were observed in five of the caves and rock art in nine. Caves varied in width from 3 to 20 m and several were more than 20 m deep.

Rock art comprises the fourth type. Ten of the eleven sites occur in the southern section and one in the northern section. Nine of the sites are caves where monochromatic and polychromatic paintings of highly stylized patterns of dots and a few line drawings adorn the walls. The paintings are in a style unique for Somalia and much, if not all, of Africa. Two sites, one in the north and the other in the south, consist of scratches and engravings on boulders. All the rock art remains undated.

The fifth site type is represented by stone cairns. These are scattered throughout the reservoir but are most common in the north where 78% of the 160 sites were identified. Cairns usually occurred singly but were also found in pairs or small groups. They varied in size and quality of construction. While some may be graves, their origins and functions remain essentially unknown.

Cemeteries, the sixth and last site type, were also found throughout the reservoir but were most numerous in the northern section where 64% of the 195 cemeteries were recorded. The vast majority are relatively recent Islamic cemeteries, but some may be non- or pre-Islamic.

Based on the results of the survey, we recommended that a three-phase program of archaeological research be implemented. This survey represents completion of the first phase (site location and description) of such a program. The second phase, geared primarily toward determining the significance of sites, was completed by us between September and December, 1988.

Funded by the World Bank and the Somali Ministry of Juba Valley Development, the results of the Phase 2 program—which included additional survey, systematic collections of specific sites, test excavations of other sites, and comprehensive documentation of the rock art, and geomorphological investigations—will be reported in a future issue of Nyame Akuma. The third phase should involve full-scale excavations of sites found to be archaeologically significant by Phase 2 investigations.

Implications of Dating the Lockshoek Industry from the Interior Plateau of Southern Africa

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Many years ago Sampson (1974) proposed that the Lockshoek Industry, first called the Smithfield A by van Riet Lowe (Goodwin and van Riet Lowe 1929) and characterized by large flakes and a variety of large scrapers made of hornfels, was a regional expression of the Oakhurst Complex in the Interior Plateau of southern Africa. From the southern coast to Zimbabwe, many assemblages attributable to this complex have been excavated in sealed contexts and a number are now dated between 12,000 and 8,000 B.P. (Cable et al. 1980, Chubb et al. 1934, Cooke 1963, H. Deacon 1976, J. Deacon 1972 and 1984, Klein 1974, Louw 1960, Opperman 1978 and 1987, Schweitzer and Wilson 1982, Thackeray 1981, Wendt 1976). However, as is well known, Sampson never obtained a radiocarbon date for the Lockshoek Industry, and recently this has spurred a reinterpretation about its position in the culture chronology of southern Africa and its adaptive significance.