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**Monitoring the environmental impact of an archaeological site with the
intent of upgrading and comprehensive development**

(Study of Amoud Al-Sawari area, Alexandria)

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Summary

Heritage urban areas are considered one of the most pressing problems in terms of monitoring the condition, possibilities for dealing with them, and development and preservation goals, because these areas represent an overlap between the ancient and the modern. Most of the valuable heritage areas are located in a vibrant and existing urban environment, which creates a kind of interaction and mutual influence between these areas, as the surrounding built environment affects the heritage areas and is affected by them, which requires awareness of the inputs of the surrounding built environment and its relationship with the valuable areas.

The deterioration of the urban condition of the areas surrounding the monuments and valuable areas reflects negatively on the monuments and leads to the emergence of some negatives on the monuments as a result of external influences resulting from the surrounding urban environment. Given the importance of built heritage in establishing community identity and preserving social memory, preserving historical monuments is essential.

This paper studies Amud al-Sawari area; It is a famous archaeological site in Alexandria, which is considered the second most important city in the Arab Republic of Egypt. This research paper aims to shed light on how to deal with the inputs of those heritage areas in a way that maximizes the benefit from the role of those areas in increasing the cultural awareness of Egyptian society and presenting those heritage areas in an appropriate manner. This is done by dealing with the potential of the heritage area and the environmental elements affecting the heritage area under study, and evaluating all the threats and risks to which it is exposed.

The study begins with the urban environment surrounding the antiquity, which is considered one of the important influences that change the state of the antiquity. It contains a scientific

analytical study of the condition of the antiquities on the site, which are in dire need of urgent preservation and such preservation is based on monitoring the problems visually and practically. The focus was on the effects of the human element on heritage areas and on conservation processes at its various levels. The research recommended organizing conservation activities such as identifying the site, documenting and evaluating problems in a logical sequence and discussing scientific and logical solutions. The research paper is an attempt to extrapolate the negative impacts on heritage areas, and a comprehensive development plan for heritage historical hotspots was proposed as a nucleus for developing functional pluralism, but with complete harmony, to be applied in similar examples.

Keywords: Pillar pillars - archaeological site - environmental impact - heritage areas - landscaping of historical sites

1) Introduction

The concept of archaeological areas refers to areas that have been registered in accordance with the Antiquities Law, and accordingly the methods of protecting antiquities, regulating the heights of buildings around them, determining the sanctuary of antiquities, and other requirements for protecting antiquities in the law applied to them. The requirements for archaeological areas can be applied to heritage areas, especially with regard to the surroundings of heritage buildings and protection factors such as determining heights to be compatible with heritage buildings or specifying activities that are compatible with the nature and specificity of heritage areas and buildings. Heritage buildings are often located within archaeological areas, such as the study area (Figure 1,2). (In this case, these buildings must be considered collectively as distinct heritage areas, and they must be registered and preserved, as well as their buildings, using appropriate methods, such as restoration or rehabilitation, so that they are not demolished or altered in a way that loses its value. The entire site in the study area, with its monuments are of outstanding cultural and historical importance, and they are considered to be in real danger. Over the past decade, the process of deterioration of the monuments has increased significantly.¹

Note that the destruction of antiquities results from a combination of natural and human factors. Weathering and erosion caused by environmental factors have caused severe damage to the monuments. The effects of weathering and erosion on the monuments are exacerbated by natural fractures in the rocks. Water leakage and plant growth in rock cracks. In addition to natural damage, cultural, social and economic factors represent a major threat to the integrity of the site. Also, uncontrolled urban development and infrastructure installation can cause a lot of damage to the site. In addition, pollution from litter, graffiti, uncontrolled commercial activities, and many others are major threats to the site.²

It is quite clear that these effects need urgent care. If the processes of degradation are allowed to continue, the irreplaceable heritage will disappear and tourism, centered around these monuments, will diminish. Preserving these monuments will boost investment and tourism leading to the development of the region. This research aims to monitor and determine the

potential of the study area as an archaeological and heritage area to achieve economic development for these communities, especially with regard to its role in the growth and multiplicity of economic activities and sectors, increasing job opportunities, and increasing the level of economic incomes, etc. Achieving social development for communities, especially with regard to their role in improving public services and basic facilities. Finally, achieving environmental development for communities, especially with regard to their role in preserving the natural environment from pollution and deterioration, as well as improving the level of the built environment and quality of living in general.

2) Steps and stages of the research

The paper relies on several sequential steps that together constitute a progressive research line that begins with studying and determining the potential of the study area as an archaeological and heritage area, then studying the theoretical and practical relationship between archaeological/heritage areas and the areas located in them, monitoring the most important problems and negative influences, and then drawing general conclusions and developing a group. Among the proposals to further benefit from these areas in achieving development for the local communities located there. Below is a comprehensive study of the archaeological site, presenting its capabilities and monitoring its threats.

3) Case study - Amoud Al-Sawari area in Alexandria

Because of the various wars it witnessed and suffered from.

Historical events on the site:

Ptolemy, founded the Greek dynasty of rulers that ruled Egypt from their capital, Alexandria. He followed a specific strategy to connect the indigenous Egyptians with the Greeks who poured into Alexandria from all over the Mediterranean. He invented a god named Serapis, and built a large temple for this god in his capital, called Serapion. Unfortunately, the Temple of Serapion was destroyed by Christians at the end of the fourth century. In 391 AD, Bishop Theophilus sent troops to specifically destroy the temple, and a monastery dedicated to John the Baptist was built on the ruins of the temple. The gloomy remains of the large structure lie within the archaeological park today, Figure 3. However, the most famous and visible remains of the Serapion is, of course, the giant column popularly known as the Column of Pompey Figure 4. Like the Colossus of Memnon on the West Bank in Luxor (ancient Thebes), the name of the column is a misnomer invented by early tourists. After Pompey's defeat at Pharsalus in the city of Thessaly on August 16, 48 BC, Pompey went to Egypt, perhaps thinking that he could gain the support of the Alexandrians. But this never happened because Theodotus, who was regent for Ptolemy XIII who was only ten years old, he was beheaded in the moment he came down. He delivered Pompey's head to Caesar in Rome, believing this would gain the emperor's support, but it did not. Although Pompey was certainly an old enemy of Caesar, he was also his son-in-law.

However, this inspired early travelers to speculate about Pompey's tomb, and they seem to have decided that this column was its location. Of course, local guides may have embellished this belief, including the story that the column once held an urn containing the head of Caesar's rival. In fact, the column was actually begun to be built to commemorate the suppression of

riots during the reign of Diocletian by Publius. Hence, Caesar did not set his sights on the column because it was not erected until three and a half centuries after his death, in 291 AD. The base of Pompey's column appears somewhat unstable; however, the column has survived ancient earthquakes that destroyed many of Alexandria's monuments such as the Pharos Lighthouse. In fact, the Column of Pompey is the only ancient monument remaining in Alexandria. It is a monolith of Aswan granite measuring 30 meters (98 ft) high and 2.7 meters (9 ft) in diameter at the base and 2.3 meters (7 1/2 ft) at the top. The column is topped with a high molded base, which in turn rests on a collection of reused building materials. This is the largest remaining monument from the Greco-Roman world. Originally, the column capital did not support the roof of the building but rather the statue of Diocletian. However, this type of monument is known elsewhere in the Hellenistic world, including the Column of Aemilius Paulus at Delphi and from the Column of Trajan in Rome.

For centuries, the column was a landmark of Alexandria, Figure 5. It was used by sailors who arrived at the port, and it appears on all maps drawn by travelers. After the Islamic conquest of Egypt, walls were built around the Tulunid city and the column found itself outside the city limits. It appears on all the maps drawn by travelers after the Islamic invasion of Egypt, and thus the column gave a wonderful view to Alexander. It was also natural for Napoleon Bonaparte to sit on in July 2nd, 1798, at the base of the column to watch his forces seize Alexandria. Two weeks later, as Napoleon advanced to the gates of Cairo, a great fireworks display was organized in Alexandria. 4,5