



Team member Hugh Barnes at the site: The find will "help restore knowledge of the past history of Sidon"

Archaeological find to 'rewrite history'

Tombs dating back to Bronze Age unearthed in Sidon

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Nineteen ancient tombs dating back to the Bronze Age have been uncovered in old Sidon by a team of British archaeologists.

Experts from the British Museum and the Culture Ministry's Directorate-General of Antiquities (DGA) have been working at the site of a former school for three years but only discovered the tombs, which date between 4000-2000 BC, in the last month.

The head of the DGA, Frederic Hussein, visited the site on Monday where he met with John Curtis, the director of the British Museum for the Near

East, and head of the archaeological expedition, Claude Doumit Serhal.

Hussein said that the site, which was protected by the DGA, would be used to promote tourism.

He said the findings were important because they can "help restore knowledge of the past history of Sidon which has been lost for years and shed light on the eras between 4000 BC and 2000 BC."

Serhal explained that digs have been going on for three years at the site and three different teams from the British Museum have worked there. The digs were intensified over

the past month due to a number of discoveries.

She said the current team is made up of seven archaeologists from the British Museum, assisted by 10 archaeology students from the Lebanese University.

She said more students and volunteer workers would be needed to form a permanent team to investigate the site, due to the wealth of information.

Curtis, who will hold a news conference on Thursday to announce the discovery, said that the findings will "rewrite Sidon's history," adding that it was the first time ancient sites dating back to the Bronze Age have been uncovered in Sidon.