

Archaeological Survey in the eastern Kugitang Piedmonts (South Uzbekistan), Preliminary Report for Seasons 2016 and 2017

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ABSTRACT

This brief report presents a preliminary overview of the results and data gained during the extensive archaeological surface survey conducted in the eastern foothills of the Kugitang Mountains, especially in the northern Pashkhurt basin in the late summer of 2016 and 2017.

KEYWORDS

Pashkhurt basin; Kugitang piedmonts; surface survey; kurgans; Bactria; Yaz culture; Sapalli; cave; Kaptar Kamar.

INTRODUCTION

In 2016 and 2017, the Czech-Uzbek team resumed the extensive surface survey based on field walking, as started in the field seasons 2014 and 2015 (STANČO *et al.* 2015; STANČO 2016). In 2016, some areas in surroundings of Burgut Kurgan and of the villages of Kayrit and Zarabag – previously omitted from the survey for various reasons – were subject to our research. Our aim was to cover as much of the landscape in the neighbourhood of the excavated Yaz I period site as possible. We focused predominantly on prominent topographic features including stone structures preliminarily called kurgans. Those were detected and systematically mapped. Extensive field walking was undertaken by Ladislav Stančo, while Jakub Havlík and Petra Cejnarová documented in detail the detected sites, especially presumed burial grounds with kurgans – or kurgan-like features – making their topographic plans. This latter activity turned into a special project lead by J. Havlík in 2017 focused on kurgans only (see HAVLÍK *et al.* 2017 in this volume). In the late summer of 2017, having finished the survey of immediate neighbourhood of Burgut Kurgan, we turned our attention to other parts of the Pashkhurt Valley, as well as to the specific places in the other valleys north of it, still belonging to the foothills of the Kugitang Mountains. We focused especially on the zones and roads that we, for objective reasons, regarded as giving in the past the best options to reach piedmont oases from what is today the Sherabad lowlands. As always, Shapulat Shaydullaev is responsible for most of the preliminary chronological determination of the pottery assemblages. In both field seasons our work ran along the other sub-projects of our international team, consisting of surface survey within the northern Pashkhurt Valley oases, led by A. Augustinová (AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2017; 2018), the above mentioned new kurgan research project (HAVLÍK *et al.* 2017), as well as the excavations of Burgut Kurgan (KYSELA *et al.* 2017).

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

Our methods were closely linked to our principal long term aims and also to the objectives related to our current research questions. Among the former, one of the most important ones was the study of complex landscape of the Early Iron Age (Yaz I period) and its individual aspects, particularly the spatial distribution of the settlements, walled settlements, kurgan-like features and rock art that all belong – or hypothetically belong – to the period in question. The latter encompassed our research related to the conquest of the area by Alexander the Great and consequent developments, including search for historical roads and communications. Resuming our previous research,¹ we employed and further developed basic field walking methods. Every survey activity consisted of walking selected area, collecting of surface material, especially pottery and measuring basic topographic data concerning the site (location, size, altitude, etc.). Basically, small group of 2–4 people² walked the selected transect in visual contact to each other, checking all topographically and morphologically significant features in the terrain, such as river terraces, flat summits, tell-like mounds, stone structures, narrow mountain passes and gorges. If detected, pottery fragments were collected and further processed, in order to obtain general chronological information. All data were immediately entered into the GIS database, allowing us to change the next research step operationally. The field work was closely coordinated with that of our other team (surveying oases), and both groups worked frequently together for sake of completeness and logistic issues. In very specific situations we decided to carry out a small trial excavation in order to understand better a morphological terrain feature we had discovered. Doing so we continued the praxis that was successfully adopted in 2014.

RESEARCH AREA

The research area in 2016 was situated in the north-western part of the Sherabad District, Surkhandarya Province, South Uzbekistan, more precisely in the micro-region to the north of the Pashkhurt village itself, covering limited territory of the northern Pashkhurt basin and partly also neighbouring stream valleys (Gurjak, Khojaunkan) (**Pl. 6/1**). As in the previous two field seasons (2014 and 2015), our main-target area was situated around modern villages of Maydan, Karabag, and Zarabag, with some exceptions. In 2017, the survey expanded also to the south of Pashkhurt to the neighbourhood of the Goz village and beyond to the west and south on one hand – including Goz Dagana, a gorge linking Pashkhurt basin with the Sherabad plains –, and between Maydan and Loyliq village on the other. Outside of the Pashkhurt Valley, we surveyed part of the steppe zone related to the Loylagan stream valley situated to the north of Pashkhurt. Generally speaking, selected areas in the foothills of Kugitang Mountain ridge have been surveyed with emphasis on the communication corridors linking the Sherabad oasis and settled areas in the Kugitang foothills. Since the targets of our research were planned in close collaboration with the team surveying oases, also our results are closely spatially interrelated. In the final report of the survey in the Pashkhurt Valley planned for the 2019, we plan to put all this scattered data and related evidence together. The maps (**Pl. 6/2–7**) shows location of research areas, as well as walking trajectories.

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- 1 For a brief overview of the previous research see STANČO 2016, 75; cf. RTVELADZE 2013, 11–8, for the summary of archaeological research in the Pashkhurt basin in general.
 - 2 Occasionally, only the principal author took part in the survey, especially in cases, where we intended that only a particular and limited terrain feature has to be surveyed.

SURFACE SURVEY PROCESS / PROGRESS

Unless otherwise stated in the ‘description’ entry, all of the following 21 traces / routes were located in the Pashkhurt basin. With a few exceptions, every trace / route represents one-day, or several hours, work.³ Altogether, we walked route 139.4 km long.

Trace / Route no.	Description of the itinerary	Length (km)	Finds / Sites found	Date
1 2	Along both banks of the dry Shelkan Say / Kayrit Say between the Zarabag and Kayrit villages.	4.5 5.88	Settlement	23 and 25 August 2016
3	Along the left bank of the dry riverbed of Machayli river to the south of Zarabag village.	9.55	Settlement (Tulki Tepa)	26 August 2016
4 6 8	Along the right bank of Kayrit Say between Kampyrtepa and Zarabag.	7.05 9.71 5.12	Settlements, rock-art	28 and 31 August, 2 September 2016
5	Along the northern edge of the flat basin between Zarabag and Karabag; from the Zarabag village to Burgut Kurgan.	7.73	Kurgans	29 August 2016
7 10	Along the left riverbank of the Karabag Say north of the Karabag village.	10.41 14.32	rock art, kurgans, Medieval site	1 and 7 September 2016
9	Along the asphalt road connecting the villages of Gurjak and Khojaunkan, north of Pashkhurt valley.	3.05	two groups of kurgans, rock shelter Kaptar Kamar	4 September 2016
11	Along the edge of the flat plateau of Burgut Kurgan and basin below to the north, between Zarabag and Burgut Kurgan.	4.97	group of small kurgan-like structures	9 September 2016
12	On the northern margin of the village of Khojaunkan, gardens around the site of Lungitepa.	0.8	human bones; Medieval pottery and architectural fragments	26 August 2017
13	Along the left bank of Maydan Say above the village of Maydan, around the site of Gaza Kutan.	3.0	almost negative (a few pottery sherds)	28 August 2017
14	Along the Dabil Say / Goz say around confluence of three seasonal streams, south of the Goz village.	5.61	settlement (Bronze Age, Medieval)	29 August 2017
15	Along the right bank of Dabil Say between Pashkhurt and Goz.	10.12	seven settlements / significant pottery scatters	30 August 2017
16	Along (to the north of) the road linking the village of Goz and Ak Tosh, place of abandoned village of Kyzylbay.	3.10	cluster of sites (Sapalli, Yaz I, Hellenistic, Medieval)	3 September 2017
17 19	In the Goz Dagana, from the confluence of Dabil Day and Goz Say to the south.	3.65 11.13	Yaz I / Sapalli site	3 and 10 September 2017
18 21	Along the banks of Maydan Say / Loiliq Say between two mountain ridges, to the east of the Maydan village.	7.78 0.929	Sapalli and Medieval sites	8 and 19 September 2017
20	Along (to the left of) the road connecting Ishtora and Loylagan and Khatak, in the vicinity of Kulaltepa.	10.63	Hellenistic and Kushan Sasanian sites	12 September 2017
22	To the south of Khojaunkan, around Kaptar Kamar rock shelter.	3.0	Rock shelter Kaptar Kamar; other caves	6 September 2016

Tab. 1: Itinerary of the surface survey, an overview.

³ The trace no. 21 took ca. 30 minutes to accomplish with two sites discovered in the process.

RESULTS: BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNCOVERED SITES

SAPALLI PERIOD (LATE BRONZE AGE)

Tulki Tepa

Since the very beginning of the surface survey in the northern Pashkhurt basin in 2014, our team encountered individual fragments of pottery resembling closely those of Sapalli culture belonging to the Late Bronze Age. Despite the discoveries of many sites of Yaz I culture, we were not able to detect any proper site, be it a necropolis or a settlement, with one exception. In 2015 a few fragments of Sapalli pottery have been collected by A. Augustinová at the site of Kosh Tepa (AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2015, 272), located southeast of Zarabag. Morphological prominence of the site, as well as later phases of its development documented by rich assemblage of pottery, attest clearly to the existence of long term settlement, even if of limited size. In field season 2016, Augustinová's team was shown a mound at the southern margin of Zarabag called Bobolangar covered with significant pottery scatter, substantial part of which is dated to the Sapalli culture, particularly to its Jarkutan phase. Due to the specific characteristics of the site we believed it represented a necropolis of the given period (AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2017, 125–126).



Fig. 1: Tulki Tepa, photo by L. Stančo.

The discovery of Bobolangar, meanwhile partly excavated by A. Augustinová and J. Kysela, stimulated further detailed survey in this area conducted in order to detect a settlement belonging to the supposed burial ground. Further down the stream of Machayli (ca. 1.5 km to the SE), at the elevation of 924 m.a.s.l., we have actually found a low triple-mound with a flat oblong adjoining terrace to the south that gave the expected result (**Pl. 6/2; Figs. 1 and 9**). While the seasonal riverbed of Machayli runs some 250 m to the NE, a less substantial seasonal stream ran around the triple-mound, and in its present state could represent remains of a prehistoric water canal bringing water to the very settlement. Otherwise, we have not detected any water source in the close proximity to the site. While on the surface of the three mounds only few pottery fragments have been collected, its majority comes from the terrace. Our inquiry among the locals did not give a positive answer to the question of a particular place name, so the site was given the name of Tulki Tepa by us (with *tulki* meaning fox in Uzbek). Subsequently, intensive surface survey was conducted in order to collect as much

of the material as possible. Abundant archaeological material (45 diagnostic / 37 dated fragments) attests to two principal periods of the site use: The Late Bronze Age (Sapalli) and the High Medieval periods (**Fig. 2**). Additionally, the site has been measured with total station and the data used to compile simple topographic plan (**Fig. 3**). Despite our plans for the 2017 season, no excavations were carried out so far, thus all the data we have at the moment comes from the surface of the site. According to the extent of the pottery scatter distributed with various density across the surface of the three mounds and the terrace, the site measures ca. 160×150 m (EW and SN axe).

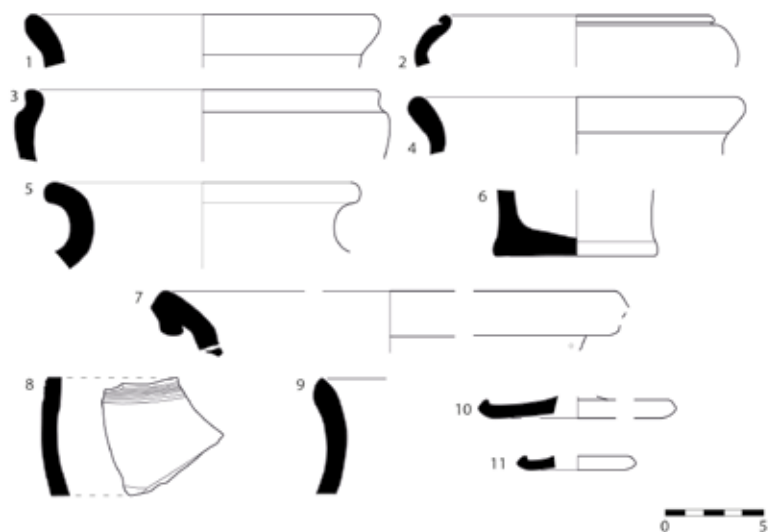


Fig. 2: Pottery of Tulki Tepa (selection), drawing by L. Damašek.

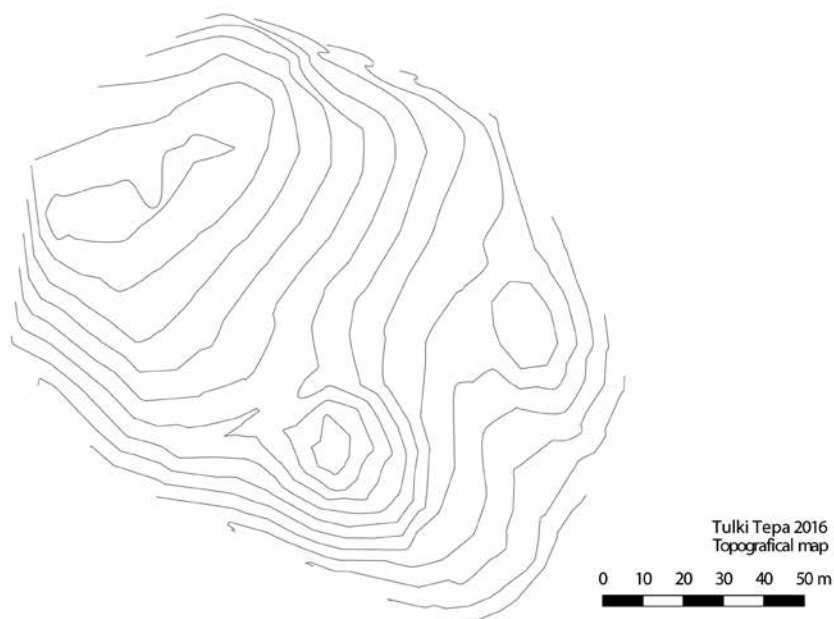


Fig. 3: Tulki Tepa, topographical plan by J. Havlík, P. Cejnarová and J. Souček.

Yul Tepa

The site is situated ca. 570 m.a.s.l. on a slightly elevated second river-terrace of Maydan/Loyliq Say (**Pl. 6/3; Figs. 4 and 10**). The terrace overlooks most of the narrow valley 3,300 m long, which is closed on both east and west end by steep mountain ridges with only narrow gorges allowing for passing through. This corridor belongs to only three routes permitting access from the Sherabad plains to the Pashkhurt Valley and connects it with the main historical long-distance route leading from Termez to Samarkand via the Sherabad Darya Valley at the same time. This importance is confirmed by the existence of present-day asphalt road that perhaps follows exactly the historic unpaved trail. The road itself takes the easiest way across the valley cutting the site in halves in the process, hence the working name given to the otherwise no-name site - Yul Tepa (Mound on the road). As for the size of the settlement, we are sure about the part of the site situated to the south of the road, which is semi-oval in shape ca. 230 m long (EW axis) and 50 m wide (SN axis). The northern part, although not that clearly delimited as a morphological unit, seems according to the pottery scatter, to mirror the south one forming together an oval shape 230×100 m. The surface of the site yielded abundant pottery assemblage including rims of shapes typical for the Sapalli culture. Some medieval intrusions may belong to the site itself, but also to the find spot on the third terrace ca. 100–150 m to the north-west of Yul Tepa. The strategical location of the site is highlighted by presence of water source in immediate neighbourhood: some 30–40 m from the site, there is a spring located directly in the seasonal riverbed. Nowadays, this source provides water for herds of goats and sheep passing regularly through the valley.



Fig. 4: Yul Tepa (right center), photo by L. Stančo.

YAZ I PERIOD (LATE BRONZE / EARLY IRON AGE)

Kaptar Kamar cave

One of the most important discoveries of the field season 2016 was the cave of Kaptar Kamar. The cave, or rather huge rock-shelter, was found on September 4, 2016 by Ladislav Stančo in course of the exploration of the kurgan burial ground Gurjak-West. The site was closely examined in detail by the authors on September 6, 2016. The cave itself is located 1.15 km along the straight line to the southwest of the village of Khojaunkan, at the point with coordinates 37.886213°N 66.768001°E in the northwest steep slope of a small limestone ridge at the foot of the Kugitang Mountains (**Pl. 6/7**).⁴

The Kaptar Kamar (**Fig. 5**) is a huge overhang in the altitude of 1,380 m.a.s.l., having the maximum 25.3 m in height (in the centre it reaches 14.5 m and in the innermost interior just 10.9 m), 29.5 m in width (in the centre it measures 24.5 m and in the interior it was 16.6 m), and 30.5 m in length (measured by a laser device).



Fig. 5: Kaptar Kamar, photo by L. Stančo.

At the site, a large amount of archaeological material was collected from the surface in order to establish a basic chronology of the settlement. A preliminary evaluation of the pottery finds by Shapulat Shaydullaev showed that the cave was undoubtedly settled in the Yaz I period (most

⁴ In the surrounding of Khojaunkan, there are reported several other caves (such as Ajina Kamar, Kukinak Kamar, etc.), all of them smaller than Kaptar Kamar. Some of them are visible even from the village itself.

fragments are handmade and of reddish colour with characteristic shapes of this period), in the Middle Ages, and perhaps also in the Neolithic period (**Fig. 6**). In addition, a metal detector survey of the interior was carried out by Tomáš Smělý. As a result, small metal objects and two copper coins of the Early and High Middle Ages were unearthed (see the list below). Stone tools have not yet been found on the surface.

Let us note that not far from the Kaptar Kamar cave are some of the most important sites of the early prehistory of Central Asia. Approximately 4.7 km southwest of the cave as a crow flies lies the Zaraut Say gorge and the Zaraut Kamar grotto that is adorned by the famous rock paintings of – most probably – Mesolithic and Neolithic date. The famous Teshik Tash grotto with Neanderthal finds is situated about 55 km to the north-north-east of Kaptar Kamar.

Small finds from Kaptar Kamar include:

- an iron arrowhead with a length of 12.5 cm and a width of 3.2 cm (**Fig. 6:18**);
- an iron needle 17 cm long and 0.5 cm wide (**Fig. 6:19**);
- a coin – Abbasids, Harun al-Rashid (786–809 AD), Copper Fels, Balkh, Year of Hijri 182 (LOWICK 1999, 378–9, number 780-2);
- a coin, probably Ghurids from Ghazni, Muizz-ad-Din Muhammad (1173–1203 AD), Copper Jital minted in Delhi (TYE – TYE 1995, 119, No. 185).⁵

For the 2017 season, a multidisciplinary international team lead by Ladislav Nejman has been assembled in order to investigate the rock-shelter in detail. This project took place in September 2017. Report of the excavations and paleoenvironmental research is currently being prepared.

Other Yaz I sites in the eastern Kugitang foothills

The pottery of the Yaz I period has been attested at several sites throughout the Kugitang Piedmonts, including such sites as Kyzyl Bay (near Goz), Kayrit XXVI, no name to the west of Zarabag, no name to the north of Gurjak, and two spots in the Goz Dagona (gorge), all of them are briefly described in the **Tab. 2**. Three find spots around the village of Goz demonstrate a new Yaz I settlement cluster outside the so far known Kayrit area. The occurrence of finds in the Goz gorge hints at the use of this natural corridor for communication between the Pashkhurt basin and Sherabad plain as early as in the second half of the 2nd millennium BC.

The most important site of Yaz I period in Pashkhurt basin discovered so far is represented no doubt by the hillfort of Gaza Kutan near the village of Maydan. This site is preliminarily described by A. Augustinová in this volume (AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2017, 144). Our investigation continued in season 2017, however, also at the two already known walled settlements of the given period, at Burgut Kurgan and Kayrit Tepa. The excavations of the former have been conducted in September 2017 by J. Kysela and Sh. Shaydullaev, while those of the latter took place already in June under Sh. Shaydullaev and O. Khamidov. Preliminary reports on these excavations, as well as study of J. Lhuillier (CNRS, Lyon) on pottery from both sites, are currently being prepared. Moreover, geomagnetic survey has been conducted by L. Darras (CNRS, Lyon) at Gaza Kutan and Burgut Kurgan with most interesting results confirming our assumptions concerning circumferential stone walls.

5 Both coins were classified by Vlastimil Novák, National Museum in Prague.

HELLENISTIC PERIOD

During the survey, we came across isolated pottery finds of presumably Hellenistic origin here and there in the Pashkhurt basin, as for instance in the close proximity to the settlement of Kayrit II (STANČO 2016, 81–83). The fragment belongs – according to J. Lhuillier⁶ – to the late Yaz III, or the early Hellenistic period. The other spot that yielded some material preliminarily interpreted as Early Hellenistic, has been described by Augustinová in this volume (AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2017, 152), and is listed in the **Tab. 2** under the name of Kyzylbay 3.

Most important site of the Hellenistic period detected by the Czech-Uzbek team so far has been discovered on 12th September 2017 during the survey of steppe landscape around the archaeological site of Kulal Tepa, situated – in broader sense – in the Loylagan Say (valley). The site is situated at the altitude of ca. 830 m.a.s.l. on a summit of a narrow promontory (**Fig. 7**) extending eastwards from an elevated ridge ca. 20 m above the bottom of a flat, narrow and long valley, which itself stretches for eight km from north-west to south-east, ca. 2 km to the north of Loylagan village (**Pl. 6/6**), close to the asphalt road connecting Igarchi and Loylagan that forms a border between the Baysun and Sherabad Districts. The size of the settlement core with most densely distributed pottery scatter and linear traces of stone architecture measures ca. 50×30 m, while the entire area of the summit that forms prolonged E-W oriented oval, measures ca. 260×40 m. The pottery fragments were found also all over the slopes of the promontory down to the bottom of the valley. The attribution of the archaeological material was based primarily on the characteristically Hellenistic pottery shapes, i.e. in this case the so-called fish plates. Besides, high quality of the pottery fabric with fine clay used, as well as reddish polishing on the outer surface has been observed. However, not only fine ware shows clear parallels among the Hellenistic material found at other Hellenistic sites around Bactria, but also cooking pots are typical for the period in question (**Fig. 8**).



Fig. 7: Iskandar Tepa, photo L. Stančo.

In order to confirm our preliminary dating and gain at least limited stratified data, we opened a trial trench (4×1 m) on September 16. Removing six individual layers, we reached depth of ca.

6 Personal communication. Let us remind that the Yaz III material is equally rare as the Hellenistic one in the Pashkhurt Valley, but that it is exactly the neighbourhood of the Kayrit village that this scarce evidence came to light in 2015 (STANČO 2016, 83, tab. 2).

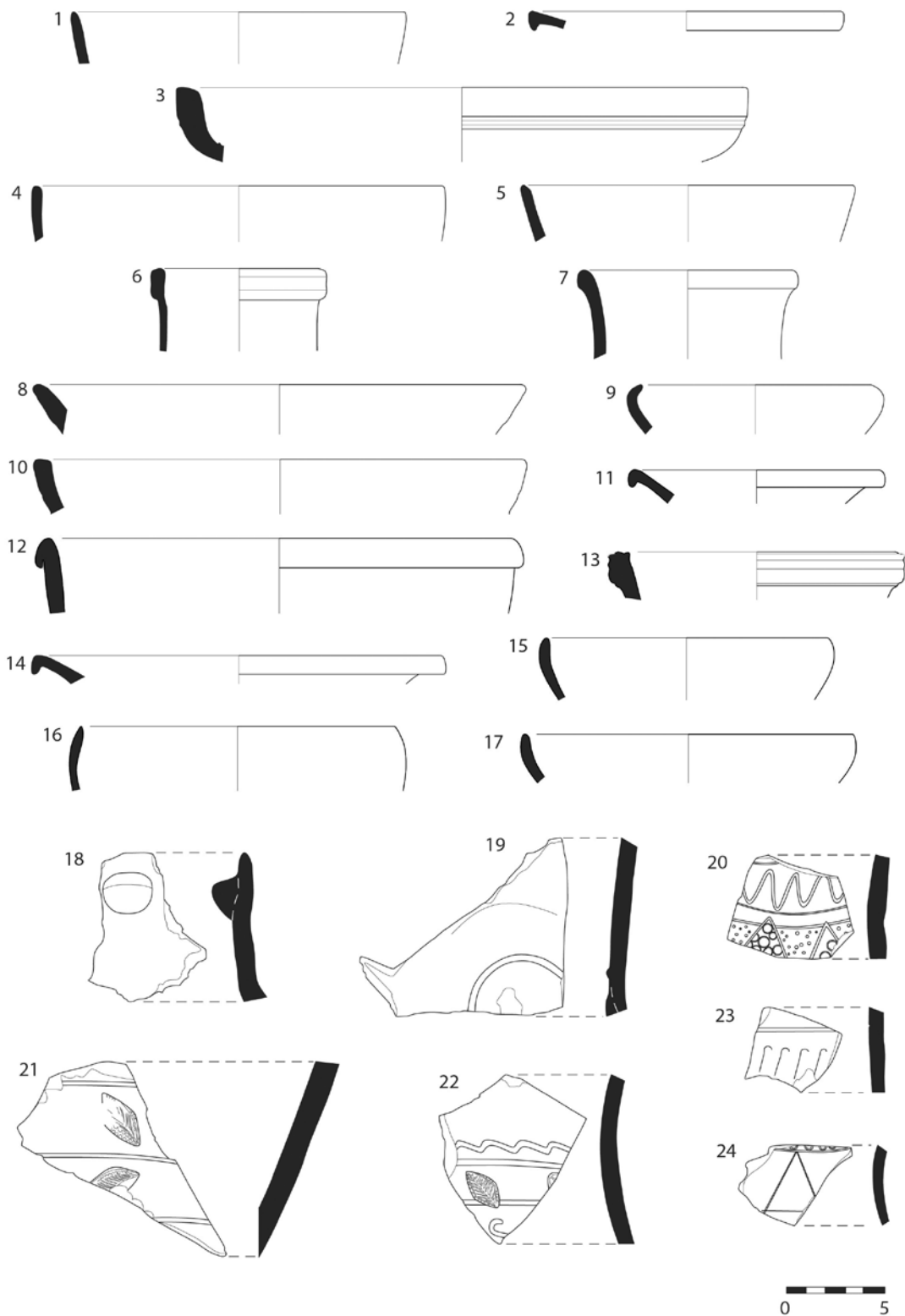


Fig. 8: Pottery of Iskandar Tepa, selection of finds from the site surface and from the trial trench, drawing by J. Kysela and L. Damašek.

0.5 m in this trench. Altogether, we gained 33 diagnostic pottery fragments from the surface and 183 fragments from the archaeological contexts, among them 53 diagnostic ones (rims, bases, decorated fragments). No traces of architecture have been discovered in this trench.

The elevated position above fertile valley and proximity to one of the few passages through the mountains of Kugitang allow for the preliminary interpretation of this site as an outpost serving strategic needs of the rulers of the Greco-Bactrian Kingdom along with the fortresses of Uzundara, Kurganzol, Payon Kurgan and Iron Gate. Since the site has no local name we have labelled it Iskandar tepa.

KUSHAN AND KUSHAN-SASANIAN PERIOD

Considering abundance of archaeological sites of the Kushan period in the lowlands of Sherabad Darya (STANČO – TUŠLOVÁ 2018, chapter 5.5), the scarcity of the same in the adjacent piedmont steppe appears to be one of the most surprising results of the survey so far. This season's additions to the list are insignificant: there is some pottery of the Kushan period distinguished within the large body of finds from Qushilish Tepa (Goz) on one hand, and quite a lot of finds from the flat valley surrounding Kulal Tepa (Loylagan), although preliminary analysis of the latter material hints clearly only to the Late Kushan and Kushan-Sasanian periods, which is in accordance with what we know about Kulal Tepa itself (Pl. 6/6).⁷

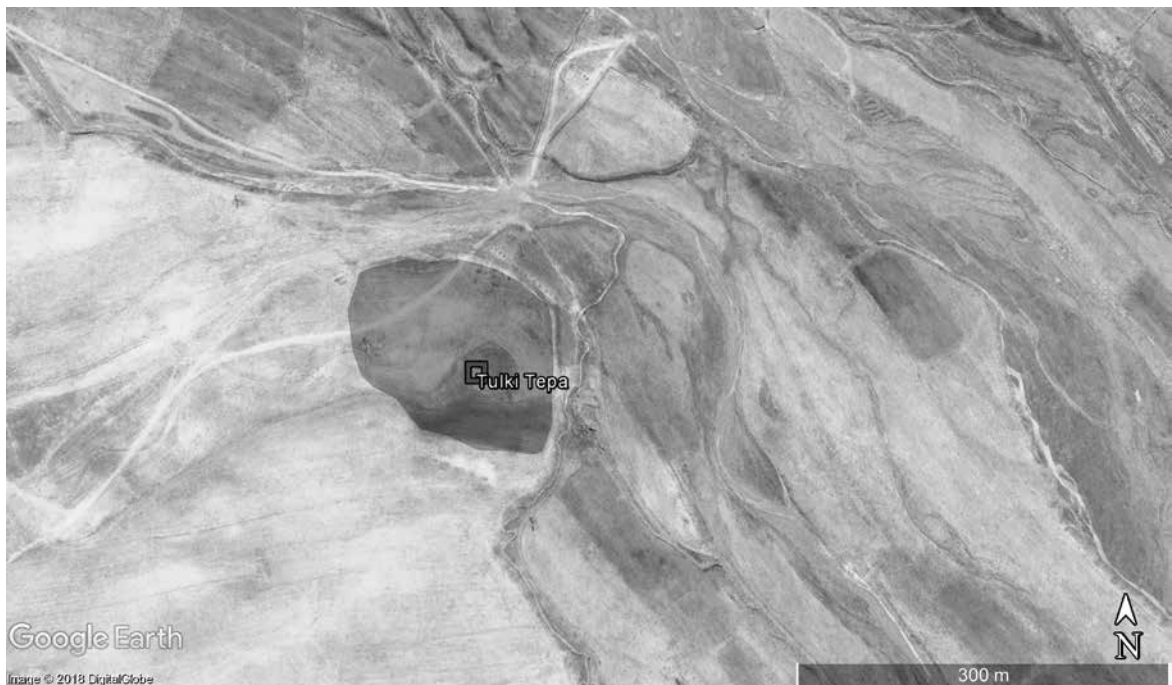


Fig. 9: Survey area I – detail showing the settlement of Tulki Tepa.

⁷ The site of Kulal Tepa was surveyed by the Czech-Uzbek team on 19th September 2010 and given the number 109 of our coding system, but the results were not published yet. The material, however, belongs to the 3rd-5th c. AD.



Fig. 10: Survey area II – detail showing the settlement of Yul Tepa.

EARLY AND HIGH MIDDLE AGES

Archaeological sites of this periods, otherwise quite well distributed throughout the oases in this area (AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2016; 2017, 131 and fig. 22), got substantial additions especially along the right bank of the Dabil Say between Pashkhurt and Goz. A chain of small tepas and settled river terraces (nos. 227–233 in the **Tab. 2**) that begins apparently at the principal site of Dabil Kurgan in Pashkhurt culminates at the confluence of three seasonal streams south of the village of Goz, hence the name Qushilish tepa (Mound at the confluence) given to the site by our team. In this place, a large site with citadel-like elevation in the western part occupies strategical location guarding the entrance into the gorge of Goz Dagana.

The finds of archaeological material belonging to the Medieval periods were, however, not limited to this particular area. The Early and/or High Medieval pottery was encountered also at the sites 208, 210, 211, 212 (Kaptar Kamar), 213, 215, 221, 233–5, 237–240, and 255. As the High Medieval pottery has not been studied closely in this area so far, we are not going into the needed detail regarding chronological subtleties and related spatial-temporal dynamics of the period.

Yet another Medieval site has been briefly studied at the northern extremity of our research area in the village of Khojaunkan (**Pl. 6/7**). The large Early and High Medieval settlement of Lungi Tepa, the core of which had been previously studied and partly excavated (БОВОКХО-ЖАЕВ *et al.* 1990), appears to be much larger than the central tepa itself. Abundant pottery and architectural fragments were collected from the surface of its surroundings not only to the west as indicated by our predecessors, but in all directions. Besides, substantial number of human bones was found scattered across the fields and gardens to the southeast of the tepa. This situation was preliminarily interpreted as an accidentally exposed burial ground, probably belonging to the settlement of Lungi Tepa itself. The material is currently being studied by anthropologist Rebecca Kinaston of Otago University.

Nr. ShD ^s	Site	Trace	Longitude	Latitude	Elevation	Surface area (sq m)	Period	Detected / surveyed (date)	Notes
151	Lungi Tepa	12	66.783458	37.896793	1326	2400	Medieval	26 August 2017	Site excavated and published by BOBOKHOZHAEV et al. 1990
207	Kayrit XXIV	1	66.780734	37.745212	797	650	4 th -10 th c. AD	23 August 2016	
208	Kayrit XXV	1	66.778328	37.752105	876	350	Sapalli, Medieval	23 August 2016	
209	Kayrit XXVI	2	66.793631	37.744483	836	2100	Yaz I	25 August 2016	
210	Tulki Tepa	3	66.749381	37.751284	924	22500	Sapalli, High Medieval	26 August and 5 September 2016, 25 August 2017	Surveyed by metal detector (Smělý); topo-plan by (Havlík, Cejnarová)
211	ZAwesto03	4	66.718556	37.771085	1031	13000	High Medieval, Yaz I (?)	28 and 31 August, 2 September 2016	Surveyed by metal detector (Smělý)
212	Kaptar Kamar	7	66.768216	37.886384	1335	400	Yaz I (+ Neolithic?), Medieval	4 and 6 September 2016	Excavations in September 2017 (Nejman)
213	Bobolangar	---	66.740396	37.762067		1750	Sapalli, Early Medieval	24 August 2016 by Augustinová; 26 August 2016	Excavations in September 2017 (Augustinová)
214	No name	---	66.744306	37.767902	1006	1200	Sapalli, 4 th c. AD, 5 th -6 th c. AD.	28 September 2015 by Augustinová	
215	Eishn Tepa	---	66.676308	37.783684	1230	2200	Sapalli, Kushan, Early and High Medieval, 18 th -19 th c.	8 September 2016 by Augustinová	
216	Kosh Tepa	---	66.762926	37.745041	916	---	Sapalli	1 October 2015 by Augustinová	
217	No name		66.765086	37.745505	915	---	Yaz II/III	1 October 2015 by Augustinová	Surface disruption in the vicinity of Kosh Tepa (216)
218	ZAwesto05	6	66.712244	37.77109	1060	640	Pre-Modern	31 August 2016	
219	ZAwesto06	6	66.709504	37.77478	1069	1050	Pre-Modern	31 August 2016	

8 Numbering of the archaeological sites valid for the whole Sherabad District based on the Czech-Uzbek long-term mapping of the region.

Nr. ShD	Site	Trace	Longitude	Latitude	Elevation	Surface area (sq m)	Period	Detected / surveyed (date)	Notes
220	ZAwesto07	6	66.701651	37.772488	1090	900	? (no pottery)	31 August 2016	
221	KAnorth¹	7	66.801209	37.786103	866	6000	Medieval	1 September 2016	Further investigated by Augustinová
222	KAnorth 2 - kurgans	7	66.799435	37.788715	870	---	?	1 and 7 September 2016	Further investigated by Havlík in 2017
223	Gurjak north - kurgans 001-007	9	66.815909	37.862462	1040-1060	---	Yaz I pottery (no. 6), 5 th -6 th c. and Medieval pottery (no. 6)	4 September 2016	8 kurgans in line; further investigated by Havlík in 2017
224	Khojaunkan kurgans	9	66.772724	37.889874	1234	---	No	4 September 2016	7 kurgans
163-166	KAnorth 3 - kurgans	10	66.788320	37.816905	990-1015	---	??	13 November 2011; 7 September 2016	Further investigated by Havlík in 2017
225	Burgutcha - group of kurgans	11	66.782520	37.759359	840	---	??	9 September 2016	Further investigated by Havlík in 2017
226	Settlement around Lungi Tepa	12	66.783458	37.896793	1320	10300 / 7600 ^o	Medieval	26 August 2017	Human bones analysed by R. Kinaston
227	Gaza Kutun	---	66.847363	37.748989	800	8400 ⁿ	Yaz I	27 August 2017 by Augustinová	Geophysical survey conducted on 31/8/2017 by L. Darras
226	Qushilish Tepa	14	66.745152	37.624220	612-619	65000	Sapalli, Late Kushan, Early and High Medieval (dominant), Pre-modern	29 August 2017	Most important seems to be SW part - separated tepa of 5500 sq m
227	No name	15	66.761474	37.674795	711	834	Early Medieval	30 August 2017 8:31	Tepa. Springs at the foot of the hill
228	No name	15	66.765526	37.670309	684	?	Early Medieval	30 August 2017 9:05	Pottery scatter on the bank of the river
229	No name	15	66.765023	37.668473	688	?	Early Medieval	30 August 2017 9:31	Small tepa
230	No name	15	66.763183	37.666422	685	920	Early Medieval?	30 August 2017 9:50	Small tepa
231	No name	15	66.758529	37.651810	656	4400	Early Medieval	30 August 2017 10:48	River terrace

9 Originally marked as KA_ west by mistake.

10 The first figure stands for the tepa no. 151 (see above) together with a 'rabat', adjoining not fortified settlement (it could be in fact much larger taking in account morphological features to the east of the site), while the other for area of a presumed necropolis.

11 Compare to 1700 sq m of Burgut Kurgan and 1400 sq m of Kayrit Tepa.

Nr. ShD	Site	Trace	Longitude	Latitude	Elevation	Surface area (sq m)	Period	Detected / surveyed (date)	Notes
232	No name	15	66.751742	37.641892	637	1020	High Medieval	30 August 2017 11:26	Small tepa with a tomb of an imam on the top
233	No name	15	66.748031	37.633090	635	?	High Medieval	30 August 2017 11:58	Large tepa; extent of settlement uncertain
234	Kyzylbay 1	16	66.706011	37.610843	630	1100	Medieval	30 August 2017 by Augustinová; 3 September 2017	KuPi_073
235	Kyzylbay 2	16	66.705260	37.609634	630	1420	Medieval	30 August 2017 by Augustinová; 3 September 2017	KuPi_073
236	Kyzylbay 3	16	66.704231	37.608542	623	730	Sapalli, Yaz I, Early Hellenistic?	30 August 2017 by Augustinová; 3 September 2017	KuPi_072
237	Kyzylbay 4	16	66.700816	37.606599	618	74000	Medieval	30 August 2017 by Augustinová; 3 September 2017	KuPi_071
238	Goz Dagana 1	17	66.746960	37.621782	605	ca. 100	Sapalli; Yaz I; Early Medieval (5 th -6 th c.)	30 August 2017 by L. Nejman, 3 September 2017	Small outpost
239	No name	18	66.904323	37.742841	601	44 000	Medieval	8 September 2017	Cluster of pottery scatters
240	No name	18	66.921460	37.745907	588	?	Medieval	8 September 2017	
241	Goz Dagana 2	19	66.752110	37.615715	582	ca. 2000		10 September 2017	Pottery scatter
242	Goz Dagana 3	19	66.760590	37.603066	527	2300	Yaz I	10 September 2017	Terrace with a pottery scatter
243	Iskandar Tepa	20	66.973576	37.920690	829	9100	Hellenistic	12 September 2017	Trial trench excavated on 16 September 2017 (by L. Stančó)
244	No name	20	66.974344	37.922585	806	240	Kushan-Sasanian	12 September 2017	Core of large pottery scatter (generally linked to the site 108 – Kulal Tepa)
254	Yul Tepa	21	66.923728	37.744933	570	ca. 16300	Sapalli	19 September 2017	Site divided by the road
255	No name	21	66.922049	37.742026	565	2700	Medieval	19 September 2017	

Tab. 2: Overview of the archaeological sites detected during the survey.

CONCLUSION

During the two field seasons 2016 and 2017, substantial archaeological data on the settlement dynamics in the Pashkhurt basin of the Kugitang foothills have been accumulated. The most important archaeological sites that were detected during the survey are described briefly above and the other ones listed 'in order of appearance' in the **Tab. 2**. Among them, let us highlight only those that have the greatest potential for further exploration. These include the rock-shelter of Kaptar Kamar with pottery of Early Iron Age, the Late Bronze Age settlements of Tulki Tepa and Yul Tepa, clusters of kurgan-like features to the west of Zarabag, north of Karabag, north of Burgut Kurgan, between Gurjak and Khojaunkan, as well as the group of settlements belonging to various periods located along the right bank of Dabil Say between Pashkhurt and Goz (**Pl. 6/4**). All of these offer great opportunity for further research, both for non-destructive investigation and excavations, since they are mostly easily accessible and not covered with any structures or vegetation, not to mention singular convenience given by the fact that the cultural layers belong typically to only one period at each site. The same goes for the Hellenistic settlement of Iskandar Tepa near Loylagan, which – rare in itself – is not covered by any later settlement phase. Further survey in the piedmonts of Kugitang and trial excavations of selected ones of the above mentioned sites are planned by the Czech-Uzbekistani team in cooperation with French team for the field season 2018. At the same time, we are preparing an in-depth analysis of the settlement pattern in the Pashkhurt Valley and its dynamics both in Prehistory and historical periods.

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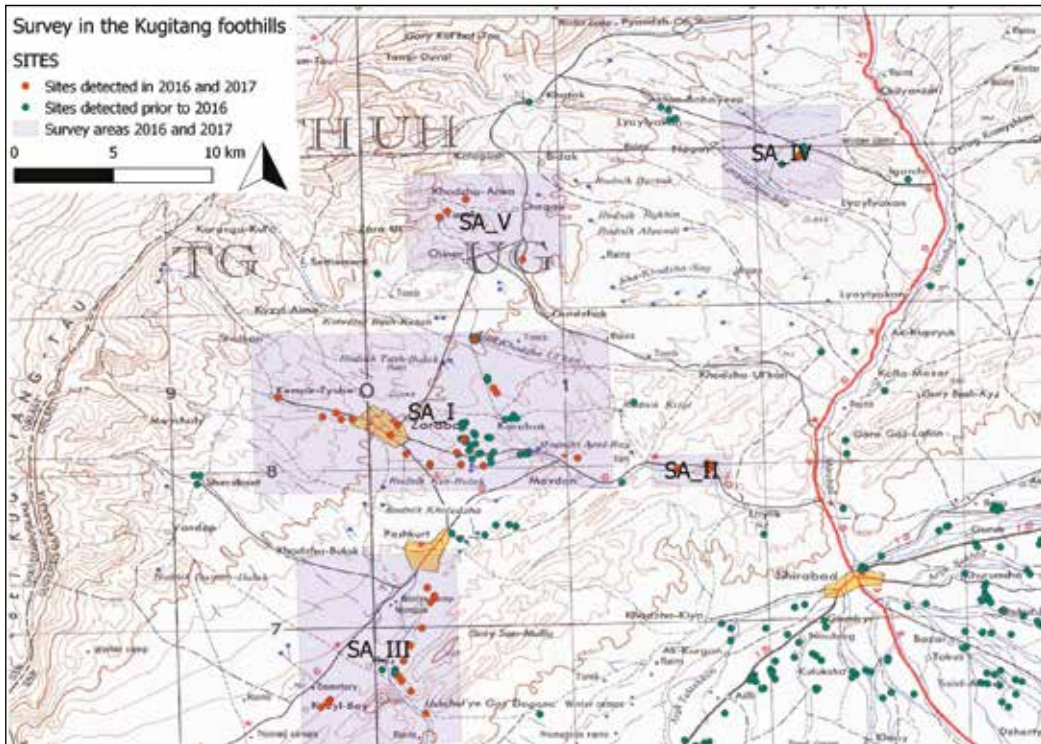
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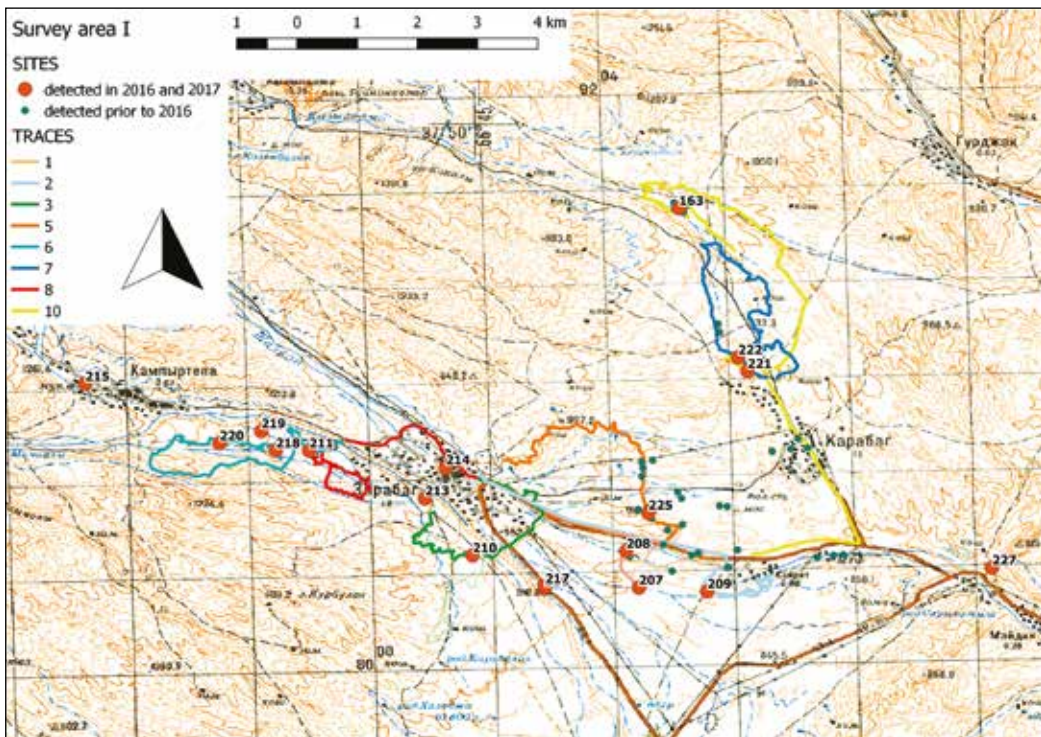
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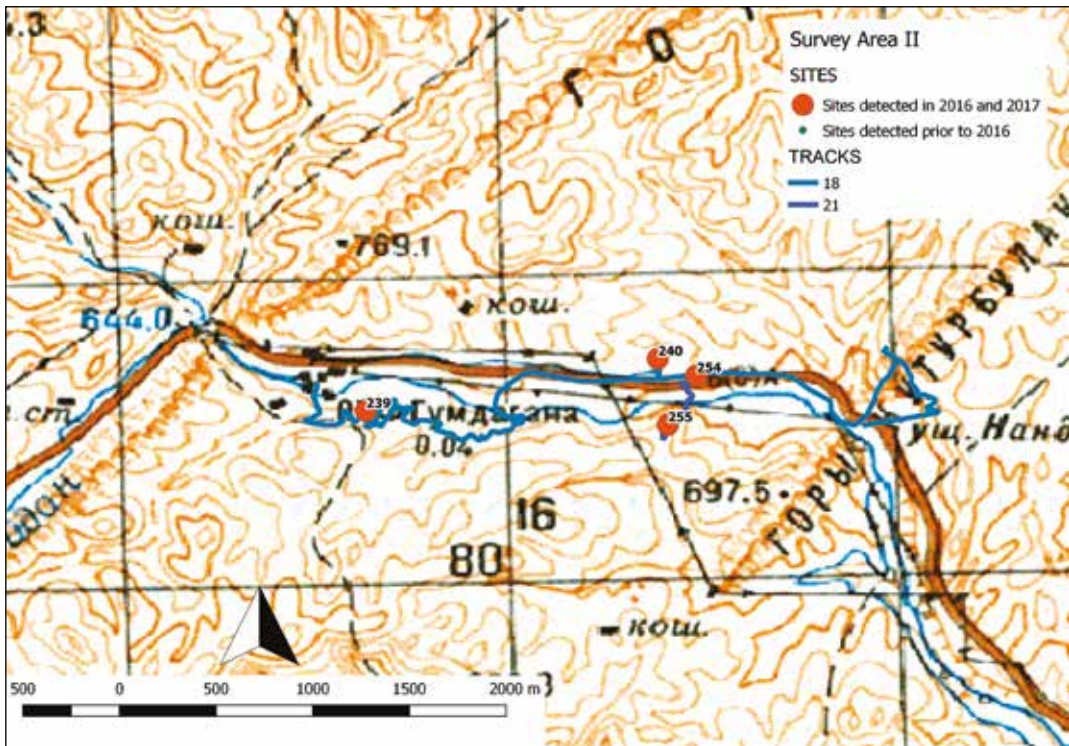
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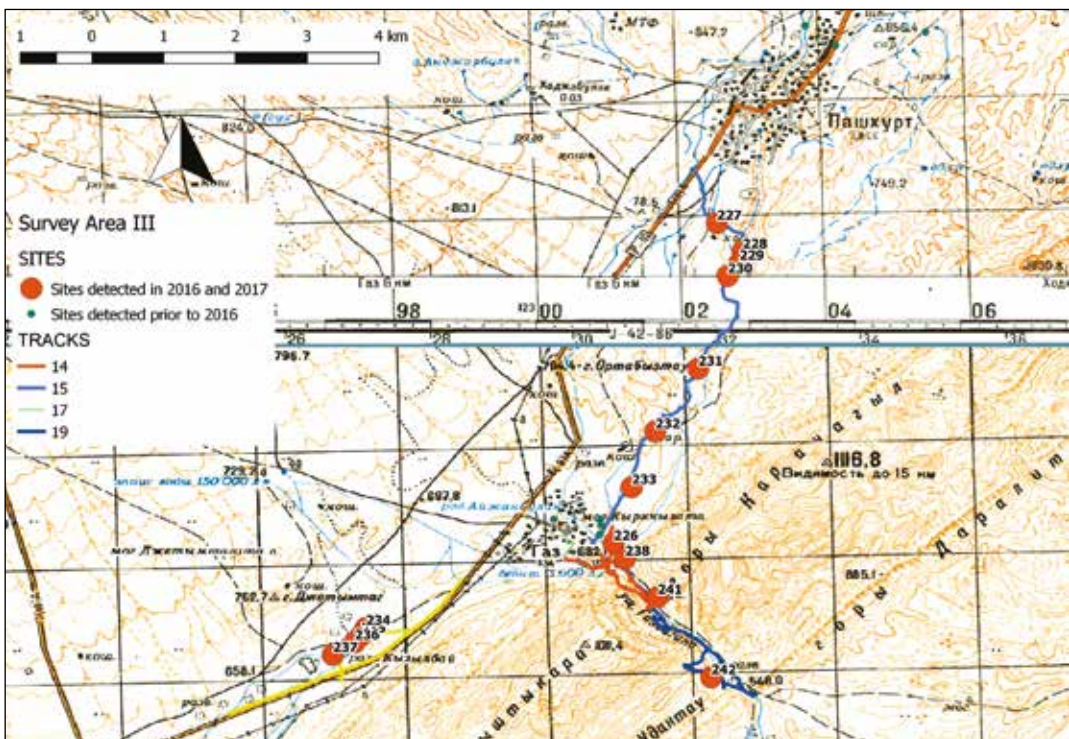
Pl. 6/1: Map of the Kugitang foothills, south Uzbekistan.



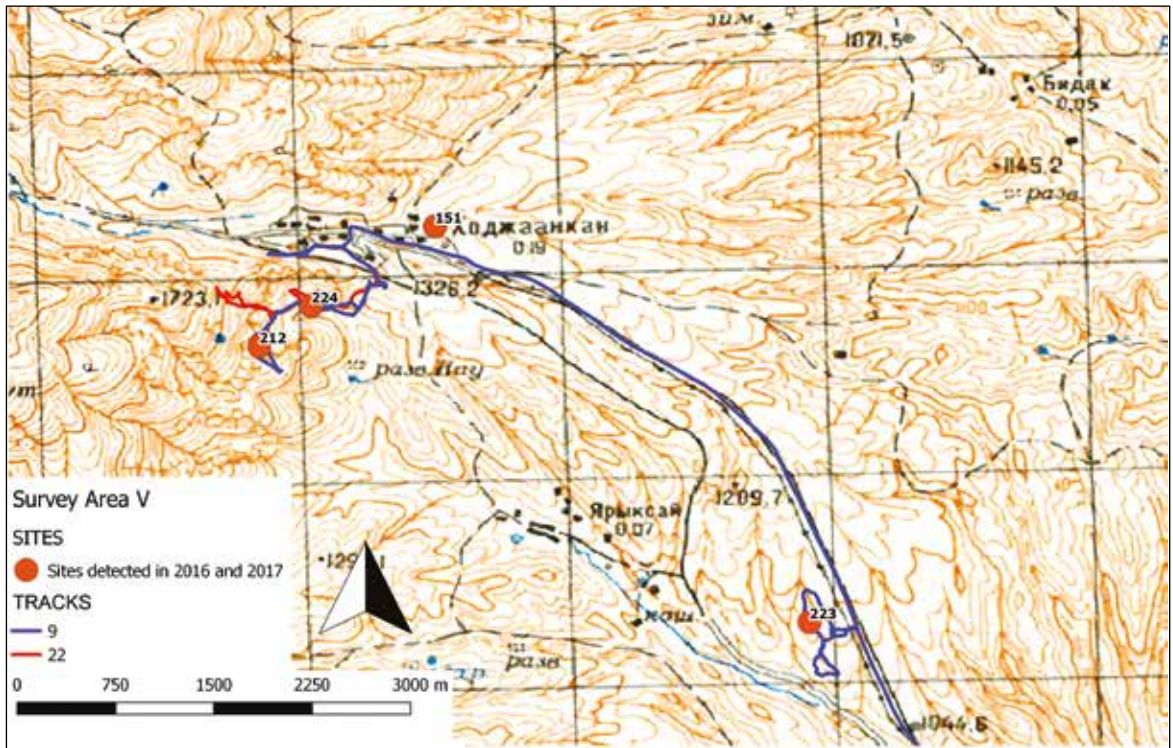
Pl. 6/2: Survey area I, Kayrit, Zarabag, Karabag.



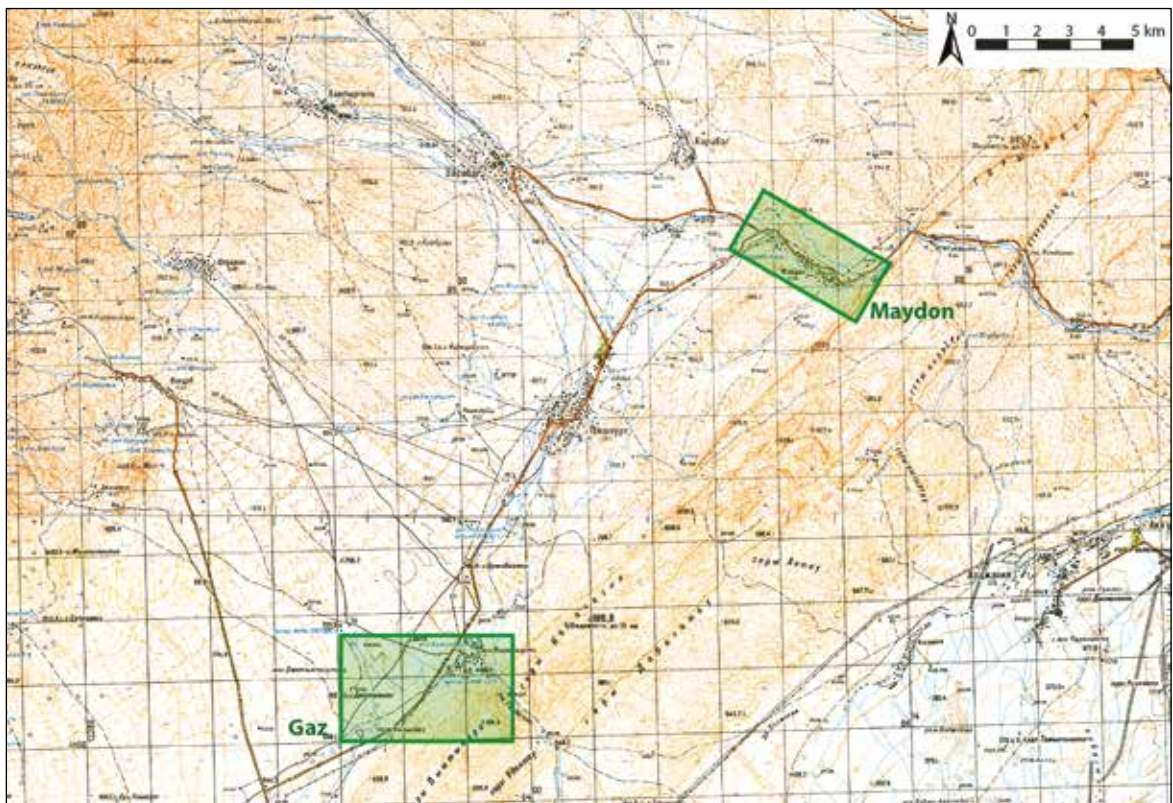
Pl. 6/3: Survey area II, Maydan - Loyliq Say.



Pl. 6/4: Survey area III, Pashkhurt - Goz.



Pl. 6/7: Survey area V, Khojaunkan - Gurjak.



Pl. 7/1: Researched area on the Soviet military topographic map created in 1983 (1: 100 000) - highlighted areas of the Maydon and Goz Oases.