

## Zayamchai Excavation 2003 Post Excavation Project Design

### 1 non-technical summary

The Zayamchai cemetery was excavated as part of the Phase 3 archaeological works of the BTC pipeline project during 2003. Approximately 129 graves were excavated containing a wide range of human remains and associated grave goods. The site is broadly dated to the 13th to 8th centuries BC and is a typical site of the Hoxiali- XXXX culture. An associated settlement area was excavated some 300m to the east. Fieldwork in the area shows large numbers of small kurgan stone burial cairns and other settlement evidence indicating that only a small part of the total area of the site has been examined.

This sites represents one of the largest excavations carried out by the IoAE and is of international importance in the study of Transcausian archaeology.

The ancient residential area located on the right bank of the Zayamchay river, in the vicinity of Shamkir district's Duyarli and Bayramli villages, and the nearby ancient necropolis are the biggest monumental structures which have been found and excavated along the BTC pipeline route. The excavation works associated with these monuments were carried out by the multi-skilled archaeological expedition group of our Institute. It should be stressed out that the aforementioned archaeological works are one of the wide-scaled excavation activities ever conducted in the scientific history of the Azerbaijan's archaeology, which in turn has resulted in the discovery of hundreds of rich culture-related samples. These archaeological findings will remain to be a subject of scientific and research activities for many years and their important role in studying Azerbaijan's history will be interpreted. Therefore, taking into account that such report will be a main source for future research activities, it is of great importance to take a responsible approach in developing comprehensive report on the aforementioned archaeological works.

- 2 site location including map(s) and description (NGR, size, geology, land use, topography, physical constraints)
- 3 context of the project: planning background, planning policies, other environmental matters, relevant legislation, details of proposed development if relevant

The BTC pipeline project. Attention was drawn to the area during the Stage 1 archaeological survey by a number of important features and the pipeline altered to avoid these. The specific parts of the site were located during stage 2 trial trenching and the full scale excavation commenced as part of Stage 3 of the programme. At present, the construction of the pipeline has not reached this area, but certain parts of the Stage 4 watching brief, identified a medieval cemetery 200m to the west of the site leading to an excavation during February 2004. This design represents the proposals for the Stage 5 works on the site for the preparation of a full archaeological report on findings in the area.

The proposals shown here will have to be seen as provisional until the completion of construction works which may reveal further features not recognized at present.

- 4 geological and topographical background
- 5 archaeological and historical background (including built, landscape and technical, plan or NGR, site status)

This is partly covered in the paragraphs above, but should also be a general statement on the known features in the area.

### 6 aims of fieldwork (clearly stated in both general and specific terms)

The aims of the excavation were to record those features that were threatened by construction of the pipeline. Although the working width of the pipeline was reduced, the quantity and intensity of

features recorded were far greater than indicated by the preliminary work in the area. This meant that a larger and longer scale excavation was required on the site.

A large quantity of high quality information was obtained from the cemetery, despite the fact that parts of the site were disturbed. In the settlement area, the results of excavation were disappointing due to the recent ploughing and erosion of the hill on which it stood. It is hoped however that sufficient information was obtained to show that the two types of site were used at the same time.

- 7 field methodology (techniques selected, with justification for selection; detailed exposition of techniques, artefact collection policies, discard policies, environmental collection strategy and implementation, recording techniques, and any measures for the conservation/ reburial of surviving deposits)

Open area excavation along the pipeline width with full excavation by hand of grave features. Drawing and photography of the exposed burials. Complete recovery of artifacts, including sieving for small items. Human remains were very fragmentary, and only those in relatively good conditions were lifted and retained. The other remains were disposed in accordance with the community's wishes. Archaeological records were kept by BTC and IoAE staff. BTC staff were responsible for surveying, drawing and photography of features. IoAE staff maintained a written narrative and photography of features, together with descriptions and onsite treatment of artifacts.

- 8 post-fieldwork methodologies (cleaning, conservation, cataloguing, packaging, dating techniques, archive preparation, analyses)

Artefacts were moved to the Ganja Guesthouse after initial cleaning and packing into boxes and were then transported to the IoAE offices in Baku.

There is a major concern over the preparation of a list of all artefact and their contexts and following from this the treatment, cataloguing and conservation of finds. A list of artefacts should have been started on site and carried forward as the materials moved into the IoAE offices. This list should be attached as an appendix to this project design, allowing definitive statements such as 'there are 514 complete pottery vessels, there are 255 bronze objects, 'there were 28 human remains 21 were discarded, 7 have been retained and are stored in the IoAE offices.' This list is important in maintaining control of the work as it progresses and will then be used by the conservation and museum staff. There is no evidence of such a list, it can be easily set up as an excel table.

- 9 report preparation, contents

a chapter by chapter breakdown of the report, supported by estimates of word counts and figure lists

"Introduction",  
summary of the site  
Geographical and natural setting

"Necropolis",  
Description and listing of features  
Pottery  
Bronzework  
Beads  
Bones

"Residential Area",  
Pottery  
Beads

"Conclusion",

Discussion of the site  
Significance of the features  
Significance in an international setting

Could do with the word count to show that the report will be a sufficiently 'wordy' document, an indication of the number and type of drawings would also be useful and would help the IoAE in knowing what it had to do

The report shall consist of such sections as "Introduction", "Necropolis", "Residential Area", "Conclusion", and shall include clip arts. The importance and stages of activities undertaken by BTC in order to study archaeological monuments, as well as the essence of these research activities shall be described in the "Introduction" section. In the "Introduction" Section, the fact of determination of primitive society's medium by natural conditions shall be taken as a key factor in order to provide brief information on natural and geographical conditions of the Zayamchay basin, where these monuments are located. Along with the above said, the "Introduction" section shall mainly reflect the peculiar characteristics of the excavated monuments, the distinctive features of the burial mounds found in the necropolis, the unity of the necropolis with the residential area, and the scientific significance of these excavation works.

The main part of the report shall contain the information on the excavation works at the Zayamchay necropolis and the associated residential area, as well as the interpretation of the archaeological materials obtained as a result of the aforementioned excavation works. As it has been mentioned above, the results of the excavation works carried out at the necropolis will certainly be represented in the report in the first place, since the period of the excavation works was quite long and plenty of culture-related samples have been discovered during these excavations.

In the report the priority shall be given to the interpretation of the description of burial types discovered at the necropolis. Identification of the burial types comprises the basis for scientific research of the necropolis. Furthermore, the archaeological materials associated with the burial mounds shall be illustrated and explained in the report. Every single archaeological finding and its parameters shall be included in the report. It goes without saying that the pottery should be more widely illustrated and explained. Because, speaking quantitatively, the pottery products have overwhelming majority over the other archaeological findings obtained from the necropolis. Moreover, the pottery products, in particular, enable to hold more precise information on the monuments' historical age, as well as on the development characteristics of pottery craftsmanship. Type, shape and size of each earthenware product found in the burial mounds shall be specified in details.

A number of metal products like bronze arms (spears, arrow heads, daggers) and jewellery (bracelets, necklaces of different shapes and sizes, rings, earrings, etc), have been found during the excavation works at the necropolis. The extensive interpretation of the aforementioned findings is necessary to study development of the ancient metallurgy history, warcraft, and jeweller's art. Metal findings discovered during the excavation works shall be put through chemical analysis at the Institute's "Archaeological laboratory" to identify their full composition and the results obtained shall be given in a specific table. Such table shall be attached to the report.

Plenty of beads (made from paste, bones, sardonyx, and from other semi-valuable stone) has been found during excavation of the burial mounds at the necropolis. The beads, as the rest of jewellery, were very famous among ancient people because of its size, value, and because one could easily carry them far cry. Therefore, beads are most robust source for studying the history of international economic and commercial relations existing in the ancient times. The Zayamchay necropolis should also be considered from this perspective.

A number of objects, made from stones and bones, have also been found during the excavation works at the necropolis. The detailed interpretation of these objects shall be given in the report.

As it is known, the archaeological excavation works of the ancient residential area were also carried out along the BTC pipeline route in 2003, at the southeast of Zayamchay necropolis. The results of the above-mentioned excavation works shall be stated in the "Residential Area" Section of the report. Lots of archaeological materials, consisting of stone and pottery products, have been found during the excavation works along the small section of BTC pipeline route. The report shall include comprehensive interpretation of these archaeological materials.

All the interpreted information shall be summarised in the "Conclusion" Section of the report. Brief information shall be given to describe the significance of the excavated monuments, the rich culture-related samples, the ancient history of Azerbaijan, the development phases of various craftsmanship, as well as the mode of life, farming, funeral customs and moral culture of ancient people, who lived thereabout. At the same time, the report shall include some comments on chronology of the archaeological findings and associated monuments.

The report shall be well provided with illustrative materials such as photos of the burial mounds and associated materials, a general layout of few burial mounds and overall excavation works, graphical description of the archaeological materials, and table of the chemical analysis results.

**the methodology used to answer each research aim**

detailed methodologies for each type of data

#### 10 copyright

BTC Management is kindly requested not to distribute the report, which comprises of archaeological materials and information on monuments, until its authors will have it published. Unauthorised persons' intention to use this report for publishing purposes would be a breach of author's rights. Consequently, the responsibility shall be incumbent upon BTC.

What is BTC's view of copyright? It is set out in the contract with the IoAE

11 archive deposition (including finds ownership, recipient museum/repository)  
non-analytical procedures, eg proposals for disposal/ retention and for archive deposition

Will all the artefacts be retained? And what is their final destination, will some go back to the regional museum at Shamkir

12 publication and dissemination proposals, at the analysis stage to include publication plan or synopsis

The report shall be drawn up in Azeri and be made in two copies. One copy shall be kept by BTC and another copy shall be kept at the Institute's archive.

- the proposed publication outlet(s) This sounds like an area for Phil/Dave M and the IoAE to think about. There are national academic interests that the IoAE will know all about but also an international audience that BTC may be more concerned with.

how it is intended to integrate specialist reports and to cross-refer between different parts of the text

#### 13 staffing

Mr. A. A. Abbasov, Principal of the Institute, shall manage the development of the report, so as to bring about its high scientific level.

G. O. Goshgarli, N. A. Museyibli and G. H. Aghayev shall carry out interpretation and description of the archaeological monuments and associated findings.

The illustrative materials shall be prepared by a group of architects and artists led by Mr. V. H. Karimov.

#### 14 Health and Safety policies and implementation, including Risk Assessment

The work will be entirely conducted within the office environments, principally the IoAE offices within the Academy of Sciences in Baku. Health and safety policies for the Academy and a risk assessment for this work can be provided

15 monitoring procedures (internal, curatorial, contractual)

Internal monitoring of the work will be provided by senior members of the IoAE. The Ministry of Culture will be given an update of the work in progress and be allowed access to the work if they request.

BTC staff will assist with aspects of the work and also maintain oversight of the work. The IoAE will prepare a monthly report of progress against the timetable. There will be meetings at approximately six month intervals to discuss any areas of concern.

The World Bank representatives and the audit of the archaeological work will also wish to have copies of this design and make themselves familiar with progress, as it is the primary reason for conducting archaeological work

16 costs and timetable

## resource requirements and timetable

There needs to be a lot more detail here showing exactly what is going to be done and the list of artefacts comes to prominence here, ie

50 pots will be looked at by the specialist, 2 days,

50 pots will be drawn by the illustrator, 5 days

The specialist will write his report 5 days

Or it could be on a broader and less detailed basis

Pottery studies 2 months, January February 2004

Fitting in the conservation and museum studies could apply here, although I guess the IoAE will want to make it a faster track programme than the museum training programme will allow, mostly because museums and the IoAE are separate institutions