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**Short Report
Excavations of Poylu I Settlement
KP 409.1 - BTC ROW**

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ABSTRACT

This Report describes the results of small-scale excavations conducted at Poylu I multilayer (Eneolithic, Antique and Middle Ages) settlement site located at KP 409.1 of the BTC ROW. A significant number of features and artefacts were recorded during the excavation of the site. These were different purpose pottery ware, stone implements, floral material, hearth structures, and others.

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I. Introduction

- *Description of the BTC and SCP Archaeology Programme*

Archaeological excavations in connection with the construction of the BTC and SCP pipelines were conducted prior to, and during the construction of these pipelines. These excavations generally were carried out within the 44 m wide pipeline corridor from 2001 to 2005. The archaeology programme consisted of five phases of which the first four phases constituted field investigations:

Phase I – actual and potential archaeological sites were visually identified during walkover or baseline surveys during the selection of the pipeline route.

Phase II – the sites that were identified during Phase I as archaeologically potential were tested by digging test pits and conducting small-scale trial excavations.

Phase III – small and large-scale excavations were carried out within the BTC ROW.

Phase IV – small and large-scale excavations were carried out within the SCP ROW.

In addition to these, all the construction activities were monitored by watching brief archaeologists.

In general, during the core Phase III and Phase IV archaeological excavations were carried out at 41 sites with thousands of artefacts discovered. None of these sites had been previously known to archaeological science.

Phase V – preparation of scientific reports on the archaeological excavations carried out during the previous phases.

- *Discovery of the Archaeological Site*

The multilayer Poylu I settlement site was not identified as a potential archaeological site during Phase I or Phase II because the site is located in a cultivated area which had standing crops at the time of baseline surveys and trial excavations. In addition there were no visible surface markers or indicators at the site to attract attention.

The site was discovered by a watching brief archaeologist following topsoil stripping for the BTC pipeline. All construction work was immediately suspended and opportunity for proper archaeological investigation provided.

The excavations were carried out between 23 November and 5 December, 2004 under the guidance of Shamil Najafov and participation of Fuad Huseynov from the IoAE and supervised by BTC archaeological representatives Edward Dan and Claire Angus.

II. Field and Office Methods

- *Field Methods*

The area selected for excavation was a 4m wide strip of land along the BTC pipe centreline. The site was divided into 17 quadrats of 4 by 4m aligned west to east. Some quadrats were excavated to a depth of 70-80 cm and some to a 125-130 cm depth.

Appropriate field methods were employed as needed. The work was conducted without involving any machines, solely by the project labour force using such hand tools as spades, barrows, trowels

and brushes to clean and expose features as they were located. Archaeological finds were washed, field sorted, boxed and shipped to Baku, to the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography.

In addition to recording the artefacts recovered thorough attention was paid to the site layout characteristics and the nature and number of features exposed. In case of discovery of a grave the position and orientation of the skeleton, structure of the burial chamber and burial practices were also in the focus of attention. Like in all the other sites the excavations at this site were also conducted in line with the principle of step-by-step investigation adopted for the sites located along the pipeline route. Typological and physical methods were employed, comparison of stratigraphically conditioned material was made and general and specific characteristics and functions of finds and features were identified.

- *Office/laboratory Methods*

All the archaeological material recovered from the site was treated using experimental methods to establish the composition, structure, manufacturing technique and functions of particular finds. Further work was done on the site plan and field logbook containing the inventory of finds which were restored and conserved, illustrated and photographed, where relevant. This work constituted part of the reporting procedure resulting in this current Short Report.

- *Archive Disposition*

All the processed archaeological material was handed over to the IoAE special archive set up for the storage of finds discovered on the BTC and SCP ROW.

III. Excavation Results

- *Site Description*

The Poylu I Settlement site is located on the south side of the Kura river, close to the village of Poylu, Agstafa District, 500-600 m north-east of the Baku-Tbilisi railway line. The site was named Poylu I because two more settlement sites were identified on the pipeline route in the area – at KP 408.8 and KP 409.2. The site is located at Pulkovo coordinates 8538198, 4566035, at a height of 215m above sea level.

The site is located on level low-lying mostly arable land stretching along the Kura. The river terrace occasionally undulates forming small hillocks. The land to the south of the site is cultivated while the area to the north is used as pasture by local farmers. The debris and foundations of domestic structures revealed in the immediate vicinity of the site indicate that this area contained several periods of occupation.

The overall area of Poylu I Settlement is about 800-850 m² and is characterized by chestnut, sierozem and brown soils typical of flat country and arid steppe climate. The area is located at the juncture of the Kura-Araz and Minor Caucasus natural provinces and is predominantly flat. The area is covered with anthropogenic sediments mainly by Kura borne deposits. These river borne deposits consisting of sand, clay and shale form layers measuring between 25 and 35 cm in thickness. The amount of clay deposits increases with the depth and accordingly date back to thousands of years ago.

In terms of geological structure the area does not appear to be very complex. The river borne deposits (sand and clay) are relatively modern. In general, the areas along the Kura riverside and adjacent territories are for the most part covered with Cainozoic age clays, sandstones, conglomerates and limestones. These deposits cover even a larger geological area in the deeper layers of earth. In places where clay and sandy-argillaceous water permeable beds are overlying each other the soil remains moist for a long time after heavy rains. Sometimes ground waters add to this moisture. In the course of excavation of Poylu I Settlement this problem arose more than

once. Emergence of ground waters at a certain depth in some of the quadrats made it impossible to continue digging and further work was stopped, for example, in Quadrats 1, 2 and 3a.

- *Description of Cultural Horizons*

The topsoil consisting of clay, sand and less frequently of gravel-mixed ground had already been stripped by machines to a depth of 30 cm. Large quantities of pottery sherds visible in the topsoil heap were mostly medieval.

The first 40 cm thick cultural layer contained material dating back to the middle Ages. As this area is an arable land this layer was completely plough damaged in some places. The underlying layer in quadrats 9, 11, 14, 15, 16 and 17 was a 3-4 cm thick layer with interleaved ash and occasional charcoal flecks. The excavators interpreted the site as having three periods, Medieval, Antique and Eneolithic. The features relating to each period are described in sequence.

Medieval Period

In the central part of Quadrat 1 against its south side wall a hearth measuring 60 cm in diameter was revealed at a depth of 20 cm (below the 30 cm thick topsoil layer already removed). A spread of heat-affected river stones with soot traces on their surface was seen in the centre of the hearth. A second, 60-65 cm diameter hearth was located at the same depth in the same quadrat 40 cm from its western wall. The entire surface of the burnt area was covered with small river stones and pottery pieces (Plate 1, Photo 2).

A hearth encircled with small stones was also found at a depth of 35 cm in Quadrat 2 against the western wall, 45 cm from the northern wall.

Excavations in Quadrat 2A exposed a set of stones at a 35 cm depth close to the northern wall of the quadrat. However as there was no artefactual material either on or under the stones and it was impossible to deduce the purpose of this stone setting.

At a depth of 35 cm in Quadrat 3A there was a large visible spread of ceramic sherds 90 cm from the northern and 100 cm from the eastern wall of the quadrat. The pottery spread measured 125x100 in diameter. The sherds included a mouth fragment of a grey, thick-walled storage pit, pieces of a ceramic handle, fractions of burnt bricks and many small ceramic pieces. To the west of this pottery spread, a segment survived of a hearth wall built of fired clay with a clay bedding for firing pottery. It could be assumed that the whole area was a hearth or a kiln for firing pottery or that it was used for storage (Plate 2, Photo 2).

Remains of another hearth were recorded at a 35 cm depth in Quadrat 3 located 30 cm from the western wall and 70 cm from the southern wall of the quadrat. The diameter of this hearth built of fired clay bricks was 140 cm by 80 cm. Many ceramic sherds were recovered from within the hearth (Plate III, Photo 1).

A noteworthy hearth structure pertaining to this cultural horizon was revealed at a depth of 40 cm in Quadrat 4. This hearth in the centre of the quadrat was constructed of cobblestones and measured 1m in diameter. The three large river-washed stones used in the construction of this structure were of the same size (30x25 cm) and thickness (10x15 cm) and were fire-blackened (Plate III, Photo 2).

Two spreads of fire-blackened soil measuring 50 and 60 cm in diameter were exposed at a 10 cm depth in Quadrat 5. They were located 70 cm from the northern wall adjacent to Quadrat 4.

The hearth remains found in Quadrat 9 measured 35-50 cm in diameter. This 14 cm deep hearth was exposed at a 20 cm depth 55 cm from the north side wall and 45 cm from the west side wall of the quadrat.

Two groups of stones were recorded at a 25 cm depth in Quadrat 16. The space between the two sets was 140 cm. These were small, white, river stones measuring 5x7 cm and 6x12 cm in size. The first roughly circular spread of stones was adjacent to the southern wall, 190 cm from the eastern wall, while the second one had an oval shape and sat against the western wall, 200 cm from the southern wall and 120 cm from the northern wall.

A similar stone spread was noted at the balk of Quadrats 16 and 17. It was 100x80 cm in diameter and 20 cm high. One more patch of stones but of a smaller size was uncovered in Quadrat 17. The area around it contained small charcoal pieces and fractions of bricks fired to a red surface.

It is very hard to be definite about the stone spreads found in this medieval cultural horizon. They might have been brought and piled here either to build a house or some kind of oven.

Antique Period

The second cultural horizon was revealed at a depth of 40 cm below the base of the topsoil and went down to 80 cm in depth. In several quadrats it continued down to 60 cm and even to 100 cm in depth. High quality Antique pottery delicately made, and fired at a stable temperature, as well as hearth remains were contained in this cultural horizon. This cultural horizon was not continuous upon the entire area of the excavation site. It broke in some quadrats and exposed material from the overlying cultural horizon. For instance, both Antique Period ceramic sherds and fragments of a large medieval storage jar were recorded in Quadrats 7, 8 and 13 at a depth of 65-70 cm of the second cultural horizon.

A patch of fire-blackened ground, presumably a hearth, measuring 50-55 cm in diameter was exposed in the Antique Period horizon at a depth of 56 cm in the south-eastern corner of Quadrat 3A. A worked obsidian splinter was recovered from its western corner and animal bones and pottery sherds in large quantities were found in the centre of this quadrat. The fire-blackened area measured 15 cm in depth. Another fire-blackened spot measuring 80x65 cm in diameter was revealed 50 cm from the north side wall of the quadrat at a 65 cm depth. It was 10 cm in depth.

One more large hearth measuring 130x135 cm in diameter was found in Quadrat 3. It was exposed 15 cm from the northern wall of the quadrat at a depth of 60 cm. The thickness of the fire-affected area was 35 cm. Burnt bones and ceramic sherds were retrieved from there (Plate III, Photo 1).

Possible structural remains consisting of small river stones measuring 15x9 cm, 12x8 cm and 11x10 cm in size were uncovered at a depth of 50 cm in Quadrat 6. They were located 60 cm from the southern wall and 145 cm from the western wall of the quadrat. Among the stones were also 8 worked obsidian flakes. The height of this stone concentration was 25 cm. After this set of stones was removed another underlying spread of stones was recorded. This was smaller, 75x72 cm in size. It measured 20 cm in height, the first stone on top was 65 cm below the stripped surface. No artefactual material was revealed from under this second stone spread after it had been removed (Plate IV, Photo 2).

A large patch of burnt soil measuring 150 cm in length and 77 cm in width was exposed at a depth of 45 cm in this quadrat. Located 245 cm from the western wall of the quadrat it was aligned south to north. Many pottery sherds and obsidian pieces were contained in this fire-blackened soil at a depth of 65 cm below the base of the stripped topsoil. The burnt area or hearth was 100x95 cm in diameter and 15 cm thick. It could have been a cut tendir as well (Plate IV, Photo 1).

It is presumed that an Antique Period settlement occupied a much larger area and the excavations only examined the periphery of the settlement. This perhaps conditioned the scarcity of pottery in the Antique Period cultural horizon. The burial described below is of this cultural horizon and agrees with this interpretation as burials of the period were usually located outside settlements. It is most likely that the burial excavated here forms part of an adjacent larger cemetery, see for example, the burial of this period in the site of KP408.8, some 100m to the east.

Grave 1

A dense set of river-washed stones measuring 110x160 in diameter and 15 cm high was exposed at a depth of 55 cm in Quadrat 7. This stone spread was located 150 cm from the northern wall and 30 cm from the eastern wall of the quadrat. The removal of this stone layer uncovered another group of smaller stones at a depth of 65 cm. After these stones were lifted a circular shape burial chamber 115 cm from the southern side wall of the quadrat became visible. It was 1 m below the base of the stripped topsoil, (Plate V, Photo 1). The grave fill was different in colour from the surrounding substrate and contained small quantities of gravel and sand. The grave was aligned north to south and 145 cm long and 125 cm wide. The depth of the burial chamber itself was 35 cm. Preservation of the skeleton was rather poor and was that of a young child. The skeleton aligned east to west was laid on one side in a semi-crouched position with the skull turned to face north. Three small river-rounded stones were found by the skeleton's head. Three pieces of obsidian were retrieved from the head region - one from the skull and the other two from under it. These obsidian flakes bore no traces of retouch. Pottery in the burial included eight vessels of which only one small volume jug-type pot was complete.

One more feature was recorded in Quadrat 7. This was a fire blackened area at a depth of 70 cm adjacent to the grave and measured 120 cm in length and 85 cm in width. There was also a spread of bones on this heat-affected patch of ground which was 155 cm from the southern side wall and 30 cm from the western wall of the quadrat. The depth of this noticeably dark patch was 35 cm.

Only in some quadrats, namely Quadrats 1, 2 and 2A signs of a new cultural horizon became clearly visible below a depth of 80-85cm. The material retrieved at this depth from these quadrats is represented by pottery ware and a jar grave in Quadrat 2 which were of Eneolithic date.

- *Description of Finds*

The artefactual material recovered from the excavated settlement site can be grouped as follows:

Eneolithic Period

The Eneolithic archaeological material was recorded only in Quadrats 1, 2 and 2A beginning from a depth of 100-120 cm. However as the soft silty and sandy soil was very moist because of ground waters it was impossible to extend and deepen the excavation site. The maximum depth reached in these quadrats was 130 cm.

A pottery spread measuring 110-120 cm in diameter was uncovered at a depth of 120-125 cm in Quadrat 2 at a 1 m distance from its northern wall. The larger portions of these were plant tempered fragments. A short distance from it there was another spread of ceramic sherds roughly 1 m in diameter representing parts of a jar. The base and several fragments of the jar were complete in situ with the mouth and other fragments broken and fallen inside the jar. The finds lifted from this jar comprised also pieces of other pottery vessels of different shape and functions and human bones. All of this suggested that it was a jar grave (Plate II, Photo 1). Unfortunately the ground waters made it impossible to conduct more extended excavations.

Antique and Medieval Assemblage

Grave 1

Pottery from Grave 1 is one closed group and described as follows:

1. A light red, small volume pot coated with yellow angobe. It has an everted rim and a body widening downwards and tapering again at the flat base. Vessel dimensions: height – 6.3 cm, mouth diameter – 4.3 cm, body diameter – 9 cm and base diameter – 6 cm (Plate VI, Figure 1).
2. A black, thick-walled (1.2 cm) piydan-type ceramic vessel with three symmetrical legs. The handle is circular and connects the mouth to the base. There are traces of burning and soot and film-like deposit on the surface. Vessel dimensions: height – 7.7 cm, handle height – 6.5 cm, leg height – 1.2 cm, mouth diameter – 8.5 cm, body diameter – 8.4 and base diameter – 7 cm (Plate VI, Figure 2).
3. A light red, thin-walled bowl with an arched base. Tempered with fine sand, of delicate making and well fired. Vessel dimensions: height – 5 cm, mouth diameter – 11 cm and arch diameter – 2 cm (Plate VI, Figure 3).
4. A black thick-walled mug or cup with a high base and three small lug-shaped legs. The walls are thicker closer the base. The rim is wide, the circular handle connects the mouth to the base. The surface is heat affected with traces of soot both internally and externally. The round profile handle has a flat circular lug sitting on its upper end. Vessel dimensions: height – 6 cm, handle height – 6.7 cm, leg height – 1 cm, mouth diameter – 10 cm, body diameter – 10.5 and base diameter – 6.5 cm (Plate VII, Figure 1).
5. Mouth and body fragments of a black colour, thin-walled, jug-type vessel with an everted rim and globular body. This heavy clay jug is poorly fired and bears traces of burning and soot on the surface. Vessel dimensions: mouth diameter – 14.5 cm (Plate VII, Figure 2).
6. Fragments of a grey colour bardaq-type pottery vessel tempered with fine sand. It has an everted, sulcate rim and a handle connecting it to the body. This round profile handle has a depression on its upper end. Vessel dimensions: height – 12.5 cm, handle height – 10.5 cm, mouth diameter – 7.5 cm, body diameter – 13 cm and base diameter – 8.5 (Plate VIII).
7. A grey colour kuza-type ceramic vessel tempered with fine sand. It has an everted rim and a circular flat base. The elongated body straightens towards the base. Vessel dimensions: height – 23 cm, mouth diameter – 6 cm, body diameter – 16 and base diameter – 12 cm (Plate IX).
8. A black colour thin-walled mug bearing deep traces of burning and soot on the surface. The rim is arched and everted. The wide mouth tapers down to the relatively narrow base. The base is circular, flat and everted. A round profile handle is attached to the mouth and the body. The upper end of the handle is thinner than the lower one. Vessel dimensions: height – 10 cm, handle height – 6 cm, mouth diameter – 12.7 cm and body diameter – 7.3 cm (Plate X).

Ceramics

A significant portion of pottery ware from Poylu I Settlement date back to the Antique Period with most of these to the middle Ages. They are wheel thrown and well fired in the main. They have plain design and are angobe coated; the number of glazed pottery is few. The pottery ware recovered from the excavation site could be classified as follows:

Bardags

They have narrow necks, elongated bodies and flat bases. The handles connecting the mouths to the shoulders have round profiles and are ribbon-shaped. The pots are made of good quality clay, well fired and coated with a thin angobe layer. The ribbon handles have lengthwise decorative grooves on their surface and orifices on the upper ends. (Plate XI, Figure 2; Plate XII). These forms are more typical of Antique Period bardags. A concentration of small sherds was exposed at a depth of 70 cm in Quadrat 2. This spread was in situ and turned out to be the crushed remains of a complete bardag with the following dimensions: height – 17 cm, mouth diameter – 9.5 cm and body diameter – 13 cm.

A pottery spread noted at a 50-60 cm depth in Quadrat 9 represented mouth, neck and shoulder fragments of a light red bardag. The bardag recovered from the intrusive grave in Quadrat 7 is well fired, has a grooved mouth and burnished surface and is of Antique Period date.

Bowls

These fragments not many in number are of a light red colour and represent well fired pottery tempered with fine sand. Elements of decoration could be seen on bowl fragments.

Pots

Fragments representing this type of pottery are not many either. Mostly of brown, grey and black colours these come from poorly preserved pots. They appear to have long been in domestic use.

Platters

Most of the finds of this type are fragments of platter rims and indicate that platters tempered with fine sand were of fairly delicate making and well fired. They are of a light red colour in the main (Plate XIV, Figure 1).

A red colour thin-walled platter was depicted at a depth of 45 cm in Quadrat 3. It was broken but all the crushed remains were still in situ. The vessel dimensions were: height – 13 cm, mouth diameter – 24 cm and base diameter – 10 cm.

Churns

Fragments of this type are scarce and represent mainly parts of mouths, shoulders and bodies of grey colour pottery ware that have thin walls and thick bases. The body and base fragments of a well burnished and well preserved churn was found at a depth of 75 cm in Quadrat 8.

Mugs and Piydans

A small number of fragments of pottery of this kind was recovered from the intrusive grave in Quadrat 7 and in Quadrat 15. Some of these were heavy clay products fired at an unstable temperature. The presence of soot and burning on their surfaces indicate they were extensively used.

Cups

Only a few cups were found. These are mostly handled vessels of a grey and black colour. Round profile handles connect the mouths to the bases of cups. They are crudely made and poorly fired at an unstable temperature.

Piyalas

Only a few fragments representing bodies and bases of red, well-fired, thick-walled (1.4 cm) ceramic ware was recorded.

Jugs

They are mainly of a dark grey, sometimes black colour. They are of different sizes and have oblong or globular bodies. Some fragments come from narrow-necked jugs. The Antique jug from Grave 1 has a narrow neck and a conical body that widens down towards the base. The fragments

recovered show that these jugs were coated with angobe and some were well polished. They have, as a rule, everted rims (Plate XI, Figures 3 and 4).

The jug-type vessels constitute the major portion of pottery found at Poylu I Settlement site. For the most part they are well fired to a black, brown or light red surface, have thick walls and flat bases. The surfaces of black colour jugs are smoothed and slightly burnished. Decoration and stylistic elements are not particularly worthy of attention. Some jugs are coated with a thin angobe layer.

Jars

The excavations at this site produced remains of large storage jars. They all appear to represent bodies and bases of jars tempered with grit and fine sand. The vessels the clay composition of which includes gravel, have thick walls and were fired at an unstable temperature. Originally these jars were buried vertically in the ground and were used for long storage of food products, specifically wheat. Only the bases of these storage jars survived, because being located on irrigated arable land it had been cultivated over long periods of time as a result of which top parts of jars had been truncated by machines.

A fairly large storage jar was exposed in Quadrat 1 at a distance of 170 cm from its northern wall and 90 cm from the eastern wall (Plate 1, Photo 1). The height of the survived wall of the jar body was 57 cm, body diameter was 70 cm, the base diameter was 21 cm and the wall thickness was 1.4 cm. Much charcoal was seen inside the jar.

Quadrat 2 also produced a spread of fragments of a large jar at a depth of 80-90 cm (Plate XIII, Figures 2 and 3).

As stated above the majority of pottery ware recovered from this site were of plain design.

In addition to the pottery listed above plenty of ceramic fragments, notably handles were discovered at this site. These fragments could not be identified to forms with certainty. For instance, Quadrat 1 manifested an extensive spread of pottery sherds of various colours and shapes at a depth of 60 cm. Among these was a 6 cm long handle, a pot base measuring 9 cm in diameter and 9 cm long, white, ribbon-shaped handle.

A spread of pottery sherds that included mouth, shoulder and body fragments were visible at a depth of 65 cm in Quadrat 3.

In addition to animal bones found at a depth of 70 cm in the centre of Quadrat 4 there was a density of ceramic sherds consisting of burnished and well fired black, grey and light red fragments.

Pottery samples of different shapes and sizes were retrieved at a depth of 50-60 cm in Quadrat 11. Two of the recovered handles had a ribbon shape (Plate XIII, Figure 1). The rest of the fragments had polished surfaces, were coated with white angobe and well fired.

Quadrats 13, 14 and 15 also contained dense spreads of ceramic sherds.

Stone Artefacts

One stone implement was found at the excavation site. This is a grindstone exposed at a depth of 50-60 cm in Quadrat 12. Made of a grey river-washed stone it has traces of long use on its both sides. One end of the stone is red. The grindstone dimensions are: length – 9 cm, width – 3 cm and thickness – 2.1 cm (Plate XI, Figure 1). A significant number of obsidian flakes were found, specifically in Quadrat 3A, however these do not appear to bear any traces of retouch.

Metal Objects

Metal finds comprised four items. Two of them were broken pieces of a metal object shaped as a pot bedding. It was found at a depth of 30 cm in Quadrat 5. The size was 7 by 12 cm. Because of heavy corrosion it was impossible to determine which object it represented. The other two objects were also found in Quadrat 5 but at a depth of 75 cm. They were of different size and remotely resembled flat-based pots with hollows in the centre.

Special Finds

A single spindle whorl was recorded at the excavation site. Made of white limestone this circular spindle whorl measuring 4 cm in diameter was found at a depth of 60 cm in Quadrat 14. The central hole was 0.5 cm in diameter.

An object made of clay was found at a depth of 35-45 cm in Quadrat 3A. One side of this circular item measuring 10.5 cm in diameter had a depression while the other side was shaped like the bulging base of a ceramic pot. This item is assumed to have been used as a bedding for firing pottery in the kiln.

Beads

Three beads were found at a depth of 40 cm in the centre of Quadrat 4. These were oblong beads made of dark pink agate. Nine more beads were recovered from Quadrat 12 at a depth of 60 cm against its southern wall. These small, biconical beads were made of chopped pieces of white paste.

Animal Bones

Significant quantities of animal bones were recorded in the course of excavations at Poylu 1 Settlement site. Some of these were well preserved, some were decayed and some heavily affected by heat. Except for a few pieces taken and retained for analysis the rest of the bones were buried on the site as not providing any archaeological information.

A few burnt bones were found at a depth of 85 cm in Quadrat 3A in and around a 50-55 cm diameter hearth.

Cattle bones and teeth were noted at a depth of 30 cm in Quadrat 5 within a fire-blackened patch measuring 50 cm in diameter.

One spread of animal bones with small bovid bones prevailing was revealed at a depth of 60 cm in Quadrat 10.

All of the bones found were heaped on and concentrated mostly around hearths.

Eneolithic Assemblage

Ceramics

The Eneolithic pottery specimens are represented by a few broken pieces of ceramic ware such as jars, jugs, platters and bardaq-type vessels tempered with sand, gritstone and plants. Most of these are of plain design with no decoration elements applied. The wall thickness ranges between 0.5 and 1.2 mm, they are poorly made and fired at an unstable temperature. Mostly light red and brown colour pottery fragments represent broken parts of mouths, necks and shoulders of vessels. The Eneolithic plant tempered ceramic samples recovered at a depth of 120-125 cm in Quadrat 1 and 2A have developed a film-like deposit on their surface. One fragment representing a vessel shoulder is decorated with three engraved lines with a 1 cm gap between them (Plate XV). Those ceramic pieces that could be identified to forms were retained for further study and preservation, the rest that did not provide much new archaeological data was discarded on site.

Animal bones

Faunal materials included cattle bones found at a depth of 115 cm in Quadrat 1. There was also a spread of animal bones around the jar grave in Quadrat 2. These were small bones and teeth of a boar and sheep. Some of these bones were collected and retained for analysis.

IV. Analytical Results

- *Interpretation of Excavation Results*

The multilayer Poylu I Settlement site covers a fairly large area. The upper cultural horizon of the site was significantly damaged as it had been cultivated by the local population over long periods of time. In addition due to the specifics of the relief and soil condition the selected quadrats were not excavated to a full depth, i.e. until the natural sterile layer was reached. The major reason was emergence of underground waters at a certain depth. Because of this factor and because of tight time constraints it was impossible to gather more extensive data about the site. However, the material obtained makes it possible to ascertain that the site had seen three periods of occupation – the Eneolithic Period, Antique Period and Middle Ages. Artefactual material recovered from this site – pottery, stone implements, and metal objects suggest that different crafts, especially pottery making was highly developed in this area. It is thought that the multilayer Poylu I Settlement is the location of temporary occupation over different periods of time. The plant tempered ceramic ware dating to the Eneolithic Period, well fired pottery of delicate making of the Antique Period date and angobe-coated, well-burnished medieval ceramic vessels characterize the above listed historical periods.

- *Discussion and Analysis of the Results of the Work Compared with Other Sites of a Similar Nature on the Pipeline Route*

A number of other settlement sites dating to the Eneolithic Period, Antique Period and the Middle Ages have been identified and explored along the length of the BTC and SCP pipelines. The excavated sites cover the end of the Eneolithic Period and all stages of the Antique Period and Middle Ages. The Eneolithic pottery assemblage from Poylu I Settlement is similar to those recovered from Poylu II and Boyuk Kesik Settlements, whereas Poylu I Antique Period and medieval pottery assemblages are identical with those found in Lak I, Lak II, Hajjalili I, Hajjalili II, Hajjalili III, Seyidlar I, Seyidlar II, Girag Kasaman and Dashbulag settlement sites. The basic feature distinguishing Poylu I Settlement from all the rest is its being a multilayer archaeological site.

- *Discussion of the Site within a Regional and National Context*

Eneolithic, Antique and medieval settlement sites of Azerbaijan had been extensively explored well before the archaeological excavations were initiated along the BTC and SCP pipelines. These were large-scale excavations carried out in Gazakh, Agstafa, Fuzuli, Jalilabad, Baku, Shamakhi, Ganja, Beylagan, Shabran, Gabala and other regions of the country which resulted in publication of research papers and found large coverage in popular scientific literature. However, multilayer settlement sites of Azerbaijan have been studied relatively little. The least investigated still are the sites that show short- or long-term occupation beginning from the end of the Eneolithic Period through the developed stage of the Middle Ages. In this respect the archaeological excavations conducted at Poylu I Settlement site are of particular importance because they make it possible to shed light upon some obscure issues related to the study of material culture of the western region of Azerbaijan within the range of time covering the period from the late Eneolithic through the developed Middle Ages.

V. Illustrations

Plate I



BTC-04 Poylu I. Quadrat 2

1



BTC-04 Poylu I. Quadrat 2

2

Plate II



Btc-04.I Poylu.Quadrat2.

1



Btc-04.I Poylu.Quadrat 3A.

2

Platell



BTC-04 I Poylu Quadrat 3

1



BTC-04 I Poylu Quadrat 4

2

Plate IV



1



2

BTC-04. I Poylu Quadrat 6

Plate V



BTC-04. I Poylu Quadrat 7

1



BTC-04. I Poylu Quadrat 15

2

Plate VI

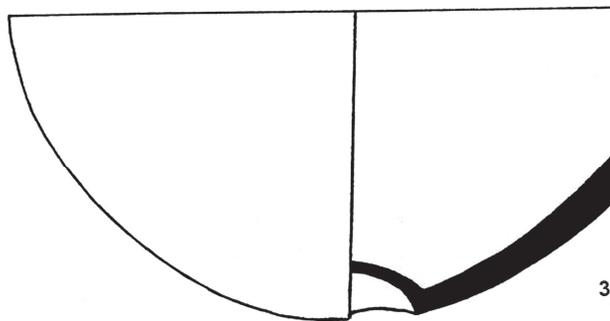
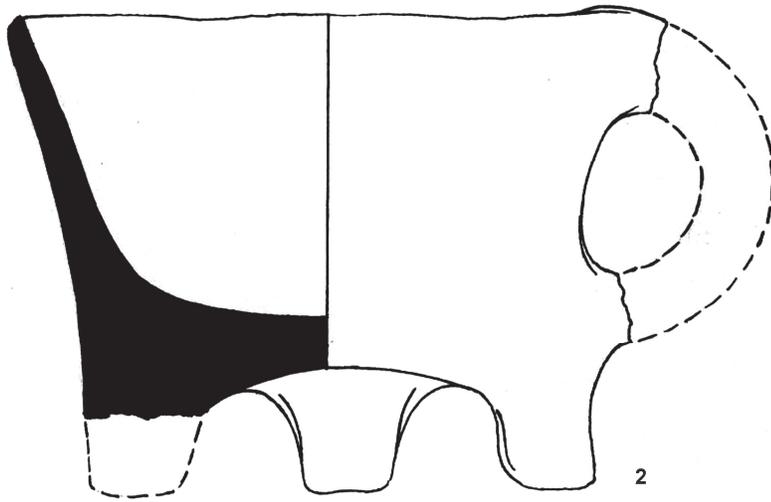
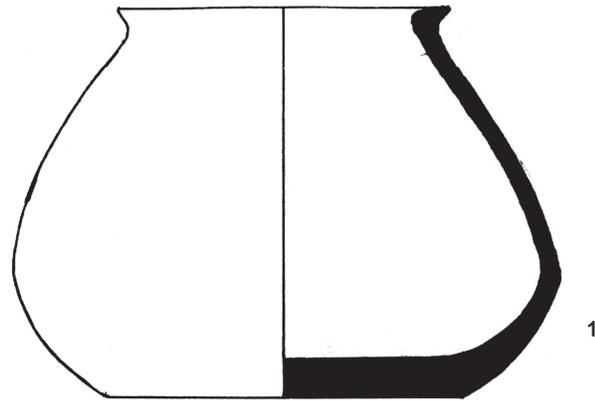
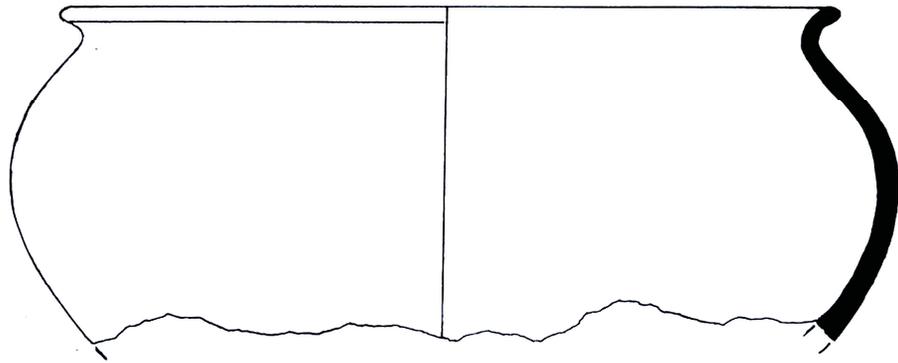
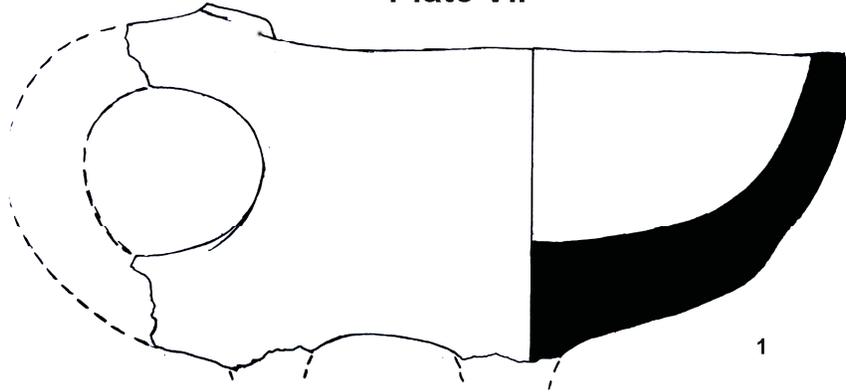


Plate VII



0 1 2 3

2

Plate VIII

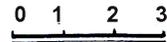
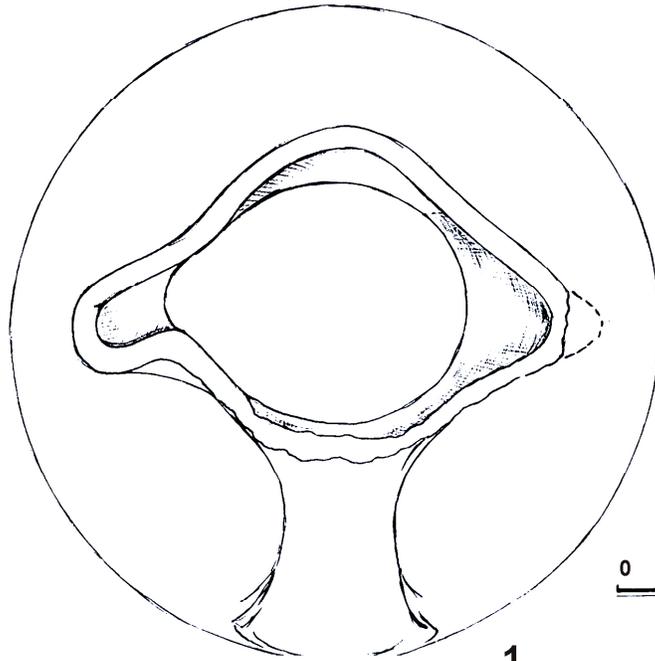
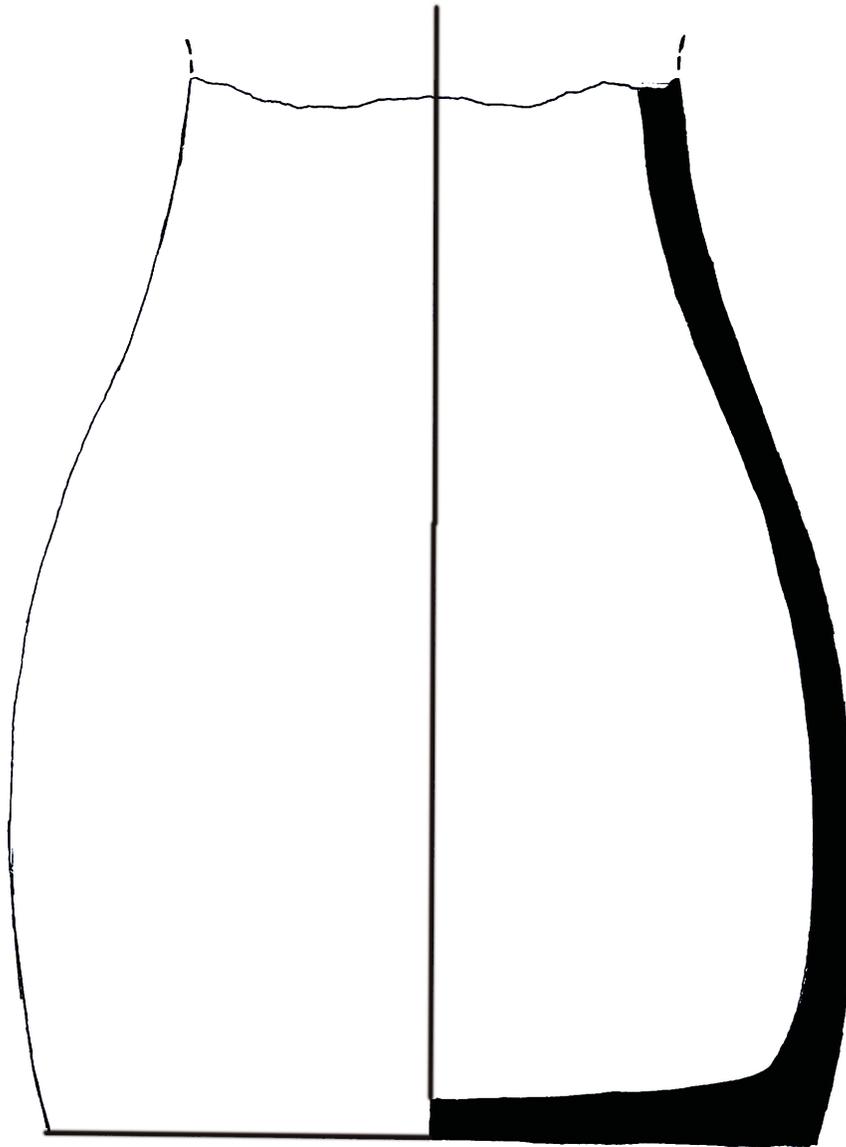
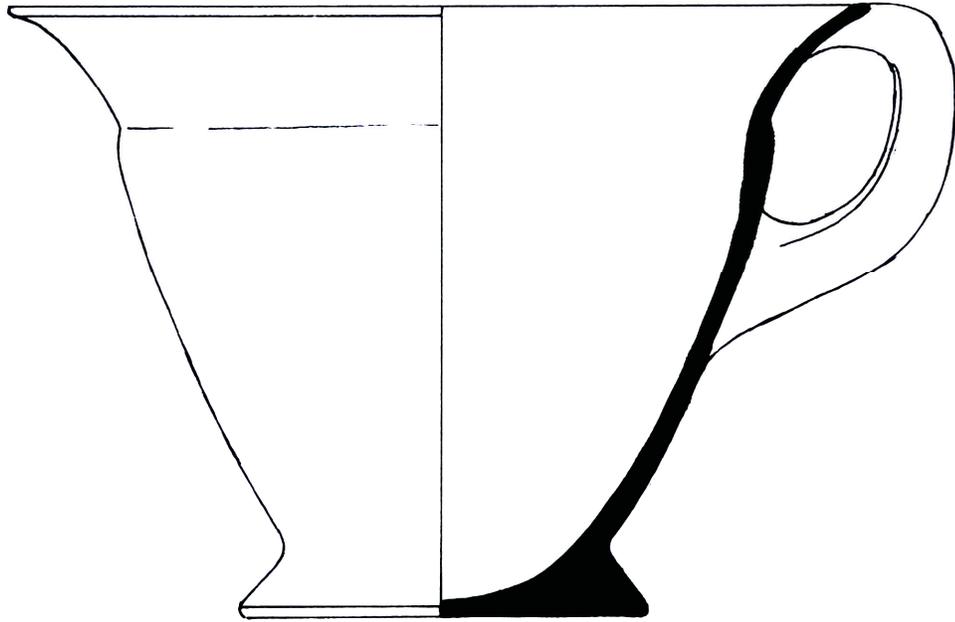


Plate IX



0 1 2 3

Plate X



0 1 2 3

Plate XI

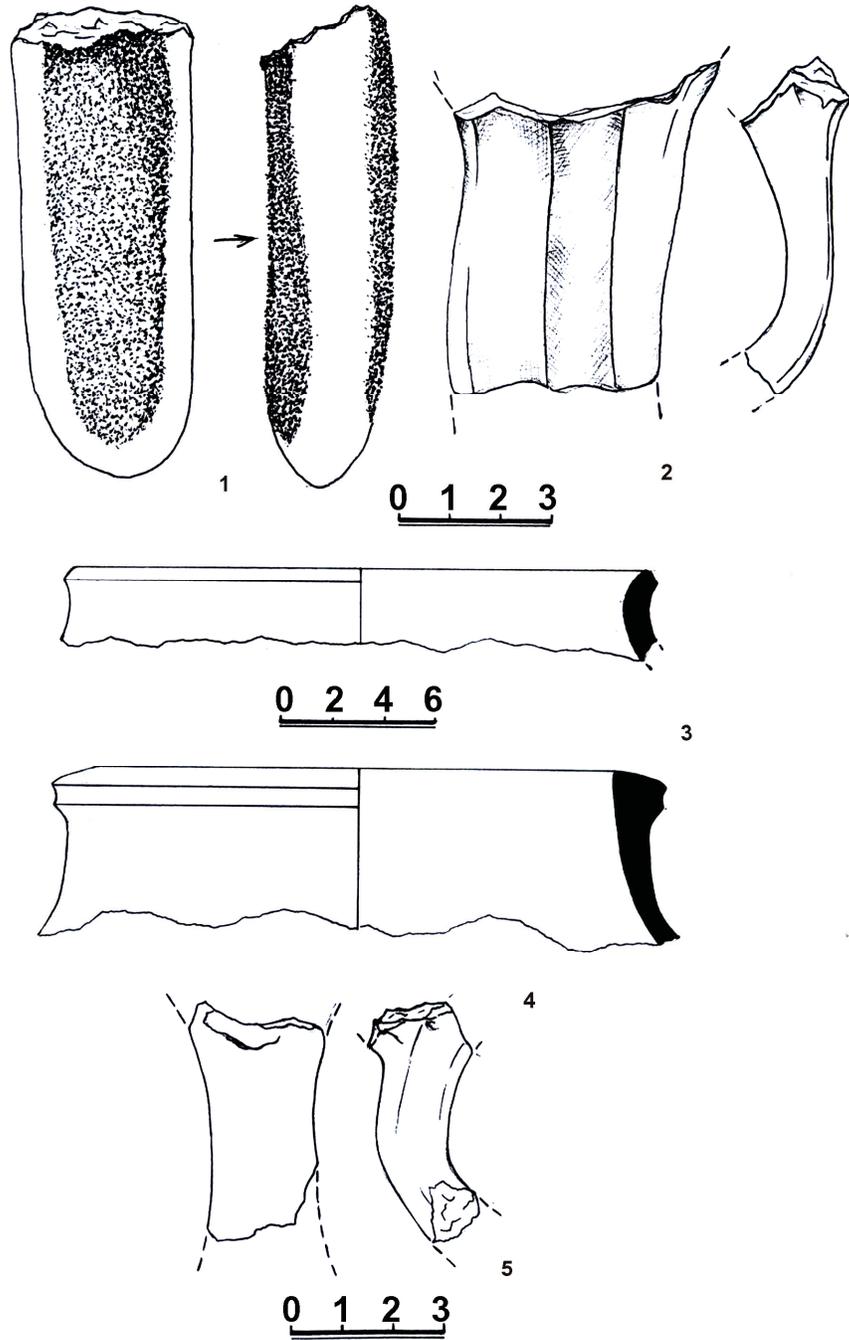


Plate XII

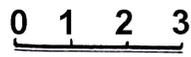
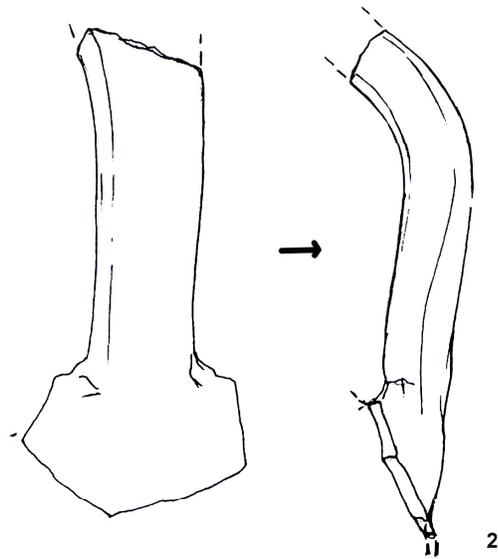
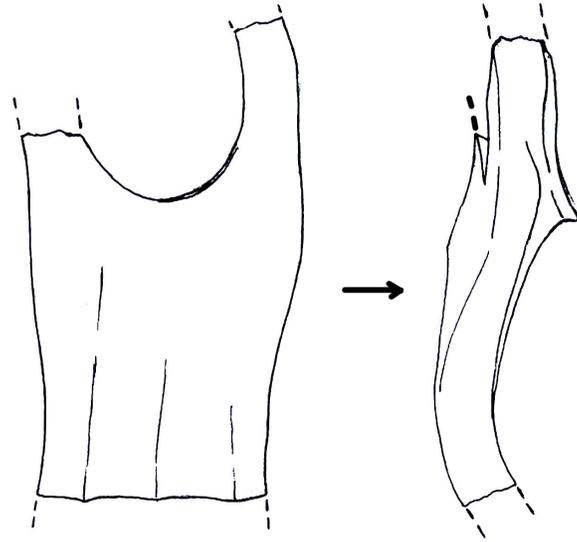


Plate XIII

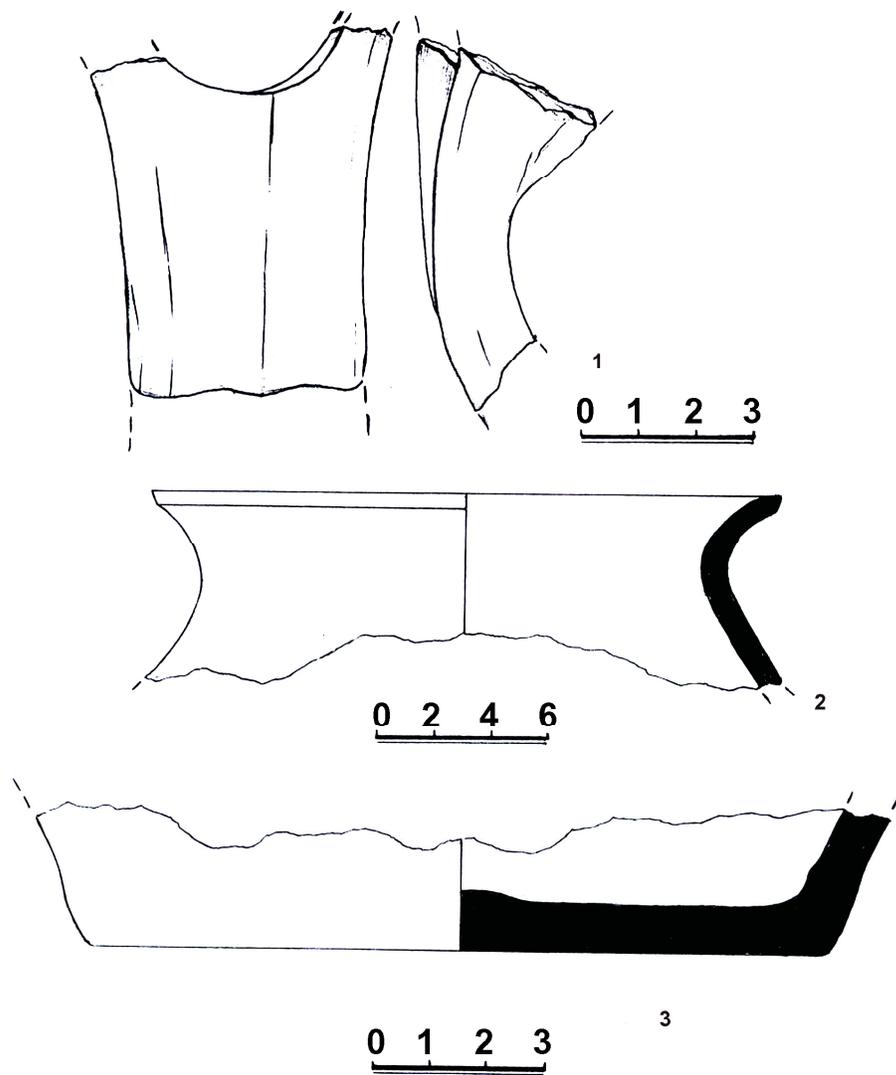
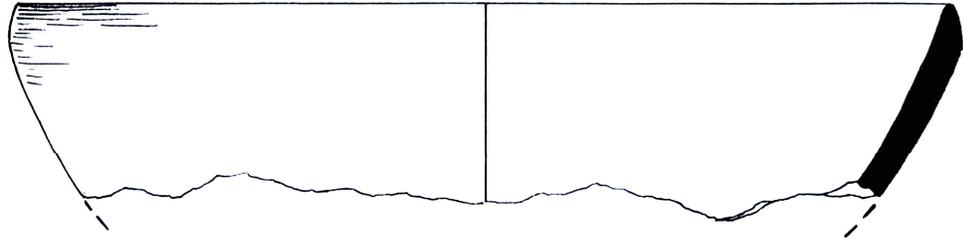
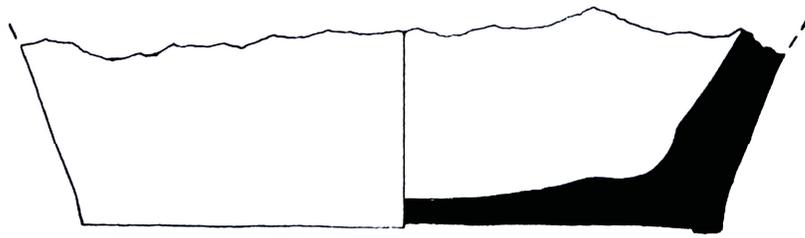


Plate XIV



0 2 4 6

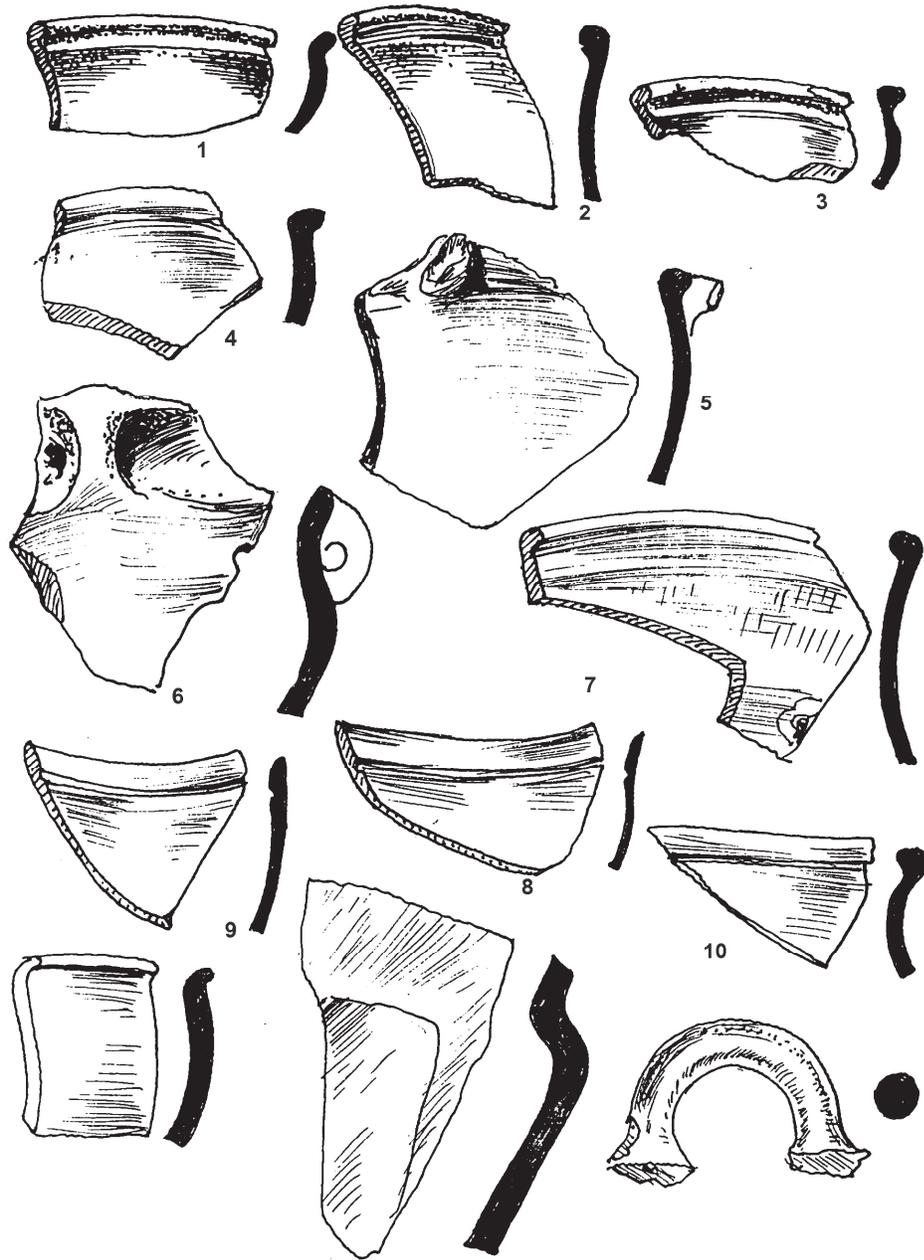
1



0 1 2 3

2

Plate XV



VI. Inventory of Artefacts

No.	KP	Type of site	Material	Find	Quadrat Number	Comment
1	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	tempered with fine sand
2	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	tempered with fine sand
3	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	tempered with fine sand
4	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	tempered with fine sand
5	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	tempered with fine sand
6	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	tempered with fine sand
7	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	tempered with fine sand
8	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	tempered with fine sand
9	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	tempered with fine sand
10	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	tempered with fine sand
11	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	tempered with fine sand
12	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	
13	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	
14	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	
15	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	
16	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	
17	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	
18	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	
19	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	
20	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	
21	409.1	settlement	obsidian	cutting tool	1	
22	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	tempered with fine sand
23	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	tempered with fine sand
24	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	tempered with fine sand
25	409.1	settlement	ceramic	platter	3	
26	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3	
27	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3	
28	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3	
29	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3	
30	409.1	settlement	ceramic	piyalø	3	
31	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
32	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
33	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
34	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
35	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
36	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
37	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
38	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
39	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3	
40	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3	
41	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3	
42	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3	

88	409.1	settlement	obsidian	cutting tool	2	
89	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
90	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
91	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
92	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
93	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
94	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
95	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
96	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
97	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
98	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
99	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
100	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
101	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
102	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	tempered with fine sand
103	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	tempered with fine sand
104	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	tempered with fine sand
105	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
106	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
107	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
108	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
109	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
110	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
111	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
112	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
113	409.1	settlement	ceramic	hearth	3a	
114	409.1	settlement	ceramic	artefact	3a	
115	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
116	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
117	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
118	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
119	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
120	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
121	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3a	
122	409.1	settlement	obsidian	cutting tool	3a	
123	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	7	
124	409.1	settlement	metal	artefact	5	
125	409.1	settlement	ceramic	kasa	7	grave gift
126	409.1	settlement	ceramic	jug	7	grave gift
127	409.1	settlement	ceramic	lamp	7	grave gift
128	409.1	settlement	ceramic	mug	7	grave gift
129	409.1	settlement	ceramic	jug	7	grave gift
130	409.1	settlement	ceramic	jug	7	grave gift
131	409.1	settlement	ceramic	jug	7	grave gift
132	409.1	settlement	ceramic	mug	7	grave gift

133	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	6	
134	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	6	with traces of burning
135	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	10	with traces of burning
136	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	10	with traces of burning
137	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	10	with traces of burning
138	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	10	with traces of burning
139	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	10	with traces of burning
140	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	10	with traces of burning
141	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	10	with traces of burning
142	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	10	with traces of burning
143	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	10	with traces of burning
144	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	10	with traces of burning
145	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	10	with traces of burning
146	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	10	with traces of burning
147	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	12	with traces of burning
148	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	12	with traces of burning
149	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	12	with traces of burning
150	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	12	with traces of burning
151	409.1	settlement	stone	grater	12	
152	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	12	with traces of burning
153	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	12	with traces of burning
154	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	12	with traces of burning
155	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	12	with traces of burning
156	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	12	with traces of burning
157	409.1	settlement	ceramic	handle	12	
158	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	12	with traces of burning
159	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	with traces of burning
160	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
161	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
162	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
163	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	with traces of burning
164	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	with traces of burning
165	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	with traces of burning
166	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	with traces of burning
167	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
168	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
169	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
170	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
171	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
172	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
173	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	with traces of burning
174	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	with traces of burning
175	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	13	
176	409.1	settlement	ceramic	handle	13	
177	409.1	settlement	ceramic	handle	13	

178	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	13	
179	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	13	
180	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	13	with traces of burning
181	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	13	with traces of burning
182	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	13	with traces of burning
183	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	13	with traces of burning
184	409.1	settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	13	with traces of burning