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**Short Report
Excavations of Hajjalili II Settlement
KP 300.98 - BTC ROW**

Baku - Azerbaijan

ABSTRACT

The report gives an account of excavations of a settlement site located at Hajjalili village, Samux District, KP 300.98 of the BTC ROW. The site, discovered during the SCP pipeline construction and known as Hajjalili II settlement was excavated in August-September 2005. The excavations revealed the remains of house floors, storage pits, metal-melt kilns, hearth and tendir areas and layers of ash deposits. The artefacts recovered include implements and remains of other domestic items that shed light on the economic activities and life of the inhabitants of this settlement site. Based on the analysis of the available factual material, this site is thought to be a rural settlement dating to the 3rd-14th centuries, A.D.

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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 44m 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 Hajjalili II settlement site at KP 300.98 of the BTC ROW was not discovered during Phase I or Phase II. The land where the site is located was used at that time as tillage and pasture. In addition, the site could not be visually identified by its relief. The site was recognized as an archaeological monument by a watching brief archaeologist when the cultural layer was uncovered during site preparation for the pipeline construction. It was then included in the list of sites to be excavated on the SCP side of the pipelines construction corridor.

Excavations at the site were carried out between 20 August and 15 September 2005 under the guidance of Arif Mammadov and with participation of Gahraman Agayev, both from the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography (IoAE), Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences. The work was supervised by the BTC archaeological representatives.

II. Field and Office Methods

- ***Field Methods***

The purpose of the excavation at this site was to gather essential information about the characteristic features of Hajjalili II settlement which was under threat of extensive damage in connection with the SCP pipeline construction. The excavation work was undertaken by the project labour force using shovels, barrows, trowels, brushes and other hand tools to clean and expose features as they were located. In order to stratify cultural deposits more precisely, excavation was conducted in spits. The stratification of cultural deposits was based both on the

horizontal digging and the study of vertical profiles of excavation trenches. All the exposed features and artefacts discovered in the course of excavations were photographed, illustrated and recorded in a field diary, site plan and appropriate profiles. The height of the site above sea level was established using GPS.

The excavations were initiated along a 20m long by 4m wide strip centered on the SCP pipeline. To enable accurate recording and drawing of features and artefacts to be exposed, the excavation site was divided up into six 4m by 4m quadrats, separated by narrow baulks. The trenches were numbered west to east with Arabic numerals.

All the archaeological finds were field sorted to identify diagnostic material, washed and recorded in a field logbook with brief descriptions of their morphology. After this initial treatment the finds were packed in boxes and taken to the BTC Ganja Guest House from where they were later delivered to the IoAE in Baku.

- *Office/Laboratory Methods*

At a relevant department of the IoAE the finds were thoroughly processed, systematized and classified and turned into a valuable source of information. Photographs of artefacts were taken and drawings were made where relevant. Arif Mammadov and Gahraman Agayev, who conducted the excavations, prepared this report which describes the course of excavations and contains the site plan and drawings of the artefacts recovered. The report also provides characteristics of the cultural layer and scientific descriptions of the features uncovered at the site.

- *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 Hajjalili II settlement site is situated on the slightly elevated bank of an old river bed, approximately 500-550m south-east of Hajjalili village, on the right-hand side of the roadway leading to the village. The microrelief of the site had been severely damaged by long agricultural activity in the area and did not show any visible difference from that of the surrounding land. Based on the spread of surface material, the area of the site was estimated to be approximately 3.5-4 hectares. The site is 209m above sea level and located at Pulkovo coordinates 8621708, 4518838.

- *Description of Cultural Horizons*

The Hajjalili II settlement site is a single-layer monument. The uppermost stratum of the cultural layer already damaged by continuous ploughing had been stripped off during site preparation for the pipeline construction.

The 1st spit in Quadrat 1 was characterized by a soil layer containing pottery sherds, pebbles and animal bones. The soil in the 1st spit in Quadrats 2, 3 and 4 was hard and contained occasional pottery fragments. This spit in Quadrat 5 revealed only a sandy soil layer. Considerable quantities of pottery sherds were recovered from all the Quadrats in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd spits. The natural soil layer in these quadrats was reached at 35cm depth. Quadrat 2 produced an ash layer and a single dense group of animal bones. The natural soil layer in Quadrat 1 was reached after the 2nd spit, therefore excavation in this quadrat was stopped. The cultural layer in Quadrat 6 became less

productive after the 3rd spit. The cultural material in the 4th spit consisted of a few osteological remains and small quantities of ash deposits. In other quadrats the natural soil was reached at 80cm depth.

The 2nd spit revealed six adjacent kilns at a depth of 0.6m in Quadrat 2. This quadrat had to be extended 1.1m to the east to fully expose the features. Kiln 1 and Kiln 2 were alike, while the remaining four differed in size. The kiln wall thickness was between 19cm and 21cm. Kiln 2 and Kiln 3 contained metal slag (Plate 1.3, inv. 67). Quadrat 2 also produced two storage pits – one against the north wall, the other against the south wall of the trench. The north storage pit measured 1.1m in mouth diameter and 1.3m in bottom diameter, while the south storage pit was 1.2m in mouth diameter and 1.4m in bottom diameter. The storage jar was preserved to a depth of 63cm and had a fine ash-rich silty fill containing pottery sherds and animal bone. When cleaned, the feature produced the base fragment of a light coloured ceramic vessel and small sherds of unidentifiable pots (Plate 1.4, inv. 17). In addition, excavation revealed the remains of two tendirs in Quadrat 2. One of these was exposed 1m away from the west wall of the excavation trench and was 35cm deep. The other tendir was uncovered at 2m distance from the west wall and was 40cm deep. Both tendirs had very hard clay plastered floors.

The 3rd spit in Quadrat 3 yielded a kiln (by the east wall) and three small pits. These measured 60cm in mouth diameter and 75cm in bottom diameter and were interpreted as domestic storage pits.

Quadrat 4 was as poor as Quadrat 1 in terms of cultural deposits. A single small feature exposed 0.5m below the surface in this quadrat was a hearth area.

The major find in Quadrat 5 was a storage pit unearthed at 40cm depth in the central part of the quadrat. The pit measured 1.3m in mouth diameter and 1.4m in bottom diameter. A second pit was cleaned only partially, because its larger portion went beyond the west wall of the excavation trench. Other finds included small pottery sherds of little archaeological value.

Where are the descriptions of the other 5 KV's?

- *Description of Finds*

Pottery

Jars. The pottery assemblage is predominated by broken fragments of jars with mouth diameters between 20cm and 25cm, and lengths between 50cm and 1m. The majority of these sherds represent storage jars with short necks, wide bodies and relatively narrow bases to be buried in the ground (inv. 1, 5, 16, 18, 26, 27, 30, 32, 33, 34, 39, 42, 43, 44, 48, 61, 66). Some jars have applied twisted rope decoration (inv. 16, 27, 44, 48), others are decorated with threadlike circular ornaments (inv. 5, 30, 32, 34, 43, 61, 66) or moulded patterns (1, 39). Ninth and tenth century jars have plain bases, bulgy bodies and relatively long necks. As the jars were meant to be partially buried in the ground, only the rims and necks of these jars have applied decoration (inv. 42, 44, 48).

Jugs. These have short necks, no handles and measure 9-11cm in height and 8-10cm in maximum diameter (inv. 51, 65). According to the fabric and production technique and compared to similar pottery material from other regions of Azerbaijan, the pots are thought to be the products of local manufacturers.

Platter-type pots. These were largely meant for domestic use. The pots are different sizes. Tempered with fine sand, the majority of such pots are light red coloured and have thick finger imprints on their surfaces (inv. 56). The remaining pots are grey (inv. 47, 54, 64). Among the

finds is a coarsely executed pink coloured platter lid with a thumb-impressed mark on the upper face (inv. 58).

Bardags are represented by single-handled pots with narrow necks and pear-shaped bodies. The upper end of the handles of some of these is attached to the rim (inv. 52, 57); others have handles with the upper end attached to the body (inv. 63).

Plate-type pottery vessels. These have low pedestal bases with foot rings, flaring walls with out curving rims. They have differently decorated and painted surfaces (inv. 9, 10, 11, 28, 29, 31, 35, 36, 38, 45, 46, 55). The majority of plates are painted red (inv. 45, 46) or green (inv. 28, 29). Thirteenth and fourteenth century plate-type pots are painted on both the interior and exterior and well fired (inv. 35).

Bowl-type pots. These are made of fine sand-tempered clay and well fired to a light red surface. They share most of the characteristics of platter-type pots.

Cooking-type pottery vessels. These are largely represented by unglazed ware with flat (inv. 4) or semi-globular bases (inv. 23). The mouth diameter ranges between 23cm and 39cm. The flat-based cooking-pot (inv. 4) is coarsely made by hand, while the pot with a semi-globular base (inv. 23) is melded on a potter's wheel. This pot has four lug handles. The surface is decorated with combed, incised and dot-like patterns.

Dopu-type pots have small circular bodies and flat bases. The pots are partly reconstruct able from available fragments. These vessels were made from local materials by hand (inv. 17, 24, 50, 60).

Metal Objects

Metal objects are represented by metal slag found in one of the kiln areas. This evidence indicates that metal-founding was a local craft (inv. 67).

Stone Objects

Stone objects are largely represented by querns. One of these is made of tufa stone and measures 48cm in length by 26cm in width.

IV. Analytical Results

• Interpretation of Excavation Results

The scope of work carried out at Hajialili II settlement site has enabled to properly characterize and date the site. Excavation showed that pottery making underwent a certain period of stagnancy during the early Middle Ages. The ceramic ware of this date is largely represented by pottery vessels coarsely executed on a hand-driven potter's wheel. This standstill in pottery making is clearly manifested when comparing the Antique Period material of the area.

As opposed to that, the ninth and tenth century pottery vessels found at Hajialili II site show there was certain progress in pottery making traditions during that period. Unlike earlier pots, these are wheel-thrown ceramic vessels distinguished by better quality of manufacture.

The majority of pots recovered from Hajjalili II site is unglazed ware represented by fragments of bardags, milk jug-shaped pots, bowls, dopu-type pots, storage jars, etc. Storage jar sherds predominate.

The natural resources of the region where Samux is located gave rise to the emergence of metal working and further facilitated the development of this craft in the area. Copper and iron extracted from copper and iron ore deposits located in the neighbouring Gedabey and Dashkasan regions and charcoal made from trees growing in the Eldar and Samux woods provided material required for making metal objects.

The features exposed at the site and the artefacts found indicate that the early inhabitants of the settlement were largely engaged in cattle-breeding and farming and to a certain extent in crafts.

- ***Dating***

The available material confirms that Hajjalili II is a rural settlement site of the Albanian Culture dating to the 3rd-14th centuries, A.D. The site is placed within this date range on the basis of study of cultural deposits in situ and analysis of pottery evidence that was compared with similar material from other coeval sites of Azerbaijan in terms of typology, fabric, firing technology and decorative techniques. The initial occupation of the site began in the 3rd century during the formation of a new social order in Azerbaijan – feudalism. The site was abandoned in the 13th-14th centuries in connection with foreign invasions.

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

Archaeological excavations carried out within the BTC and SCP pipelines ROW have revealed a number of monuments that had not been previously marked on the archaeological map of Azerbaijan. Besides reflecting the material culture of early inhabitants of Azerbaijan, several of such monuments, including Hajjalili I and Lak II settlement sites are of outstanding scientific significance for the study of the country's culture during 3rd to 14th centuries, A.D. The cultural material retained from these sites, were widely used in the interpretation of the Hajjalili II excavations results, similarities and dissimilarities existing between them were detected.

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

As is known, the Samux area, where the Hajjalili II settlement site is located, was part of different states that existed in Azerbaijan during the 3rd-14th centuries, A.D. Urban settlement sites and burial sites of this date have thus far been a focus of archaeological research, while small rural settlement sites were somewhat disregarded. Taking into account that the vast majority of people lived in villages in the 3rd-14th centuries, the study of rural settlements remains a vital issue in Azerbaijan historiography.

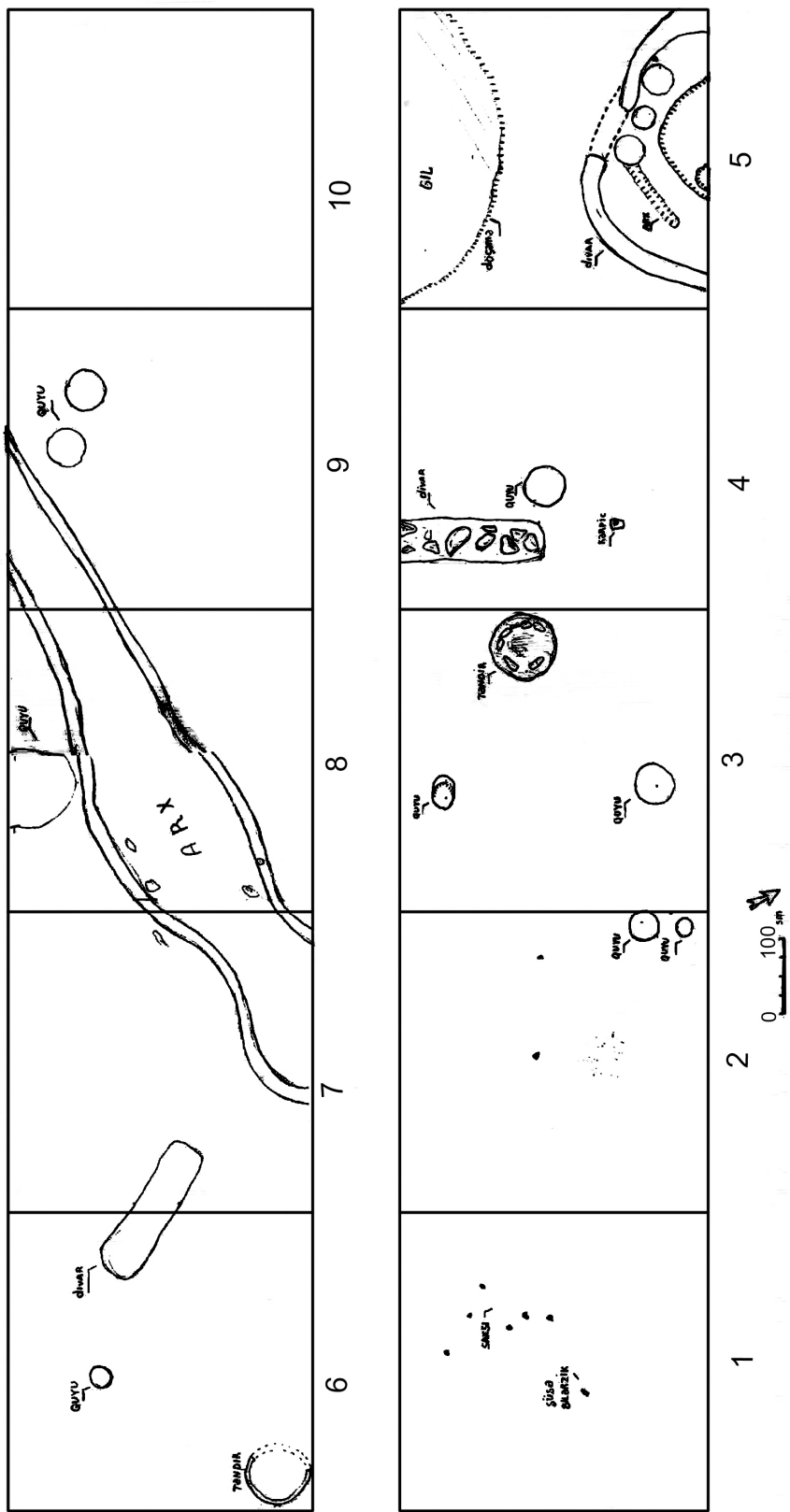
- ***Special Recommendations Regarding the Protection of the Site or Future Research***

The scope of excavation work conducted at the Hajjalili II settlement site can be deemed sufficient for the time being, as the desired research objective has been achieved. However, the excavated area of 180m² is only a small portion of the entire settlement area. Therefore the site should be protected as archaeologically sensitive, should any future work be planned in the immediate vicinity.

- ***Recommendations for Public Education***

It would be expedient to prepare and publish an article, booklet or monograph dedicated to the results of excavations in order to furnish the scientific community and general public with extensive information about the Hajjalili II settlement site.

VI. Illustrations



Excavation Site Plan

Plate 1 Hajialili II Pottery

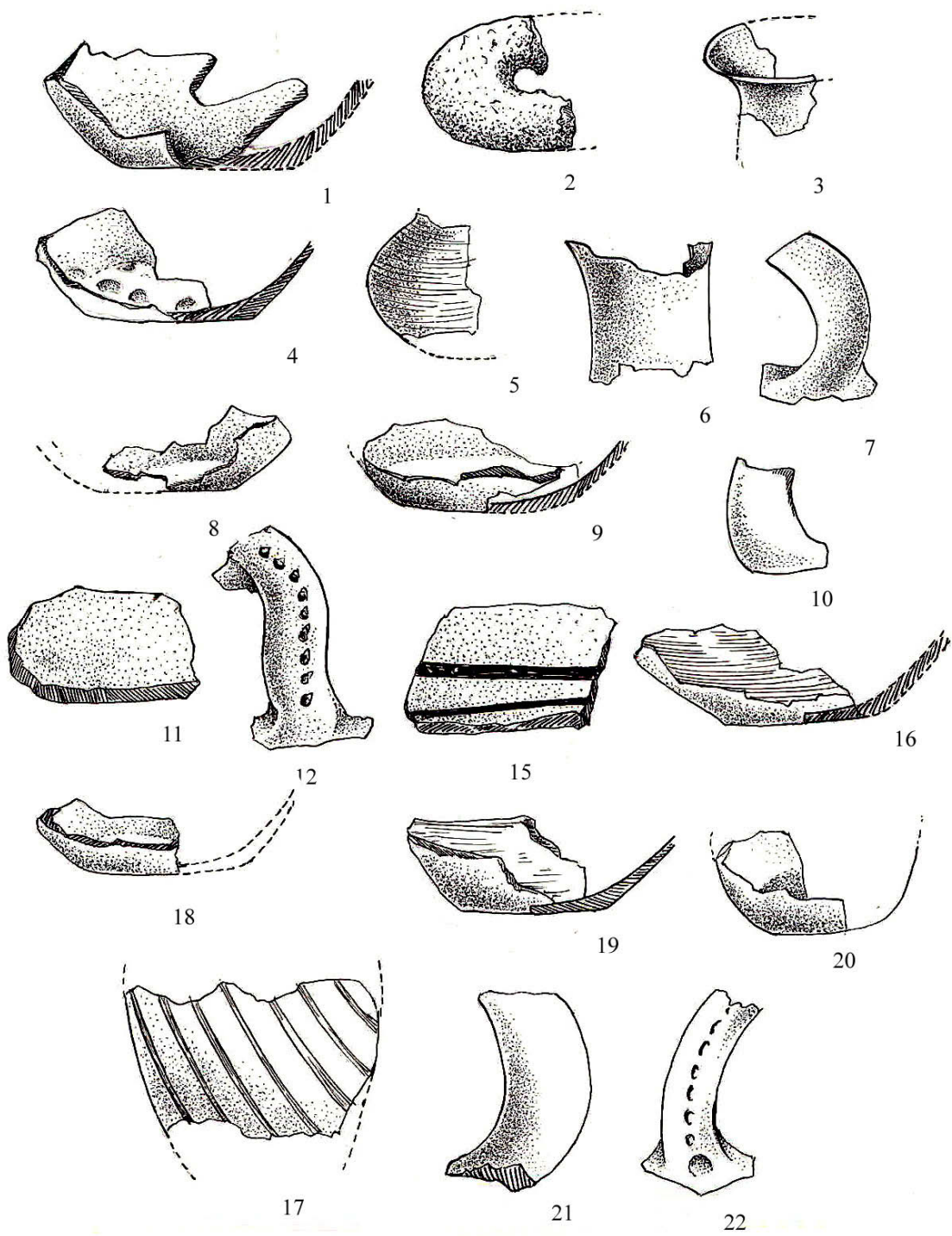


Plate 2 Hajialili II Pottery

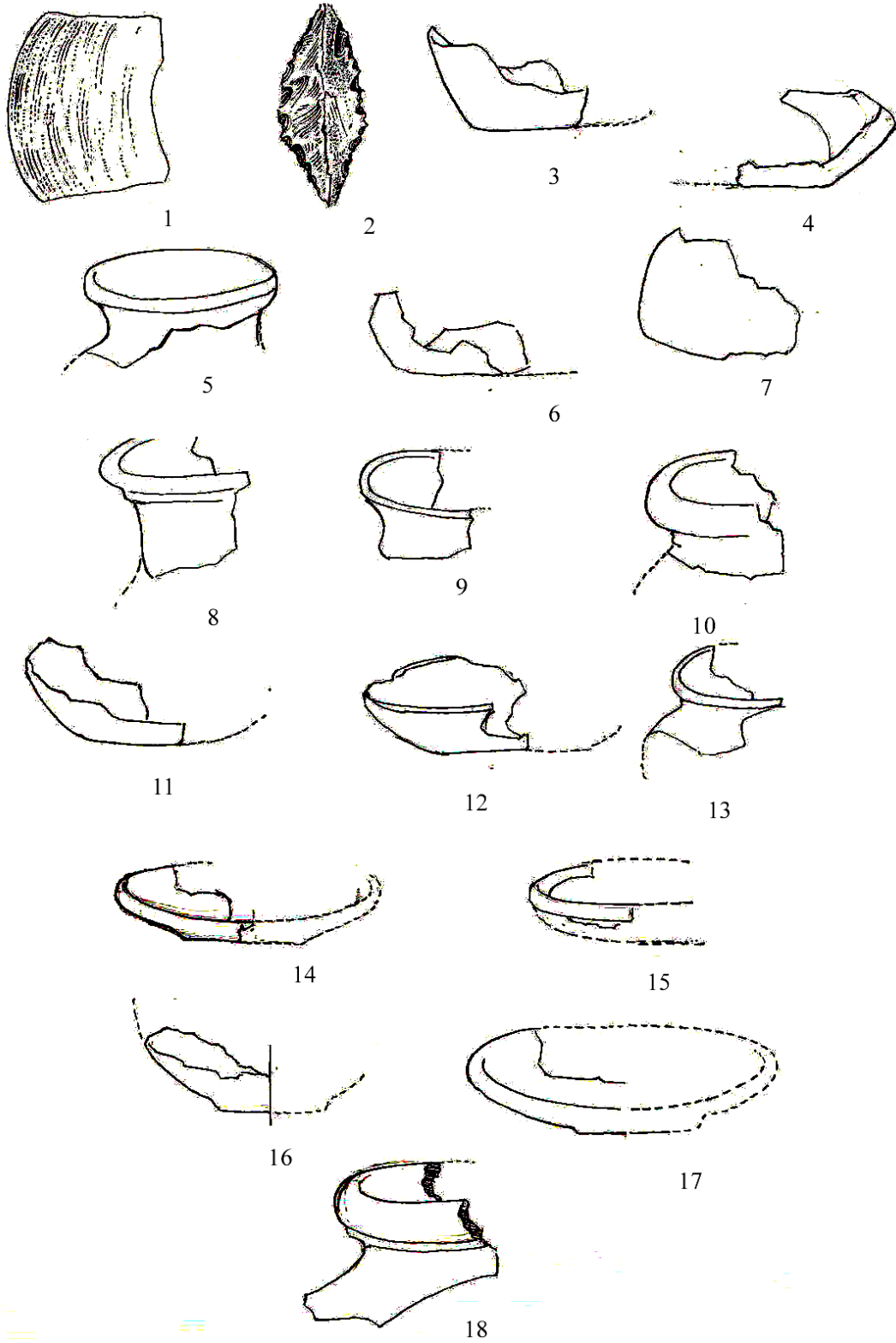


Plate 3 Hajjalili II Pottery

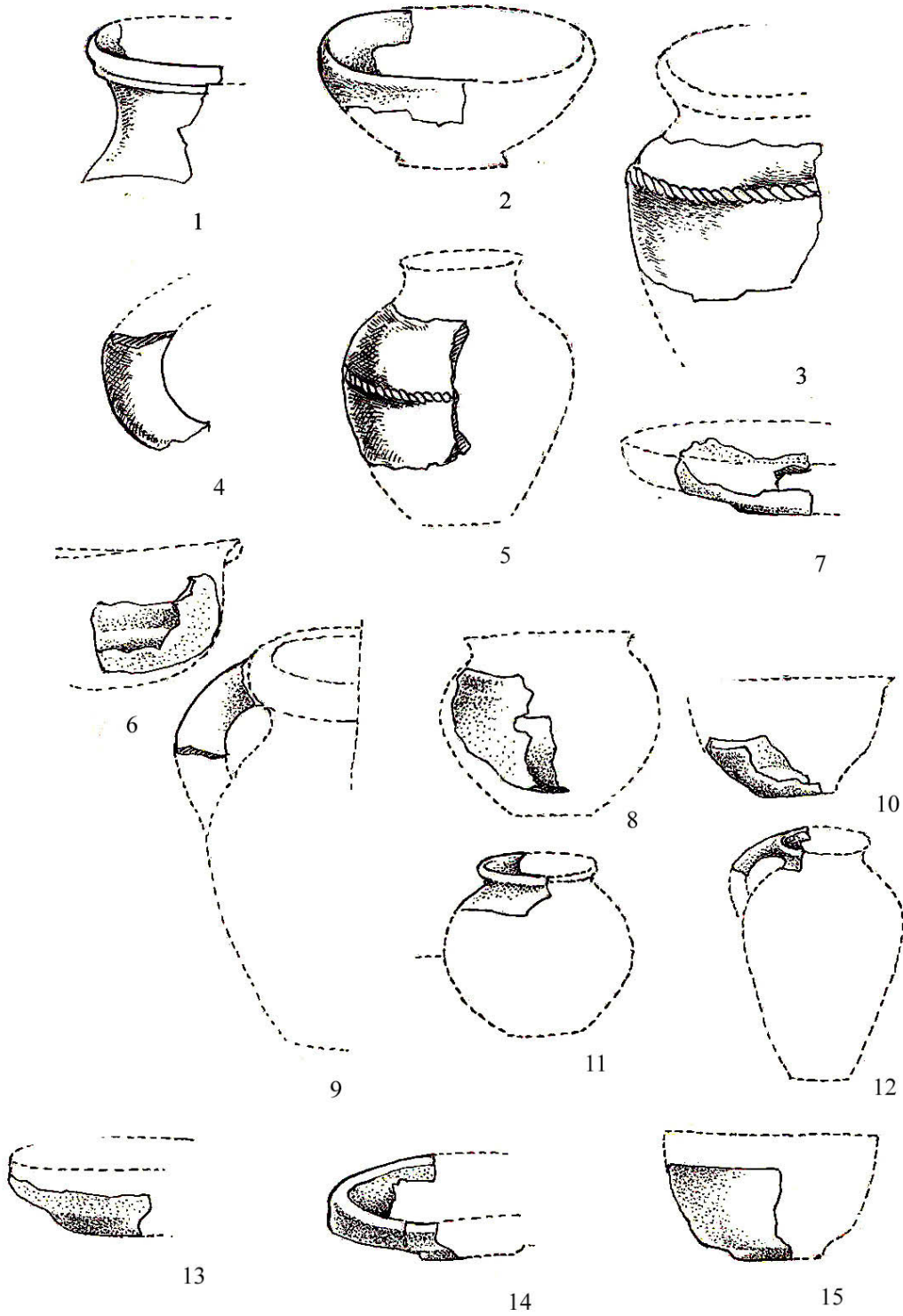
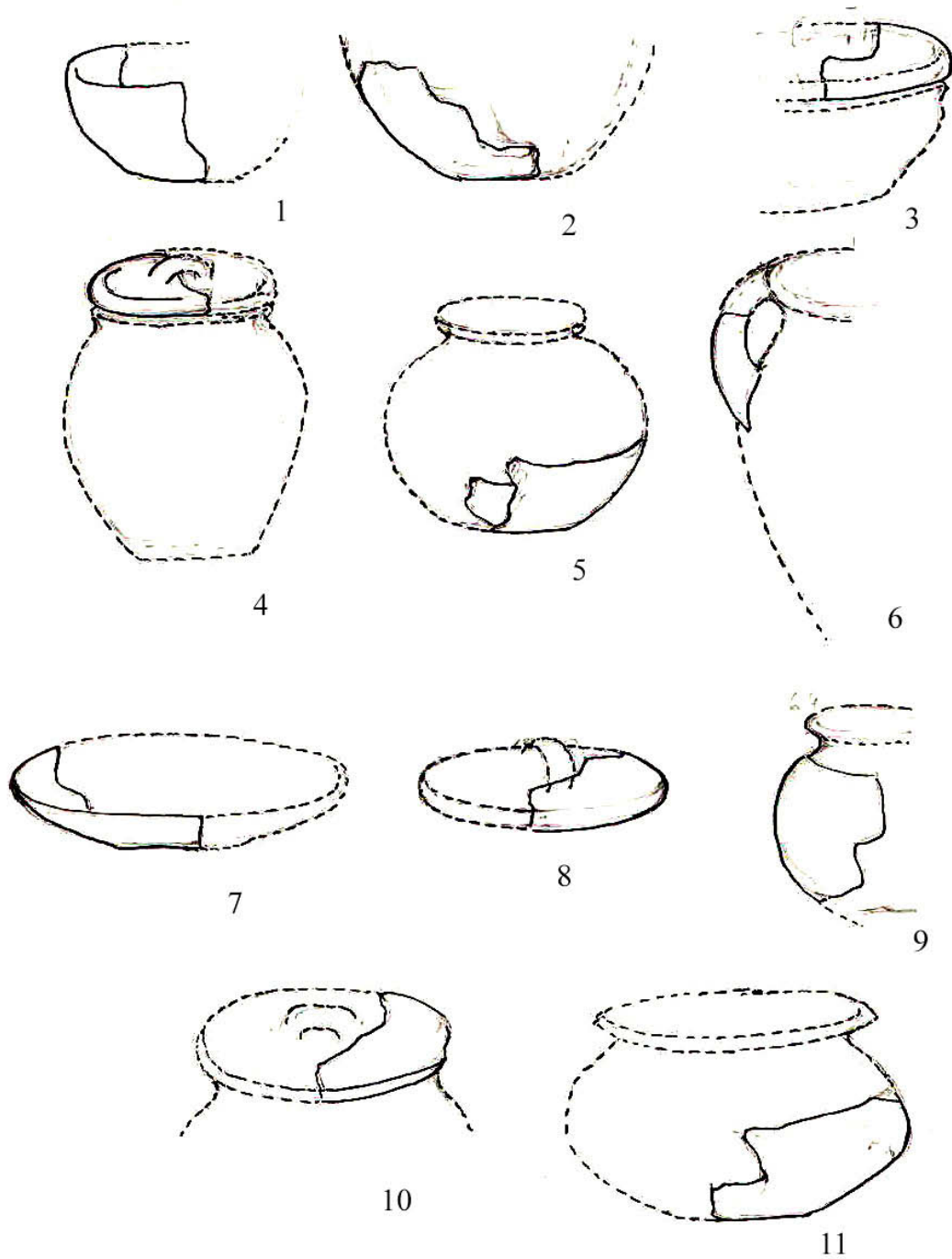


Plate 4 Hajialili II Pottery



VI. Inventory of Artefacts

	KP	Type of Site	Material	Find	Quadrat	Comment
1	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
2	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
3	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
4	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
5	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
6	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
7	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
8	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
9	300.98	Settlement	stone	quern stone	surface	
10	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
11	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
12	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
13	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
14	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
15	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
16	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
17	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	surface	
18	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	
19	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	
20	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
21	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
22	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3	
23	300.98	Settlement	stone	grindstone	3	
24	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	bardag fragment	3	
25	300.98	Settlement	obsidian	cutting tool	4	
26	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	4	
27	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	4	
28	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	4	
29	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	4	
30	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	dopu fragment	4	
31	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	bardag fragment	2	
32	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	jug fragment	4	
33	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	jug fragment	4	
34	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	object	4	
35	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
36	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
37	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
38	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
39	300.98	Settlement	stone	rubbing stone	2	
40	300.98	Settlement	obsidian	cutting tool	2	
41	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	bardag fragment	3	
42	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	piyala fragment	5	
43	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	dopu fragment	5	

44	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	platter fragment	5	
45	300.98	Settlement	stone	cutting tool	5	
46	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	4	
47	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	4	
48	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	4	
49	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	spindle whorl	4	
50	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	spindle whorl	4	
51	300.98	Settlement	stone	slingshot stone	4	
52	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	dolcha	1	
53	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	1	
54	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	8	
55	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	5	
56	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	5	
57	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
58	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
59	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	6	
60	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	6	
61	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3	
62	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	5	
63	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	spindle whorl	5	
64	300.98	Settlement	stone	slingshot stone	5	
65	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	spindle whorl	4	
66	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	spindle whorl	4	
67	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	dopu fragment	4	
68	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	jar fragment	4	four fragments
69	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	4	
70	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	4	
71	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	3	
72	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	6	
73	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	6	
74	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	4	
75	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	4	
76	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	4	
77	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	4	
78	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	4	
79	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
80	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
81	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	2	
82	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	5	
83	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	5	
84	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	5	
85	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	5	
86	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	5	
87	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	5	
88	300.98	Settlement	stone	cutting tool	5	
89	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	spindle whorl	5	

90	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	object	5	truncated pyramid
91	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	object	4	
92	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	5	
93	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	5	
94	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	5	
95	300.98	Settlement	paste	bead	5	
96	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	dopu fragment	6	three fragments
97	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	bardag fragment	8	
98	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	8	
99	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	7	gutter-mouthed
100	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	7	
101	300.98	Settlement	paste	bead	7	
102	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	6	
103	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	6	
104	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	6	
105	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	6	
106	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	6	
107	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	spindle whorl	6	
108	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	piyala fragment	8	
109	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	platter fragment	8	
110	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	8	
111	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	spindle whorl	8	
112	300.98	Settlement	metal	ring	8	
113	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	dopu fragment	8	
114	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	bowl fragment	8	
115	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	jar fragment	8	storage jar
116	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	8	
117	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	dopu fragment	8	
118	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	spindle whorl	8	
119	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	8	
120	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	spindle whorl	8	
121	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	spindle whorl	8	
122	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	8	
123	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	spindle whorl	8	
124	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	bowl fragment	8	
125	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	sarnij fragment	8	
126	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	8	
127	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	chafing-dish	8	three fragments
128	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	8	
129	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	spindle whorl	8	
130	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	spindle whorl	8	
131	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	8	
132	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	8	
133	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	8	
134	300.98	Settlement	stone	grindstone	8	
135	300.98	Settlement	stone	rubbing stone	8	

136	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	piyala fragment	8	
137	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	8	
138	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	8	
139	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	8	
140	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	bead	8	
141	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	jug fragment	8	
142	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	bardag fragment	8	
143	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	sarnij fragment	8	
144	300.98	Settlement	paste	bead	8	
145	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	kuza fragment	7	inside jar
146	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	vessel fragment	8	
147	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	handle	7	
148	300.98	Settlement	ceramic	waste	surface	