

**Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of Azerbaijan National  
Sciences Academy**

**DETAILED SCIENTIFIC REPORT**  
**Excavation of Zəyəmçay Kurgans V and IV at KP 337.1 SCPX  
pipeline**

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## **SUMMARY**

The report provides information on the archaeological excavations carried out in the Zayamchai kurgans 5 and 6, located at KP 337.100 in the SCPX pipeline corridor. The kurgans are located on the left bank of the Zayam river. The site was entitled 5 and 6 as four kurgan sites had been discovered previously on the right and left banks of this river along the SCPX route. During construction of the SCP project in 2005, a similar kurgan was recorded some 160m southwest of this location.

An interesting structure of kurgans, burial customs and a great number of artefacts were obtained at Zayamchai 5 and 6 during the excavations.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

**1.2. DISCOVERY OF THE SITE.** Round-shaped line-ups of stones were recorded in accordance with the SCPX project at KP 337 of the pipeline route. The discovered heaps were presumed to be rocks of a kurgan cover and further excavations confirmed this assumption. Given the previous discovery of two kurgans in an area located close to the mentioned burial sites on the right Zayamchai bank in the SCPX corridor, as well as two more kurgan graves on the left bank, these kurgans were numbered consecutively No.5 and No.6.

The discovery of these kurgans led us to believe that ancient residents of this basin carried out their burials in this territory during the Bronze Age and the early Iron Age.

**1.3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE.** This territory is located close to the riverbed on a terrace on the left-hand bank of the Zayamchai river. This is a plain area, while the soil there contains gravel with a small amount of clay mixed with black soil. The local population is mostly engaged in sowing such grain crops as grain and barley. Columns of a mediaeval bridge are located in the nearby river bed.

**1.4. TIMING OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION.** An archaeological expedition group of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Azerbaijan National Sciences Academy carried out excavations in Zayamchai Kurgans 5 and 6 November 29, 2016 to December 30, 2016, overseen by PhD in History, senior research fellow Vagif Asadov, with the participation of the Institute's employees, junior research associate Jeyhun Aliyev and senior laboratory assistant Farhad Farmanov. BP (SCPX) representative, archaeologist Richard Moor contributed to the excavation work as an observer.

## **4. OUTCOME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS**

**4.1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE.** The Zayamchai Kurgans 5 and 6 are located at the N-405628.1; N-0405628.2; E-0455225.2; E-0455223.7 coordinates, 301 metres above sea level. The site was numbered No.5 and No.6 due to the previous discovery of kurgans of the same type dating to a more ancient epoch. In total, six kurgans were found on right and left Zayamchai banks in the SCPX corridor. Two of these were located on the right bank, while the other four kurgans were situated on the left bank, approximately 300-600 metres from the riverbed.

The Zayamchai kurgans were located on both banks of the Zayam river within the boundaries of the Tovuz and Shamkir districts. Considering the two kurgans discovered on the

Zayam river's right bank in the Duyarli village of the Shamkir district, the four burial sites located on the left bank, i.e. in the area of the Ashaghi Eyyublu village of the Tovuz district, were numbered No.3, No.4, No.5 and No.6.

**4.2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF OCCUPATION LAYERS.** No occupation layers were revealed due to the lack of habitation in the monument area. The discovered graves merely served as a burial site. The excavations in the kurgans were carried out in the following order:

Kurgans No.5 and No.6 were discovered in the Zayam river's part located in the territory of Tovuz, about 200m west of Kurgans 3 and 4. These burial sites were covered with soil mixed with stones and their edges were entirely encircled by lined-up river rocks.

The cover of *Kurgan 5* emerged at 20cm below the ground. The cover mainly consisted of average size river rocks. Its diameter was 10m (Figures 1, 3).



*Figure 1. Kurgan 5 after initial cleaning. View to south.*

The kurgan cover was divided into four sections and the excavations were conducted by quadrant to record the structure of the cover and a potential burial chamber underneath. Initially, the northeast segment of the kurgan cover was excavated (Figure 8).

Burial chamber 1 was recorded as a round-shaped group of stones slightly to the west of the kurgan centre after stones were cleared from the area. The feature was sized 3.2m in the north-south direction and 2.6m in the east-west direction (Figure 9). Layers of rocks mixed with soil

began to be tracked during excavation inside the chamber. A total of nine layers of rocks were cleared and removed. Traces of burning were encountered in the north of the chamber at the 1.5m depth following the eighth layer. The burnt spot was sized 60cm x 20cm (Figure 10). The outline of the burial chamber was discerned after nine layers of stones were removed. The burial chamber was located 1.8m below the ground. The oval chamber was sized 1.5m in the east-west direction and 1.9m in the north-south direction (Figure 11).

The inside and the area around the chamber were filled with burnt soil and red coloured ochre. Crumbled bone fragments were encountered as well. Traces of burning were also seen near the west wall of the burial chamber. The chamber was encircled by average size river rocks. A child skeleton was discovered in the northeast of the chamber and an adult skeleton was found west of it. The adult skull was depressed and inflated. A pitcher with a narrow neck was placed by the chest. Another vessel, namely, a black coloured pitcher with a wide rim and a convex body, was put in the back of the spine. Presumably, the dead body was slightly folded and placed in the grave on its right side (Figures 12-13). Two pink kheyres were found during cleaning of the area around the skeleton. The skeletons were in poor condition. A teenage body was found in the northeast of the chamber. The body was stretched on the back in a east-west direction. The skeleton's ribs, backbone and pelvic bone remained intact. Only the right leg was found on the spot. The cranial bone further emerged.

Another body was found perpendicular to the mentioned one and 30cm southwest of it. The skeleton was stretched on its back in a south-north direction. The ceramic vessels found close to the skeleton broke apart under the pressure of weight. River rocks were lined up around the skeleton. Excavation revealed two further chambers under the kurgan cover.

Burial chamber 2, unveiled in the kurgan's eastern part, was located southeast of burial chamber 1. The chamber's surface was covered by round-shaped heaps of stones. The burial chamber's outline emerged following the removal of the upper cover. The chamber's edges were encircled by small and medium size river rocks. The chamber extended in the north-south direction (Figure 14). Its dimensions were as follows:

in north-south direction = 1.55m

in east-west direction = 0.6m.

The skeleton of an elderly man found in the chamber was stretched on its back in the north-south direction. The skeleton's arm, leg and rib fragments remained intact. The skull was not found. The fragmented lower part of a large pink vessel, as well as the body, rim and handle

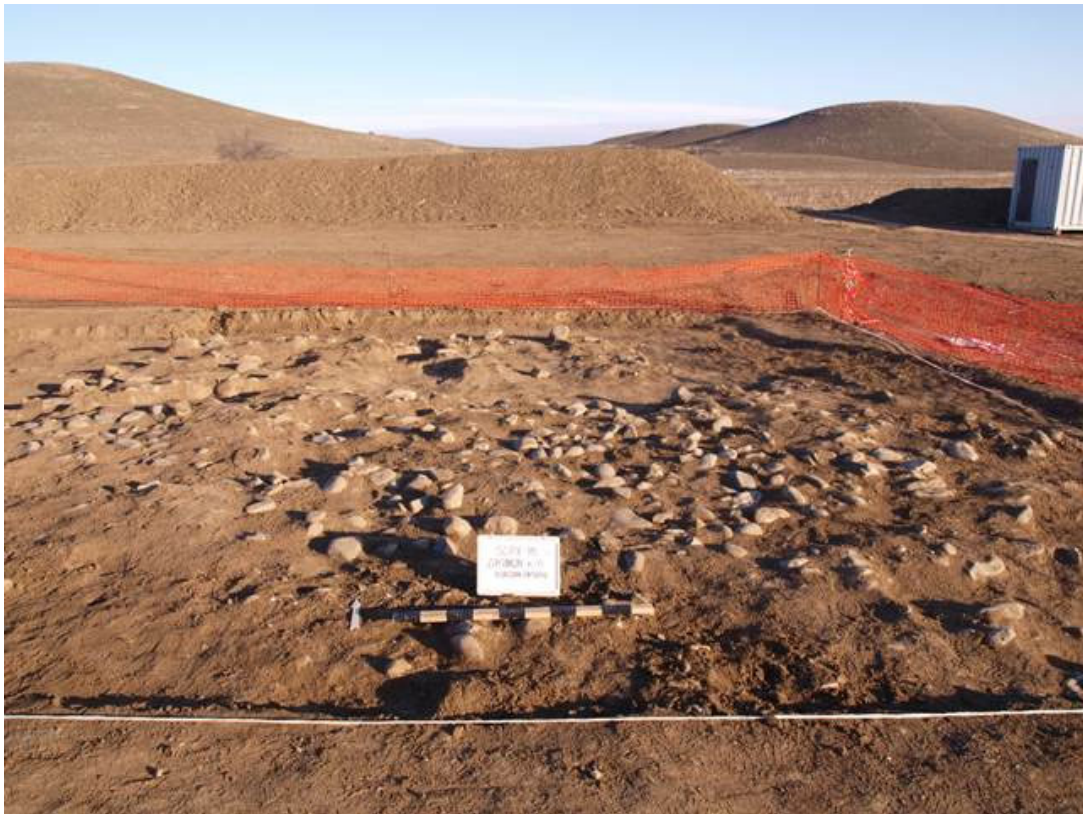
fragments of several black coloured vessels, emerged south of the pelvic bone while the body was being removed.

Burial chamber 3 was unveiled at the same depth southwest of the first and adjacent to chambers 1 and 2. Chamber 3 stretched 1.9m in the south-north direction and 1.1m in the east-west direction (Figure 15). The skeleton of a large person was found inside the chamber. The body lay on its back in the south-north direction. The bones were burnt and the skull was fragmented. A black ceramic vessel with a narrow neck was placed by the skull. Moreover, a pink coloured vessel was found over the chest bones near the neck. This was a kheyre or bowl-type vessel. Three more bowl-type vessels were discovered by the skull during cleaning of the chamber. A child's bones were also found in the chamber. Significant traces of burning were seen inside this chamber. Burnt soil and river rocks were particularly noticeable in the southwest part of the chamber. The chamber's surface was entirely covered with a thick layer of orange ochre (Figure 16).

Pieces of burnt coal were found amid stones in the kurgan cover's southeast part at the depth of 80cm. Burnt bones were encountered in that heap. These were presumably of a sheep, a goat or a dog.

The number of skeletons found in the kurgan reached seven (two were remains of children). Pottery of different types was found in the burial chambers (with the exception of chamber 2) (Figures 5-6; 18-28). Most vessels were placed in burial chamber 3. These mainly included bowls, kheyres, pitchers and a piyale (bowl). A pitcher (Figure 17) and grindstone fragments were found in the rocks of the kurgan cover. It is worth mentioning that significant traces of burning were seen inside all the chambers as a fire was once lit there. The bottom of the kurgan was entirely covered by a thick layer of ochre. All these signs indicate that cremation was part of the burial tradition in Kurgan 5.

**Kurgan 6** was located 24.5m west of Kurgan 5. It was a slightly smaller burial site, which was also found 20cm below the ground. Some stones of the kurgan cover could be seen at this depth. These were average size river rocks. The dimensions were measured after the kurgan cover was completely cleaned. The kurgan cover was sized 7.3m in the north-south direction and 8.6m in the east-west direction. The rocks in the cover's northern part were very sparse (Figures 2, 4).



*Figure 2. Kurgan 6 after initial cleaning. View to north.*

Excavation of the kurgan cover was divided into two parts in a southeast-northwest direction. The excavation began initially in the northwest, north and northeast segments (Figure 29). A burial chamber was discovered in the kurgan cover's central part at the depth of 1.8m (Figure 30). The shape of the burial chamber discerned after removal of six layers of rocks. A large vessel with a convex body was found in the northern part of the chamber. The vessel was depressed due to pressure from the top. A pitcher with a convex body and a narrow neck was laid adjacent and northeast of that vessel. A bowl-type vessel was placed adjacent to the big one and northeast of it. Eight similar pitchers were lined up in three rows south of the large pitcher (Figure 31). A human skeleton was found east of these vessels. The skull of the folded skeleton was slanted in the western direction, while the legs were inclined eastward. Although the skeletal bones were in good condition, they were scattered over the area. All of the vessels (11 items) discovered in the chamber were polished black and covered with scale (Figures 7; 32-34). The chamber's dimensions were 1.6m north to south and 1.7m east to west.

The burial traditions and preliminary analysis of the shape and structure of the vessels found in Zayamchai kurgans 1-6 lead to a conclusion that Kurgan 5 dates to the early Bronze Age (3rd millennium BCE), while Kurgan 6 could be traced back to the middle Bronze Age (the first half of the 2nd millennium BCE).



## Summary of Grave goods in Kurgans 5 and 6

	Vessels	Burials
Kurgan 5 Chamber 1	4	3 Adult, 1 Child
Kurgan 5 Chamber 2	1+	1 Adult
Kurgan 5 Chamber 3	5	1 Adult, 1 Child
Kurgan 6 Chamber 1	11	1 Adult

**4.3. ARTEFACTS.** The artefacts found in the burial chambers of Kurgans 5 and 6 and their covers include clay vessels of 26 different types, fragments of clay vessels and grindstones, as well as a catapult stone.

**4.4. GENERAL ANALYSIS OF RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE EXCAVATION.** Interesting scientific conclusions were made during the excavations carried out in the Zayamchai Kurgans 5 and 6. First of all, it is worth mentioning that the entire archaeological excavations planned and carried out in the Zayamchai basin necessitated repeated and comprehensive comparative researches of the region's Bronze Age-era archaeological monuments. The abundant archaeological materials obtained from the monuments located in the Zayamchai basin allow scholars to conduct more extensive researches and write a generalizing monographic piece of work on this matter.

The tradition of erecting kurgans over both stone boxes and ordinary soil graves observed in the Zayamchai basin originated in the early stages of the Bronze Age and further took hold during later periods. This observation was made with regard to the plains located between the Zayam and Shamkir rivers, the plateau between the Jayir river and the rivers in the west, as well as in the kurgans located in the vicinity of the Chinarli and Chardaqli villages in the Shamkir district. Such kurgans were also discovered in the upstream part of Zayamchai, i.e. in the Gadabay district. The kurgans, which are rather low, are located apart from one another [8, p. 161-162].

The clay vessels found in the kurgan graves in the Zayamchai basin reflected high skills of the craftsmen. Some metal items do not differ substantially from the finds recorded in outside areas. Undoubtedly, a separate version of the Khojaly-Gadabay culture, not an independent culture differing from the neighbouring regions, existed in the Zayamchai region during the late Bronze Age and the early Iron Age.

The similarity between the metal and ceramics items found in Gadabay, Mingachevir and the Ganjachay basin proves that the Zayamchai basin was an integral part of the Khojaly-Gadabay culture (the late 2nd millennium-early 1st millennium BCE) in the mentioned period.

## 5. ANALYTICAL RESULTS

**5.1. COLLECTION OF RESULTS.** Both stone-covered and soil kurgans in the Zayamchai basin have been comprehensively studied. It is known that the kurgans in the Zayamchai basin are sparse. They are usually located close to the river and around residential areas. The kurgans in this area were built with the use of a single construction material, i.e. river rocks. Some of the burials were piled using a mixture of rocks and gravel, which was definitely due to local relief features. The upper surface of some kurgans researched in the region's mountainous and plain territories, as well as foothills, was paved with stones in a round shape. In rare cases, the foothills of the kurgans were encircled by one or two rows of stones. Scholars observed this feature while researching the Zayamchai kurgans 5 and 6, which were excavated along the SCPX route. No more than 10 graves were usually discovered in the region's kurgans.

Although a slightly different structure of burials was tracked during the excavations carried out at Zayamchai 5 and 6, the discovered burial traditions and the archaeological samples were inherent to most of the Bronze Age kurgans revealed in this region.

**5.2. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION OF ARTEFACT MATERIAL.** The material classification of the obtained artefacts is clay. A grindstone was the only sample made of a rock.

### 5.2.1. SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT MATERIAL CLASSES

**Glass:** No glassware was found during the excavations.

**Clay:** Ceramic vessels were the only clay items found in the area (Figures 5-7; 18-28; 32-34).

Clay vessels were mainly used to store food and liquid. These vessels were restored, although they were scattered over the burial chamber. Interesting scratched, depressed and notched patterns with geometric shapes were applied upon the vessels, which were made in line with a refined artistic taste. The patterns were mainly seen over the shoulders and bodies of the vessels.

The thin wall clay vessels, which had a clean clay composition, were baked at a stable fire temperature. Pottery sherds were obtained in addition to the clay vessels found in their entirety.

**5.2.2. PALAEOONTOLOGICAL, PALEOZOOLOGICAL AND PALEOBOTANICAL REMAINS.** Human bones were found during the excavations at the kurgans. The bones, which

could not be separated from soil due to significant decay, included certain parts of the human skeleton.

A small number of animal bones were discovered as well. It was not possible to determine which animal those bones were part of.

Paleobotanical remains were not encountered during the excavations. Only burnt pieces of coal were found in Kurgan 5. However, their poor condition prevented scholars from conducting special tests.

**5.3. PERIOD AND CHRONOLOGY.** Special tests were not run based on the kurgan material to determine the period of history pertaining to this monument. However, the structure of the kurgans and the comparative analysis of the finds are grounds to conclude that the burial site dates to the early and middle stages of the Bronze Age.

**5.4. DATABASE OF ARTEFACTS.** All the archaeological materials obtained from the Zayamchai kurgans 5 and 6 were granted inventory numbers and those inventory items were packaged, washed and cleaned, piled in archaeological boxes and placed in the archives. The archaeological samples initially underwent camera processing at the archaeological research section for New Construction Sites of the ANSA Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, were systematized for writing a report, grouped and further submitted to the IoAE Archaeological Fund. The inventory log with the systematic and numbered archaeological materials and the field diary of the supervisor of the archaeological excavations were submitted to the Institute's Scientific Archives. In addition, the inventory of archaeological samples and all the archaeological materials reflecting the excavations conducted at the kurgans were typed on the computers at the archaeological research section for New Construction Sites and uploaded to the electronic database on the “Archaeological excavations relating to the SCPX project” page.

## 6. DISCUSSION

**6.1. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS.** The excavations carried out in Zayamchai Kurgans 5 and 6 were successfully completed and relevant scientific conclusions were made. Researchers concluded that the kurgans located mostly in the region's foothills and plain areas have different dimensions. Zayamchai Kurgans 5 and 6 reflect the tangible culture of the Bronze Age. Two burial chambers were recorded in one of the burial sites (5), while only one chamber was discovered in the other kurgan (6); human skeletons were found in the burial chambers. An interesting burial custom was recorded on the site. These kurgans were interesting both in terms of the revealed burial traditions and the significance of the archaeological finds. These pottery

sherds, which reflect typical features of the early and middle Bronze Age pottery, are beneficial for researching the region's tangible culture dating to this historical period.

## 7. ARTEFACT INVENTORY

No.	Item	Description	Location	Dimensions
1	bowl	Small deep bowl. The rim is wide and flat. The bowl has a semi-conical shape. The body narrows toward the base. The narrow and flat base is slightly depressed inward. An ornament comprised of a pair of little model papillae was applied upon the rim. A trace of two more papillae remained on the opposite side. The vessel is handmade. The colour is grey. Figure 17.	cover of Kurgan 5	st. d.-17cm base d.-15cm neck d.-7cm height-8cm wall th.-0.7cm
2	pitcher	Medium size pitcher. The wide rim broadens sideways slightly. The rim is round. The neck smoothly transforms into the convex body. The body narrows toward the base. The base is narrow and flat. There are small semi-circular handles with oval cross sections on both sides of the vessel connecting the rim with the body's upper part. Only the base of one of the handles remained intact. The surface is slightly polished. There are traces of burning and soot throughout the surface. The colour is pink.	chamber 1	orif.d.-12cm st. d.-14cm base d.-6cm neck d.-11cm height-14cm wall th.-0.7cm
3	kheyre	Kheyre-type vessel with a wide rim. The body narrows toward the base from the rim. The walls are thick. The narrow and flat base is slightly depressed inward. The rim is flat. There is a pair of papilla-shaped ornaments applied opposite one another on both sides of the edge. The colour is pink.	chamber 1	orif.d.-29.8cm st. d.-25cm base d.-8.5cm height-10.5cm wall th.-1cm
4	bowl	Medium size bowl-type vessel. A part of the vessel is torn off. The rim is wide. The low neck goes into the convex body. The latter narrows downward. A trace of a small handle remained in the upper part of the body. The narrow and flat base is slightly depressed inward.	chamber 1	st. d.-20.5cm base d.-8cm height-10.5cm
5	bowl	Large bowl-type vessel with thick walls. The rim is wide. The rim is flat. It goes directly into the convex body. There is a pair of rather convex protrusions located opposite one another upon the rim. The body narrows toward the base. The base is flat. The item was baked at a high temperature. The surface is covered with grey engobed coating and slightly polished. There are traces of soot on it. The colour is pink.	chamber 3	orif.d.-24.5cm base d.-10cm height-10.8cm wall th.-1cm
6	bowl	A large bowl-type vessel with thick walls. The rim broadens sideways slightly. The low neck goes into the convex body. The body narrows toward the base. The base is narrow and flat. There is a remainder of a little handle connecting the rim and the body in the upper part. The colour is light pink.	chamber 3	orif.d.-24.6cm st.d.-23cm base d.-10cm height-14.5cm wall th.-1cm
7	bowl	Small deep bowl with thick walls. The wide rim broadens sideways slightly. The rim is round. The low neck transforms into the convex body. The base is narrow and flat. A half-part of the vessel was restored. The vessel has two little semi-circular handles connecting the rim with the upper part of the body. The surface is slightly polished.	chamber 3	st.d.-16cm base d.-6cm height -8.5cm wall th.-1cm
8	piyale	Small deep piyale (bowl) type vessel's half-part. The wide rim broadens sideways. The rim is round. There is a groove between the rim and the biconic body. The body narrows toward the base. The base is narrow, flat and slightly indented inward. The vessel has a tiny semi-circular handle connecting the rim with the upper part of the body. The colour is black.	chamber 3	orif.d.-17cm base d.-4.2cm height-5.4cm wall th.-0.6cm
9	kheyre	Half-part of a large and deep kheyre-type vessel with thick walls. The rim is wide and round. The low neck goes directly into the convex body. The body narrows downward. The base is narrow, flat and slightly depressed inward. The surface is slightly polished. The colour is black.	chamber 3	orif. d.-23cm base d.-7cm height-11.9cm wall th.-0.9cm

No.	Item	Description	Location	Dimensions
10	body	Body fragment of a large and deep kheyre-type vessel with thick walls. The rim is flat. It goes directly into the oval body. There is a trace of a protrusion or a handle upon the rim. The surface is slightly polished. The colour is pink.	chamber 3	wall th.-0.7cm
11	pitcher	Half-part of an average size pitcher-type vessel with thick walls. The wide rim broadens sideway slightly. The low neck goes into the convex body. The body narrows toward the base. The base is narrow, flat and slightly depressed inward. The vessel has a little semi-circular handle connecting the rim with the body. The surface is polished. The colour is black.	chamber 3	orif.d.-17cm base d.-6.5cm height - 12cm wall th.-1cm
12	neck	Narrow can neck, part of a large vessel. The rim broadens sideway slightly. The cylindrical neck goes smoothly into the slanting shoulder. There is a trace of a handle with a tape-shaped cross section upon the neck. The vertically attached handle probably connected the neck with the body. The colour is black.	chamber 3	orif.d.-11cm neck d.-6.5cm wall th.- 0.6cm
13	body	Kheyre-type, thick wall vessel body sherd. The rim is wide and is bent sideway slightly. The low neck goes into the convex body. The body narrows toward the base. There is a trace of a semi-circular handle upon the vessel connecting the rim with the upper part of the body. The surface is slightly polished. The colour is grey.	chamber 3	wall th.-1cm
14	handle	Sherd of a tiny semi-circular handle with an oval cross section. The colour is pink.	chamber 3	cr. sect.width- 1.5cm
15	catapult stone	Round-shaped river rock used to make a slingstone.	chamber 3	
16	pitcher	Average size pitcher with a convex body. The narrow rim broadens sideway. The low neck gradually goes into the shoulder. The body narrows slightly in its lower part. The base is narrow and flat. The shoulder is girdled by two parallel stripes. The stripes are comprised of four rows of dashed dots. The body's middle section is decorated vertically underneath by parallel triangular stripes consisting of more dashed dots. The vessel was polished black. It is handmade. The colour is black.	chamber 3	orif.d.-12.5cm st.d.-37.5cm base d.-10cm neck d.- 18cm height- 22.5cm
17	pitcher	Average size pitcher with a convex body. The narrow rim broadens sideway. The low neck gradually goes into the slanting shoulder. The shoulder is girdled by two parallel stripes. The stripes consist of dashed dots. The surface is slightly polished. The body narrows downward. The base is wide and flat. The walls are thin. The colour is black.	chamber 3	st.d.-18cm neck d.-11cm wall th.- 0.5cm
18	pitcher	Pitcher with an average capacity and a convex body. The narrow rim has a welt. The low and narrow neck transforms smoothly into the slanting shoulder. The body somewhat narrows toward the base. The latter is narrow and flat. The shoulder is girdled by two parallel stripes. The stripes consist of three rows of askew vertical lines reflected in dashed dots. The surface is polished black. The walls are thin. Figure 18.	chamber 3	orif.d.-11.5cm st.d.-21.8cm base d.-9cm wall th.- 0.5cm
19	pitcher	Pitcher with an average capacity and a convex body. The narrow rim somewhat expands laterally. The low and narrow neck transforms smoothly into the slanting shoulder. The shoulder is girdled by three rows of vertical stripes. The surface is polished black. The walls are thin.	Kurgan 6 burial chamber	orif.d.-11.5cm st.d.-18cm wall th.-0.7cm
20	pitcher	Pitcher with an average capacity and a convex body. The rim is narrow. The low and narrow neck transforms smoothly into the body. The body narrows toward the base to some extent. The base is narrow and flat. The body's upper part is girdled by two parallel stripes comprised of short vertical notched lines. Triangular patterns consisting of similar lines were engraved underneath throughout the body. The surface is polished black.	Kurgan 6 burial chamber	orif.d.-10.7cm st.d.-19.7cm base d.-8cm height - 20cm wall th.- 0.7cm
21	Sherds	Sherds of a pitcher with an average capacity. The narrow rim is torn off. The low and narrow neck transforms smoothly into the slanting shoulder. The body is convex. The vessel has patterns comprised of dashed notched lines. The surface is polished	Kurgan 6 burial chamber	st.d.-21cm neck d.-13cm wall th.- 0.8cm

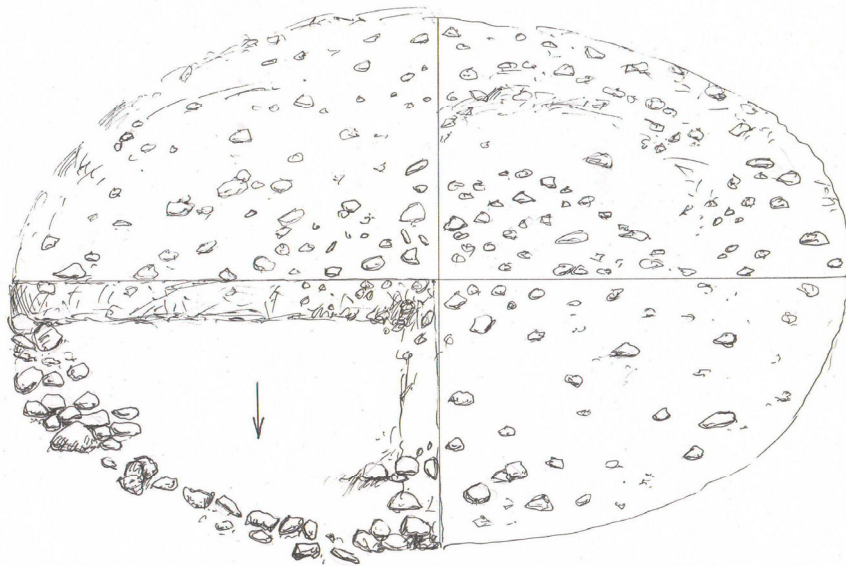
No.	Item	Description	Location	Dimensions
		black.		
22	Sherds	Sherds of a pitcher with an average capacity and thin walls. The rim is bent sideways. The low and narrow neck transforms smoothly into the slanting shoulder. The body is convex. The vessel's shoulder is girdled by a stripe comprised of dashed notched lines. The surface is polished black.	Kurgan 6 burial chamber	neck d.-8.5cm wall th.-0.5cm
23	Sherds	Sherds of a pitcher with an average capacity and thin walls. The rim is bent sideways slightly. The neck transforms smoothly into the body. The base is narrow and flat. The vessel has a semi-circular handle with an oval cross section. The handle connects the rim with the middle section of the body. The vessel is grey on the inside, while its outside surface is polished black. The biconic body narrows sharply after expanding till the middle. The colour is black.	Kurgan 6 burial chamber	base d.-6.8cm handle d.-7.3cm handle cr. sect. width-1.8cm wall th.-0.3-0.5cm
24	Sherds	Sherds of a pitcher with an average capacity and thin walls. The narrow rim is torn off. The low and narrow neck transforms smoothly into the shoulder. The body is convex. The base is narrow and flat. The shoulder is girdled by two parallel stripes that consist of two rows of dashed dots. The surface is polished black.	Kurgan 6 burial chamber	neck d.-10cm wall th.-0.5cm
25	pitcher	Pitcher with an average capacity, narrow rim and a convex body. Its rim is torn off. The low and narrow neck transforms smoothly into the shoulder. The body narrows downward gradually. The base is narrow and flat. The shoulder is girdled by two parallel stripes featuring lines comprised of dashed dots. A triangular ornament engraved in the same style was applied throughout the body. The clay colour is brown. The outside surface is polished black.	Kurgan 6 burial chamber	st. d.-19.5cm base d.-8.3cm neck d.-11cm
26	Sherds	Sherds of an average size pitcher. The low and narrow neck goes smoothly into the slanting shoulder. The body is convex. Patterns featuring dashed dots are seen upon the vessel. The colour is black.	Kurgan 6 burial chamber	neck d.-3.4cm wall th.-0.7cm
27	jug	Large jug with a convex body. It has a relatively narrow rim. The low neck goes smoothly into the shoulder. The rim is bent outwards. The shoulder is encircled by a grooved stripe. There are four rows of two parallel stripes comprised of dashed dots below the groove. Four more rows of wavy patterns that consist of dashed dots girdle the body under these stripes. The edges of the waves lean against the mentioned stripe, forming triangles. The space between the triangles is filled by parallel wave-like and straight lines reflected in dashed dots. The base is flat. The surface is polished black. The vessel is of high quality. Figure 32.	Kurgan 6 burial chamber	orif. d.-25.5cm st. d.-80cm base d.- 20cm height - 42cm
28	pitcher	Pitcher body half-part. The average size vessel has thin walls. The rim expands sideways. The rim is round. The low neck goes smoothly into the shoulder. The body is elongated. The vessel is handmade. There are traces of soot and burning throughout the surface. The colour is pink.	Kurgan 6 burial chamber	orif. d.-17cm st. d.-21cm neck d.16.9cm wall th.-0.3-0.5cm

## 8. APPENDICES

### 8.1. REFERENCES

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### 8.3. ILLUSTRATIONS

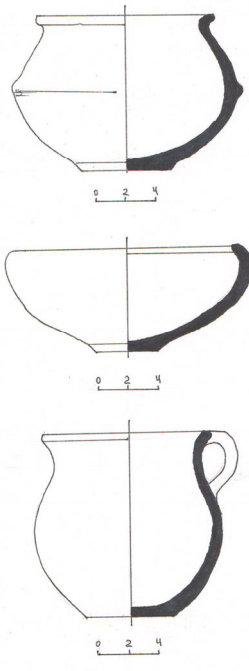


*Figure 3. Kurgan 5 after initial cleaning and during excavation of northeast quadrant. View to south.*

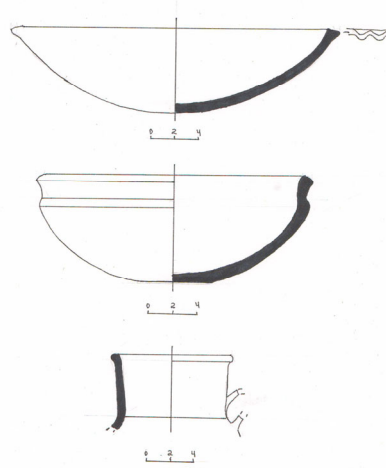


*Figure 4. Kurgan 6 upper stone cover after initial cleaning. View to north.*

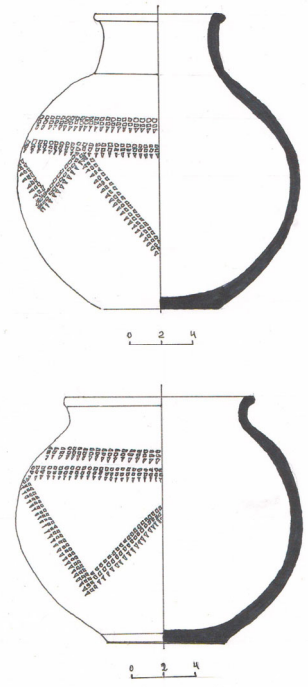




*Figure 5. Kurgan 5 vessels from burial chamber.*



*Figure 6. Kurgan 5 vessels from burial chamber.*



*Figure 7. Kurgan 6 vessels from burial chamber.*

#### 8.4. PHOTOGRAPHS



*Figure 8. Kurgan 5 excavation in quadrant. View to south.*



*Figure 9. Kurgan 5 circular stone cover over chamber. View to northeast.*



*Figure 10. Kurgan 5 burnt spot.*



*Figure 11. Kurgan 5 chamber 1. View to north.*



*Figure 12. Kurgan 5 chamber 1, body and vessel sherds.*



*Figure 13. Kurgan 5 chamber 1, body and vessel sherds. View to north.*



*Figure 14. Kurgan 5 chamber 2, burial exposed. View to west.*

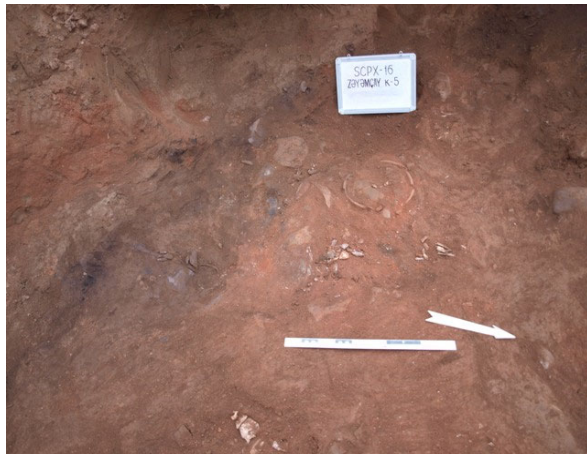


Figure 15. Kurgan 5 chamber 3, body and vessel sherds. View to west.



Figure 16. Ochre pieces.



Figure 17. Kurgan 5 pottery vessel found in kurgan cover. View to south.



Figure 18. Kurgan 5, chamber 3. Little bowl Inv 18.



Figure 19. Kurgan 5. Kheyre Inv 20.



Figure 20. Kurgan 5. Bowl Inv 21.



Figure 21. Kurgan 5. Bowl Inv22.



Figure 22. Kurgan 5. Bowl Inv23.



Figure 23. Kurgan 5. Bowl Inv24.



Figure 24. Kurgan 5. Piyale Inv 25.



Figure 25. Kurgan 5. Deep kheyra Inv 26.



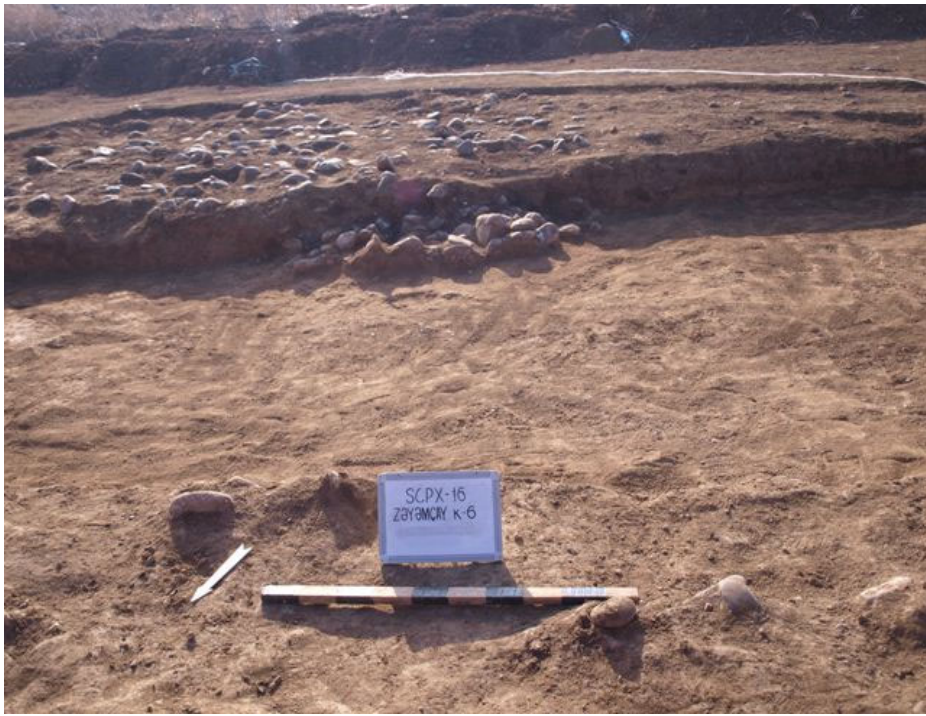
Figure 26. Kurgan 5. Pot with wide rim. Inv 28.



Figure 27. Kurgan 5. Can neck. Inv 29.



Figure 28. Kurgan 5. Pitcher with one handle Inv 19.



*Figure 29. Kurgan 6. Half section excavation of kurgan cover. View to southeast.*



*Figure 30. Kurgan 6 chamber located in middle of kurgan cover. View to south.*



*Figure 31. Kurgan 6. Grave goods in chamber. View to northwest.*



*Figure 32. Kurgan 6 Black polished pitcher Inv 33/27.*



*Figure 33. Kurgan 6 Black polished pitcher Inv 42.*



*Figure 34. Kurgan 6 Black polished pitcher. Inv 44.*