

# Summary of Dashbulaq excavations, 2014

## SCPX Pipeline KP 322.0



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Frontispiece: Beginning of excavation, March 2014. View to east.

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## **Dashbulaq excavations, Shamkir, SCPX Pipeline**

### **1. Summary**

An excavation was conducted on an area with known medieval deposits on the SCPX pipeline. This revealed few archaeological remains in the trench line, but an abundance of ceramic material on the surface in the vicinity of the site.

### **2. Dashbulaq KP322**

Excavations were conducted at Dashbulaq (SCPX KP322) in February 2014 (Nəcəfov, 2022). The work was undertaken as a series of 4 by 4m pits spread over 126m along the route of the proposed SCPX pipeline centreline. The site was known from previous discoveries on the SCP and BTC pipelines which resulted in excavations in 2004 and 2005 (Figure 1).

The excavation opened up a total of 16 pits by hand, pits 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, east of the road and 11-14, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26 and 27 west of the road. All pits were 4 x 4m in size. Most pits were dug to a depth of 0.8m.

BTC excavations in 2004 and SCP in 2005 (Nəcəfov et al., 2007) , identified a medieval settlement with large numbers of tandir ovens and other structures that appeared to be structural. An earlier component of the site was a small cemetery of burials laid out facing east. These appear to be Christian burials of the Antique period. This cemetery was only found within the BTC trench to the east of the road (Taylor and Maynard, 2011).

The SCPX proposed route lies approximately 60m south of the BTC, while the Western Route Export Pipeline (WREP) lies in between these. No information was recorded on discoveries in the area during construction of WREP in 1997. Pottery was found throughout the area on the surface. This can be used to indicate the extent of the settlement. Due to the large quantities of rubbish dumped on the site, mostly along the southern boundary, there was little above ground evidence of any activity.

### **3. Results**

No archaeological features were found in pits 1 to 10 east of the road. West of the road, in pits 11 to 14, three rubbish pits were found filled with pottery. Further west of this area, there was a large valley approximately 3m deep, before the ground rose up to a level area for the rest of the site. Pit 22 lay on the west side of the valley and contained a complete earthenware jug in some sort of surfaced pit. A further storage pit was found in Pit 27 at the western most extent of the excavated area.

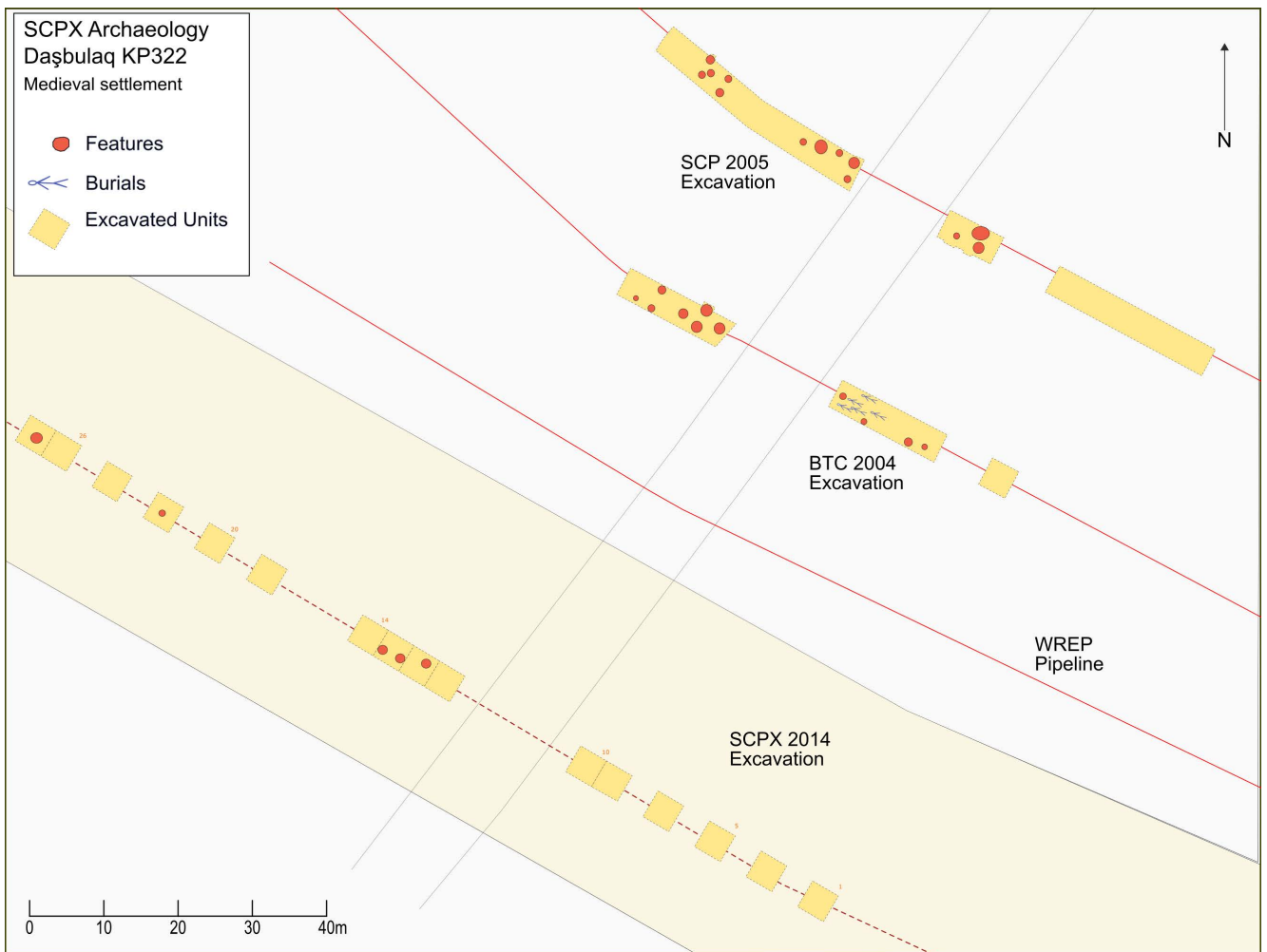


Figure 1. Dashbulaq excavated areas (BTC, SCP and SCPX)

#### 4. Surface Collection at Dashbulaq

There were large quantities of pottery on the surface across the. The location and nature of this material was recorded using the built-in digital camera of the GPS to record the number and position of surface finds to put the pipeline archaeological excavation into context (Figures 3-6).

In the field the GPS ran continuously recording the route followed across the field. The GPS had WAAS enabled and reported an accuracy of 2-3m. Material was easily seen on the surface as there was only a thin vegetation cover. One zone, which followed the line of the WREP pipeline, had little material visible, this is due to patrol vehicles passing along this route which created a hard surface that concealed any material. The survey area could not be extended to the north due to the presence of the modern village.

The dot density map (Figure 2) shows a concentration of material over the BTC and SCP excavation areas, with a drop off of density of material to the east and west. This agrees with the results of archaeological monitoring of the pipeline construction and results of the current work.

The presence of brick (Figure 5) throughout the surveyed area indicates that there are likely to be substantial structures within the site. There is a noticeable increase in numbers and physical size of brick fragments in the area either side of the road in the vicinity of the WREP pipeline.

A total of 311 objects was recorded. Types of material were identified as shown below:

Number	Description
237	Pottery sherds
40	Brick fragments
1	Stamp decorated pottery
5	Handle
6	Lugs
22	Rims
311	Total

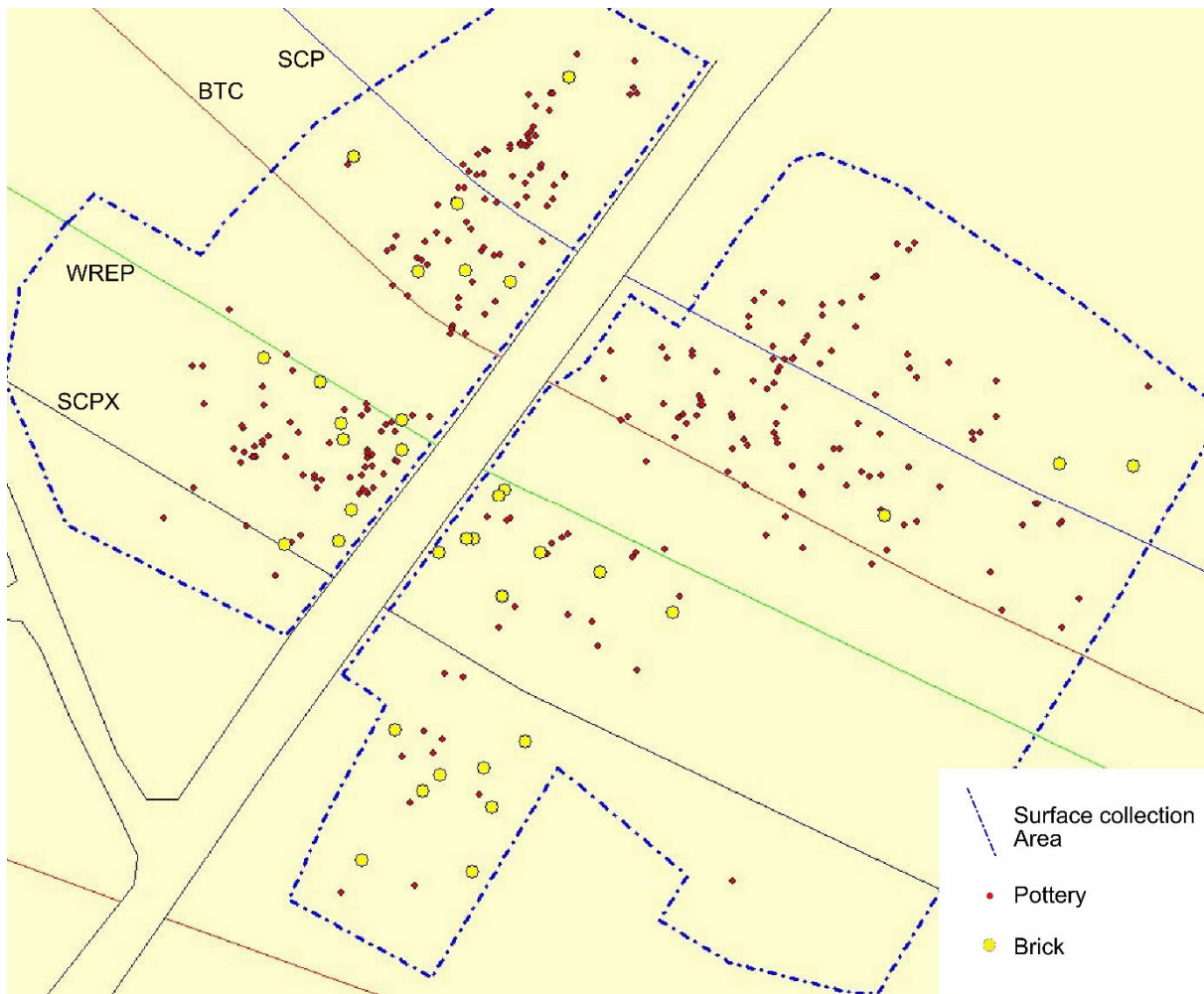


Figure 2. Dashbulaq surface collection.





Figure 3. Surface collection, rim sherd.



Figure 4. Surface collection, lug handle.



Figure 5 Surface collection, brick fragment.



Figure 6. Surface collection, rim sherd.

## 5. Conclusions

Relatively little material was found during the excavation, certainly compared with the BTC and SCP work. Information consists of several rubbish pits west of the road. These are located on either side of a dry valley and approximately 45m south of the nearest known excavated medieval features.

The results of this work show that the main area of the settlement lies to the north of the SCPX pipeline, at least by the BTC and SCP pipelines and probably further north of that. The number and size of bricks in the area of the road crossing for the WREP suggests that construction of this pipeline may have impacted on a brick built structure.

## 6. References

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