

Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences
Archaeology and Ethnography Institute

COMPREHENSIVE SCIENTIFIC REPORT

**Excavations and relocation of Zəyəmçay Muslim cemetery at
KP 336.0 SCPX pipeline**

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2018

1 SUMMARY

The Zayamchai Muslim cemetery was previously known to archaeologists as an archaeological area excavated during construction of the BTC and SCP pipelines. A total of 74 Muslim graves were revealed during those excavations carried out in the area in February 2004. The skeletons were removed and buried anew in accordance with the canons of Islam. It is beyond doubt that there were burial monuments in the SCPX pipeline corridor. For this purpose, excavations were conducted in the area of the proposed SCPX route and 213 graves were unveiled. The skeletons were further removed and relocated to the nearby Muslim cemetery. The archaeological work was conducted on site from November 2014 to February 11, 2015.

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2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 SITE DISCOVERY

The Zayamchai Muslim cemetery located at KP 336.080 of the SCPX gas pipeline route was one of the areas previously known to archaeologists. During this, 74 graves were excavated and relocated during laying of the BTC pipeline [1, p. 1-24]. The territory was examined by archaeologists David Maynard, Shamil Najafov and SCPX Cultural Heritage Site Construction Manager Mahammad Novruzov, recorded as an archaeological area, and excavations were planned in the SCPX corridor.

2.2 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The area is located between the villages of Duyarli and Bayramli in Shamkir district at N 40°56'20.7" E 045°53'01.0" (N 4534229; E 8574547 coordinates at KP 336.080 of the SCPX corridor, on the right bank of the Zayam river at a high altitude, 301 metres above sea level [1, p. 1-3]. There is a plain on the left-hand bank of the river and high rocky areas on the right-hand bank. The river flows more swiftly and is tumultuous during powerful torrential water flows. The torrential water washes the right bank of the river, shaping high and precipitous rocky areas. The right bank of Zayam is regularly used for sowing (Photo 3). The area is gravelly but is ploughed and mainly grain crops are sown there.

2.3 WHO CONDUCTED THE WORK AND WHEN

The archaeological excavations in the area were conducted from November 2014 to February 11, 2015. The excavations were overseen by PhD in History, senior research fellow at the Archaeology and Ethnography Institute, Shamil Najafov, with the participation of the Institute's employees, PhD in History, senior research fellow Vagif Asadov, PhD in History, senior research fellow Anar Aghalarzade and research fellow Ahliman Abdurahmanov. BP (SCPX) environmental area manager (Site E&S Lead) Louis Ngwa and SCPX Cultural Heritage Site Construction Manager Mahammad Novruzov contributed to the excavation work as observers.

2.4 FIELD METHODS

The route of the SCPX corridor in the Zayam Muslim cemetery was 100 metres long, extending toward the riverbed in the south-eastern and north-western directions. The width of the corridor designated for the excavations was 52 metres in the upper part in the area close to the rural road and 40 metres near the riverbed. This excavation corridor was divided into a total of five parts, namely, the A, B, C, D and E zones. In turn, each of these zones was divided into two small parts: A-1 and A-2, B-1 (Photo 31) and B-2, C-1 and C-2, D-1 and D-2, E-1 and E-2. In the beginning, excavations were launched in the zones A-1, B-1, C-1, D-1 and E-1. The graves were extracted and began to be further relocated in a phased manner (Photo 4). In addition to extracting the graves in relevant, divided areas of the cemetery, soil work was simultaneously conducted with the use of machinery (Photos 6-7). Furthermore, work was systematically done in the A-2, B-2, A-3 (Photo 32), B-3, A-4, B-4, A-5 (Photo 33) and B-5 zones after it was completed in the zones A-1 and B-1. The zones 1A and 1B (Photo 31), 3A (Photo 32), 3B, and 5A (Photo 33) were fully excavated to the greatest depth possible (Photo 8). The zones 2A, 4A and 5B were partially excavated, while the zones 2B and 4B were not excavated at all. The operations in the respective area were suspended due to the change of the project route. Due to recognition that many more graves would be affected by construction of the SCPX line as planned, it was redirected to cross the Zayam river valley under the BTC and SCP pipelines. The rerouting was implemented to prevent damage and potential destruction to the medieval bridge arches in the Zayam river valley during the construction operations. This route was a new corridor designed by the BP company during the excavations. Trial pits were set up in the newly designated corridor to identify the

possibility of Muslim graves being found in the new route.. The new route was located approximately 100-110 metres east of the previous excavation area.

Trial pits covering 4x4 metres were created in three locations to track potential graves located along this route. However, neither burial monuments nor archaeological materials were obtained from the trial pits. The coordinates of the trial pits are as follows:

Trial pit No.1: N 40°56'23.8" E 045°53'04.3" h.=294 metres

Trial pit No.2: N 40°56'22.5" E 045°53'05.0" h.=296 metres

Trial pit No.3: N 40°56'21.2" E 045°53'05.7" h.=295 metres

3 RESULTS OF EXCAVATIONS

3.1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

As mentioned above, the area of the Muslim cemetery is located on Zayamchai right bank at a high altitude. This territory is traversed by three pipeline corridors, situated close to each other. Fertile soil in the area is regularly used for ploughing and sowing. The Muslim graves are densely located in an area stretching toward the river. In our opinion, some of the graves have been by erosion of the river bank as they extend to the steep, high bank of the river. These rocky areas were washed away by the river from time to time and the riverbed further expanded.

The cemetery and the Zayamchai necropolis area are separated only by a narrow rural road leading to the Baydar graveyard. All the extracted skeletons were re-buried at that cemetery (Photos 43-47).

3.2 DESCRIPTION OF GRAVES

The area of the Zayam Muslim graves is not populated. Therefore, there is no occupation layer there. Muslim graves were found at different soil depths in the area and further extracted and relocated (Photos 4, 5, 8). The 10-15cm thick upper soil layer was scraped at a limited depth in the area using machinery and further removed. The removed layer included only black soil that had been used for farming for many years.

Graves began to be discovered from the depth of at least 30cm below the ground, with the greatest depth reaching 1.2 metres. There had been no signs of any graves above the ground. The condition of the skeletons found in the graves varied, with some of them neat and in a good shape, while the other skeletons were very degraded. A total of 213 Muslim graves were extracted from the Zayam cemetery and relocated. These are as follows:

Table 1 Details of Grave types

No.	Length	Width	Depth	Direction	Marker	Burial	Comments
1	220	70	20	W-E	Oval setting of interlocking stone cover.	Adult	
2	70	40	50	W-E		Child	
3	150	70	45	W-E		Adult	
4	100	30	40	W-E	Two large stones mark grave.	Adult	Teenage burial.
5				SW-NE		Infant	
6	150	60	45	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Burial lying on its back.

No.	Length	Width	Depth	Direction	Marker	Burial	Comments
7	80	60	45	SW-NE		Adult	Male burial.
8	170	60	50	W-E		Adult	Female. Photo 35.
9	150	60	80	W-E		Adult	Elderly female
10	210	50	70	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Photo 15
11	130	45	70	W-E	Elongated river rocks lined over the burial chamber.	Adult	Male. Photo 36.
12	200	40	80	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Photo 13
13	100	30	35	W-E		Infant	In lower part of grave 15
14	150	80	50	W-E	Orderly stone cover with limestone.	Adult	Teenage burial. Photo 16
15	140	50	35	SW-NE	Orderly stone cover with limestone.	Adult	Photo 17
16	220	40	60	W-E		Adult	
17	120	40	60	SW-NE		Child	
18	110	50	55	SW-NE	Stone cover comprised of small river rocks	Child	
19	150	60	30	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
20	200	70	110	W-E		Adult	
21	100	40	30	W-E		Child	
22	120	60	80	W-E	Disorderly stone cover	Adult	Photo 14
23	140	40	50	SW-NE		Child	
24	90	50	60	W-E		Child	
25	100	50	50	SW-NE	Three flat river stones in line	Adult	
26	80	40	50	W-E		Infant	
27	210	70	70	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Male burial. Large, decorated limestone found in the grave fill, possibly being the grave marker that later collapsed. See later description. Inv 1, Drawing 4.1. Photo 9, 10.
28	80	40	70	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Female burial
29	80	35	65	W-E		Adult	Male burial
30	140	40	60	SW-NE		Child	
31	180	70	70	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Photo 18
32	180	50	60	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Photo 19
33	110	40	50	SW-NE		Infant	
34	80	40	50			Child	
35	90	40	70	SW-NE		Child	
36	190	60	70		Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Limestone in cover
37	200	80	50	W-E		Adult	Male burial. Body lay on its back, head to southwest.
38	140	50	40	SW-NE	Orderly line stone cover	Child	Age 12-15 years. Photo 26
39	80	40	50	W-E	Two parallel lines of elongated river rock marked the grave	Adult	
40	150	40	30	SW-NE	Stone cover of flat rocks	Infant	
41	120	50	80	W-E	Covered by small stones	Adult	
42	190	60	80	W-E	Concentric circle of stones	Adult	Drawing 4.2. Photo 21
43	120	60	70	W-E		Adult	
44	150	50	50	W-E		Adult	
45	140	50	40	W-E		Adult	

No.	Length	Width	Depth	Direction	Marker	Burial	Comments
46	200	50	85	W-E		Adult	Body lay on its back, head to southwest.
47	100	60	80	W-E		Child	
48	130	70	90	W-E		Adult	Male burial. Photo 37
49	150	50	55	W-E		Adult	
50	225	70	65	W-E		Adult	Female
51	75	40	45	W-E		Infant	
52	270	60	60	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Female . Photo 22
53	140	45	90	W-E	Dense rock cover Transverse	Child	
54	210	55	75	W-E		Adult	Female
55	210	40	25	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
56	140	60	30	W-E		Adult	Male
57	200	50	70	W-E		Adult	
58	80	40	40	W-E		Adult	
59	165	45	65	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
60	195	50	60	W-E		Adult	
61	160	55	75	W-E		Adult	
62	220	65	30	W-E	Orderly line stone cover, chamber lined with stone	Adult	Female burial. Burial lying on back, arms crossed, jaw open. Photo 38
63	70	50	70	W-E		Child	
64	210	55	75	W-E		Adult	
65	240	50	50	W-E		Adult	Female burial
66	210	60	50	W-E		Adult	
67	120	45	50	W-E		Child	
68	80	40	50	W-E		Child	
69	90	60	45	W-E		Adult	
70	140	50	30	W-E		Child	
71	150	50	50	W-E		Adult	
72	210	55	75	W-E		Child	
73	260	50	55	W-E	Two lines of stones of the chamber	Adult	
74	150	60	55	W-E		Adult	
75	150	50	50	W-E		Adult	
76	250	50	70	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Limestone in cover
77	150	50	50	W-E		Adult	
78	70	40	30	W-E		Adult	
79	150	50	50	W-E		Adult	
80	80	40	80	W-E		Child	
81	60	30	70	W-E		Child	
82	100	50	80	W-E		Adult	
83	120	50	80	W-E		Adult	
84	130	60	80	W-E		Adult	
85	170	60	60	W-E		Adult	
86	210	80	70	W-E		Adult	
87	150	50	50	W-E		Adult	
88	250	50	90	W-E		Adult	
89	150	50	50	W-E		Adult	
90	150	60	90	W-E		Adult	
91	250	50	100	W-E		Adult	
92	220	50	120	W-E		Adult	
93	80	50	50	W-E		Adult	Burial flexed at knees
94	230	60	70	W-E		Adult	
95	230	60	70	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	

No.	Length	Width	Depth	Direction	Marker	Burial	Comments
96				W-E	No stone cover	Child	
97	110	70	60		Upright stones covering burial	Adult	Hole in the skull of the burial, small stone placed under skull.
98	200	50	70			Adult	Female burial. Photo 39
99	190	50	70	W-E	Stone cover of small stones	Adult	
100						Adult	Only leg bones survived undamaged
101	240	80	50	W-E	Stone cover in two rows	Adult	
102	120	40	90	W-E		Adult	
103	150	60	60	W-E		Adult	
104	170	60	60	W-E		Adult	
105	150	60	60	W-E		Adult	
106	150	60	60	W-E		Adult	
107	110	40	90	W-E		Adult	
108	150	60	70	W-E		Adult	
109	200	60	80	W-E		Adult	
110	220	60	90	W-E		Adult	
111	200	50	80	W-E		Adult	
112	160	50	60	W-E	Two layers of stone covering	Adult	Teenage burial
113	200	50	50	W-E	Neat rock covering	Adult	
114	195	60	80	W-E		Adult	Male burial
115	140	50	40	W-E	Sparse rock cover	Child	
116	80	50	30	W-E	Sparse rock cover	Child	
117	180	80	60	W-E	Large rock cover	Adult	Male burial
118	110	60	40	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Child	
119	120	60	50	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Child	
120	120	40	45	W-E		Child	
121	170	50	40	W-E	Orderly line of river stones in transverse line	Adult	
122	250	80	50	W-E		Adult	
123	200	50	50	W-E	Disorderly stone cover	Adult	
124	200	60	80	W-E		Adult	Burial lying on back, arms outstretched, right leg raised
125	110	50	60	W-E	Small stone cover	Adult	Photo 23
126	230	40	50	W-E	Small stone cover	Adult	
127	200	60	60	SW-NE	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
128	110	60	50	SW-NE	Small stone cover	Adult	
129	230	70	40	SW-NE	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Photo 24
130	70	60	40	SW-NE		Adult	
131	220	70	50	SW-NE	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Photo 25
132	210	60	80	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
133	200	60	80	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Fragments of timber were found under the stone cover
134	190	60	75	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
135	180	60	90	W-E		Adult	
136	150	55	120	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
137	130	60	120	W-E	Orderly line dense rock cover	Adult	
138	250	90	75	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Small stone interlocking. Stone box around burial. Photos 26, 40.
139	210	40	120	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	

No.	Length	Width	Depth	Direction	Marker	Burial	Comments
140	160	60	100	W-E	Orderly line of dense rocks	Adult	
141	170	50	100	W-E	Sparse stone cover	Adult	
142	90	50	80	W-E	No stone cover	Child	
143	95	50	60	W-E		Adult	Disintegrated bone
144	160	60	90	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
145	160	60	90	W-E	Disorderly dense stone cover	Child	
146	80	50	65	W-E	Two stones forming the cover	Child	
147	130	50	120	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Child	
148	170	50	75	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
149	160	50	100	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
150	280	50	90	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Leg bones only found.
151	120	60	100	W-E		Adult	
152	160	50	90	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
153	130	40	90	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
154	200	60	70	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Child	
155	100	50	80	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
156	150	60	80	W-E	No stone cover	Adult	Found in western part of grave 150. Photo 41.
157	110	75	40	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Interlocking stones set in oval stone surround. Photo 27.
158	200	70	60	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Interlocking stones, resembling stone box. Close to Zayamchai 1 kurgan. Photo 34.
159	240	60	100	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
160	160	50	90	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Photo 28.
161	145	40	70	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
162	190	50	100	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
163	220	60	120	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
164	280	60	110	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
165	90	60	50	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Child	
166	170	60	70	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
167	110	40	90	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Child	
168	90	50	65	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Child	
169	100	50	60	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Infant	
170	190	50	85	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Elderly burial
171	115	40	45	W-E	Disorderly dense stone cover	Child	
172	200	70	40	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Male burial
173	100	60	70	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Child	
174	160	50	70	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
175	160	50	70	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
176	110	50	60	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
177	90	60	60	W-E	Stone cover of small rocks	Child	
178	100	60	60	W-E	Stone box type cover	Child	
179	130	40	50	W-E	Orderly line stone cover of flat rocks	Infant	Timber found under stone cover
180	210	80	80	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Elderly burial. Laying on back with the face inclined southward. Arms were folded above the elbow and hands placed on the chest.

No.	Length	Width	Depth	Direction	Marker	Burial	Comments
181	130	80	40	W-E	Orderly line stone cover, interlocking stone in semi-oval shape	Infant	Photo 29.
182	250	50	80	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Male burial
183	170	70	60	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Infant	
184	130	50	70	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
185	120	50	40	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
186	190	60	40	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
187	130	40	80	W-E		Infant	Located under the stone cover of grave 182
188	190	60	70	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
189	120	40	90	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
190	120	80	90	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
191	90	40	80	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Infant	
192	120	60	60	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Large rock near the skull
193	100	30	100	W-E		Child	Parallel to grave 189, which was nearby
194	120	50	90	W-E	Four long rocks placed over the chamber, orderly stone cover laid over this	Adult	
195	210	60	50	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Contained decorated stone (inv 2), Drawing 5, Photo 11, 12.
196	130	50	80	W-E	Stone cover of large and small stones	Child	
197	200	80	70	W-E		Adult	
198	200	80	70	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
199	210	60	50	SW-NE	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Photo 30
200	180	50	70			Adult	
201	180	60	90	W-E		Adult	
202	100	50	30	W-E	No stone cover	Adult	Damaged by machinery
203	100	50	60		Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Photo 42.
204	130	50	50	W-E	No stone cover	Adult	
205	110	50	60	W-E	Stone cover of small stones	Adult	
206	220	50	70	SW-NE	Stone cover of small stones	Adult	
207	100	40	80	W-E	Stone cover damaged by machinery	Adult	
208	120	60	80	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Child	
209	120	50	50		Orderly line stone cover	Adult	
210	70	40	50			Infant	
211	80	40	70	W-E	Stone cover damaged by machinery	Child	
212	150	70	70		Box shaped chamber	Child	
213	190	60	45	W-E	Orderly line stone cover	Adult	Interlocked stone on chamber edge

3.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

No archaeological finds were obtained from the discovered graves.

3.4 GENERAL ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

The greatest number of graves discovered at the cemetery were those of men, followed by women's graves, and the smallest number of graves were those of children. No examples of

epitaphs or epigraphic evidence were encountered on any of the graves. The grave covers could be divided into four groups in terms of their shape. It is noteworthy that the shape of the graves was revealed after the upper, 30-40cm prolific layer of soil used for sowing was removed.

1. Graves with no signs upon them. Such graves were mostly discovered at significant depths and large and average size, elongated river rocks were lined up over their burial chambers (Photo 2). These were “chest” rocks and there were skeletons in the soil under the rocks (Photos 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 30, etc).

2. Graves with partially clear signs. Such signs were revealed after the initial 30-40cm prolific layer of soil was removed. Excavation showed three to four stones lined up in an orderly manner until the chest-stones were seen. The latter were found underneath after those rocks were removed (after about 30-40cm of soil was taken off).

3. Graves with burial chamber edges set with stones pitched to form the edge in an orderly manner (Photo 1.2). Just like “stone boxes”, the edges were pitched with orderly groups of river rocks and the burial was stretched and placed inside the burial chamber (Photo 40). Both adults and children were buried in such graves. Graves of this type were discovered mostly in the area stretching from the northern part of the cemetery toward the river near the Zayamchai I burial mound.

4. The last type of graves includes those with a large circle, which is encompassed by orderly sets of river rocks (Photo 4.2). These stones' dimensions equalled 3x3.5 metres. These graves resembled a cromlech, i.e. river rocks were lined up in the surrounding area. Such graves were found at the same depths and the direction of the burials was absolutely the same.

No differences were traced in the burial customs applied at the graves of all types. In other words, the burials were carried out in accordance with Islamic canons in all the graves. The dead bodies lay on the right shoulder, with the heads partly bent toward the right shoulder, i.e. in the “qibla” direction. Overall, the position of all the skeletons found in the graves suggests that a single principle was applied in the burial process and all the dead people were buried in the “qibla” direction, i.e. with the heads slightly bent toward the right shoulder, in the west-east direction.

However, there are a few exceptions when it comes to some of the graves. Some of the individual graves are slanted in the south-north, southwest-northeast or even the north-south direction. This probably resulted from errors made during the burials. Most likely, these burials were made at sundown and the people in charge failed to properly determine the direction of the burial. Child graves are encountered close to some of the women's graves. Members of the same family were probably buried inside and the children who had died were buried adjacent to their parents.

4 ANALYTICAL RESULTS

4.1 COLLECTION OF RESULTS

A total of 213 Muslim graves were discovered during the excavations at the Zayam Muslim cemetery and repeated burials were conducted in compliance with the canons of Islam. There were no signs above the ground on any of the graves, i.e. they had no headstones. Burial chambers were revealed after a certain depth with flat, elongated river rocks usually placed over the burial chambers. The chambers were mostly of the standard size, with the only exception being the tiny graves of children. The burial chambers of the graves at the cemetery were mainly covered with stones. For this purpose, stones were brought from the nearby Zayam river valley. Elongated, flat river rocks of a certain size were selected to cover the burial chamber. Limestone materials were at times encountered among the rocks covering the burial chamber. The surface

of these stones blackened as they remained underground for a long time. In some cases, mountain rocks were used. The stone cover seen over the burial chambers was very orderly and its shape is elongated (Photo 3). This practice was applied to cover up the burial chamber. During the burials carried out in a number of Azerbaijani regions special chambers were dug while graves were excavated in order to lay the corpse in the grave conveniently. Those burial chambers were covered with either timber, stone slabs or river rocks after the dead body was placed inside. In this region, more precisely, in the Ganja-Gazakh zone, the burial chambers were covered up with river rocks until the late Middle Ages. Evidently, this is also the case at the Zayam Muslim cemetery.

Dead children were buried at a shallower depth. In general, according to the rules of Islam, children's graves were to be located at shallow depths, while women were to be buried at deeper depths compared to men.

The graves are of the standard size. The dimensions of most of the graves were determined exclusively on the basis of the length of the stone cover upon the graves. Children's graves were frequently densely located close to one another. Most likely, there was a separate area in the cemetery designated for child burials. Five or six child graves were sometimes encountered close to each other. These children were very unlikely to have been members of the same family or generation. Relatives and people of the same generation were buried close to each other according to the burial traditions of Azerbaijanis. This custom is still followed today. However, the fact that some densely located graves of children located close to each other were discovered in the area is absolutely irrelevant to kinship.

Analysis of the 213 burials examined in the SCPX excavation (Table 2) indicate that there were 158 adult, 43 child and 13 infants. The adult group includes the three elderly individuals and three burials identified as being of teenagers (this group could include some individuals that may fit in the adult or child groups). 11 burials were interpreted as male and nine female. The sex of the remainder of the 139 burials were not identified.

Table 2 Analysis of Grave types

Type	Number	Comment
Adult	158	Includes 3 elderly and 3 Teenage
Child	42	
Infant	13	
Total	213	
Male	11	
Female	9	
Not identified	139	Does not include child and infant burials as these would be difficult to identify
Face to southwest (qibla)	194	Excludes 13 classed as infant
Burial on back	6	Several of these also had their face to southwest.
Stone cover	208	Includes any form of cover
No stone cover	5	
Circular grave markers (of any type) above burial stones	3	
Box chamber	2	

Religious practice was shown by the common burial rites used. Nearly all were laid with their faces to the south-west (the qibla position). Six burials were laid on their back, which was one of the criteria used to identify Christian burials at the Chaparli cemetery excavation site (Maynard, 2009). At Zayamchai, all but one or two of the burials on their backs, have the face to the southwest as opposed to facing down the body. This implies that all the burials represent individuals with a Muslim belief system. The fact that all burials, whether of male, female, young,

old or infant, follow the same burial practice of face to the southwest; a stone covering over the burial and the total absence of finds, suggest that all members of society were treated equally.

The position of the cemetery beside the routeway leading from the bridge over the Zayamchai river, may give an indication of the date of use of the cemetery and the manner in which it developed. If it is assumed that the earliest graves are found alongside this route and the cemetery progressively expanded away from this location, then the latest graves will be found to the north and east. These are principally those found during the BTC pipeline construction. This view may be supported by the presence of varying types of grave marker (ovals and arcs) closer to the bridge, while further away, the more the grave markers are of a uniform type.

The presence of a Bronze Age Kurgan burial (Zayamchai Kurgan 1) appears to have been respected by these later Muslim burials. No burials were built over this kurgan with Grave 158 being the closest to the location. Also, the stones of the Bronze Age Kurgan appear to have been left in place rather than being incorporated into the Muslim cemetery.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 INTERPRETATION OF THE EXCAVATION IN THE AREA

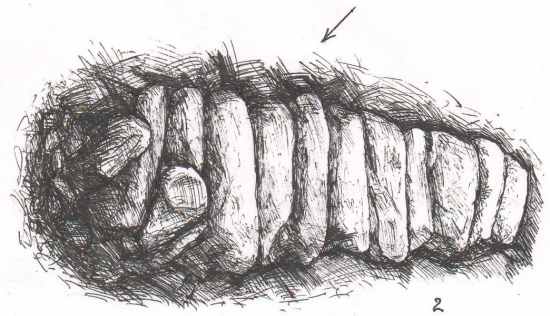
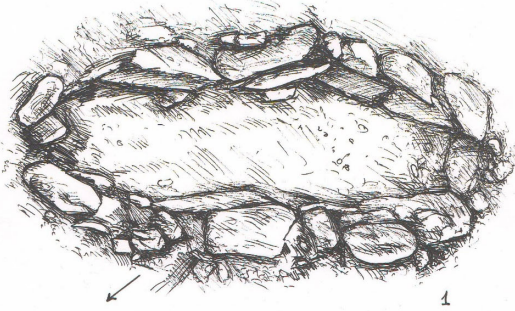
A total of 213 graves were excavated in the designated area of the Muslim cemetery and the same number of skeletons were removed. All of these skeletons were buried again in a designated area of the Baydar cemetery in the Bayramli village in accordance with Muslim traditions. A separate grave was dug for each skeleton. No machinery was used while excavating and burying the remains. The Baydar cemetery is located at the N 40°56'37.9" and E 045°54'20.2" coordinates. The cemetery, which is located 278m above sea level on the right bank of the Zayam river, is comprised of high hills and low plains situated in between. According to approximate estimates, there are about 1,000 graves in the area. Up to 500 of the graves had large headstones, while the rest had no headstones, though there were signs above the ground indicating that they were available. The Baydar cemetery is located in the east, 2 km from the Zayam Muslim cemetery.

6 APPENDICES

6.1 REFERENCES

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6.2 ILLUSTRATIONS

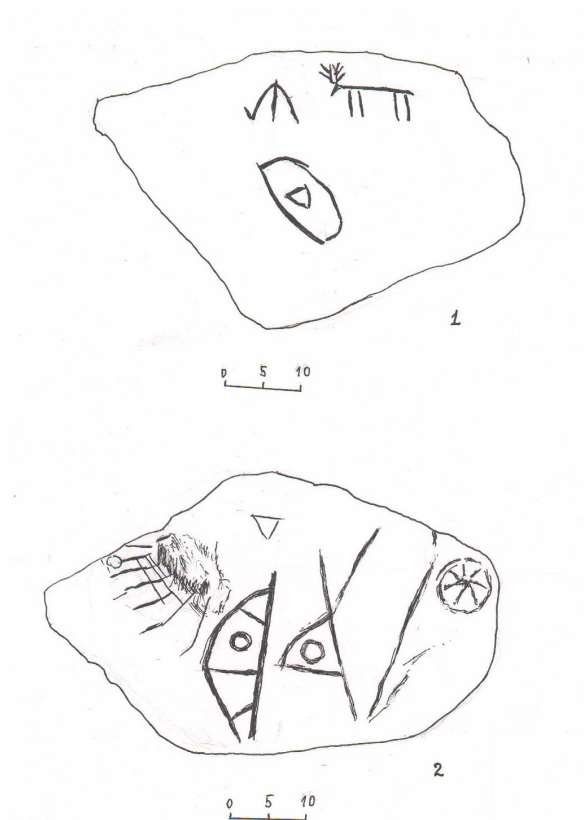


Picture 1. 1. Example of grave box enclosure or cromlech. 2. Example of grave with grave marker with pitched river stones.

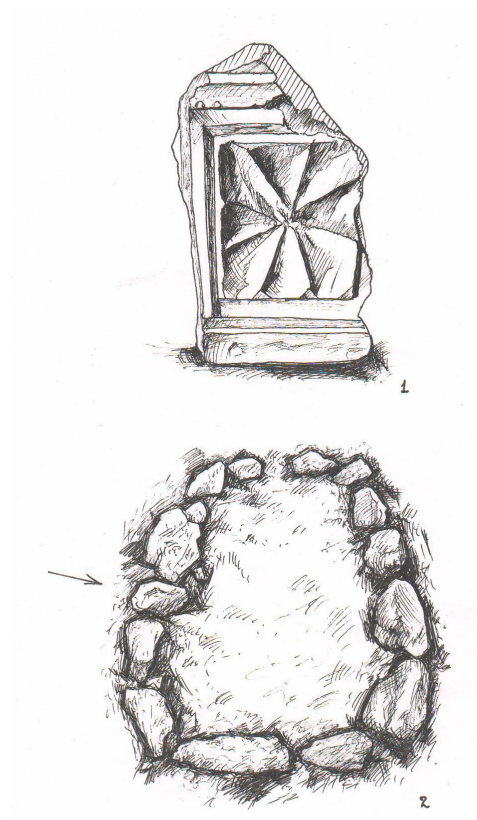
Picture 2. Examples of stone grave covers showing transverse stone setting over the body.



Picture 3. Example of grave cover of transverse stones with smaller stone pitching over the body.



Picture 5. Pictographic scratched images on rock, Grave 195



Picture 4. 1. Decorated limestone, Grave 27.

2. Oval stone setting over Grave 42

6.3 PHOTOS



Photo 1. Zayam bridge piers. View to west.



Photo 2. Zayam bridge piers. View to southwest.



Photo 3. General view of Zayam Muslim cemetery area (SCPX corridor). View to south.



Photo 4. Process of unveiling graves and removing skeletons. View to east.



Photo 5. Backfill of excavation.



Photo 6. Trial pit excavation by machine.



Photo 7. Locating graves by machine.



Photo 8. Process of unveiling and extracting graves.



Photo 9. Decorated limestone pillar (front), Grave 27.



Photo 10. Decorated limestone pillar (back), Grave 27.



Photo 11. Pictographic rock (front), Grave 195.



Photo 12. Pictographic rock (back), Grave 195.



Photo 13. Transverse stone cover, Grave 12.



Photo 14. Disorderly line of stones, Grave 22.



Photo 15. Transverse stone cover, Grave 10.



Photo 16. River stones and limestone cover, Grave 14.



Photo 17. Transverse stone cover, Grave 15.



Photo 18. Transverse stone cover, Grave 31.



Photo 19. Transverse stone cover, Grave 32.



Photo 20. Transverse stone cover, Grave 38.



Photo 21. Oval stone setting, Grave 42.



Photo 22. Transverse stone cover, Grave 52.



Photo 23. Disordered stone cover, Grave 125.



Photo 24. Transverse stone cover, Grave 129.



Photo 25. Transverse stone cover, Grave 131.



Photo 26. Transverse stone cover with pitched small stones, Grave 138.



Photo 27. Grave 157.



Photo 28. Grave 160.



Photo 29. Grave 181.



Photo 30. Grave 199.



Photo 31. Zayam Muslim cemetery, Zone 1B (3D format-David Maynard.)



Photo 32. Zayam Muslim cemetery, Zone 3A (3D format-David Maynard).



Photo 33. Zayam Muslim cemetery, Zone 5A. Grave 42 in centre of image (3D format- David Maynard).



Photo 34. Grave 158 located at edge of Zayam I burial mound. North at top of image.



Photo 35. Condition of skeleton in Grave 8.



Photo 36. Grave 11.



Photo 37. Grave 48.

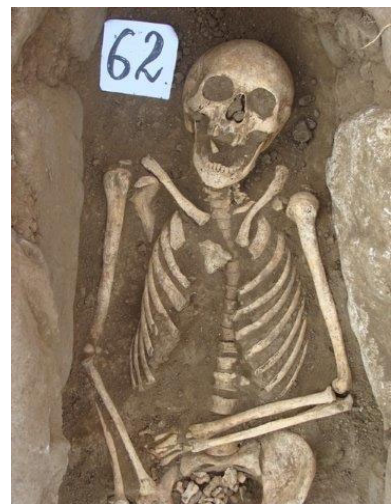


Photo 38. Burial lying on back, Grave 62.



Photo 39. Grave 98.



Photo 40. Stone box setting around burial, Grave 138.



Photo 41. Grave 156.



Photo 42. Grave 203.



Photo 43. Repeated burial process (Baydar cemetery).



Photo 44. Newly dug graves (Baydar cemetery).



Photo 45. View of newly created graves (Baydar cemetery).



Photo 46. View of newly created graves from north.



Photo 47. Planned rows of newly created graves.



Photo 48. View of Baydar cemetery.



Photo 49. Muslim graves at Baydar cemetery (18th-19th centuries).



Photo 50. Gravestone worked to horse shape (Baydar cemetery).



Photo 51. Epigraphic gravestone hewn by boring and hammering.



Photo 52. Epigraphic gravestone hewn by making protrusions.