ლეიერკო / LayerCo (405721713)

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

WIND POWER

NATIONAL AGENCY FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION OF GEORGIA

Final Report on the Archeological Works Performed on the Archeological Sites in the territory of Vil. Ruisi and Urbnisi of Kareli Municipality

LayerCo

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1. Introduction

JSC Wind Power plans to build 33 turbines, electric power stations and electric transmission lines in the territory of Vil. Ruisi and Urbnisi in Kareli Municipality. The design process included preliminary archaeological field survey of the project area. In parallel of the survey, a group of specialists working on cultural heritage under the aegis of LTD LayerCo has prepared the archeological sensitivity maps. Along with defining the sensitivity we identified possible threats during the construction period and the methods to eliminate the threats.

In preparing the archeological reconnaissance and sensitivity maps several areas have been identified, where according to the cultural heritage specialists, there is a high probability that archeological remains will be discovered. The areas for installing and operating the wind turbines N12 (Coord. 42.034983, 43.990254) and N32 (Coord. 42.008024, 44.008299) have been identified as such areas. We have offered recommendations in the report of survey findings, which was submitted to the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia. In coordination with the Agency and the requesting Company (JSC Wind Power) we were able to determine the archeological expedition plan, terms and scope of work.

The area to be excavated under the project was divided into two sites because of the distance between them and with consideration of the construction specifics. The names of the sites follow the numbering of the turbine locations. Therefore, the site near Vil. Ruisi is called T12 Site, like the location of Turbine 12, and the site near Vil. Urbnisi is called T32, the same as the location of Turbine 32 (see map).

The area of the location of turbines is divided into several sub-areas for construction purposes: the area, where a wind turbine is to be installed, the areas for preparatory works, parking sites, access roads and a strip for installing a cable, as well as a storage area for turbine construction parts. The place for installing the turbine shall be prepared with heavy equipment and a soil mass shall be removed up to a certain depth. Machinery will be used in the areas of parking and access roads for levelling the soil at the depth of 20-30 centimeters (depending on the relief), on which pebbles will be placed. The site for installing a cable will be deepened up to 1 meter, and the storage area as well as area for access roads and the parking area will be deepened up to 20-30 centimeters.

We started fieldworks by exploring T12 Site. At T12 Site, near Vil. Ruisi we started arranging test ditches on January 8, 2025 and completed on January 12, 2025. Main works were completed on the site for arrangement of the turbines.

We started working on T32 site at Vil. Urbnisi by arranging test ditches in the mid of January 2025.

Remains of a tomb were detected (as it was determined later) when making the test ditches at the site for installing the turbine. Therefore, it was decided to extend the archeological expedition by 10 days. During the archeological excavations test bores were arranged on the area for installing the turbine and its adjacent area. We also thoroughly examined the remains of tombs discovered. During the last days of the expedition the area was examined by using equipment under the supervision of an archologist. This allowed us to examine the construction area in a way to exclude any further discoveries or damage during the construction stage (see the map of works).

The archeological works were conducted based on N12/4586 Permit, dated 10.12.2024, issued by the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia. We started archeological excavations with 6 local support workers and completed with 10 of them. The archeological expedition was fully funded by JSC Wind Power and the works were carried out under the aegis of LTD LayerCo in full compliance with the EBRD standards and by using the methodologies recognized by the international scientific communities. The expedition was led by Archologist Davit Darejanashvili, the Head of the Project. Archologists Dimitri Zhvania, Mate Akhalaia, Ketevan Dighmelashvil were involved in the field works and in writing the report. Zurab Giorgadze occasionally helped us on the site. Archeologist Saba Jokhadze took drone photos and processed the photos. The maps were prepared by Archeologists Giorgi Kaburdzania. A palynological analysis of the tomb remains was conducted by Paleontologist Inga Martkoplishvili, an employee of the National Museum of Georgia. The craniological materials for further study were handed over to Lia Bitadze, Head of Anthropology Museum at History and Ethnology Institute of Tbilisi State University.

Name and Surname	Role in the project	Participation
Davit Darejanashvili	Head of the expedition	Full
Mate Akhalaia	Archaeologist	Full
Dimitri Jvania	Field Supervisor	Full
Ketevan Digmelashvili	Archaeologist	Full
Zurab Giorgadze	Field archaeologist	Part Time
Giorgi Khaburdzania	Digital Archaeologist	Part time
Inga Martk'opishvili	Paleontologist	Laboratory/office work
Lia Bitadze	Phisical Anthropologist	Laboratory/office work

2. Cultural and Historical Review of the Project Area

The Project segment includes part of Shida Kartli of Riv. Mtkvari Basin.

The mid-section of Riv. Mtkvari with its right and left tributaries and valleys is one of the most representative in terms of cultural heritage, which is explained by the location and significance of the region. Besides the fact that Shida Kartli has always been the political and geographic center of the Georgian statehood, the valley of River Mtkvari has been a navigational artery of international traffic. As a result of its significance, archeological and historical monuments have been regularly discovered in the mid of basin of Riv. Mtkvari over ages. Among them there are both sites of former cities and villages with their burial grounds and cultic, or defense structures, as well as free standing castles, towers, churches and monasteries and engineering facilities. Some part of this cultural heritage includes valuable historical facilities, and some are of cultural value, which include monuments of national and worldwide significance.

From the cultural and historic viewpoint, one of the most significance is the Ruis-Urbnisi area.

Ruisi is a historical village located on the left bank of Riv. Mtkvari. Its name comes from the world Ru, presumably it is the name of that channel which surrounds the village from the North and the East even now. It is believed that Ruisi was an agricultural settlement of City of Urbnisi in the ancient times. In VI Century, it was already an Episcopal center, which is evidenced by including Mroveli among the participants of the Dvin Ecclesiastical Council in 506.

Most part of the cultural heritage monuments on the territory of the village are located to the north of the village, on the top of the hill, to the left of Zemoru. All of them are of hall type structures. Among them is Saint Marine's church of early mid-centuries; Saint Dimitri's Church with its burial grounds, and Saint Kvirike and Ivlita Church are dated to XIV-XV, while Church Kviratskhoveli was built in XVIII Century[2].

[1] Aleksidze Z., Materials for Ecclesiastical Council of 506, «Matsne». History, Archelogy, Ethnography and Art, History Series, 1973, №3.

[2] Descriptions of Georgian Historical and Cultural Monuments, 5. Tb., 1990.

Transfiguration Cathedral Compound is located in the west part of the village. As the legend has it, Ruisi Cathedral was built by Vakhtang Gorgasali, though that building has not survived. The oldest construction segment which is detected in the church dates back to VIII-IX Centuries. The Church was fundamentally repaired in X Century. Bishop Giorgi has renewed and decorated it again, which is told by a two-line inscription on the Cathedral. During Temur-Lang invasions the Cathedral was severely damaged and it was fully restored by Alexander the Great. In XVI Century, the Cathedral was once again restored by Bishop Dionise Laradze of Mroveli and in XVII Century it was restored by Queen Mariam. The Transfiguration Cathedral is a cross-domed structure with the North and South Eukterions and with the West stands. The façade of the Cathedral is decorated with reliefs of different periods spanning from earlier midcenturies to later middle centuries, and there are fragments of painting from the middle centuries preserved in the Cathedral. The compound includes a three-floor bell tower, the first floor of which serves as a gate, and the second floor accommodates an episcopal cell and the third floor is an open belfry of the bell tower with four arches[3]. The compound is surrounded with a late medieval wall. The Transfiguration Cathedral of Ruisi is a monument of national importance.

As for Urbnisi, it was one of the main cities of antique Kartli Kingdom, which, according to the sources, was inhabited with Jews along with Georgians. A former city Urbnisi was spread on the territory of nowadays Vil. Urbnisi, on the right bank of Riv. Mtkvari. City Urbnisi is referenced in Georgian sources back in IV Century BC in connection to the events of the period, and archeological excavations confirmed that Urbnisi was a significant city from IV-III centuries in the Iberia Kingdom. Its advancement was a caused by the West-East trade route, because of which the population of the city was ethnically diverse, Hellenized and developed. The Georgian sources say tell the City of Urbnisi was destroyed during a destructive invasion of Arab Commander Murwan the Deaf and was not restored ever since. The area of City of Urbnisi was more than 23 hectares and was fortified with more than 2 km long and 2-meter width wall, which included semicircle columns.

[3] Chubinashvili G. For History of Ruisi Cathedra. Moambe, Language, History and Material Culture Institute, V-VI. 1940; Descriptions of Georgian Historical and Cultural Monuments, 5. Tb., 1990; Menabde L. Centers of Old *Georgian Writing* . 1. Tb., 1961.

Some archeological studies of the former city were conducted over the last century and different parts of Vill. Urbnisi were excavated including not only the neighborhoods consisting the city, burial grounds, and structures, but also the traces of people living on the territory of the former city. It was confirmed that they lived there from earlier Bronze Age to VIII c. AC. One of the neighborhoods is, for instance, is Khizanaat Hill, which is located in the middle of the village, in its most southern part, to the South-West of Urbnisi Cathedral, by Riv. Mtkvari. It was surrounded from all four sides by natural and manmade ravines and ditches for the purpose of protection. It was confirmed that there are 12 cultural layers of Early Bronze, Antique and Early Middle Ages, with a total thickness of 8 meters. The excavations conducted on the hill revealed characteristic rectangular houses of the Mtkvari-Arakts culture, with clay raised hearths in the center, a cultic building from the Hellenistic period, storage facilities, and the counterfort wall of the city of Urbnisi[4].

As for the remains of the former city, the most important part is the South-Western segment where the wall, semicircular tower, bathhouse, and other agricultural structures have been cleared. In this corner was a semicircular column of up to three meters width and built with adobe walls, which was extended outwards with six storage facilities, which seemingly was a residence for a city manager. The structures studied on this site are preserved as of now [5].

The compound of Urbnisi Cathedral, the most significant monument in Georgia's history and culture, located in the village at 160 meters from Riv. Mtkvari is part of the former city. The compound consists of three-nave basilica, a bell tower, and a wall. The church was built V-VI cc and is one of the biggest basilicas and along with Bolnisi Sioni it falls under the group of so-called Group of Big Basilicas. The basilica was renewed several times over different eras but it fully maintains the original design. Urbnisi Cathedral is significant not only by its architecture, but also by its Georgian inscriptions on its facades from different centuries, which provide information about construction layers and the history of the monument. To the west of the Cathedral is a three-floor bell tower of XVI Century. It is one of the significant samples of its era.

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[4] Gamkrelidze G., Bragvadze Z., Mindorashvili D., Kvatchadze M. Topographical and Archeological Dictionary of Kartli History. Tb., 2013; Kikvidze I. An Earlier Bronze Age Former Settlement of Khizanaantgori Tb. 1972; *Zakaraia* Ar*chitects of a Former* City Urbnisi. *Tb*., 1965.a

[5] *Zakaraia* Ar*chitects of a Former* City Urbnisi. *Tb*., 1965; Tchilashvili L, A Former City of Urbnisi, Tb., 1964.

Its first floor is a gate and the second floor serves as a cell for Urbneli Bishop, while the third floor is a hexagon belfry. The Cathedral is surrounded by a late middle century wall. The compound is the Urbnisi episcopal center, which bears this status from the times of Vakhtang Gorgasali. It was an educational, literacy center in the developed and late middle centuries6. A former city of Urbnisi and the Episcopal compound is a national monument of Georgia.

A multilayer archeological monument of Kvatskhelebi (at 500 meters to the west of T32 of the project area,) is located to the East of former city Urbnisi, at 2 km distance (Coordinates: 42.007326 44.002108). The archeological excavations conducted in 50s and 60s of the previous century, revealed a three-layer village and two burial grounds. The earliest layer of the former village dated to early Bronze age, the beginning of the of Mtkvar-Araksi culture. Remains of 25 abode structures, with circular/rounded corners, were cleaned, among which presumably was cultic temple. According to the materials discovered the residential houses belonged to patriarchate households, who were engaged in cultivating land, clay production and herding livestock, and were familiar with bronze metallurgy. The top residential layer of Kvatskhela Hill belongs to the last period of Urbnisi as a city (VI-VIII cc). A burial ground called "Bold Hut" is located to the North of the hill, the examination of which revealed rockfill pit burials [7].

3. Methodology of the Works Carried Out

Mobilization was conducted at the initial stage of works. During the mobilization a new area was set up. We designated an area for storing tools as well as for parking and smoking. The group of archeologists were supported by 6 local workers and at the end of the expedition their number increased to 10, who also worked at the archeological excavations along with the group. At the end of the expedition those areas which were less sensitive, were examined by using equipment. Two specialists of cultural heritage conducted monitoring during operation of the equipment.

[6] Zakaraia P. Architecture of a former city Urbnisi, Tb., 1965.

[7] Javakhishvili A., Ghlonti L, Urbnisi, I. Tb., 1962.

The area was measured and locations for trenches were laid out (see information about the trenches in the table below). Color tapes were used to mark the locations for trenches. The soil in trenches was deepened with tools for earth works. The soil was deepened layer by layer and each step was photographed. The data from all the trenches was summarized in the table below. After arranging trial trenches, they were documented by using a drone and they were backfilled.

We took 5 soil samples for paleontological analysis from Tomb N2, which was discovered during the excavation. As Tomb N1 was damaged, we were not able to collect materials to be analyzed. The Tomb was documented, photographed, and sketched. After being treated, the artifacts collected were handed over to Gori Municipal Museum while the craniological materials were submitted for further development to Lia Bitadze, Head of Anthropology Museum of History and Ethnology Institute at Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

4. The Works Carried Out:

After the remains of the ceramics were collected on the above two sites, it was decided to test both sites by arranging trial trenches. It was the goal of the archeological excavations, though we determined according to the initial plan that if any artifact is discovered, we would conduct comprehensive survey. As it was mentioned above, out of the sensitive sites two sites were selected. The field works at T12 showed that the humus layer on the whole construction area was followed by clay, yellowish layer, so called a geological mother rock. The trenches were arranged directly on the area allocated for constructing a turbine, and two sites were inspected outside of it. As the stratigraphic picture was the same for the whole area, it was determined to stop the field excavations within a few days. In total, 17 trenches of different seizes were arranged on this site.

As for Site T32, it was decided to continue excavations after remains of two tombs were discovered in the area. Initially, as we did it in case of Site T12, we arranged the first trenches in the turbine location area. Though, as remains of tombs were discovered in the area, we decided to inspect the entire area for construction. The decision was supported by the information from the archives and the recent archeological researches that indicated that the existing remains of tombs might be scattered all over the area. Therefore, the trench in which remains of tombs were discovered, was widened and the number of trenches were added in this area.

4.1 Site T12

The project section is located to the East of Vill. Ruisi of Kareli Municipality at 1 km distance (Coordinates: 42.034983, 43.990254) and to the East of Urbnisi at 2 km distance. (Coordinates: 42.008024, 44.008299) (Pic 1).

The need to carry out archeological works envisaged by the second stage in the area intended for Turbine N12 raised after finding fragments of clay during archeological field survey.

The project area includes the section intended for Turbine N12 (538 sq.m.). Trenches in the area were arranged as follows: 10 trenches, size 2X1 m. were arranged in the corners and in the perimeter of the area, while three trenches - one trench of 10X1 m and two of them of 5X1m, were arranged diagonally in the inner area. Two trenches of 2X1 m were arranged to the East of the turbine location area, at the section where the cable shall be installed (in total 17 trenches) (Pic. 2).

The same stratigraphic situation was documented: There is a sandstone which is represented by a layer of clay and rock in each of the trenches under the 20-45 cm yellow meadow rocky soil. No trace of cultural layers was discovered in any of the trenches and therefore it is difficult to say how fragments of ceramic materials were discovered on the surface of the soil during the archeological field survey of the area. The very presence of rocky layer quite close to the surface explains the fact that this section is not cultivated unlike the adjacent area.

Below we include a summary of the trench:

Expedition name	Area/site	Trench Number	X (degree)	Y (degree)	Description	Pic. N
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	1	43.990446	42.03511	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximal depth - 0.4 m. Layers: 1. Humus – brown soil of meadow. Thickness - 0.3-0.4 m. 2. Sandstone rock.	5
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	2	43.990443	42.034909	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximal depth - 0.38 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow Thickness - 0.3-0.38 m 2. Sandstone rock.	6
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	3	43.990204	42.034906	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximal depth - 0.75 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow. Thickness - 0.35-0.4 m. 2. Sandstone conglomerate with sandstone inserts - 0.4-0.75 m. 3. Sandstone rock.	7
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	4	43.990184	42.035096	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximal depth - 0.55 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow. Thickness - 0.3-0.4 m. 2. Sandstone rock.	8
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	5	43.990321	42.034991	Dimensions: 1X10 m.; maximal depth - 0.45 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow. Thickness - 0.22-0.28. 2. Sandstone conglomerate and rocky layer.	9
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	6	43.990348	42.034967	Dimensions: 1X5 a.; maximal depth - 0.5 m. Layers: 1. Humus-brown soil of meadow. Thickness - 0.22-0.28 a. 2. Sandstone conglomerate and rocky layer.	10
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	7	43.990259	42.035016	Dimensions: 1X5 m.; maximal depth - 0.7 m. Layers: 1. Humus-brown soil of meadow. Thickness - 0.35-0.42 m. 2. Sandstone conglomerate and rocky layer.	11
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	8	43.990202	42.03495	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximal depth - 0.6 m. Layers: 1. Humus-brown soil of meadow. Thickness - 0.35-0.57 m. 2. Sandstone rocky layer.	12

Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	9	43.990191	42.035049	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximal depth - 0.65 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow Thickness - 0.34-0.4 m. 2. Sandstone rocky layer	13
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	10	43.990276	42.035096	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximal depth - 0.45 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow Thickness - 0.4-0.45 m. 2. Sandstone rocky layer	14
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	11	43.990345	42.035098	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximal depth - 0.55 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow Thickness - 0.3-0.5 m. 2. Sandstone rocky layer	15
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	12	43.990448	42.035061	Dimensions: 1X2 მ.; maximal depth - 0.5 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow Thickness - 0.35 m. 2. Sandstone rocky layer	16
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	13	43.990445	42.034957	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximal depth - 0.4 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow Thickness - 0.2-0.25 m. 2. Sandstone rocky layer	17
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	14	43.990373	42.03491	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximal depth - 0.35 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow Thickness - 0.3-0.34 m. 2. Sandstone rocky layer	18
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	15	43.990267	42.034908	Dimensions: 1X2 მ.; maximal depth - 0.7 მ. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow Thickness - 0.35-0.40 m. 2. Clay soil (sandstone conglomerate) – 0.4-0.7 m. 3. Sandstone rocky layer	19
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	16	43.990509	42.035087	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximal depth - 0.52 მ. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow Thickness - 0.42-0.45 m. 2. Sandstone rocky layer	20
Ruis-Urbnisi	T12	17	43.990576	42.035044	Dimensions: 1X2 m; maximal depth - 0.6 მ. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow Thickness - 0.55-0.6 m. 2. Sandstone rocky layer.	21

Nothing of archeological significance has been detected at T12 Site. Therefore, this area can be regarded as sterile. This means that the company will not damage archeological remains when operating on this site and there is very low probability that any archeological discovery will be made during construction. However, it was decided that monitoring will be caried out at the site during the construction period in case of a discovery or to avoid any damage.

4.2. Site T32

Expedition name	Area/site	Trench Number	X (degree)	Y (degree)	Description	Pic. N
Ruis-Urbnisi	T32	1	44.008466	42.007984	Dimensions: 12X12 m.; maximum depth - 0.9 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil. 3. Stone gravel conglomerate.	25
Ruis-Urbnisi	T32	2	44.008242	42.008101	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximum depth - 1 მ.	26

					Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow . 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate .	
Ruis- Urbnisi	T32	3	44.008376	42.008105	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximum depth - 1 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow . 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate .	27
Ruis- Urbnisi	T32	4	44.008542	42.008087	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximum depth - 0.85 m. Layers: 1. Humus – brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	28
Ruis- Urbnisi	T32	5	44.008504	42.007897	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximum depth - 0.6 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	29
Ruis- Urbnisi	T32	6	44.008377	42.007916	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximum depth - 0.45 m. Layers: 1. Humus – brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	30
Ruis- Urbnisi	T32	7	44.008271	42.007926	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximum depth - 0.45 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	31
Ruis- Urbnisi	T32	8	44.008147	42.007943	Dimensions: 1X2 m; maximum depth - 0.75 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	32
Ruis- Urbnisi	T32	9	44.008254	42.008069	Dimensions: 1X4 m.; maximum depth - 0.65 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow	33

					2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	
Ruis- Urbnisi	T32	10	44.008267	42.008021	Dimensions: 1X4 m.; maximum depth - 0.65 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	34
Ruis- Urbnisi	T32	11	44.008697	42.008115	Dimensions: 1X4 m.; maximum depth - 0.8 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	35
Ruis- Urbnisi	T32	12	44.008757	42.008457	Dimensions: 1X2 m.; maximum depth - 0.8 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	36
Ruis- Urbnisi	T32	13	44.008832	42.007802	Dimensions: 2X2 m.; maximum depth - 0.30 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow and a 'layer' of cobblestone 2. Stone gravel conglomerate	37
Ruis- Urbnisi	T32	14	44.008333	42.008028	Dimensions: 1X6 m.; maximum depth - 0.45 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	38
Ruis- Urbnisi	T32	15	44.008341	42.007976	Dimensions: 1X6 m.; maximum depth - 0.4 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	39
Ruis- Urbnisi	T32	16	44.008324	42.007942	Dimensions: 1X6 m.; maximum depth - 0.45 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	40

Ruis-Urbnisi	T32	17	44.008445	42.007922	Dimensions: 1X6 m.; maximum depth - 0.5 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	41
Ruis-Urbnisi	T32	18	44.008556	42.007971	Dimensions: 1X13 m.; maximum depth - 0.55 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	42
Ruis-Urbnisi	T32	19	44.00851	42.008039	Dimensions: 1X6 m.; maximum depth - 0.55 m. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	43
Ruis-Urbnisi	T32	20	44.00867	42.007971	Consist of North and South trenches and their connecting trench. Layers: 1. Humus - brown soil of meadow 2. Clay soil 3. Stone gravel conglomerate	44 45

Irregularly scattered ceramic fragments were identified in the trenches with rocky soil. All of them are of the same type: they are produced with mixture of clay and sand, not fired enough in pink-reddish color. Some fragments have simple crest and the others have lightly scabrous crest. There is a piece of corrugated neck of a three-mouth jug, another piece is of a rim of a bowl, still another piece is of a thin-walled wine-jar and the other pieces should be remnants of pots (pic. 46). Finishing of the materials discovered in the trenches is similar to pottery discovered at Mtskheta, Urbnisi and Uplistsikhe among others [8], as well as ceramics documented at areas occupied by population during later period (eg.: Jokhtanakhevi, Zhinvali, Itxvisi …)[9]

[8] Tchilashvili L. A Former City of Urbnisi. Tb., 1964, pic. 40; Mindorashvili D. Uplistsikhe in the Middle Ages. Tb., 2024, tab.VIII-IX.1-9.

[9] Murvanidze B., Mindorashvili D. A Former Village of Jokhtanakhevi. Handprinted; Margvelashvili M. A Former City of Zhinvali. Tb., 2024; Bragvadze Z., Dighmelashvili K., Darejanashvili D. A Former City of Itkhvisi. Tb., 2021, pic. 38

Out of the discovered fragments those of a bowl and wine-jar should be of early mid-centuries and the rest, based on the clay composition and firing, look like more pottery of developed middle centuries. A. Javakhishvili as well as A. Ghlonti documented discovery of washed-up early mid-centuries fragments of ceramic material at 2s territory in the East of "Tkvlepia Tskaro" during archeological field survey conducted in 1959-1961[10]. Unfortunately, due to a postal road on that territory and long-term cultivation of soul it is difficult to say whether these fragments belonged to layers of former residential area whose remnants are gone or the fragments were accumulated as a result of population travel during mid-centuries.

The trench N1 made at the project territory is of special importance. In the beginning the trench size was 5X5 m., though it was increased afterwards to 12X12 m. (pic. 25). The trench was arranged on the territory where ceramic fragments and rockfill was identified during visual field survey. After removal of the rocky layer two rockfills were discovered side by side, with 1.3 meter apart in the East part of the trench. As we found out later, these were tombs (pic. 47-53). Both tombs were arranged in soil with clay-sand mixture.

Tomb N	Coordinates	Orientation	Outer dimensions	Inner dimensions	Depth	Pic. N
N1	44.00849/42.007984	North-South	110X140 cm	76 cm	Unknown	44-45
N2	44.008523/42.00799	North-South	125X200 cm	83-152 cm	40 cm	47

Tomb N1 was arranged in parallel to tomb N2 from West side (coord. 44.00849, 42.007984). It was destroyed, which was indicated by demolished rockfill as well as by a hole from its South-West side, which was refilled with conglomerate taken out of the hole. The tomb arranged in the North-South axis was entrenched in clay ground, the walls were built with two rows of rocks. Well levelled conglomerate was used as floor. We were able to document only outer and inner widths of the tomb (rockfill width- 110 cm, tomb width - 76 cm.). Remaining length of the rockfill was 140 cm. The tomb was filled with clay-sand mixture of 10 cm thickness and it was covered by rockfill of two horizontal rows of river rocks (pic. 44-45).

[10] Javakhishvili A., Ghlonti L. Urbnisi. I. Tb., 1962, p. 23.

A small fragment of human bone was found in overturned conglomerate in the central part of the tomb. Irregularly scattered ceramic fragments were found at various places. All of them are of the same type: they are made of large-grain size clay, with black surface and red liner. Two of them represent fragments of round, narrow-necked vessels. Hence, we can say that there were at least two vessels in the tomb. Piece of flint found at the same place should have belonged to the same tomb (pic. 46).

N	Artifact	Clay pot thickness	Impurities	Description	Pic
1	Fragment of clay vessel belly	1.7 cm	Quartz, inorganic fine structures	Polished black and clay color (reddish) liner	Yes
2	Fragment of a mouth of clay vessel	1 cm at the spout, 1.6 cm towards belly	Quartz, inorganic fine structures	Polished black and clay color (reddish) liner.	Yes
3	Fragment of clay vessel belly	1.4 cm	Quartz, inorganic fine structures	Polished black and clay color (reddish) liner.	Yes
4	Fragment of clay belly	1.6 cm	Quartz, inorganic fine structures	Polished black and clay color (reddish) liner.	Yes
	The first four fragments should be part of one vessel				
5	Fragment of a mouth of clay vessel	1.1 cm at the spout, 1.3 cm towards belly	Quartz, inorganic fine structures	Polished black and clay color (reddish) liner.	Yes
6	Fragment of clay vessel belly	1.4 cm	Quartz, inorganic fine structures	Polished black and clay color (reddish) liner.	Yes
7	Fragment of clay vessel belly	1.6 cm	Quartz, inorganic fine structures	Polished black and clay color (reddish) liner.	Yes

	Fragments 5-6-7 should be part of one vessel				Yes
8	Piece of flint	0.8 cm	Grayish structures	Rhombus shape fragment with rounded corners	Yes

Tomb N2 is arranged in parallel to tomb N1 within 1.3 m. towards East (coord. 44.008523, 42.00799). It is sloping on North-South axis. River rocks were arranged in a row. Rectangular burial hole was dug in clay ground and the walls were built using river rocks arranged in 2-3 rows. Levelled earth was used as a floor. The tomb was filled with sandy clay with river rocks arranged on top of it in three rows. Outer dimensions of the tomb: 125X200 cm., inner dimensions: 83-152 cm. Depth of the floor from the top of the wall - 40 cm. (pics. 47- 50).

One corps was buried in the tomb with his/her head towards South, in embryo pose, on left side. The bones were so poorly protected that only jaw, clavicle and shoulder bones could be picked up. Based on the size of limbs and completely preserved part of jaw we can say that adolescent was buried in the tomb. The following items were buried in the tomb with the corps: clay pot-pan was placed next to hands and there were rubstone pierced at one edge and a piece of flint placed next to it. Three obsidian shards were placed on the floor close to forehead area. One obsidian shard was found under the spine (pic. 51-52).

The pot is produced with large-grain size clay mixed with sand, the body is polished black, and liner is reddish. It has rounded, wide mouth, medium height neck and sphere-shaped belly, which is distinguished with crest at the shoulder. Flat, rounded, cross-sectional handles are sculpted on the crest and the belly (pic. 52).

Samples were taken for analysis from the groin, stomach and head of the deceased as well as from inside the pot. The palynological research would be carried out at palynology laboratory of the National Museum of Georgia. The craniological materials for further study were handed over to Anthropology Museum at History and Ethnology Institute of Tbilisi State University.

The ceramics found at the tombs have similarities with ceramics of early bronze age. Consequently, tombs N1 and N2 should be dated as of early bronze age.

N	Artefact	Clay pot thickness	Impurities	Description	Pic
1	Clay vessel, intact	cm	Quartz, inorganic fine structures	The pot is produced with large-grain size clay mixed with sand, the body is polished black, and liner is reddish. It has rounded, wide mouth, medium height neck and sphere-shaped belly, which is distinguished with crest at the shoulder. Flat, rounded, cross-sectional handles are sculpted on the crest and the belly.	Yes
2	Rubstone, with hanging hole	0.9 cm at the hole, max. Thickness 1.4 cm, diameter of the hole 0.7 cm.	Rubstone	Rubstone for hanging on belt, with whitish patina on outer side, brownish-grayish on inner side.	Yes
3	Flint sickle fragment?	0.9-1.5 cm	Crafted flint artifact	Flint artifact - well-crafted, elongated, flattened at the head. Presumably sickle fragment.	Yes
4	Obsidian shard	0.9 cm	Obsidian, pure	Obsidian shard	Yes
	Obsidian shard	1.2 cm	Obsidian, pure	Obsidian shard	Yes
5	Obsidian shard	0.7 cm	Obsidian, pure	Obsidian shard	Yes
6	Obsidian shard	0.6 cm	Obsidian, pure	Obsidian shard	Yes

During 1960-1961, as mentioned above, four inhumation tombs spread over approximately 40 meters were dug at East-West line on the slope of Eastern crest of Tkvlepia Tskaro. All of them represented burial holes dug in conglomerate and they were covered by medium sized river rocks with flat, rectangular shape rockfill (dimensions: 2X2.7X0.3 m.). River rocks were placed at the walls of the burial hole in one case. All tombs were oriented North-South. Bones of the deceased in the tombs were partially preserved. In one case deceased was observed with its head towards South. Discovered items included fragments of black, pink-robed clay vessels [11].

[11] Javakhishvili A., Ghlonti L. Urbnisi. I. Tb., 1962, pp. 22-24.

As this description shows both tombs discovered at T32 project area represent exact copies of the tombs discovered during 1960-1961 in the East of Tkvlepia Tskaro. Further research of the tombs will definitely provide us more information, though this is for future and so far, we lack possibility of including it in this technical report. Generally, it is interesting that the graveyard is spread on this area and this will create possibility of discovering similar tombs in future.

5. Conclusion

In summary, the expedition proved useful in two directions. First, we were able to study construction areas of the highest sensitivity in a way that future works would have minimal impact on possible archeological remains on the territory. The expedition was also able to discover archeological remains, which are important from science point of view. We will discuss the findings in future in a scientific article.

It is noteworthy, that tombs discovered during 60-ies of the last century at Tkvlepia Tskaro and tombs discovered in 2025 at Ruis-Urbnisi are very similar. Also, we observed that the tombs are scattered on a huge territory one by one. It follows that regular monitoring would be conducted at site T32 and locations of the turbines situated to its north towards the highway. This would allow to minimize possible damage to archeological sites if they are discovered during construction period.

6. References:

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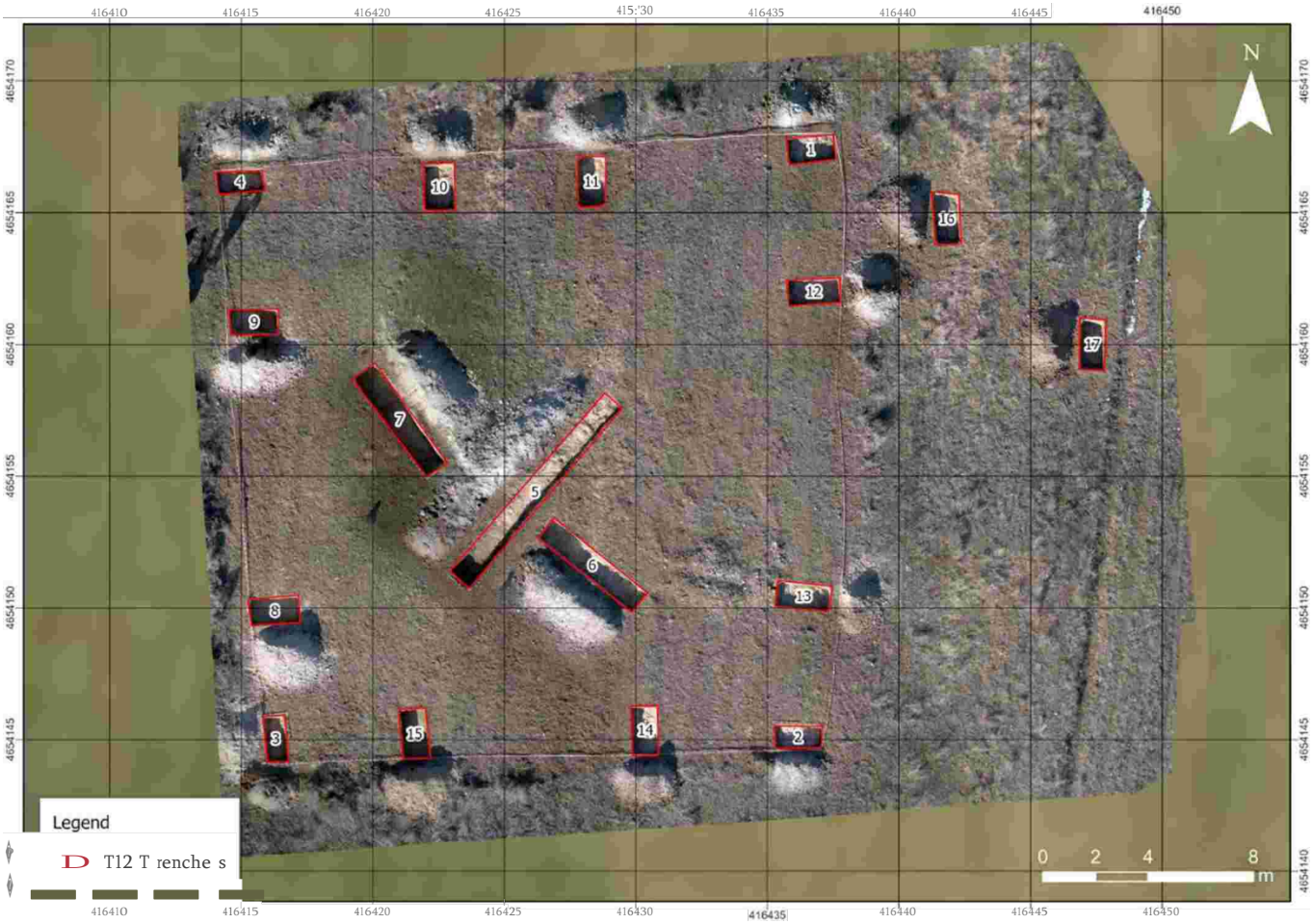
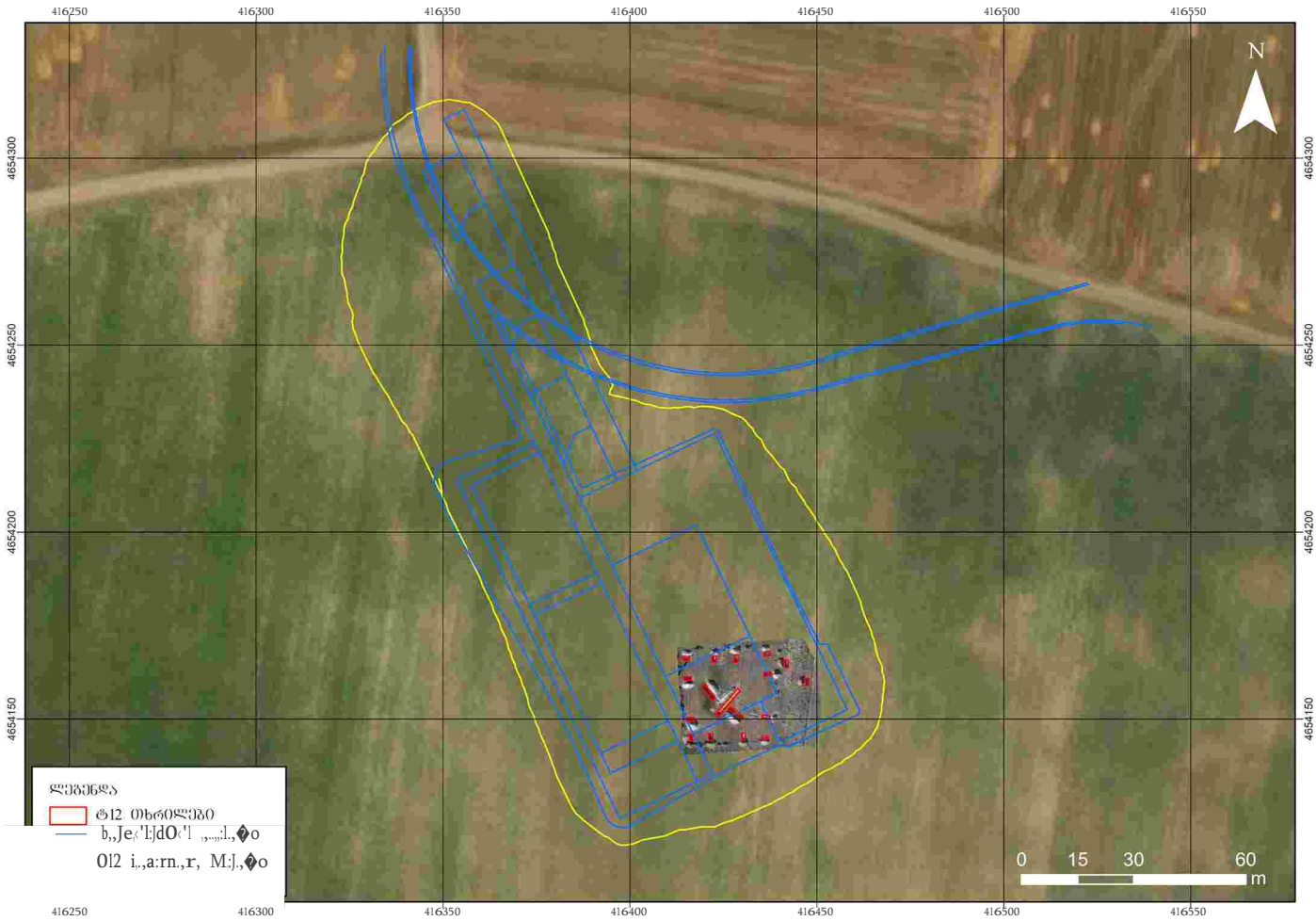
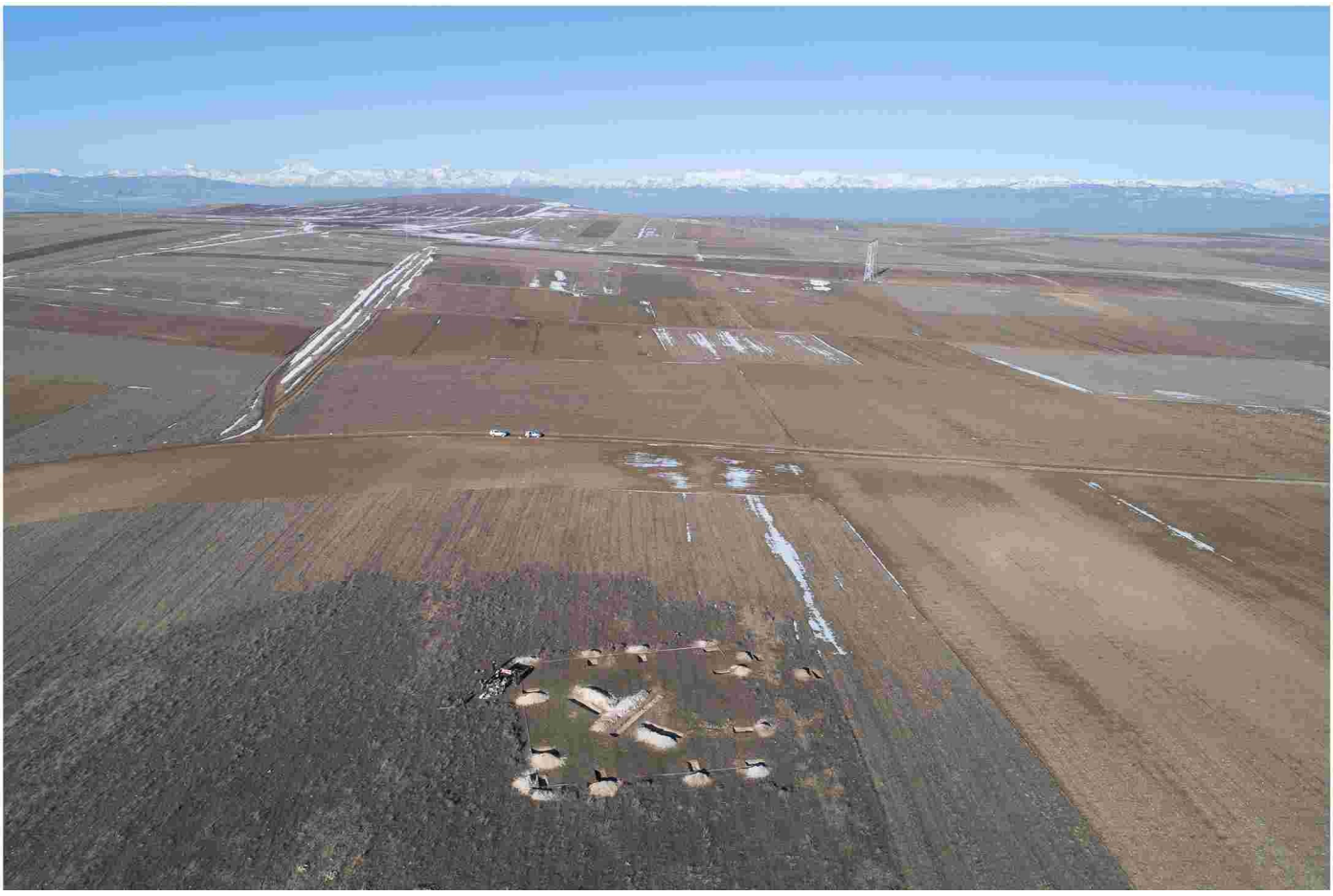
Pic. 1. T12 and T32 – Situation Map



Pic. 2. Locations of trenches at site T12



Pic. 3. Site T12 project area and locations of trenches



Pic. 4. Trenches arranged at T12 project area

Pic. 5. T12 trench N1

Pic. 6. T12 trench N2

Pic. 7. T12 trench N3

Pic. 8. T12 trench N4

Pic. 9. T12 trench N5

Pic. 10. T12 trench N6

Pic. 11. T12 trench N7

Pic. 12. T12 trench N8

Pic. 13. T12 trench N9

Pic. 14. T12 trench N10

Pic. 15. T12 trench N11

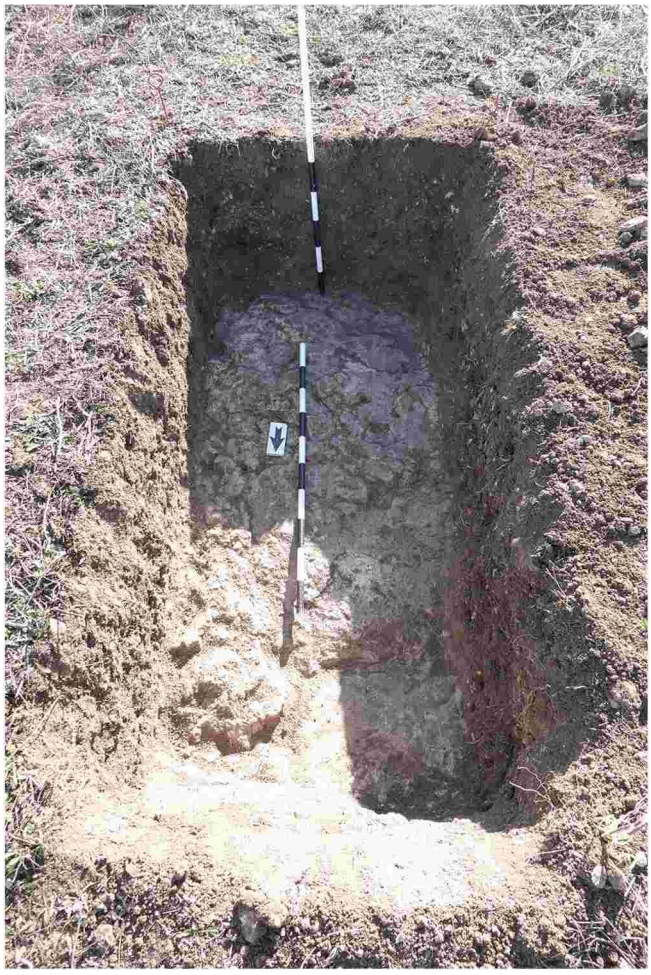
Pic. 16. T12 trench N12

Pic. 17. T12 trench N13

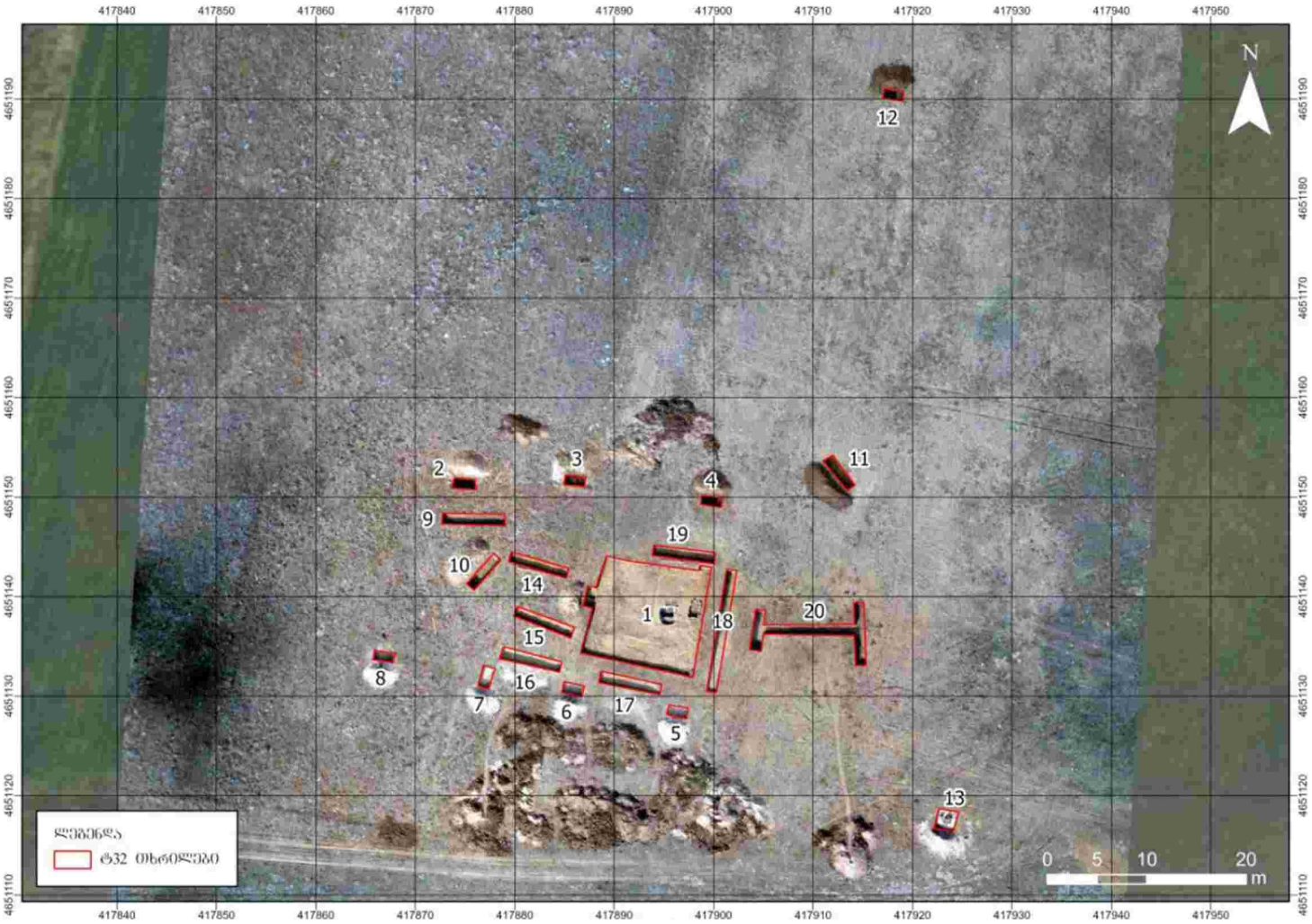
Pic. 18. T12 trench N14

Pic. 19. T12 trench N15

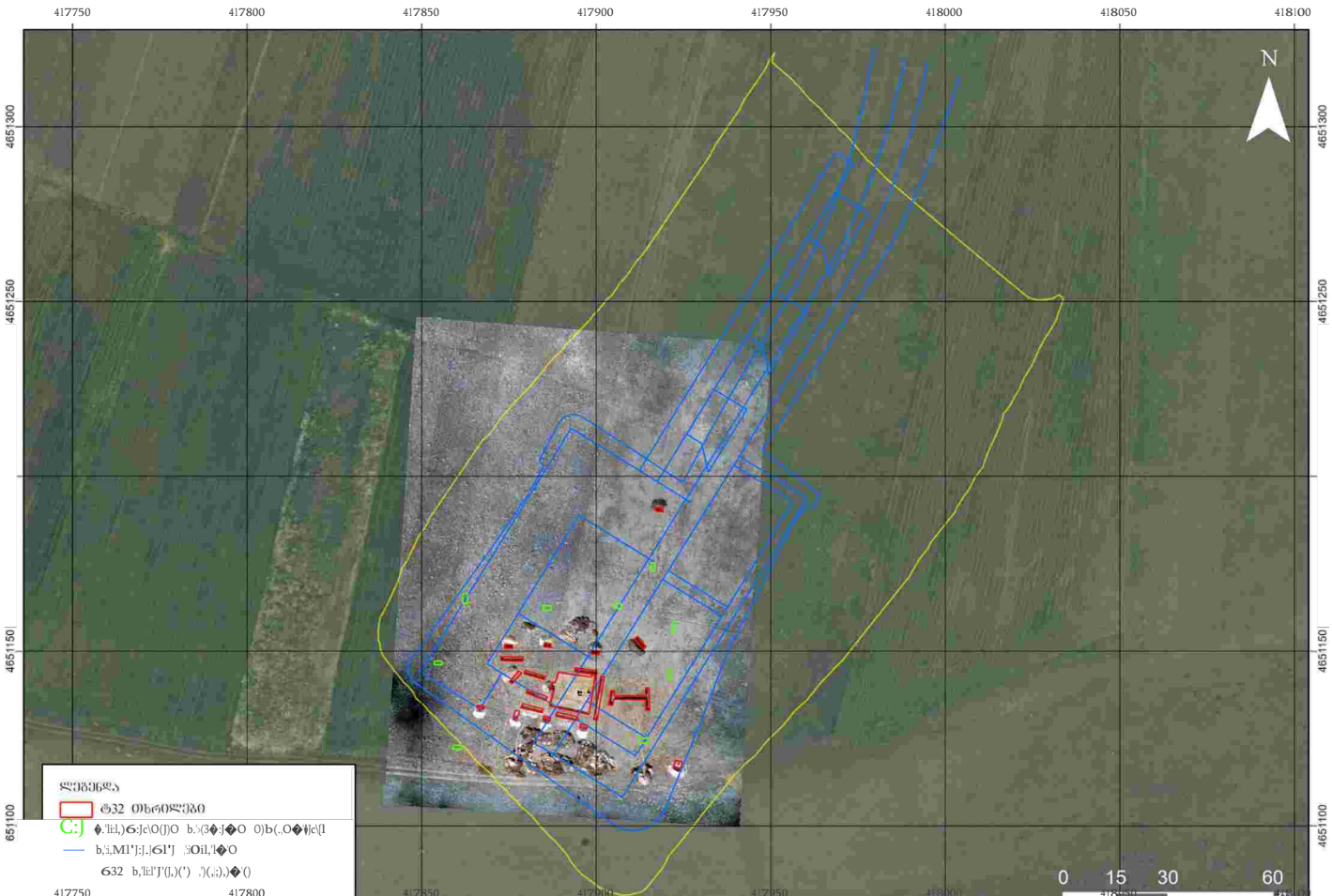
Pic. 20. T12 trench N16



Pic. 21. T12 trench N17



Pic. 22. Locations of trenches at site T32



Pic. 24. Aero photo of trenches at site T32

Pic. 25. T32 trench N1

Pic. 26. T32 trench N2

Pic. 27. T32 trench N3

Pic. 28. T32 trench N4

Pic. 29. T32 trench N5

Pic. 30. T32 trench N6

Pic. 31. T32 trench N7

Pic. 32. T32 trench N8

Pic. 33. T32 trench N9

Pic. 36. T32 trench N12

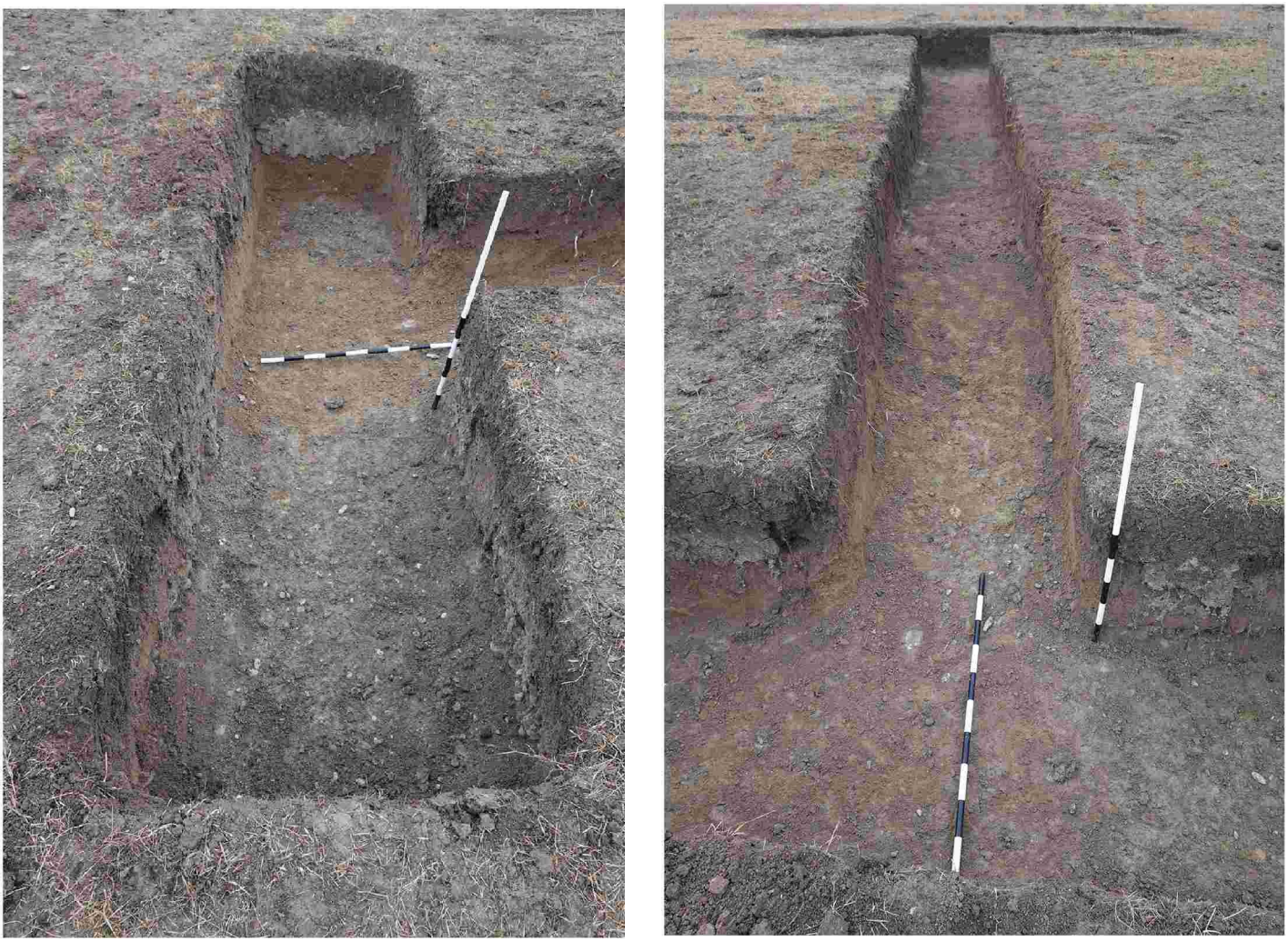
Pic. 37. T32 trench N13

Pic. 40. T32 trench N16

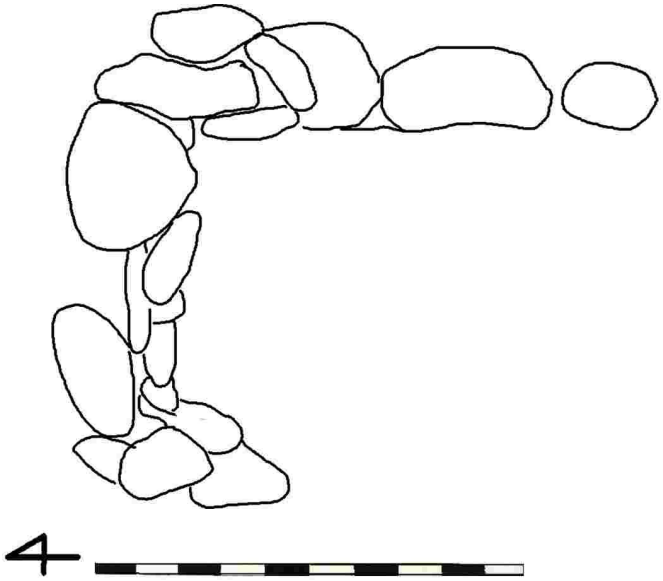
Pic. 41. T32 trench N17

Pic. 42. T32 trench N18

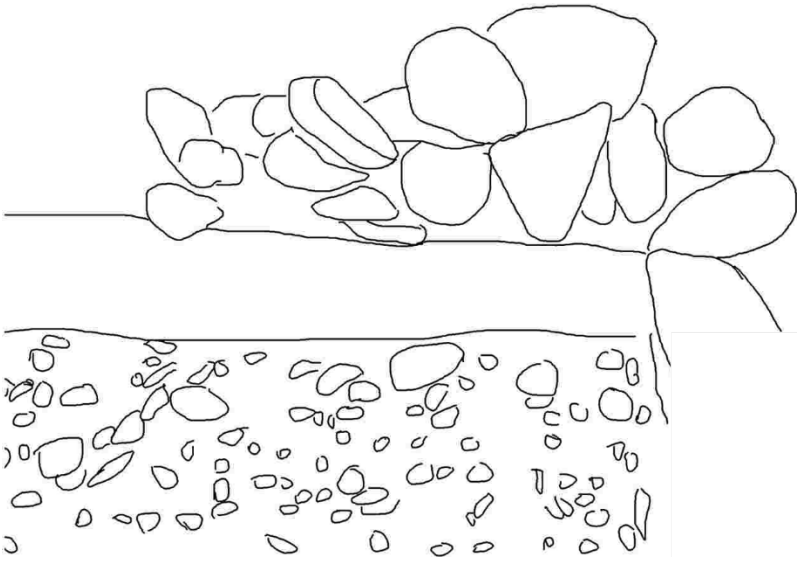
Pic. 43. T32 trench N19



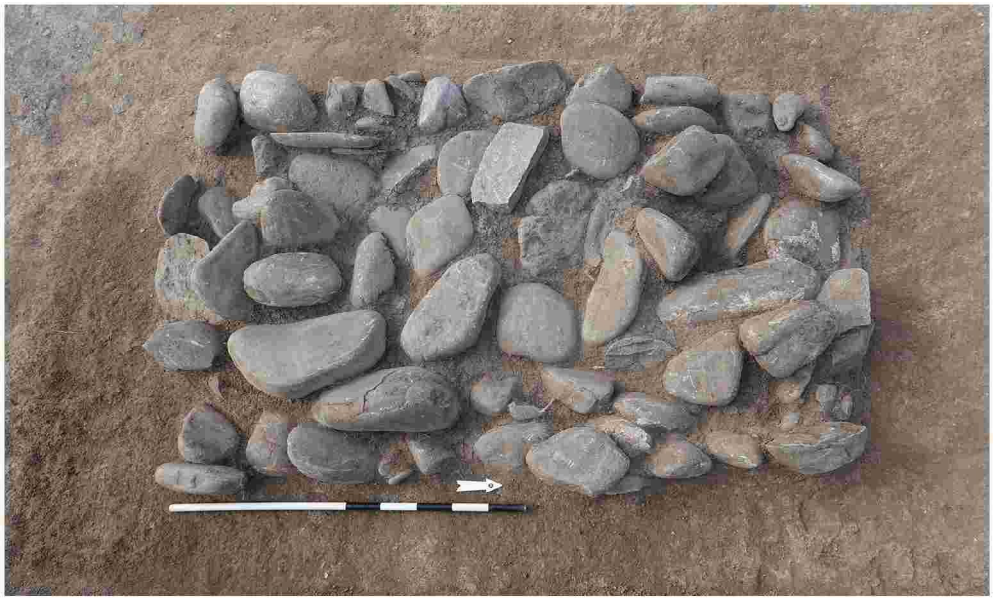
Pic. 44-45. T32 trench N20



Pic. 47. Plan of tomb N1



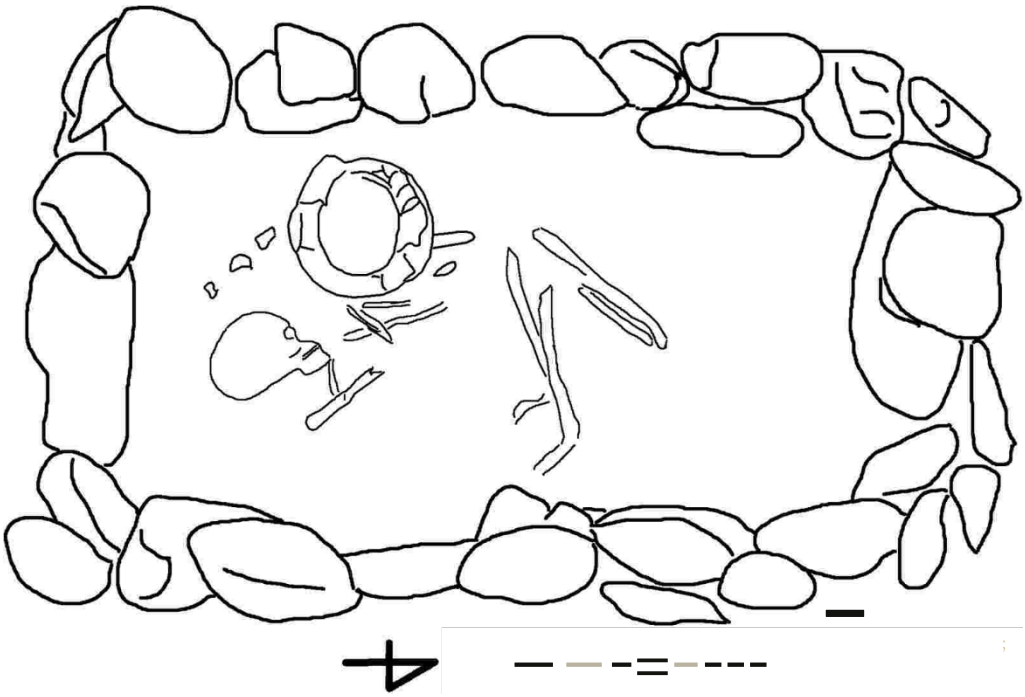
Pic. 48. Cross-section of tomb N1



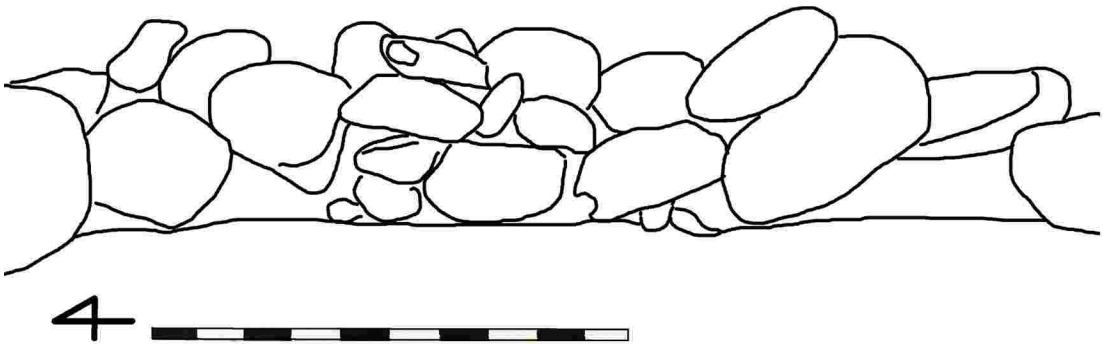
Pic. 50. Tomb N2 before opening

Pic. 51. Tomb N2 after opening

Pic. 52. Tomb N2, detail

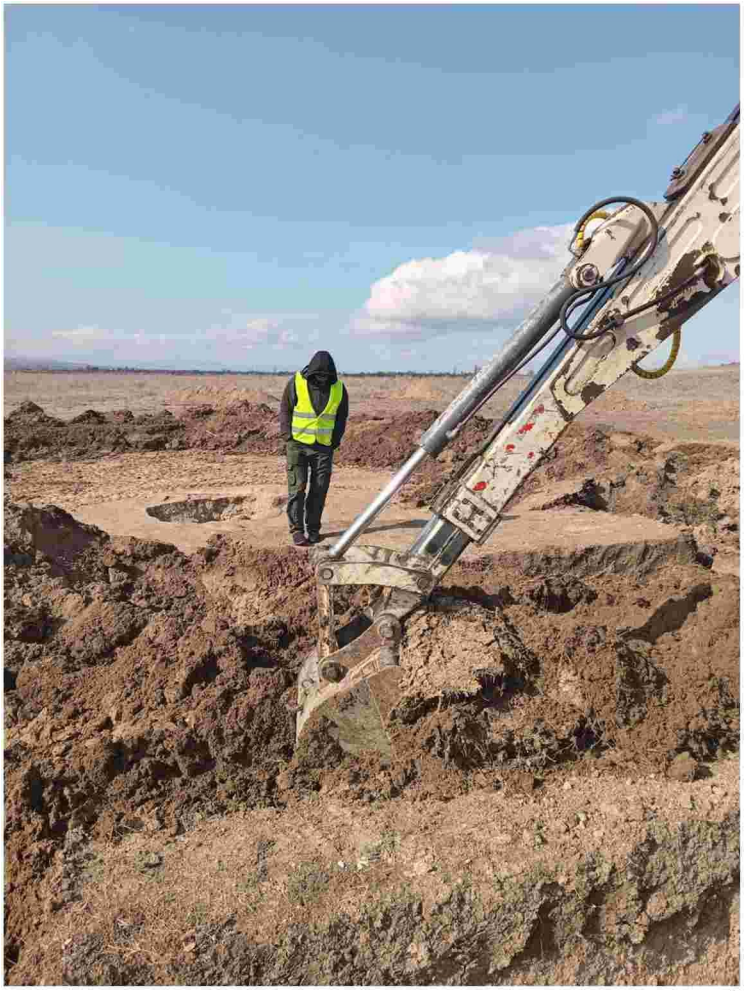


Pic. 53. Tomb N2, graphics

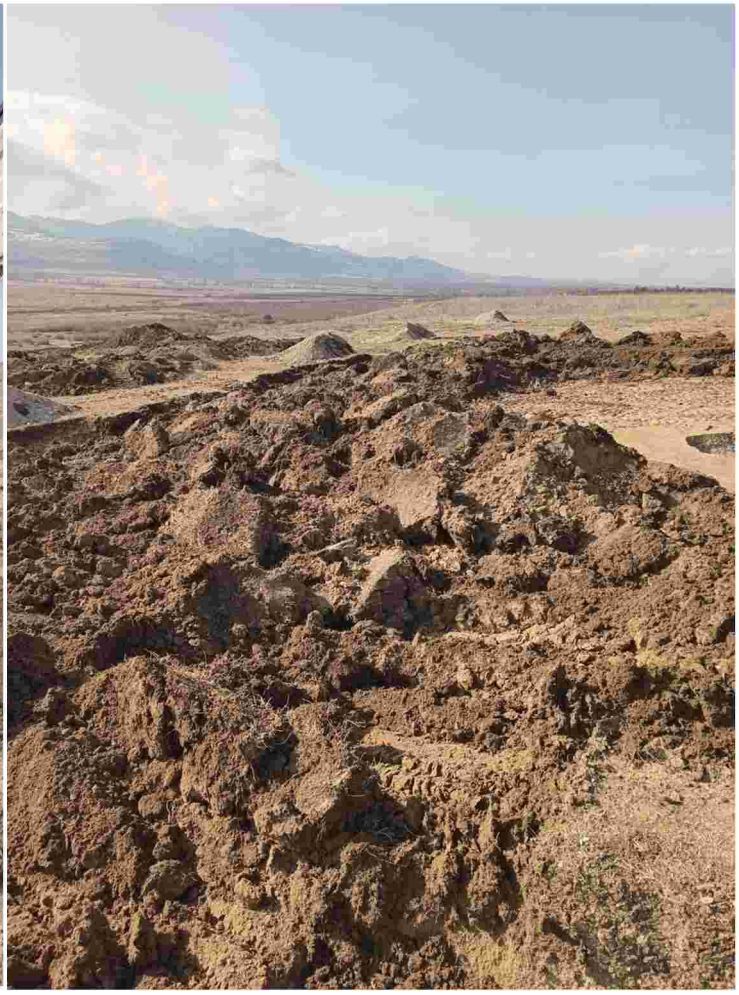


Pic. 54. Cross-section of Tomb N2, East

Pic. 55. Items found at Tomb N2



Pic. 59. Removal of soil using equipment supervised by archeologist



Pic. 60. Recultivation photo