PRELIMINARY REPORT

According to the results of an archaeological survey carried out in the area of the "New Tashkent International Airport" construction project

1. A brief description of the available information on the cultural heritage of the region

According to archival and published sources, archaeological research in the Tashkent region, including the Middle Chirchik district, has been conducted since the late 1920s of the 20th century.

Research work has been carried out by the following scientists in areas near the project site:

- M.E. Masson (1928, Nurafshan/Toytepa area);
- G.V. Grigoriev (1934–35, Kovuncitepa);
- A.I. Trenozhkin (1940s, Burguluk culture);
- Yu.F. Buryakov (1950–80s);
- D. Normurodov (modern research and mapping of archaeological sites).

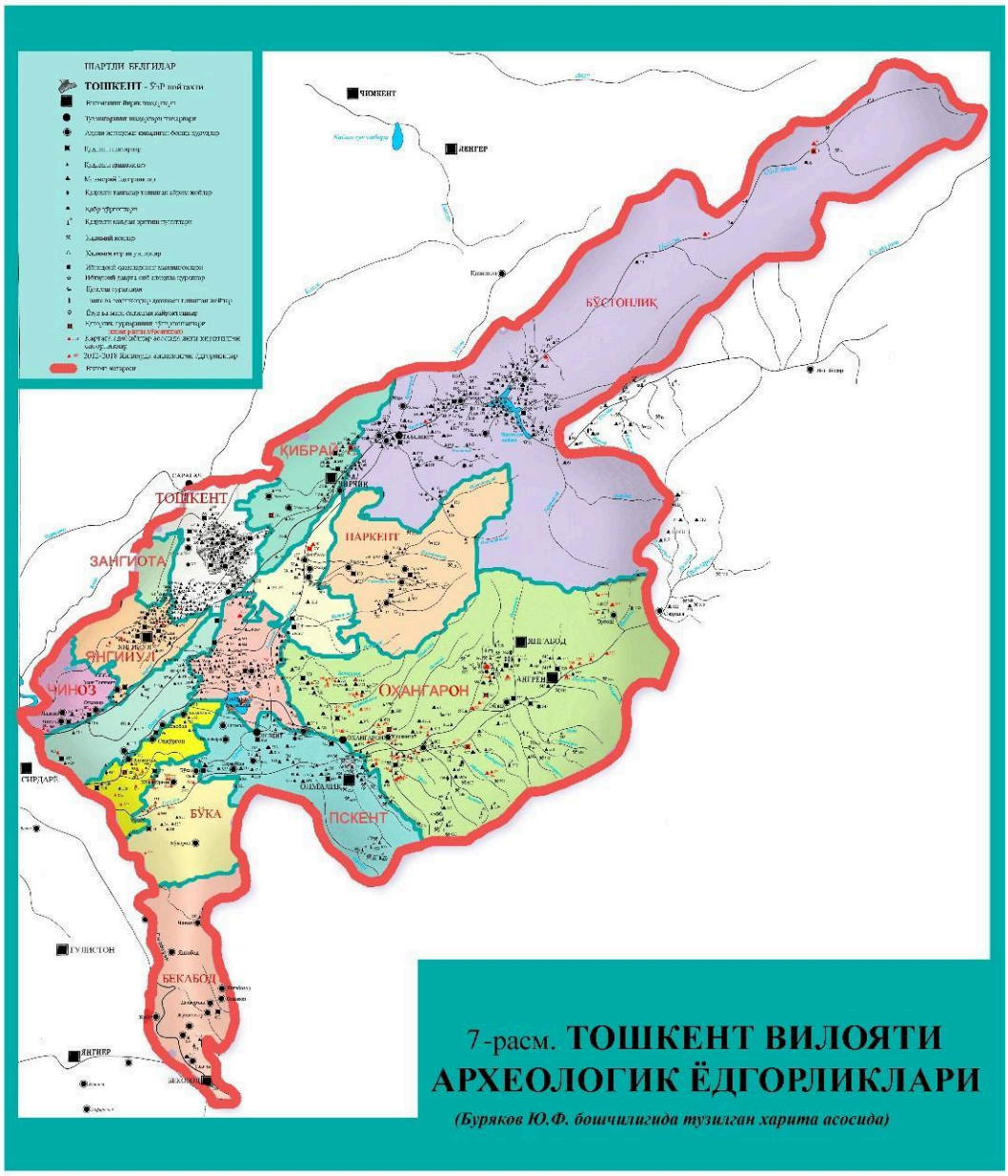
In 1928, M.E. Masson conducted research in the vicinity of the city of Nurafshan (Toytepa), and as a result, in one of the discovered graves, a large (3 m long, 0.5 m wide, 0.2 m thick) monument stone - balbal - was found, with a carved image of a man. Another monument by M.E. Masson The monument of Ulkantoytepa was mentioned in sources in the Middle Ages

In 1934-35, G.V. Grigorev also conducted research. These studies were carried out at the Kavunchitepa monument, located on the left bank of the Karakuldak stream in the present-day city of Yangiyul. Two cultural stages of the Kavunchitepa culture, characteristic of the Tashkent oasis, belonging to the late Bronze Age (late 2nd millennium BC - mid-1st millennium BC), were identified at the monument.

The research in the 1940s was carried out during the construction of the Tashkent Canal near the project site, and was led by A.I. Trenozhkin. He conducted archaeological excavations in the area of the Tuyabogiz reservoir - Burgulliksoy, and identified the Burgulik culture, which is different from the Kavunchi culture. In 1971-1972, V.I. Sprishevsky also conducted research in this area, identifying many settlements of this culture.

In the 50s and 60s of the 20th century, a group of employees of the Institute of History and Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Museum of the History of the Peoples of Uzbekistan led by Yu.F. Buryakov conducted research. Part of these archaeological studies was also conducted in the vicinity of the project site. The research work conducted by the archaeologist continued in the 1970s and 1980s. As a result of these studies, Yu.F. Buryakov compiled a “Map of Archaeological Monuments of the Tashkent Region” in 1973.

In recent years, archaeological field research and registration of monuments have been carried out by D. Normurodov. As a result of the research, many new monuments have been identified and the map of archaeological monuments has been supplemented.



7-расм. **ТОШКЕНТ ВИЛОЯТИ АРХЕОЛОГИК ЁДГОРЛИКЛАРИ**

(Буряков Ю.Ф. бошчилигида тузилган харита асосида)

The "Map of Archaeological Monuments of Tashkent Region" was compiled in 1973 and updated in subsequent years.

According to archival data, the hill (Illiboytepa) 41°6′44.20″ N 69°13′13.16″ E, located 720 meters from the project area, was registered in 1929 by A.A. Potopov as an archaeological monument surrounded by a thick ring wall under the name Illiboytepa.

The current condition of the three hills within the project area needs to be determined through field surveys.

At the time of preparation of this report:

- historical and cartographic materials were studied;
- Data on previously identified objects were compared with the boundaries of the project area;
- A detailed database is being created with modern, detailed GIS layers.

2. The results of the expanded inspection were

2.1. Cartographic materials

The following were used during the inspection:

- topographic materials;
- satellite images from open sources;
- Coordinates of the detected peaks.

At the current stage, the object boundaries are fully GIS-defined with polygons.

The schema is not generated because:

- the exact boundaries of the objects are not defined;
- No stratigraphically confirmed archaeological contours have been identified.

The preparation of shapefile or KMZ formats can be done after additional research.

2.2. List of objects of potential significance

As a result of the visual inspection, the following areas were identified:

1. "Tepalik-1"
2. "Tepalik-2"
3. "Muslim grave-1"

Description:

- the boundaries are visually perceived as primary;
- no clearly defined archaeological contour has been identified;
- The presence of a stratigraphically intact layer has not been confirmed;
- The estimated date of some pottery sherds recovered as excavated material in the area is the 16th–18th centuries (initially, without stratigraphic confirmation);
- The level of significance at this stage is not determined.

The pottery fragments are mainly:

- on agricultural lands,
- along irrigation canals,
- detected in areas subject to agrotechnical treatment.

There is a possibility of their secondary migration through the irrigation and drainage system.

2.3. Intangible cultural heritage

The following were noted within the inspected hills:

- unorganized, unplanned, or historically shaped cemeteries;
- some tombstones from about 60–80 years ago;
- The burials belong to the local Muslim community (based on tombstones). No active religious structures were identified at the time of the inspection.

Information about previously existing places of worship is oral in nature and requires

additional verification.

ANALYSIS OF FIELD OBSERVATIONS

The materials presented are conditionally referred to as "Tepalik-1", "Tepalik-2" and It was noted that fragments of pottery and some household items were found in the areas designated as "Muslim grave-1". However, their identified conditions require additional assessment.

1. Geographical location of finds

- Pottery fragments were not found directly from the mounds themselves, but were mainly found in the following locations:
  - in the surrounding arable lands,
  - in the area of ditches,
  - along irrigation and drainage canals,
  - in areas subject to regular agricultural cultivation.
- The area around the indicated hills has been used for many years as irrigated agricultural land (fields for cotton, rice, grain, and corn).
- During intensive irrigation, periodic flooding, soil washing, and mechanical plowing:
  - cultural relics movement,
    - Secondary placement of pottery fragments can be observed.
  - No finds were recorded within the undisturbed parts of the hills.

Given that the area has been exploited as irrigated agricultural land for many years, the possibility of secondary movement of pottery fragments under the influence of water flows through the irrigation and drainage system, as well as mechanical displacement as a result of plowing, cannot be ruled out.

2. Layers are broken

Irregular burials have been found on the hills. The excavated areas are up to 2 meters deep.

This situation indicates the following:

- the original structure of the soil has been completely destroyed;
- the absence of a preserved stratigraphic layer;
- Possible loss of integrity of cultural layers.

In conditions of repeated excavations, it is impossible to reliably determine the presence of an archaeological layer without special monitoring work.

3. The nature of the findings

The initial census of pottery (16th–18th centuries) was approximate and based on visual assessment of individual fragments found in stratigraphically unmarked conditions.

The following were not implemented:

- stratigraphic record;
- excavation work;
- laboratory analysis;
- documented archaeological context.

In the absence of an intact layer, such finds cannot serve as evidence of the existence of an independent archaeological site.

4. Recommendations for additional inspections

In accordance with international practice, the following are recommended.

4.1. Noninvasive techniques (mouthpiece)

- georadar survey (GPR);
- magnetometry;
- aerial photography and microrelief analysis;
- Enhanced GPS mapping to define hill boundaries.

4.2. Minimally invasive techniques

It was deemed appropriate to dig a limited number of control pits in the hills to definitively determine the presence or absence of historical and archaeological layers.

Invasive work should be performed after the results of the non-invasive phase have been analyzed.

Digging:

- determining the condition of the soil,
- checking the presence or absence of stratigraphically preserved layers,
- It allows for an objective assessment of the hill structure.

CONCLUSION

Taking into account the following:

- pottery sherds were found mainly on irrigated agricultural lands;
- the possibility of their secondary displacement through the irrigation and drainage system;
- No finds were recorded within the undisturbed massif of the hills;
- Serious soil degradation as a result of irregular burials up to 2 meters deep;
- stratigraphic integrity is not recorded,

At this stage, there are no grounds for recognizing these hills as sites of archaeological value.

To confirm this conclusion, it is advisable to dig a limited number of control pits to record the soil conditions and check for the presence or absence of historical and archaeological layers.

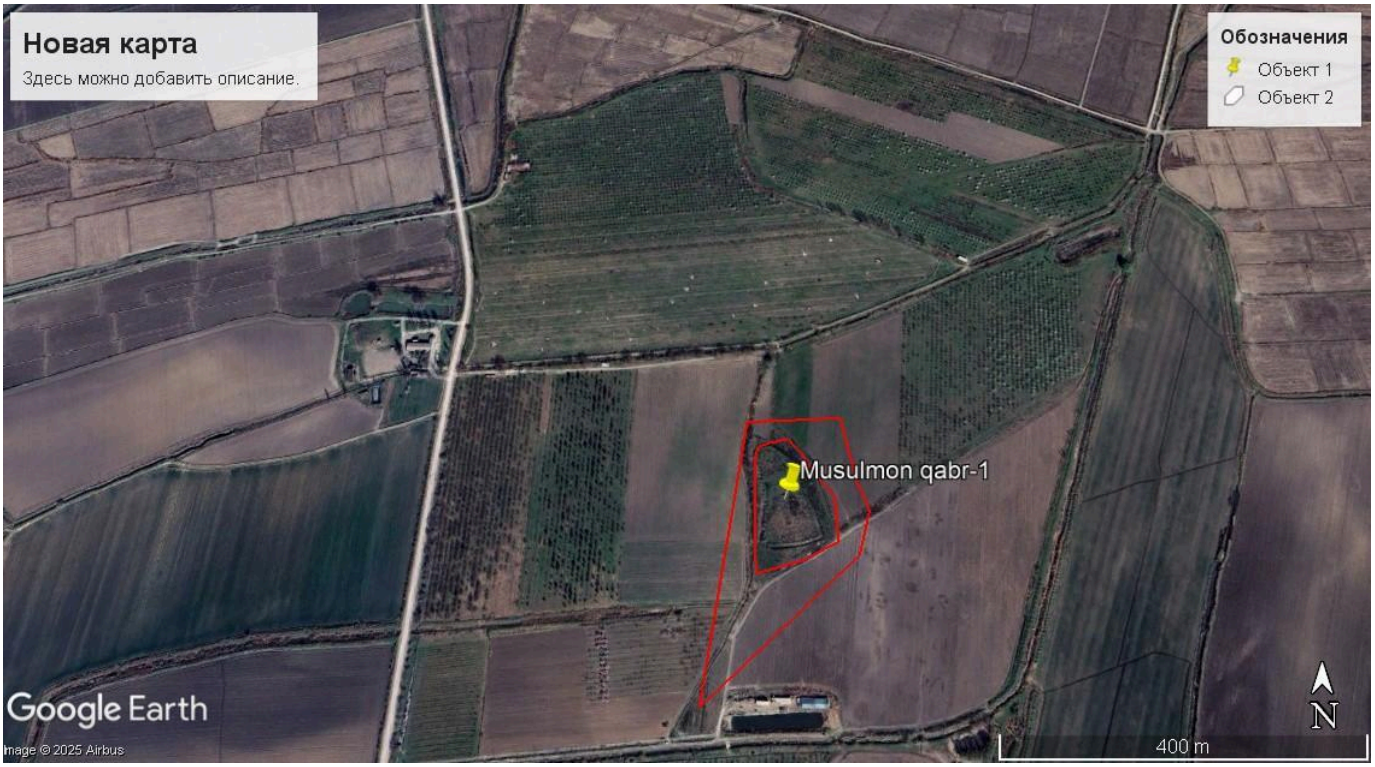
According to available materials, the area consists of disturbed agricultural lands and elements of relatively late burials, and there are no signs of a preserved archaeological complex.

The search area is called "Tepalik-1".

Objects found in the field around Tepalik-1

The search area is called "Tepalik-2".

An object found in the field around Tepalik-2



The search area is called "Muslim Grave".

Muslim tombstones