

Archaeological Survey in the Oases of Maydon and Goz in the Piedmont of the Kugitang Mountains (South Uzbekistan) – Preliminary report for season 2017

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ABSTRACT

At the turn of August and September 2017, the third season of the research in the oases of the Kugitang Piedmonts, South Uzbekistan, resumed the field survey of the three oases that had been researched in previous seasons (2015: Zarabag; 2016: Zarabag, Karabag, Kampyrtepa). The 2017 survey was conducted in the areas of the modern villages of Maydon and Goz. The following report presents new archaeological data gained from these two oases and their hinterlands. The methods used during the survey were the same as in the previous seasons. The evidence of settlement shows similar patterns and dynamics that were recognized in the other oases in the previous seasons.

KEYWORDS

Central Asia; Uzbekistan; field survey; oases; water sources; karezes; Bronze Age; Early Iron Age; Medieval Period.

INTRODUCTION

The third season of the field survey in the oases in the Piedmont of the Kugitang Mountains resumes the prospection of the previous two years (AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2015, 262–281, 313–316; AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2017, 104–148, 185–188). During four weeks in the field (23rd August–22th September 2017), we focused on two main points. Firstly, we put an emphasis on the investigation of the settlement pattern in two oases (Maydon and Goz) continuing the research aim started in seasons 2015 in the Zarabag Oasis, and resumed in 2016 in the oases of Zarabag, Karabag, and Kampyrtepa. The second point represented a trial excavation at the site of Bobolangar that was detected in 2016. Based on the finds collected on the surface during the previous season, this site was preliminarily dated to the Late Bronze Age / Sapalli culture (AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2017, 125–128). This year, this assumption was confirmed and supplemented by finds dating to the Medieval Period. The complete results of the excavation will soon be published separately. The aim of the present paper is to bring forward the main conclusions of the field survey in the oasis after the season 2017.

The project – study of the settlement dynamics in the Kugitang piedmont oases – is a part of the long-term research aim of the Institute of Classical Archaeology (Charles University, Prague) led by L. Stančo in collaboration with Termez State University represented by Sh. Shaydullaev in the Surkhan Darya Province.

The field survey in the oases has been conducted by a team of three students of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University led by A. Augustinová – Anna Augustinová, Ladislav Damašek, and Tobiáš Kolmačka – in collaboration with Odiljon Khamidov from the Archaeological Institute of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences in Samarkand.

LOCATION

The work of the third research season focused on the prospection in two oases (Maydon and Goz) of the steppe belt in the Pashkurt Basin (altitude between 700–1500 m.a.s.l.) that forms a part of the piedmont of the Kugitang Mountains (**Pl. 7/1**) (Maydon: 695–766 m.a.s.l., E 66°51' / N 37°44'; Goz: 668 m.a.s.l., E 66°44' / N 37°37'). Generally, the micro-region in question is situated in the Surkhan Darya Province, south Uzbekistan, more precisely in the western part of the Sherabad District in the close proximity of Pashkhurt village (Maydon: 7.9 km to the north-east; Goz: 9.6 km to the south-west of Pashkhurt). The border with Turkmenistan runs near the research area on the ridge of the Kugitang Mountains (17.7 km to the north of Goz Oasis).

METHODS AND AIMS

The methods used during the survey are described in detail in the previous reports (AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2015, 262–281, 313–316; AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2017, 104–148, 185–188). The aim of the research is to recognise historical evidence of a settlement in the oases and their hinterland and to observe the changes over the course of time.

We focused on the detection of the archaeological sites (concentrations of ceramic fragments, morphological features in the landscape), on the verifying of the toponyms that should indicate the anthropogenic origin and on verifying the spots that were pointed out as 'of historical meaning or value' by local inhabitants (KuPi_XX;¹ **Figs. 1–2; Tab. 1**). In order to capture the complex view of the researched oases, we surveyed also private plots of the local inhabitants (gardens, fields, places for building activities etc.). For each of the prospected areas/plots we have created in GIS a polygon with archaeological finds (POL_XX) or with negative results (NEG_XX), (**Pl. 7/2–4**). Besides this, we paid attention to the collection of the archaeological finds (mostly represented by ceramic fragments) together with the spatial data, that are processed in the QGIS.

As is attested by the previous prospection in the lowland Sherabad oasis (STANČO 2018, in print) the recent burial activities could often disrupt the older cultural layers and there is the possibility that archaeological finds will be unearthed during the digging of contemporary graves. Therefore, we paid attention also to such areas as well as to prominent tombs. Unlike in previous seasons, no significant archaeological finds were detected during the survey neither at the cemeteries in Maydon nor in Goz.

An inherent part of the research represents the mapping of water sources (**Figs. 3–4; Tab. 2**), because they represent today – just as they did in the past – the main prerequisite for settling and the archaeological sites are often situated in their close proximity. In each of the oases several springs were detected and in the village of Goz and its hinterland there were also found the relics of an underground water system of canals called karezes.²

1 The numbers follow the previous numbering in the oases of Zarabag, Karabag and Kampyrtepa (AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2017, 143–145).

2 The water supplying of villages by karezes was not documented in each oasis of the Kugitang Piedmont. During our three-year survey we detected such an irrigation system in the Goz and in the Zarabag oases only.

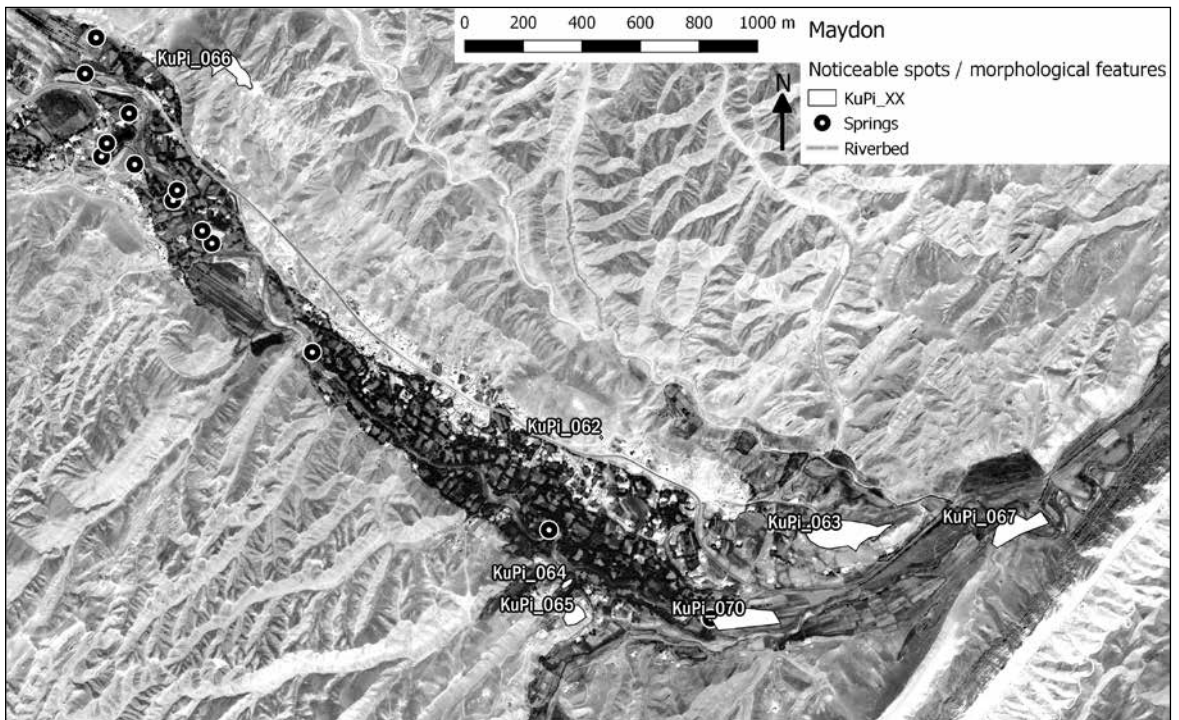


Fig. 1: Noticeable spots with finds and morphological features (KuPi_xx) in the Maydon Oasis (map by Anna Augustinová).

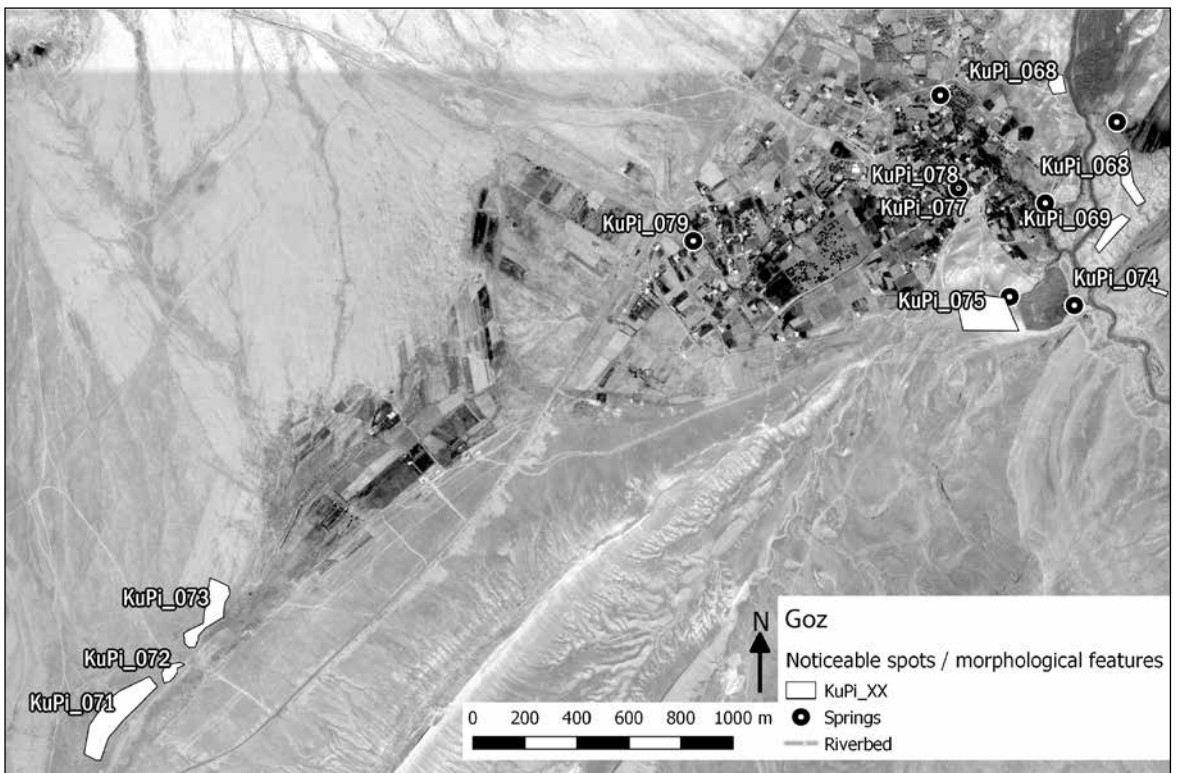


Fig. 2: Noticeable spots with finds and morphological features (KuPi_xx) in the Goz Oasis (map by Anna Augustinová).

MAYDON

The village of Maydon spreads along both sides of the River Maydon along a length of 3.6 km and the current extent of the oasis is approximately 166 ha. Based on the official census in 2016, 1,400 people and 450 families live in the present-day village of Maydon and most of the inhabitants are Uzbeks.³

Unlike the oases researched in the previous seasons, the village of Maydon is not mentioned in the monograph based on ethnographic research conducted in the region in the 1950s by B. Kh. Karmysheva (1976).

As can be seen in the survey results (**Pl. 7/2**), the area of the current village of Maydon is not densely covered by finds and the main archaeological sites were discovered on its margin. The current village is certainly or relatively recent foundation and local inhabitants still keep as living tradition that its area prevalently consisted of fields serving the neighbouring villages.

WATER SOURCES

The village of Maydon is situated along both banks of the Maydon Say⁴ and besides that, there are a number of springs along the river basin. The water is distributed on the plots and fields by an irrigation system of small surface canals and therefore the village is very well supplied with water.

Twelve springs (*buloq* = Uzb. 'spring') have been detected during the field survey in the oasis of Maydon (**Fig. 3; Tab. 2; MY_S01-MY_S12**). Most of them are clustered in the north part of the village, while in the lower (south-east) part only two water sources appear (*MY_S02* and *MY_S12*). All of them (except *MY_S11*) are in close proximity to the riverbed. Three of the springs have local names – *Surkh Buloq* (*surkh* = Taj. 'red')⁵ is an abundant one and springs at three places (*MY_S01a-c*); *Mrza Khodja Buloq* (*MY_S02*) is named after an unknown person, and *Bosh Buloq* (*MY_S11*) means the 'Spring of the Chief' (*bosh* = Uzb. 'chief').⁶

Two other springs are situated outside the village itself in the direction of Pashkhurt, as we found out based on the testimony of a local man. *Khuduk Ota Buloq* (*khuduk/quguq* = Uzb. 'water well'; *ota* = Uzb. 'father') springs in close proximity to an isolated house, and *Üchtol Buloq* (*üch* = Uzb. 'three'; *tol* = Uzb. 'osier') springs among several trees near the road connecting Maydon and Pashkhurt.

3 Official census report kept in the Maydon school.

4 The naming of the watercourses used by local people are typically derived from the names of villages where the river flows. Thus, passing more than one bigger village, a stream can change its name one or more times. The River Maydon flows from the smaller streams in the piedmont of the Kugitang mountains and approximately 12 km past the village of Maydon it empties into the Sherabad Darya under the name of yet another village on its way – Loylig.

5 The term *surkh*, which is also part of the name of the province Surkhan Darya, could be also translated as the 'colour of blood' or 'the water coloured by a soil'.

6 The spring of the same name was documented also in the Kampyrtepa oasis (*KT_S01; AUGUSTINOVÁ et al. 2017, 121*).

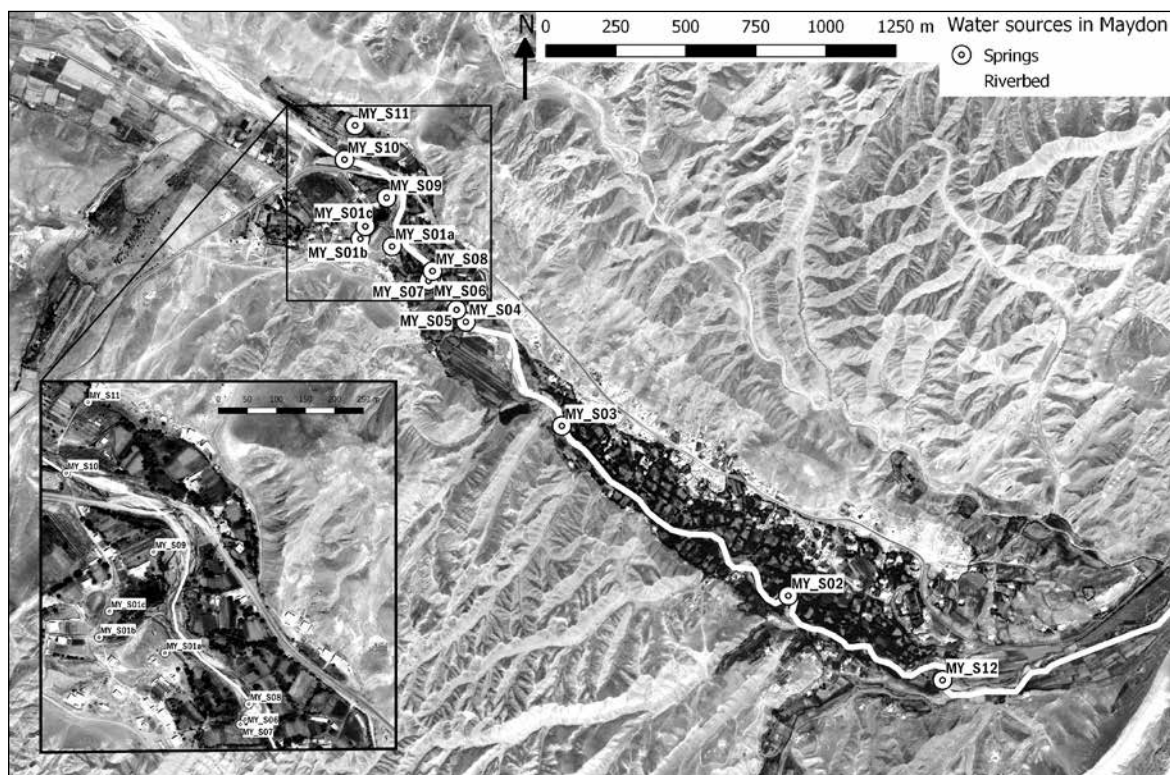


Fig. 3: Water sources – springs – in the Maydon Oasis (map by Anna Augustinová).

CEMETERIES AND CENTRAL PROMINENT TOMBS

Four cemeteries (*mazaristan* = Uzb. ‘cemetery’) are situated in the village of Maydon. Two of them (Maydon Ota Mazaristan and Shakar Ota Mazaristan) were disrupted in the 1940s during the construction of a new asphalt road that runs through the village. Maydon Ota Mazaristan (*ota* = Uzb. ‘father’; NEG_o65) is situated in the southern part of Maydon on both sides of the road. The oval prominent grave (Mazaristan Ota; KuPi_o62) made of stones is ca. 1 m high and is located to the north of the road. In its close proximity, there are visible oval stone circles that represent graves (ca. from 1.5×1.5 m to 2×1.2 m). The second half of the cemetery is located to the south of the road and apart from one well marked grave hidden behind an iron fence, the area is littered with rubbish and bushes.

The second cemetery disrupted by the modern road, called Shakar Ota Mazaristan (*shakar* = Uzb. ‘sugar’; *ota* = Uzb. ‘father’; NEG_o66), is situated in the central part of the contemporary village. Local inhabitants had discovered human bones and skulls in the part that lies to the north of the road during the building activities several years ago, but this particular area was later built up.

A third cemetery Garibni Gori (Uzb. ‘the cave of the homeless/lonely person’; NEG_o67) is situated on the short slope in the north-west part of the village and there are numerous graves that are visible on the surface as stone circles (d. ca. 0.8 m).

The fourth one (NEG_o69) is still used as a cemetery without any local name.

MORPHOLOGICAL FEATURES AND THE LOCATIONS WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Two main archaeological sites (Maydon Kurgan and Gaza Kutan – **Fig. 4**) are situated in the hinterland of the Maydon Oasis. Except for them, only several of the surveyed areas in the oasis yielded traces of past human activity (6 polygons with finds: POL_211, 216-218, 220, 223; **Pl. 2**),⁷ while the majority – 33 surveyed areas (NEG_065-096) gave negative results.



Fig. 4: The newly detected Early Iron Age site Gaza Kutan on the top of the range above the Maydon Oasis (visible on the right), (photo by Anna Augustinová).

The first of the significant archaeological sites – Maydon Kurgan (POL_210–POL_213; KuPi_063) – has already been mentioned in the earlier works (RTZVELADZE – KHAKIMOV 1973, 22–23; RTVELADZE 1974, 77; ARSHAVSKAYA – RTVELADZE – KHAKIMOV 1982, 134; STRIDE 2004, Uz-SD-164; DANIELISOVÁ – STANČO – SHAYDULLAEV 2010, 82) and it was dated to the Late Antiquity and High Medieval Period (12th century; **Fig. 5**). The site is situated in the east margin of the Maydon Oasis, elevated high above the left bank of the Maydon Say. There are still well-visible morphological features in the terrain such as several mounds and artificial flat platforms. The local legend associated with this place says that there had been the residence of a rich man standing there, and it was destroyed by Macedonians upon their arrival from the north. During our field survey, we recorded the precise extent of this site, and based on the surface finds we were able to confirm the dating of the more or less intensive use of this place as a continuous one, starting from the turn of the 3rd to 4th century AD and lasting to the High Medieval Period. Only one fragment dated to the Bronze Age was discovered here.

The second important settlement was newly discovered by our team at the site of Gaza Kutan (*gaza* = Uzb. ‘hill top’; *kutan* = Uzb. ‘cattle corral’; POL_219; KuPi_066; **Pl. 7/2; Fig. 1, 4**). Based on the very plentiful ceramic fragments collected from the surface it is obvious that the site belongs solely to the Early Iron Age (Yaz I culture; **Fig. 6**). It is situated at the north margin of the Maydon Oasis on the flat summit of a hill. It is elevated 65 m above the riverbed of Maydon Say. The place provides an excellent view over that part of the Kugitang Piedmont, where the oases Karabag, Zarabag, Kampyrtepa and Shalkan are situated, and where numerous archaeological sites belonging to the same period had already been recently detected. There are relics of stone walls clearly visible around the site and in the interior of the site, it is possible to recognize yet more stone structures. The considerable size and clearly visible stone structures make Gaza Kutan an extraordinary representative of the settlement sites belonging to the Early Iron Age in southern Uzbekistan with the highest potential for in-depth investigation, which is planned in the near future.

⁷ In total, there were surveyed 39 areas in the village of Maydon – mainly represented by plots of the inhabitants (gardens, fields), and by cemeteries, public places, disruptions of terrain etc.

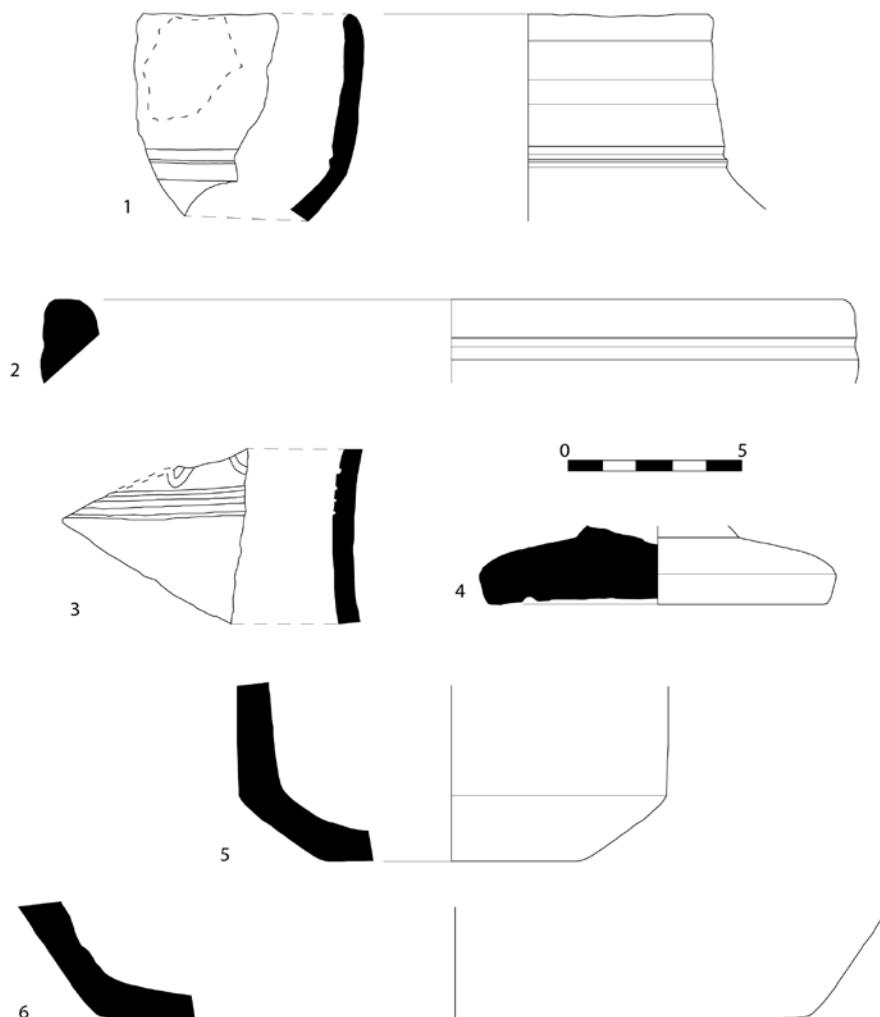


Fig. 5: Selected pottery belonging to the High Medieval Period (12th c. AD) from the surface survey in the Maydon Oasis at the site Maydon Kurgan (KuPi_063); (drawings by T. Kolmačka and A. Augustinová).

Another area, called Kalapush Tepa⁸ (*kallapush* = Uzb. / Taj. ‘doppa’;⁹ POL_218; KuPi_065), and situated on the south-west margin of the oasis, yielded a number of archaeological finds. At this site, which has the shape of a mound (ca. 20×30 m), were found ceramic fragments dated to the Bronze Age. They were found by local inhabitants during building activities and several pieces were also found during our prospection. Nevertheless, the density of finds was not high and our investigation of several disruptions of the surface on this mound ended up without results.

8 The top of the hill on the ridge that runs from the site Gaza Kutan to Maydon Kurgan has the same name, but no finds were found there and also the terrain does not seem to be modified.

9 The term ‘doppa’ describes a traditional local square or round male skullcap.

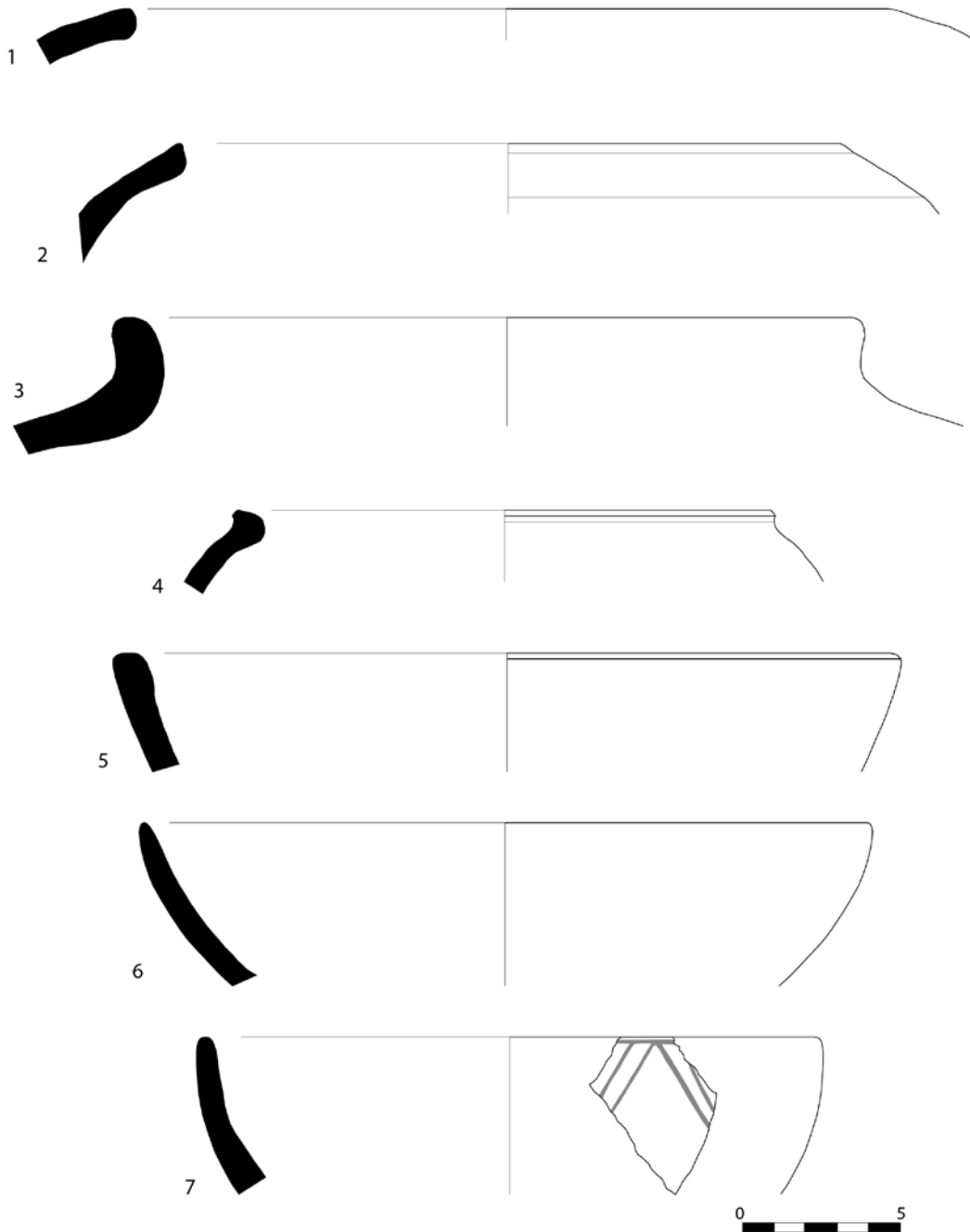


Fig. 6: Selected pottery from the surface survey in the Maydon Oasis belonging to the Early Iron Age site Gaza Kutun (KuPi_066) (drawings by T. Kolmačka and A. Augustinová).

In close proximity of this site a small tepa was detected (NEG_076; KuPi_064) where the locals reportedly found ceramic fragments. Although this feature seemed to be of the same type as the tepas with finds in other oases (no name site KuPi_013 in Zarabag – AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2015, 266–269, mentioned here as B3; Khush-Vakttepa KuPi_051 in Karabag – AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2017, 112; Eishntepa KuPi_056 in Kampyrtepa – AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2017, 122–123), during our field survey we did not discover any finds here.

Two other noticeable places with finds are situated in close proximity to the known site Maydon Kurgan in the south-east of the oasis. The first of them has the shape of a mound and the ceramic fragments had been dispersed mainly on the fields surrounding this small tepa (POL_223; KuPi_067). Several pieces were also found at the tepa, but on the top of it a modern house stands and therefore it could not be investigated generally. The second one was detected as a dense pottery scatter in the field (POL_224; KuPi_070), but because of the poor state of preservation of the given fragments, it was not possible to date this site.

GOZ

The oasis of Goz is situated on the road running from Pashkhurt to the villages of Aktash and Charvak and continuing across the state border into Turkmenistan. The current extent of the village is approximately 172 ha. There are two ridges to the south-east of the oasis – the southern one is called Pyshtykara and the northern one Karachazyl. The watercourse of Goz Say (called Muzrabad Say downstream) and a path that follows it closely flows from the village of Goz in the direction of the Sherabad lowlands through the gorge Goz Dagana (*dagana* = Uzb. ‘mountain pass’) between these two ridges.

During the survey of Goz we did not record the official census of the people and families living there. The estimation – or rather a guess – of a teacher¹⁰ from the local school was 500 people and 180 families. The people living in Goz are, according to this informant, mostly Tajiks. During the field survey we recorded the narrative of Bozor Bobo,¹¹ one of the oldest men in the village. Based on his testimony, the Tajik people (*Chagatay*) came to settle here from the village of Vandob and from Turkmenistan. Another group of people came to this area from Khwarezm and settled at the place called Turk Korez, where there were enough water sources (probably the place with karezes in the north-west margin of the village). The name Goz (Uzb. *g‘oz* = ‘war’), which was given to the village, hints at an old armed conflict. During this fight one man lost his head 4 km from Goz in a path that runs through Goz Dagana via the Sherabad lowlands. The legend says that he took his chopped off head and walked with it for more than 4 km. At the place where he eventually died, a grave known today as Goz Ota (KuPi_076) was built, and in the course of time a cemetery arose around it.

The village of Goz is mentioned in the ethnographic work of B. Kh. Karmysheva (1976). Based on her investigation, the village was divided into two parts – the first part should have been inhabited by Tajiks (named *Chagatay*), the second part, reportedly called *Tentak-Kishlak*¹², was inhabited by Uzbeks (KARMYSHEVA 1976, 50).

WATER SOURCES

The oasis of Goz was reportedly a member of a group of villages in the Piedmont of Kugitang once called *Karezat* (KARMYSHEVA 1976, 50) that had been irrigated by artificial water-bringing systems of karezes. In the current village and its hinterland, there were detected 17 individ-

10 *Ural Khusachatov* (aged 50?); village of Goz – Sherabad District, south Uzbekistan; August 29th, 2017. He accompanied us during the first day of the prospection, helped us to communicate with local inhabitants, and showed us the historically / archaeologically important places in the village.

11 *Bozor bobo* (aged 87); village of Goz – Sherabad District, south Uzbekistan; August 29th, 2017.

12 In consideration of the translation of the term (*tentak* = Uzb. ‘stupid’; *kishlak* = Uzb. ‘village’) it apparently reflects the bias of Karmysheva’s respondent against the inhabitants of this part of village.

ual pits – remains of the karez (GZ_Ko1–K17; **Fig. 7; Tab. 2**) during our field survey. They are situated mainly in the central part of the village and on its south-east margin (**Pl. 7/5:A**). The relics have a similar shape as those recorded in the village of Zarabag in previous seasons (AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2015, 269–270). Predominantly, they are visible as a regular line of rounded depressions of the surface/pits (d. 3–10 m), with spacing of ca. 10 m. At the bottom it is possible to see water still running or even vegetation, and sometimes there can be seen the remains of the wood cladding of the tunnels (**Pl. 7/5:B–C**). On the south-western margin of the Goz Oasis, a part of the remains of the underground water system collapsed completely and has gradually taken the shape of a stream bed. It is possible to track the underground course of the karez in the south-east direction again by following the circular depressions on the surface as in the centre of the village. From this spot (GZ_Ko17) the underground system of karezes continues to the north in the direction of the mountains.

Except for karezes, the important part of the water economy in the oasis is represented by springs. Seven springs were documented (GZ_So1 – So7; **Tab. 2**), and an additional one (Dam Buloq – *dam* = Uzb./Taj. ‘quiet’;¹³ GZ_So8) had been mentioned in the testimony of the local inhabitant Bozor Bobo, but despite our efforts to do so it has not been located.

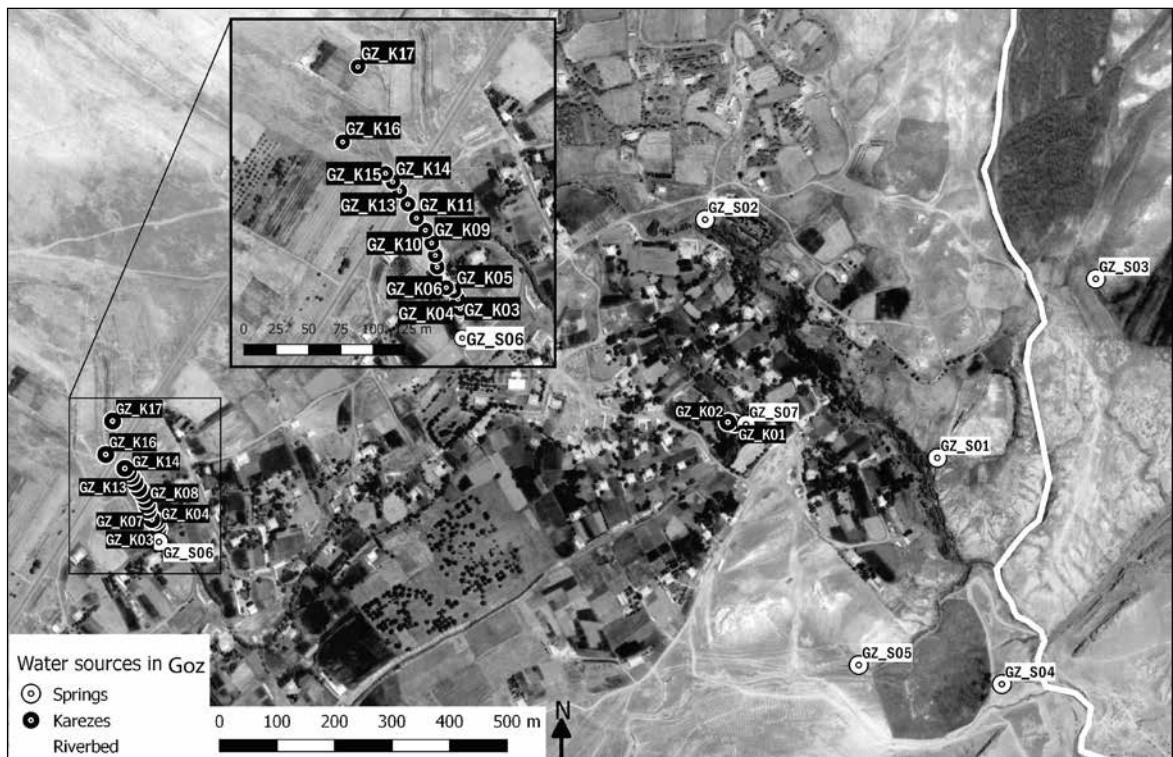


Fig. 7: Water sources – springs and karezes – in the Goz Oasis (map by Anna Augustinová).

¹³ The literal translation of the Uzb./Taj. word *dam* is ‘quiet’, nevertheless in the case of toponym it is also possible to translate the word *dam* as ‘dammed’ – e. g. *Damkul* = Uzb. ‘the dammed lake’ (KARAEV 2015, 297–298).

The most abundant spring Goz Kala Buloq (*kala* = Uzb. ‘fortress’; GZ_So1) gives enough water to be taken away by pipeline to the remote village of Talashkan, situated ca. 20 km to the south. The place is also known under the name ‘Kirkkiz’ and it is associated with a local legend.¹⁴

A second spring called locally Gum Buloq (*gum* = Taj. ‘bottomless’; GZ_So2), provides the water in several spots in the vicinity of the main source in the spring season. A third one, Shor Buloq (*sho’r* = ‘salt’; GZ_So3) is said to give mineral water, even if again only during the spring season. Near the cemetery of Goz Ota, there are two more springs. The G’oz Ota Buloq (GZ_So4) springs on the east side of the cemetery and a no name spring (GZ_So5) on the west side flows only during the spring season. In the centre of the village, there is located Okh Buloq (GZ_So6) in close proximity to the prominent grave of Okh Buloq Ota (KuPi_078). The last documented no name spring (GZ_So7) is situated near the prominent grave of Suleyman Ota (KuPi_079) on the south-west margin of the village.

MORPHOLOGICAL FEATURES AND THE LOCATIONS WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

The field survey inside the village itself was hindered by an unexpected difficulty: access to the plots and gardens of local inhabitants was obstructed by a number of fierce dogs protecting the plots even though we had the agreement of the owners. Nevertheless, among the 25 surveyed areas, there were detected 16 places with archaeological finds, especially ceramic fragments (POL_225–231; POL_240–249), and only nine places gave negative results (NEG_097–105; **Pl. 7/2–4**). The apparently most important archaeological sites have been discovered in the hinterland of the Goz Oasis. There is a high probability that some of them are connected with the possible corridors through the mountain ridges that had been investigated during the field survey focused on these issues (STANČO in print).

In the centre of the village, there was documented an ‘old place’ in the vicinity of the prominent tomb of Okh Buloq Ota (KuPi_078) that was reconstructed five years ago. The remains of karezes run along this grave, and there is a well-marked accumulation of stones that may represent a kurgan. During the field survey, no chronologically sensitive finds were unearthed. Only in the neighbouring garden (POL_246), one pottery fragment dated to the 12th century was discovered.

A large quantity of ceramic fragments (POL_242; KuPi_075) was found in the south margin of the Goz Oasis, more precisely to the west of Goz Ota cemetery, which is still in use. This flat area has no distinct demarcation lines and lies on the right bank of the Goz Say. Roughly an equal proportion of the ceramic fragments collected during the survey were dated to the turn of the Late Kushan and the Early Medieval Period (4th–5th century; 28 fragments), and into the High Medieval Period (12th century; 26 fragm.). There were also sporadic fragments dated to the Early Iron Age (Yaz I culture; 1 fragm.), to the earlier High Medieval (10th–11th century; 2 fragm.) and to the Pre-Modern Period (18th–19th century; 4 fragm.) respectively.

The second area with a large concentration of finds is situated beyond the scope of the Goz Oasis itself (3.6 km from the centre of the village; **Fig. 2; Pl. 7/4**). It is situated on the right

14 It tells of 40 young girls that bathed in the river of Surkhan Darya at the place called Salavat. Suddenly Basmachi appeared and the girls started to run away to save themselves. When they reached this place, they prayed to God to change them into the stones so that Basmachi could not catch them. Their wish was granted and they were turned into stones and now their tears supply the spring with water.

side of the road connecting the village of Goz with the villages of Aktash and Charvag. The place is known by the local people as Kyzyl Bay and there are numerous relics of walls, stone structures, tepas and artificial platforms clearly visible in the terrain. It is possible to recognize three concentrations of ceramic fragments - in the area of the remains of the medieval village (KuPi_071; **Figs. 8-10**), a concentration on a small tepa (KuPi_072; **Figs. 11-12**) and a concentration on a tepa connected with a flat platform (KuPi_073).

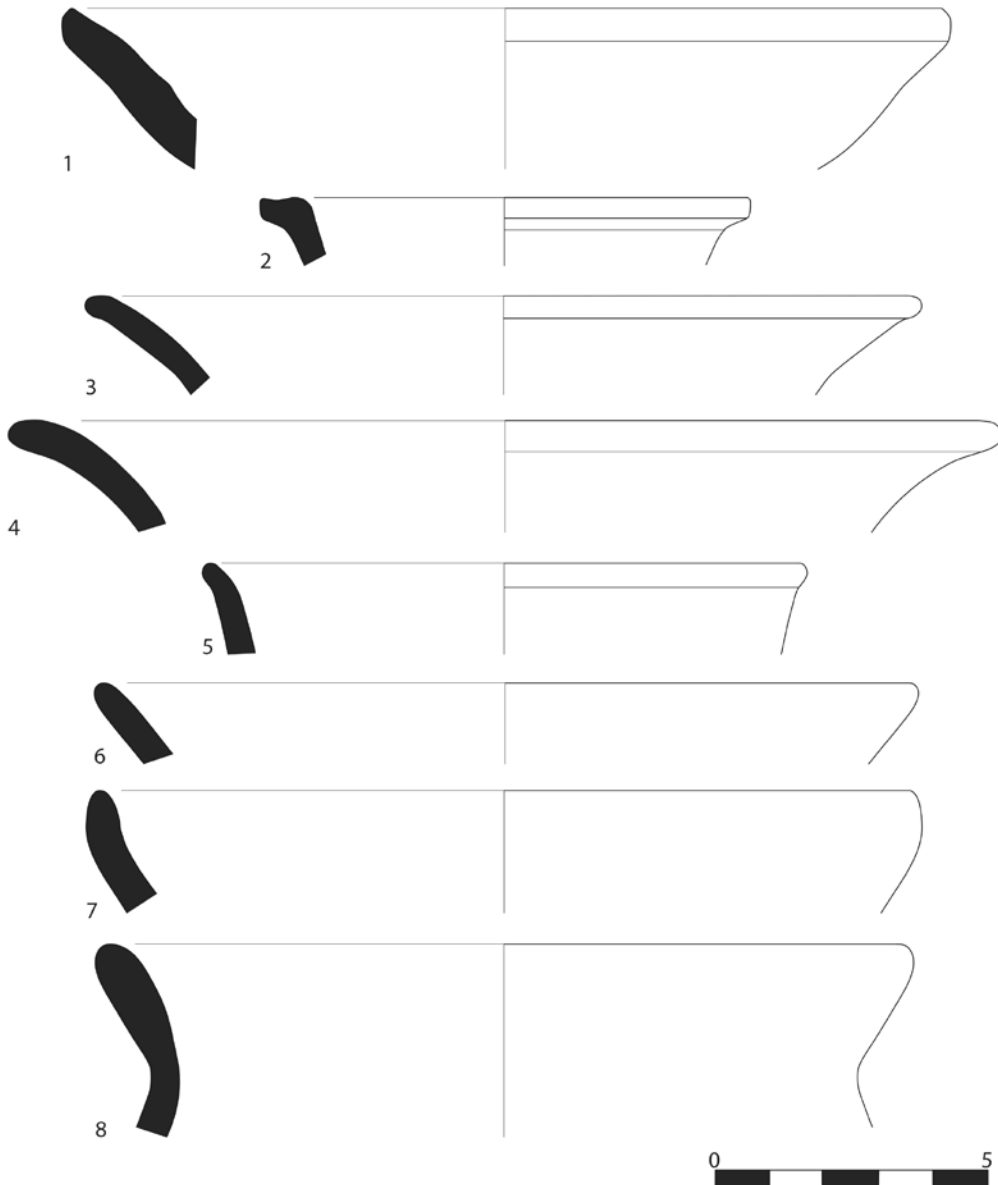


Fig. 8: Selected pottery from the surface survey in the hinterland of the Goz Oasis. Find spot and dating: 1-8 Goz (KuPi_071 - Kyzyl Bay): 1 - Late Bronze Age, 2 - Late Kushan Period (4th c.), 3, 4 - Early Medieval (5th-6th c.), 5-8 - High Medieval (12th c.); (drawing by T. Kolmačka and L. Damašek).

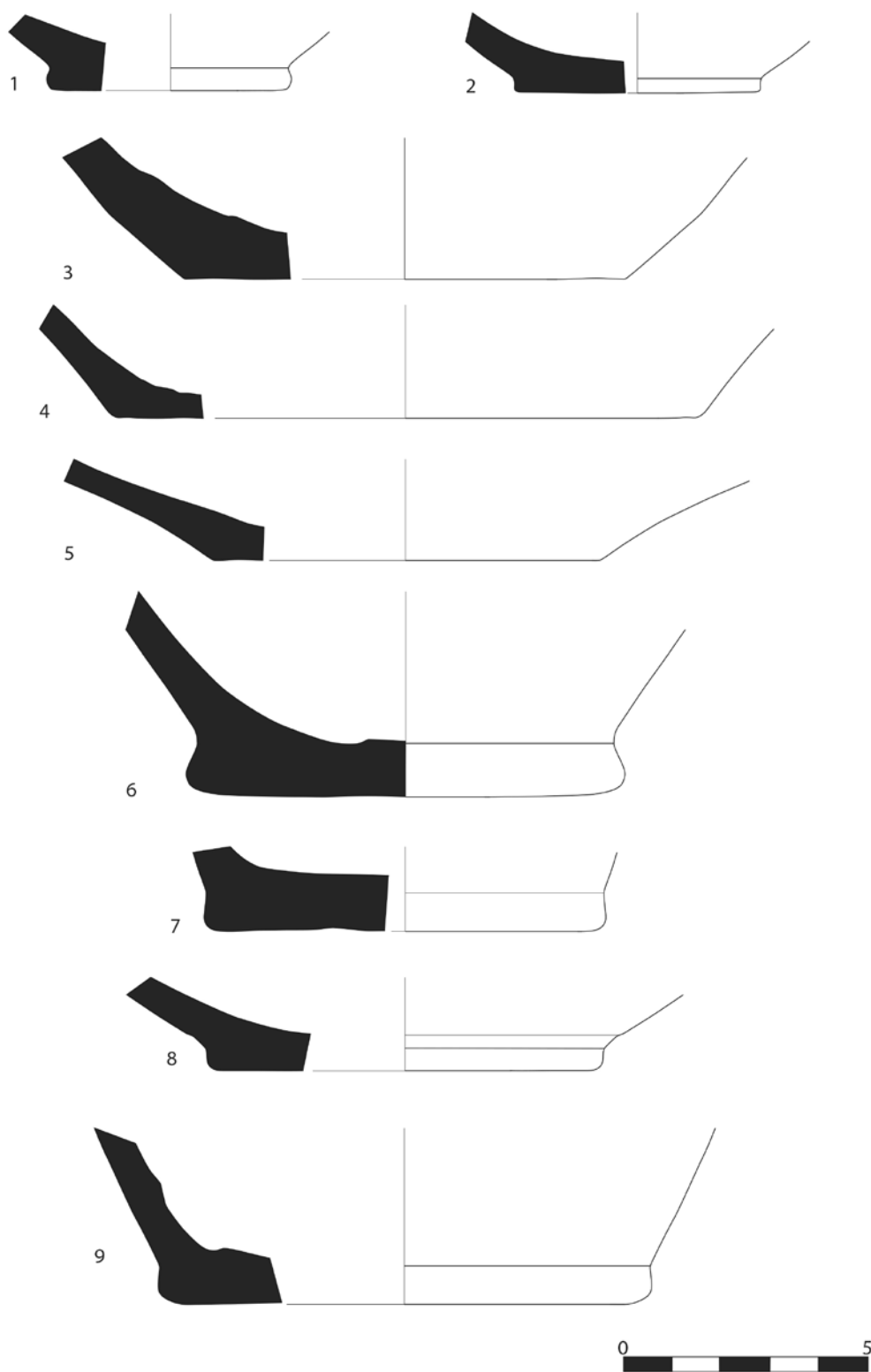


Fig. 9: Selected pottery from the surface survey in the Goz Oasis. Find spot and dating:
 1-9 Goz (KuPi_071 - Kyzyl Bay): 2-4 - Early Medieval (5th-6th c.), 1, 5-9 - High Medieval (12th c.);
 (drawing by L. Damašek).

The most dominant feature of the defunct medieval village of Kyzyl Bay (KuPi_071; **Figs. 8-9**) represent the wood remains of an old mosque (**Pl. 7/6**) that was apparently situated in the centre of the village. The second well marked feature in this area is a prominent grave surrounded by the modern iron fence. In the area, there are numerous relicts of the mud-brick walls and stone structures that are still highly visible in the terrain just as on the satellite images (**Pl. 7/4**). The size of the village could be determined roughly as ca. 330×170 m. Ca. 400 m to the west of the western end of the defunct village, it is possible to recognize the remains of fields and of irrigation systems, which most probably belonged to the village. Judging from the pottery assemblage collected on the surface, the main period of use of the area was the Early Medieval one (5th-6th century; 40 fragm.), nonetheless there are also numerous fragments belonging to the High Medieval Period (10th - 12th century; 18 fragm.). Unfortunately, it is not possible to connect the relicts of particular walls with a specific period only according to the dating of the surface pottery finds.

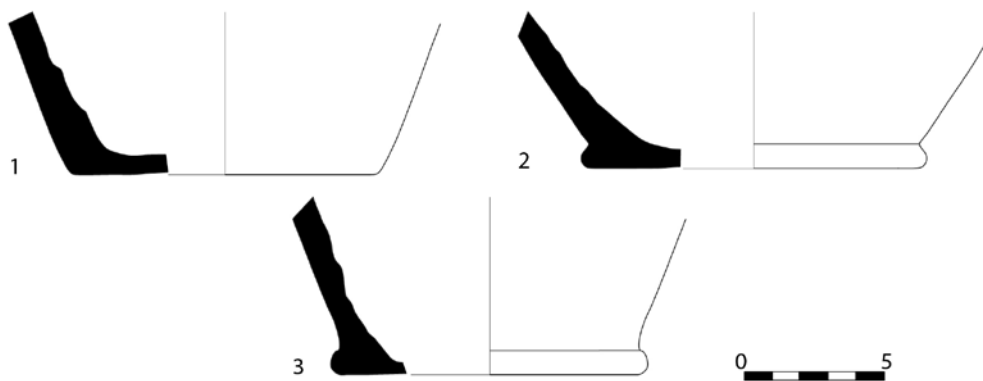


Fig. 10: Selected pottery from the surface survey in the hinterland of the Goz Oasis. Find spot and dating: 1-3 Goz (KuPi_071 - Kyzyl Bay); 1-3 - High Medieval (12th c.); (drawing by L. Damašek).

To the north-east of the abandoned village lies a small tepa (KuPi_072; oval shape 65×50 m). The pottery fragments are dispersed not only across the tepa, but also in its vicinity. Most of the fragments belong again to the High Medieval Period (12th century; 33 fragm.), but there are also finds of Bronze Age material (12 fragm.). Only one fragment potentially belongs to the Early Iron Age (Yaz I culture), and one to the Greco-Bactrian Period.

The third site (KuPi_073) in this area is situated about 85 m to the north-east of the previous mentioned tepa (KuPi_072). It consists of the tepa itself (d. 60 m), and of an adjacent flat platform (170×80 m). Most of the pottery fragments collected at this place are dated to the High Medieval Period (12th century; 25 fragm.), but there are several pieces also from the Bronze Age (4 fragm.) and Early Medieval Period (5th-6th century; 4 fragm.), too.

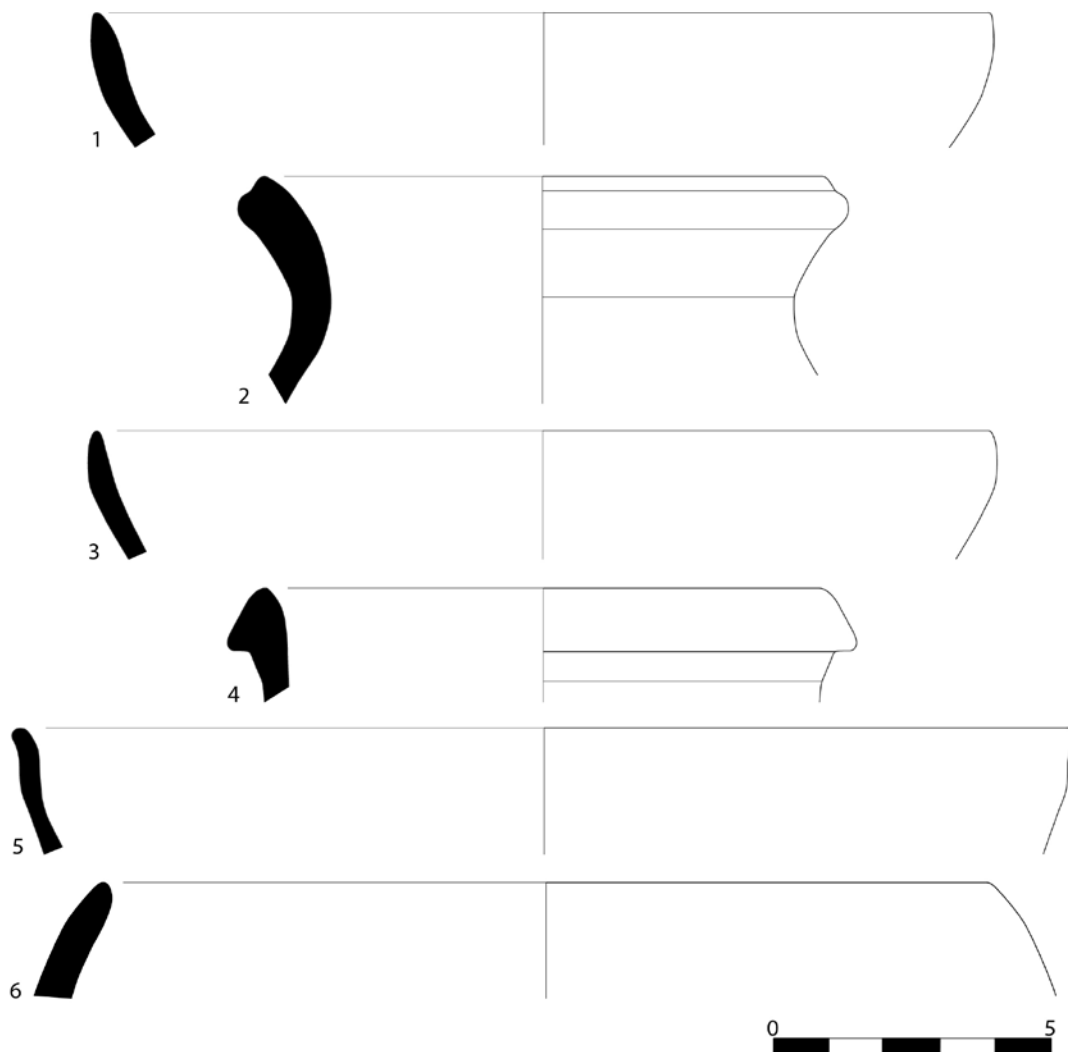


Fig. 11. Selected pottery from the surface survey in the hinterland of the Goz Oasis. Find spot and dating: 1-6 Goz (KuPi_072 - Kyzyl Bay): 1 - Late Bronze Age, 2-4 - High Medieval (12th c.); 5-6 - Early Medieval (5th-6th c.); (drawing by L. Damašek).

CEMETERIES AND CENTRAL PROMINENT TOMBS

There are two cemeteries in the Goz micro-oasis. The currently-used one – Khojib Ota (NEG_097) –, which is situated in the north part of the village, provided us with no archaeological evidence whatsoever.



Fig. 12: Selected pottery from the surface survey in the hinterland of the Goz Oasis. Find spot and dating: 1-6 - Goz (KuPi_072 - Kyzyl Bay): 1 - Late Bronze Age, 2-3 - Bronze Age, 4-6 - Early Medieval (5th-6th c.); (drawing by L. Damašek).

The older one - Goz Ota (NEG_103) is situated on the way from Goz to Goz Dagana and consists of two parts. The earlier one arises in the surroundings of the prominent grave Goz Ota (KuPi_076) at a small platform on the right bank of Goz Say close to the gorge (*dagana*). This place is connected with the aforementioned local legend on the origin of the village name. When there was not enough space for burying it extended to the west on a neighbouring small mound. In the east direction from the older part of this burial ground (NEG_105), detected 16

old graves were on a small ridge up the valley that are visible on the surface as the outlines (circular or rectangular) of stones. In most cases, there is a small stele erected on the grave made of unworked stone (approx. 40×40×10 cm). This area is situated exactly on the opposite side of the valley to the newly detected Bronze Age site (STANČO in print; POL_241; KuPi_074; **Pl. 7/3; Fig. 2**).

Except for the prominent grave of Goz Ota (KuPi_076), three other ones were documented in the oasis of Goz. In the north of the village there is located an isolated prominent grave of Kyzyl Tepa Ota (*kyzil* = Uzb. 'red') on a small mound (KuPi_077). According to the testimony of local inhabitants, there was no burial ground around in close proximity to the grave and also no finds came from this area. The second one – Suleyman Ota (KuPi_069) – is near the detected system of the karezes and in the vicinity of the spring (GZ_So6). The last one – Okh Buloq Ota (KuPi_078) – situated in the centre of the village near the systems of karezes was reconstructed a few years ago.

CONCLUSION

The survey in the oases of Maydon and Goz has been conducted as the third part of the project focused on the settlement patterns and dynamics in the Paskhurt Basin in the foothills of the Kugitang Mountains. We focused on the reconstruction of the historical development of the oases based on the prospection in the areas of currently inhabited villages and their hinterlands. At these actively used places, the archaeological evidence is strongly affected by the construction, agricultural and other activities that disregard the historical value of the finds.

During the prospection in the oases of Maydon and Goz there were collected plentiful assemblages of pottery fragments, that allow us to preliminarily date the surveyed areas. Overall, 1,528 ceramic fragments were gathered in these two oases and their hinterlands, and 1,401 of these fragments were suitable for dating (968 fragm. from the Goz Oasis and 434 fragm. from the Maydon Oasis). As shown in the graph (**Fig. 13**), the settlement dynamic evidences a more or less similar tendency. In the comparison with the evaluated data from the previous seasons (the oases of Zarabag, Karabag, and Kampyrtepa – AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2017, 130), the fluctuation of the settlement density is again more or less similar.

The evaluation of the finds is summarized in the table (**Tab. 1**). The settlement evidence begins in both oases or their hinterland in the Bronze Age. In Goz, except for the two principal sites (KuPi_074 and KuPi_067 – Qushilish; STANČO in print), there are four other spots with finds from the Bronze Age. The most significant one (KuPi_072) represents the small tepe near the defunct Medieval village of Kyzyl Bay, where also the pottery fragments dated to the Early Iron Age (Yaz I culture) were found. In the oasis of Maydon, two spots with Bronze Age material were found. The first of them is the poly-cultural site of Maydon Kurgan (KuPi_063), but it is represented only by one fragment of pottery. The second one, which yielded more complex data, is represented by the site of Kalapush Tepa (KuPi_065).

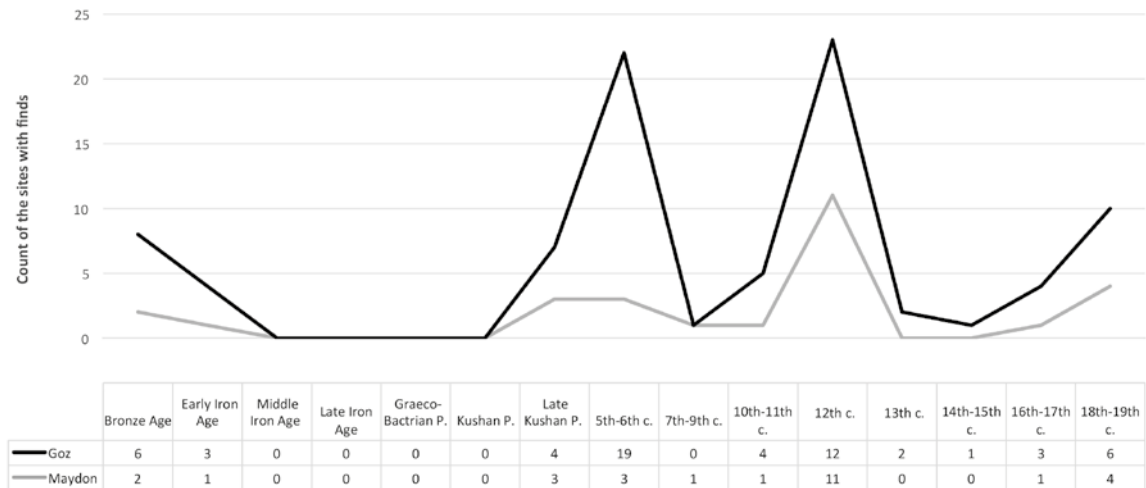


Fig. 13: The settlement dynamic in the researched oases (Maydon and Goz) during the specific periods.

The Early Iron Age was detected at three places in the oasis of Goz and in its hinterland. The most significant is the site mentioned above as KuPi_074; (STANČO in print) in the context of the Bronze Age sites. The two other spots are represented only by one fragment of pottery each. In the oasis of Maydon there was found only one site with evidence dating it to the Early Iron Age, i.e. the site of Gaza Kutan (KuPi_066), which, however, represents a settlement of regional significance.

Then there is a long temporal gap in the settlement as shown by evidence in both oases. This hiatus ends in the 3rd century AD, during the Late Kushan Period. The new settlement wave is represented by four sites in Goz and three sites in Maydon. As in the previously surveyed oases (AUGUSTINOVÁ *et al.* 2017, 104–148, 185–188), the distinct increase of the settlement density begins only in the Early Medieval Period (5th–6th century), and with a small decrease in the 7th–8th century¹⁵ continues rising to the High Medieval Period (12th century).

In later periods, the archaeological evidence of settlement in the oases of Maydon and Goz strongly decrease and actually almost disappears. While in the oasis of Maydon the Late Medieval Period is represented only by one pottery fragment dated to the 17th century (POL_220), in the oasis of Goz the evidence is more plentiful, nevertheless it is insignificant compared to the previous periods (13th century at the two sites – KuPi_071 and KuPi_072; 14th century at one site KuPi_069; 16th century at one site – Qushilish = KuPi_068; 17th century at two sites – KuPi_069 and Kyzyl Bay, KuPi_071).

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¹⁵ This ‘decrease’ could also be caused by the indistinguishability of the pottery material.

Code	Local name	Village	Coordinates	Coordinates	Quantity of finds	Type of feature	Type of finds	Dating (quantity)	Polygon No.
KuPi_062	Maydon Ota	Maydon	66,86161	37,73787	0	prominent grave	pottery	x	NEG_065
KuPi_063	Maydon Kungan	Maydon	66,87092	37,73494	268	tepa	pottery	Bronze Age (1), end of the 3th - beg. of the 4th c. (11), 5th-6th c. (22), 7th-8th c. (6), 10th c. (9), 12th c. (139), 18th-19th c. (74)	POL_210-216
KuPi_071	Kyzyl Bay	Goz	66,70182	37,60703	96	defunct village	pottery	Late Bronze Age (1), 4th c. (2), 5th-6th c. (57), 10th-11th c. (9), 12th c. (15), 13th c. (2), 17th c. (3), 18th-19th c. (1)	POL_232-235, POL_250
KuPi_072	x	Goz	66,70423	37,60855	89	defunct village	pottery	Bronze Age (4), Late Bronze Age (8), Early Iron Age (1), Greco-Bactrian p. (1), 3rd c. (4), 3rd-4th c. (5), 12th c. (33), 13th c. (3)	POL_239
KuPi_073	x	prospection - Goz	66,70593	37,61065	85	tepa	pottery	Bronze Age (1), Late Bronze Age (3), 3rd c. (2), 5th-6th c. (4), 12th c. (25), 17th c. (2), 18th-19th c. (9)	POL_237, POL_238
KuPi_074	x	prospection - Goz	66,74725	37,62170	62	tepa	pottery	Late Bronze Age (8), Early Iron Age - Kuchuk (1), 5th-6th c. (23), 18th-19th c. (3)	POL_240, POL_241
KuPi_064	x	Maydon	66,86027	37,73340	0	tepa	x	x	NEG_076
KuPi_065	Kalapush Tepa	Maydon	66,86056	37,73242	6	tepa	pottery	Late Bronze Age (5)	POL_218
KuPi_066	Gaza Kutan	Maydon	66,84728	37,74915	156	site	pottery	Early Iron Age (153), 12th c. (3)	POL_219
KuPi_067	x	Maydon	66,87770	37,73512	14	tepa	pottery	end of 3rd c. (1), 4th c. (1), 12th c. (8)	POL_223
KuPi_068	x	Goz	66,74284	37,62884	8	tepa	pottery	end 4th - beg. 5th (1), 12th c. (5)	POL_225
KuPi_068	Qushilish	prospection - Goz	66,74598	37,62556	197	surface disraption	pottery	Late Bronze Age (1), 3rd-4th c. (9), 5th-6th c. (115), 10th-11th c. (1), 12th c. (46), 16th c. (2), 18th-19th c. (11)	POL_227
KuPi_069	x	prospection - Goz	66,74520	37,62374	29	steppe	pottery	12th c. (18), end of the 14th c. (3), 17th c. (5)	POL_228
KuPi_070	x	Maydon	66,86718	37,73231	50	field	x	x	POL_224
KuPi_075	x	Goz	66,73971	37,62092	64	field	pottery	Early Iron Age - Yaz I (1), 4th-5th c. (28), 10th-11th c. (2), 12th c. (26), 18th-19th c. (4)	POL_242
KuPi_076	Goz Ota	Goz	66,74406	37,62082	0	prominent tomb	x	x	NEG_103
KuPi_077	Kyzyl Tepa Ota	Goz	66,73892	37,62412	0	prominent tomb	x	x	x
KuPi_078	Okh Buloq Ota	Goz	66,73854	37,62526	0	prominent tomb	x	x	x
KuPi_079	Suleyman Ota	Goz	66,72681	37,62357	0	prominent tomb	x	x	x

Tab. 1: The morphological features and noticeable spots (KuPi_062-079) in the oases of Maydon and Goz.

Code	Village	Local Name	Coordinates	
MY_So1a	Maydon	Surkh Buloq	66,84355300	37,74623600
MY_So1b	Maydon	Surkh Buloq	66,84226536	37,74647747
MY_So1c	Maydon	Surkh Buloq	66,84246846	37,74687896
MY_So2	Maydon	Mrza Khodja Buloq	66,85959954	37,73503796
MY_So3	Maydon	×	66,85042592	37,74048165
MY_So4	Maydon	×	66,84653692	37,74381565
MY_So5	Maydon	×	66,84616161	37,74420235
MY_So6	Maydon	×	66,84512100	37,74521104
MY_So7	Maydon	×	66,84502791	37,74513074
MY_So8	Maydon	×	66,84518870	37,74544524
MY_So9	Maydon	×	66,84333200	37,74779673
MY_So10	Maydon	×	66,84162308	37,74901565
MY_So11	Maydon	Bosh Buloq	66,84205108	37,75011335
MY_So12	Maydon	×	66,86584946	37,73232996
GZ_So1	Goz	Goz Kala Buloq	66,74231895	37,62473151
GZ_So2	Goz	Gum Buloq	66,73774514	37,62845049
GZ_So3	Goz	Shor Buloq	66,74544086	37,62752586
GZ_So4	Goz	Goz Ota Buloq	66,74358895	37,62119983
GZ_So5	Goz	×	66,74077205	37,62149917
GZ_So7	Goz	× (in the vicinity of prominent tomb Sulayman Ota)	66,72699214	37,62342117
GZ_So6	Goz	Okh Buloq Ota	66,73854923	37,62525383
GZ_So8	Goz	Dam Buloq	not localized	not localized
GZ_Ko1	Goz	×	66,73831714	37,62526851
GZ_Ko2	Goz	×	66,73819367	37,62528840
GZ_Ko3	Goz	×	66,72697496	37,62362608
GZ_Ko4	Goz	×	66,72695403	37,62369072
GZ_Ko5	Goz	×	66,72691846	37,62374873
GZ_Ko6	Goz	×	66,72685149	37,62377193
GZ_Ko7	Goz	×	66,72677197	37,62391448
GZ_Ko8	Goz	×	66,72675523	37,62399569
GZ_Ko9	Goz	×	66,72672384	37,62408188
GZ_Ko10	Goz	×	66,72666943	37,62417138
GZ_Ko11	Goz	×	66,72658991	37,62425426
GZ_Ko12	Goz	×	66,72651457	37,62435204
GZ_Ko13	Goz	×	66,72644342	37,62444320
GZ_Ko14	Goz	×	66,72638273	37,62450619
GZ_Ko15	Goz	×	66,72631995	37,62456586
GZ_Ko16	Goz	×	66,72594327	37,62478464
GZ_Ko17	Goz	×	66,72607720	37,62530673

Tab. 2: The water sources detected in the oases of Maydon and Goz.

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