

Preliminary Report on Excavations at Burgut Kurgan in 2016

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ABSTRACT

The paper summarises the results of the second season of exploration of the Yaz I walled settlement of Burgut Kurgan, south Uzbekistan. The 2016 excavations concentrated on the further investigation of the stone wall and on bringing to light one entire settlement unit.

KEYWORDS

Burgut Kurgan; Yaz I culture; settlement; Bactria; Early Iron Age.

INTRODUCTION

In the framework of the long-term archaeological research project in the eastern Kugitang piedmont, the Czech-Uzbek team continued in 2016 the small-scale excavations at selected sites, but especially at Burgut Kurgan. In this second year of exploration of this Yaz I Culture walled settlement we built on the most promising results obtained the previous year (STANČO *et al.* 2016). The first excavation year we ascertained the purely Yaz I character of the site including its stone wall; its long-term use indicated by at least two phases of settlement and construction; the relatively very good state of preservation of the settlement structures not disturbed by any posterior constructions or interventions and sealed by thick aeolic levels; a concentration of structures built in mudbricks around the inner circumference of the stone wall and their apparent absence in the settlement's centre.

Our general aims for this campaign included:

1. To continue the works in the trench BK03 that produced the most interesting discoveries the previous season.

2. To clarify the nature of the single settlement units. In 2015 the excavations in trenches BK01 and BK02 demonstrated great potential for the study of the stratigraphy of the site; in neither of them could we hope, however, to trace a clear house plan. The trench BK03 on the other hand suggested a non-everyday function. For this purpose, opening a new trench seemed desirable in a spot with the highest likelihood of preserving the mudbrick architecture to a large extent. The most suitable place was the highest point of the site – the so called 'micro-citadel' in the southern part of the settlement.

3. At the same time, it was not clear, to what extent the lack of structures inside the settlement reflected the original state of things and to what it was due to erosion at times when the abandoned site was possibly used as a water reservoir. For this reason, we executed an extension of last year's trench BK01 in the direction to the northwest so as to expose the strip of land between the foot of the archaeological remains and the flat settlement interior.

4. To investigate the exact construction history of the stone wall, in particular the question of whether it was the first construction of this nature in the site or whether it was preceded by another – though perhaps lighter – structure. In order to examine these issues, we cut a section

through the wall (trench BK07) in the spot where it had partially collapsed as ascertained by the previous year's excavation in trench BK01.

As a result, this year's excavation (**Fig. 1**) ran in four trenches (BK01, BK03, BK06 and BK07). Moreover, throughout the season we excavated also the kurgan-like structure KKO8 in the immediate vicinity of Burgut Kurgan. This report focuses only on the work in trenches BK01, BK06 and BK07, and their results, while the trench BK03, as well as the excavations of KKO8, will be dealt with separately in near future.

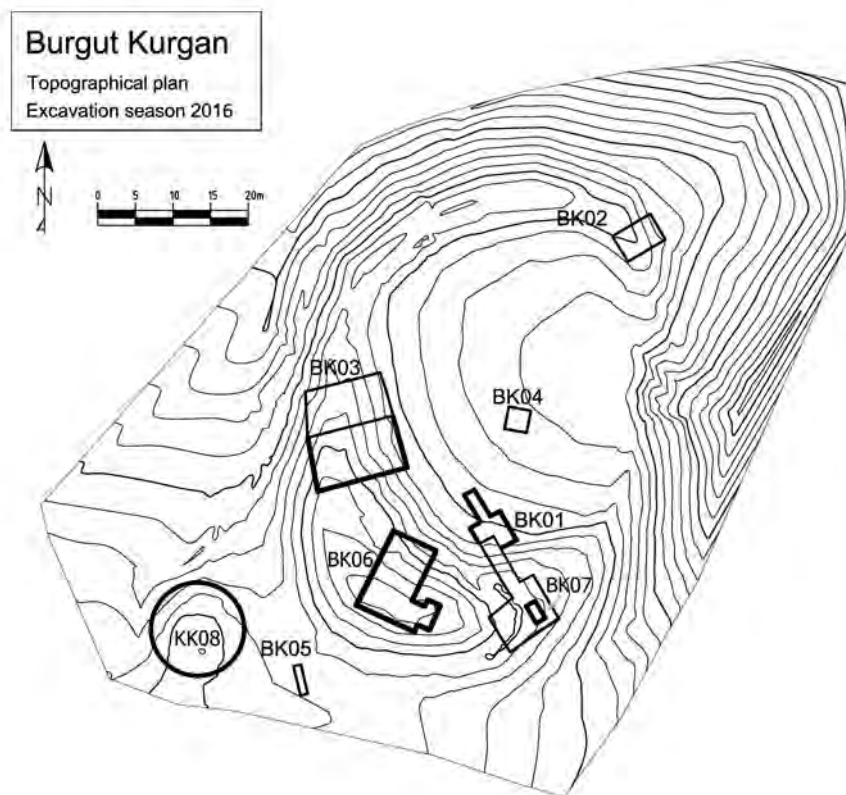


Fig. 1: Burgut Kurgan. Topographical plan and outlines of trenches excavated in 2015 (thin line) and 2016 (bold line).

TRENCH BK01

The majority of last year's trench BK01 was left intact. Apart from opening a minor new trench BK07 in its interior (see below). Nevertheless, we enlarged it with a long narrow extension to the northwest, starting from the last 2×2 m explored last year which we extended to 4×4 m and then added another strip 2×4 m yet farther northwest.

THE RESULTS AND THEIR INTERPRETATION

The two uppermost layers were mere spits: BK2016_01_036 as the very topsoil included numerous roots and insect nests, the following BK2016_01_042 was devoid of these bio-perturbances

but its origin has, nevertheless, little to do with human activity. The great abundance of pottery in both these layers is caused by their position at the foothill from where the sherds kept sliding down driven by erosion.



Fig. 2: BK01 - intersection of constructions BK2016_01_037, BK2016_01_038 and BK2016_01_040. Photo J. Kysela.

At the very foothill a series of constructions intersect: a line of large pebbles (20–30 cm), apparently in a mudbrick bed, skirts the foothill in a SW–NE direction (BK2016_01_037 and BK2016_01_040) with two walls perpendicular to it: a very similar line of boulders to the north-west and a narrow mudbrick wall connecting it with the slope (BK2016_01_038). We had no ambition to interpret any of these constructions and their mutual relation due to the limited extent of the trench. Moreover, the layers delimited by these constructions (BK2016_01_039 in the southern corner, BK2016_01_043 in the north-west and BK2016_01_043 in the north-east), were so shallow and therefore so quickly dried-out that they offered very few clues to any considerations. All of them were rich in pottery finds (for the reasons explained above), BK2016_01_043 moreover, contained more mudbrick debris than the others, probably resulting from the collapse of BK2016_01_040 farther southeast.

The line of stones in the direction SE–NW ends rather abruptly after a little more than one meter (**Fig. 3**) suggesting that this construction was either just a buttress intended to stabilize the main northeast-southwest wall or a part of a construction, only the southern part of which survived.

Due to the lack of time and manpower, we could not test these hypotheses over the entire surface of the trench and we only executed a small test pit (2×0.6 m) across the northernmost part of the trench in order to verify if the stone construction continued this far and at what depth the virgin soil lay. Two spits were excavated, both pulverous aeolic deposits: BK2016_01_045 and BK2016_01_046 beneath it. The latter – although lying directly on the virgin soil (BK2016_01_049) – was light grey in colour (which is very unusual: other layers in such a position on the site are ochre) and contained numerous white calcareous dots, bone fragments and (once again unusually) a copious number of sherds. These unusual characteristics of the layer might support the idea that the centre of the settlement may once have been the bottom of a temporary water reservoir.

Most surprisingly, however, the layer BK2016_01_046 covered a post-hole (pit/fill: BK2016_01_047/048; >20×30 cm, d. 25 cm) dug into the virgin soil BK2016_01_049.



Fig. 3: BK01 - northwestern part of the trench excavated in 2016.
Photo J. Kysela.

It seems, therefore, that all the structures which once may have been present in the settlement centre are probably all gone apart from a few stubs. The hope of getting any understanding of this part of the site from the (unexpected) potentially preserved dug-out features would probably be overoptimistic.

TRENCH BK07

This was a narrow trench (4×1 m) cut across the stone wall in trench BK01 with the intention to obtain a section through the wall in order to explore its inner construction and the strata onto (or into) which it was built (including the question of whether the present stone wall was preceded by another construction with a comparable function). The excavation was carried out by a series of simple spits. The trench was located intentionally in the place where the wall was somewhat damaged by soil subsidence but also where two parts of the wall meet, each built with a different construction method (a solid boulder wall in the west vs. a wall made of two stone faces in the east: cf. STANČO *et al.* 2015, 91). Apart from the purpose of the section itself we therefore hoped to obtain more information about this ‘architectural stitch’ which was very unclear due to the wall damage. These hopes remained, however, unfulfilled – the connection between both wall portions was too damaged and could not be clearly made out.

The cut itself descended ca 1.6 m below the preserved top of the wall. The preserved height of the wall from this point to its foundations was 0.8–1 m. In neither of the wall portions have we identified any clues of a more complex construction history – the wall has a single phase and does not seem to have been preceded by another similar structure being built directly on the virgin soil.

The two wall portions differed slightly in terms of their inner construction (**Fig. 4**). In the two-faced wall, the foundation was constituted by an orderly horizontal layer of mid-size pebbles (ca. 20–30 cm) packed in clay, while the base of the solid (boulder) wall was made up of big boulders (ca. 60 cm) often set vertically. This finding is of relative relevance because such vertically set big boulders were present also in the foundation of BK2016_06_002, i.e. a wall with two faces (see below). As mentioned above, we were not able to describe precisely the connection between these two wall portions; nevertheless, based on these discoveries we have no reason to doubt any more that they were basically created contemporarily and functioned as a single unit.

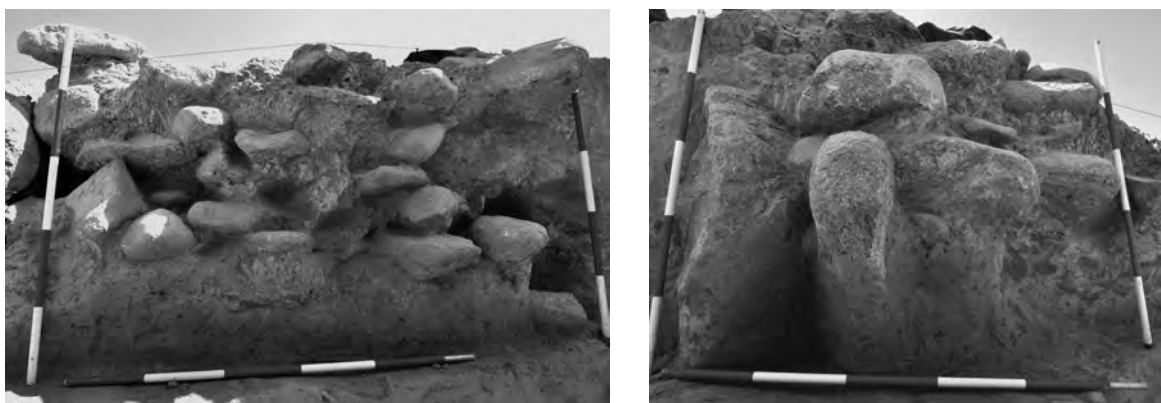


Fig. 4: BK07 – southwestern (left) and northeastern (right) section through the stone wall.
Photo J. Kysela.

TRENCH BK06

The trench BK06 was newly open at the highest point of the settlement (the so called micro-citadel). Unlike the trenches BK01 and BK02 excavated in the previous season, in which the objective was to establish the elementary chronology of the site and the basic relation between the stone wall and the architecture in its interior, in BK06 the main aim was that of 1) uncovering at least one entire settlement unit, and 2) finding out if the elevated position of this place – the highest point of the settlement – is due to a thicker stratigraphy (i.e. more phases) or if there is any apparent qualitative difference vis-à-vis the rest of the settlement.

The excavation began with a trench of 4×8 m perpendicular to the stone wall and covering a narrow strip of land in front of the wall, the wall itself, and by the majority of its surface the settlement levels behind the wall. In order to follow the uncovered structures and to capture their complete plan, the original trench was later enlarged by 2 m to the southeast and by 3 m to the northeast, reaching the final dimensions of 11×6 m. Moreover, two other shallow trenches (3×2 m each) were then added to the south-eastern corner of the trench in order to trace the crown of the stone wall (**Fig. 5**).



Fig. 5: BK06. Overall plan of the 2016 excavation. Drawing by J. Havlík.

THE RESULTS AND THEIR INTERPRETATION

Abandonment

As is the case everywhere in the site, the topmost levels were made up by wind-driven deposits, dried out and solidified by the roots of steppe plants (BK2016_o6_001) followed by a very soft purely aeolic layer (BK2016_o6_004) present mainly in the part of the trench far from the

stone wall and reaching here up to 40–50 cm of thickness. These layers clearly reflect natural processes following the site's abandonment. It should be realised, however, that at one point, at least, a fireplace (BK2016_06_025) was identified within the layer BK2016_06_004 accompanied by two big sized Yaz I sherds. Naturally, the fireplace could have been made by any visitor of the abandoned site over the last 3,500 years and the sherds could have been brought there by erosion or by the user of the fireplace, the situation is anyway worth mentioning.

Under these layers lay a hard light grey almost sterile layer BK2016_06_005 covering the entire extent of the trench and separating the abandonment horizon from the destruction/occupation horizon beneath it.

The stone wall and its two (?) phases

The stone wall encircling the settlement does not constitute a phase on its own, its use being contemporary with the occupation horizon (cf. the following chapter). Nevertheless, we deal with it separately here due to its very specific character.

The portion of the wall uncovered in trench BKO6 measures ca. 9 m, running almost straight in the western and central part of the trench and then turning rather abruptly to the northeast. It is composed of three parts differing from each other by elementary construction characteristics. The western part BK2016_06_002 (uncovered length 410 cm) is constituted by two faces made up by a single line of stones while the space of roughly 130 cm between them is filled with earth. There are two transverse rows of stones binding both faces together; the western one runs perpendicular to both faces while the more eastern one makes rather the impression of both faces converging into a circular termination. The distance between these two transverse elements is ca. 270 cm; another similar element is visible at the same distance further northwest, outside the trench. In the westernmost part of the trench there is a gap in the stones of the front face probably due to erosion.

On the contrary, the portion of the wall in the opposite, southeastern part of the trench (BK2016_06_031; uncovered length ca. 1.5 m, width ca. 1.4 m) was built of thickly packed stones as is the case also e.g. in trench BKO3. Between these two portions the situation is confusing. The western wall seems to continue with the same building technique but the workmanship is clearly different (different sizes of stones, messier construction) and only the frontal face could be clearly identified; the inner face was either completely absent or only a chaotic heap of stones could be found in its place. This part of the wall (termed BK2016_06_043) is roughly 280 cm long and terminates in a similar rounded transverse wall to BK2016_06_002. Between BK2016_06_043 and BK2016_06_031 there is a gap of a little more than one meter with a big flat stone in the centre.

The first observation concerns the fact that in BKO6 the wall was built by two different construction techniques. This is the same situation as in BKO1 including the employed techniques. When interpreting the latter case, we presented elaborate hypotheses as to why the lighter two-face construction may have been adopted in the specific spot (STANČO *et al.* 2015, 91–93, 95). Re-encountering the same situation of mixing the techniques also in BKO6 makes us soberer in this respect: here the light two-face wall is employed on completely stable ground and moreover in the part of the settlement perimeter most exposed to attack. The two techniques were apparently used interchangeably without obeying any particular technical or polemological constraints. The construction technique will change again somewhere in the 15 m dividing BKO6 and BKO3 where a solid (boulder) wall is used once again.

When discussing possible interpretations of the single architectural detail of the wall, we have to be very cautious and remember that the excavations brought to light mostly only the crown of the wall. The outside face (layer BK2016_06_003) has not been excavated at all, the

inside was uncovered only in the case of BK2016_06_002 while in the case of BK2016_06_043 the attempts to detect the inner wall face were unsuccessful on the short stretch accessible for excavation. The stone heap at the end of BK2016_06_043, the short piece of BK2016_06_031, as well as the gap between them were only brought to light by extremely shallow trenches. Keeping these precautions in mind, the uncovered situation might suggest the presence of a gate. Hypothetically we may imagine a rather broad gateway through the entire gap between BK2016_06_002 and BK2016_06_031 which was at a certain moment narrowed down by the construction of the rather makeshift wall BK2016_06_043 (without the inner face) to the narrow passage. If it actually were so, however, we cannot overlook that the flat stone in the passage – a suggestive threshold indeed – lies at a much higher level (in terms of both altitude and stratigraphy) than the occupation horizon (see below). Accepting this hypothesis would necessarily mean the introduction of another horizon of which only little remained.

The occupation horizon and its destruction

After removing the layer BK2016_06_005, the destruction horizon of the settlement came to light. Three rectangular rooms delimited by mudbrick walls are aligned along their shorter axis perpendicular to the stone wall BK2016_06_002. These rooms will be termed I, II and III in order from the stone wall to the settlement interior and also descending down the slope. They are delimited by two common slightly converging walls from the northwest (BK2016_06_008=042) and southeast (BK2016_06_010=034) while separated from each other by partition walls BK2016_06_011 (between rooms I and II) and BK2016_06_009 (between rooms II and III).

We concentrated only on the interior of the identified structure leaving untouched the area west of the wall BK2016_06_008 (layer BK2016_06_006) and east of the wall BK2016_010=034 (layers BK2016_06_030, BK2016_06_035, and BK2016_06_036).

The stratigraphy and the general situation encountered in all the three rooms was very similar though with some minor variations. Rooms I and II were topped up with destruction layers consisting of fragmented mudbrick BK2016_06_012 (in room I) and BK2016_06_013 (in room II). Such a layer was less obvious in room III where it could not be clearly distinguished from BK2016_06_005. Another point worth mentioning is a rectangular platform BK2016_06_014 (ca 1.2×0.7 m) in room I. Although single bricks could not be made out, this was clearly a built construction. The most probable interpretation is that of a collapsed part of a brick wall. The remains of a suddenly and violently abandoned occupation were clearly observed in all three rooms. In rooms I and II the layers BK2016_06_012 and 013 contained great quantities of little fragmented pottery lying flat (including an entire pot apparently planted in a shallow hole BK2016_06_16 in the floor of room I), fragments of bones (otherwise very unusual in the occupation levels of the site) and clusters of charcoal (more common in room I than in room II). In room III on the other hand, occupation/destruction layers were represented by a thick layer BK2016_06_007=028 extremely rich in charcoal and other proofs of a violent fire, and – as in the other two cases – with very rich pottery finds in large fragments including (almost) entire vessel profiles. The finds, moreover, included several stone saddle querns (see **Tab. 1**), one stone mortar, a stone pestle and a blade made of chipped stone. In the eastern part of room III a fireplace was discovered constructed of pakhsa and stones (BK2016_06_038-039).



Fig. 6: BK06. The clay-coated floor BK2016_06_015 in room I. Photo J. Kysela.

Each of the destruction horizons rested directly on a floor and it was in contact with these floors that most of the finds were discovered. In the rooms I and II these floors (BK2016_06_015 in room I and BK2016_06_017 in room II) were clearly constructed with a fine clay coating. The situation was slightly different in room III where the transition between the burned layer BK2016_06_007 and the soft and clear BK2016_06_018 beneath it, was very gradual and all but clear-cut. The various thinner charcoal horizons were interlaid with layers of burnt earth, in several places the charcoal layer seemed to fill-in depressions in the ground. Still, it seems probable that these details do not reflect several events but rather taphonomic processes following a single conflagration. The circulation level in room III was indicated by several hard trodden spots but it does not seem to have been constructed as in the other two rooms.

The difference between the floor of rooms I and II on the one hand and room III on the other hand is clear also from their substructure: while BK2016_06_018, i.e. the base of the floor in room III, is a naturally deposited level, in rooms I and II the clay coated floors rested upon thickly packed boulders consolidating the ground and levelling the slope into a veritable terrace (**Fig. 7**). Level of stones BK2016_06_021 covered by a sterile levelling loess layer BK2016_06_019 in room I; both of these components excavated as a single layer BK2016_06_023 in room II. The altitude difference between the highest point of room I and the lowest point of room II is ca. 30 cm but it decreases by a constant decrement. The two rooms were therefore not built on individual stepped terraces but rather on a continuous levelled platform ca. 3 m wide.



Fig. 7: BKo6. Stone terracing levels in rooms I and II. Photo J. Kysela.

The mudbrick walls encircling and partitioning the rooms were all relatively light, all with the width of a single brick (thickness of ca. 20–30 cm). In the wall BK2016_06_011 we managed to distinguish very clearly the single bricks, in the other cases at least one or two brick contours per wall could be made out suggesting that all the walls were built of bricks of the same module (45×20–22×20–22 cm).¹ Curiously, the construction scheme of the wall BK2016_06_011 (**Fig. 8**) lacks any bond between the mudbricks which are simply put on top of each other with joints running continuously through the entire height of the wall. Unlike other constructions in the site, this wall brings little honour to its builder's skills and wit. The wall BK2016_06_027 is particular due to its arched shape.

The relation between the levelling stone layer and the walls is most important but also curious: the construction of the stone layers in rooms I and II is clearly posterior to the construction of the wall BK2016_06_011 partitioning the two rooms (**Fig. 9**) and also to BK2016_06_009 between room II and III as well as the southeastern SW–NE walls BK2016_06_027 and _010. The walls stand directly on the ground while the stones creep up their foot. It should also be mentioned that the stones constituting the levelling layer in room I (BK2016_06_021) and those of the stone wall (BK2016_06_002) merge into a single unit. The contemporaneity of the levelling layers with the stone wall and their – immediate – posteriority (=contemporaneity) with the mudbrick partition walls suggest that these constructions came to be at a single moment and made part of a single project.

¹ Note that the size of mudbricks was far from uniform or typical for the period, since bricks used for a similar purpose during the first phase of the Kuchuktepa site in nearby Ulanbulaksay measured 50×30×8 cm (ASKAROV – AL'BAUM 1979, 19).



Fig. 8: BK06. The mudbrick wall BK2016_06_011. Photo J. Kysela.

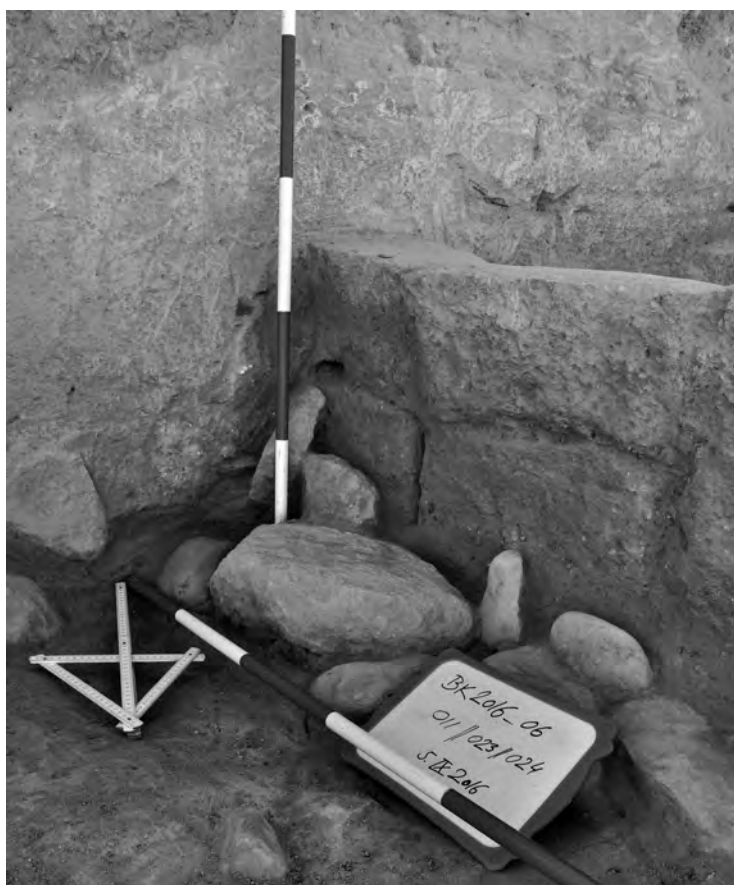


Fig. 9: BK06, room II: The stone terracing layer leaning against the wall BK2016_06_011. Photo J. Kysela.

Can these three rooms be considered a single and complete settlement unit? As to the completeness, its northeasternmost part is certainly missing, cut by the erosion of this part of the slope. We have no clues as to how much of it is missing; however, it may not be more than a few meters. What remains suggests that all the rooms were built at a single moment and functioned over the same period of time; they share common northwestern and southeastern walls while from both northwest and southeast they probably border on empty space rather than other rooms. Let us hypothetically consider them a single unit.

The rooms clearly differ from each other in various respects: the terraces in rooms I and II with their built floors contrast with room III with a trodden earthen floor. A built fireplace, numerous querns and a blade in room III contrasts with only pottery finds in the two upper rooms and only a possible fireplace in the corner of room II. Also their destruction horizons differ: the two upper rooms were sealed with collapsed mudbrick walls while in room III there were very few mudbrick fragments but a thick and black conflagration level. Room III may be tentatively interpreted as a service area, maybe a partly open shelter with a wooden roof (cf. two depressions in the floor where posts may have been standing propping up the roof) certainly with a copious presence of inflammable material... Rooms I and II with their carefully made insulated floors would be more residential quarters although they are far from spacious. Room I with its 1×3 m would be a particularly claustrophobic place. One more point to mention is the absence of any apparent doorway between the rooms. While the gap between walls BK2016_06_008 and BK2016_06_042 might give access to room III from the northwest, there is no obvious way how to get from there (or anywhere else) to rooms II and I.

The ‘pseudo-virgin soil’ and the first human (?) presence

The stratigraphic sequence under the floors and their substructures consists of only two layers: the anthropized loess BK2016_06_020=024=026 and the virgin soil BK2016_06_041. The ‘anthropized loess’ (BK2016_06_020 in room III, BK2016_06_024 in room II and BK2016_06_026 in room I) is a very fine ochre loess of seemingly natural origin; it contains, nevertheless, relatively numerous charcoal, soil concretions similar to mudbrick fragments, animal bones (otherwise almost absent in the site) as well as occasional fragments of pottery. Its thickness is up to 50 cm and it is on its top that all the structures – including the stone wall – are built. It is very similar to a layer identified the previous season between the occupation horizon and the virgin soil in trench BK01 and it clearly marks the first sign of a human presence in the site. Understanding the nature of this presence would require analysis of this layer by a geologist.

The natural relief

In all the three rooms small-scale trenches were cut in this layer in order to reach the level of the veritable virgin soil. Aligning their altitudes with the altitude of the virgin soil measured in other trenches (BK05 outside the settlement; BK06; the northern end of BK01; and BK04) we were able to reconstruct very preliminarily the original natural profile of the ground as well as (with less certitude) the terrain configuration at the moment when the stone wall was built (**Pl. 3/1**).

SMALL FINDS

The pottery excavated in Burgut Kurgan in 2016 corresponds well in all details with the assemblage studied in the previous season (LHUILIER 2016) and also the non-ceramic finds (cf. **Tab. 1**) included – just like in 2015 – almost exclusively stone tools (saddle querns and pestles).

One exception is a small alabaster disc, partially drilled through its centre. This probably semi-product of an alabaster bead is a rare testimony of the fact that the inhabitants of Burgut Kurgan had also other things on their minds than simple subsistence.

Throughout the 2016 excavation season we sampled systematic excavation units and other situations with the potential for preserving botanical macro remains. We also collected samples for C14 analysis (cf. **Tab. 1**). These analyses are now under way.

CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVE

In trench BKO6 we succeeded in the original aim of uncovering a single settlement unit. This was a series of three functionally complementary rooms apparently making part of a complex construction project including – apart from the rooms themselves – also the terracing of the slope and first and foremost building the stone wall encircling the entire settlement. From the point of view of stratigraphy and construction history, the situation in BKO6 turned out to be – contrary to our expectations – simpler than in BKO1 and BKO3 excavated last year: Only a single settlement horizon was ascertained. The only hint at a more complex story could come from the stone wall where we hypothesised a gate with potentially two construction phases. We hope to verify or exclude this hypothesis by excavation in the next – last – season of the site's exploration.

A similarly simple settlement unit was uncovered in the 1970s by Askarov and Al'baum at the site of Kuchuktepa, and documented as the first phase of this settlement development. Three successive rooms on a north-south axis, with an additional narrow one in the eastern part, were built on an elevated platform ca. 4 m high, and encircled by a fortification wall (ASKAROV – AL'BAUM 1979, 19). The narrow room no. 4 at Kuchuktepa, closely resembling our Room I in the trench BKO6, was interpreted by the excavators as space for unspecified economic activities, although storage purposes would be more appropriate given the space constraint. Generally, however, the settlement unit at Kuchuktepa was much more spacious compared to Burgut Kurgan, covering an area of more than 60 sq m (ASKAROV – AL'BAUM 1979, 19). Regarding the (rather poor) construction techniques and visual similarity, an excellent analogy seems to be represented by a more recently excavated settlement complex of the Yaz I period at Mejdatepa, Bandikhan (Surkhan Darya), which is well dated by radiocarbon analysis to the 2nd half of the 2nd millennium BC (BOROFFKA 2009, 142, Abb. 17). The rooms here are symmetrically distributed on both sides of a central corridor that opens into a courtyard (BOROFFKA 2009, 136–137, Abb. 4).

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Site	Sector	Excavation unit	No.	Object type	Material	Dimensions (mm)
BK	o	o	1	Stone	Stone	69×125×80
BK	o	o	2	Pestle	Stone	86×103×71
BK	o	o	3	Pestle	Stone	122×99×55
BK	o	o	4	Saddle quern	Stone	163×181×85
BK	o	o	5	Saddle quern	Stone	144×125×56
BK	o	o	6	Stone	Stone	85×108×51
BK	o	o	7	Stone	Stone	204×71×72
BK	1	o	1	Saddle quern	Stone	151×130×86
BK	1	o	2	Saddle quern	Stone	116×134×65
BK	1	42	1	Pestle	Stone	61×67×29
BK	1	44	1	Stone tool	Stone	76×34×36
BK	1	47	1	Stone tool	Stone	79-81×120×33
BK	6	o	1	Bead semiproduct	Alabaster	d. 14×w. 2.5
BK	6	1	1	Saddle quern	Stone	l.180×w.165×h.40
BK	6	1	2	Saddle quern	Stone	w.220×t.460×l.(cons)90
BK	6	1	3	Pestle	Stone	170×120×60
BK	6	4	1	Saddle quern	Stone	190×154×57
BK	6	7	1	Archaeobotanical sample	Soil	
BK	6	7	2	Archaeobotanical sample	Soil	
BK	6	7	3	Archaeobotanical sample	Soil	
BK	6	7	4	Carbon	Carbon	
BK	6	7	5	Archaeobotanical sample	Soil	
BK	6	7	6	Archaeobotanical sample	Soil	
BK	6	7	7	Stone tool	Stone	151×67×68
BK	6	7	8	Stone tool	Stone	142×81×46
BK	6	7	9	Stone tool	Stone	154×81×74
BK	6	7	10	Stone tool	Stone	83×78×58
BK	6	7	11	Chipped blade	Silex	42×14×4
BK	6	7	12	Stone Pestle	Stone	54×108×69
BK	6	7	13	Stone tool	Stone	28×41×15
BK	6	7	14	Saddle quern	Stone	138×142×71
BK	6	7	15	Stone tool	Stone	174×127×31
BK	6	12	1	Entire vessel		
BK	6	12	2	Archaeobotanical sample	Soil	
BK	6	12	3	Stone tool	Stone	130×68×49
BK	6	12	4	Stone tool	Stone	137×76×38
BK	6	14	1	Mud Bricks - archeobotan. sample	soil	
BK	6	17	1	Stone tool	Stone	130×47×40
BK	6	28	1	Pestle	Stone	119×92×21
BK	6	28	2	Mortar	Stone	179×136×68
BK	6	30	1	Pestle	Stone	78×84×44

Tab. 1: Overview of small finds from the excavations at Burgut Kurgan in 2016 (“o” in the columns “sector” and/or “excavation unit” corresponds to surface finds).

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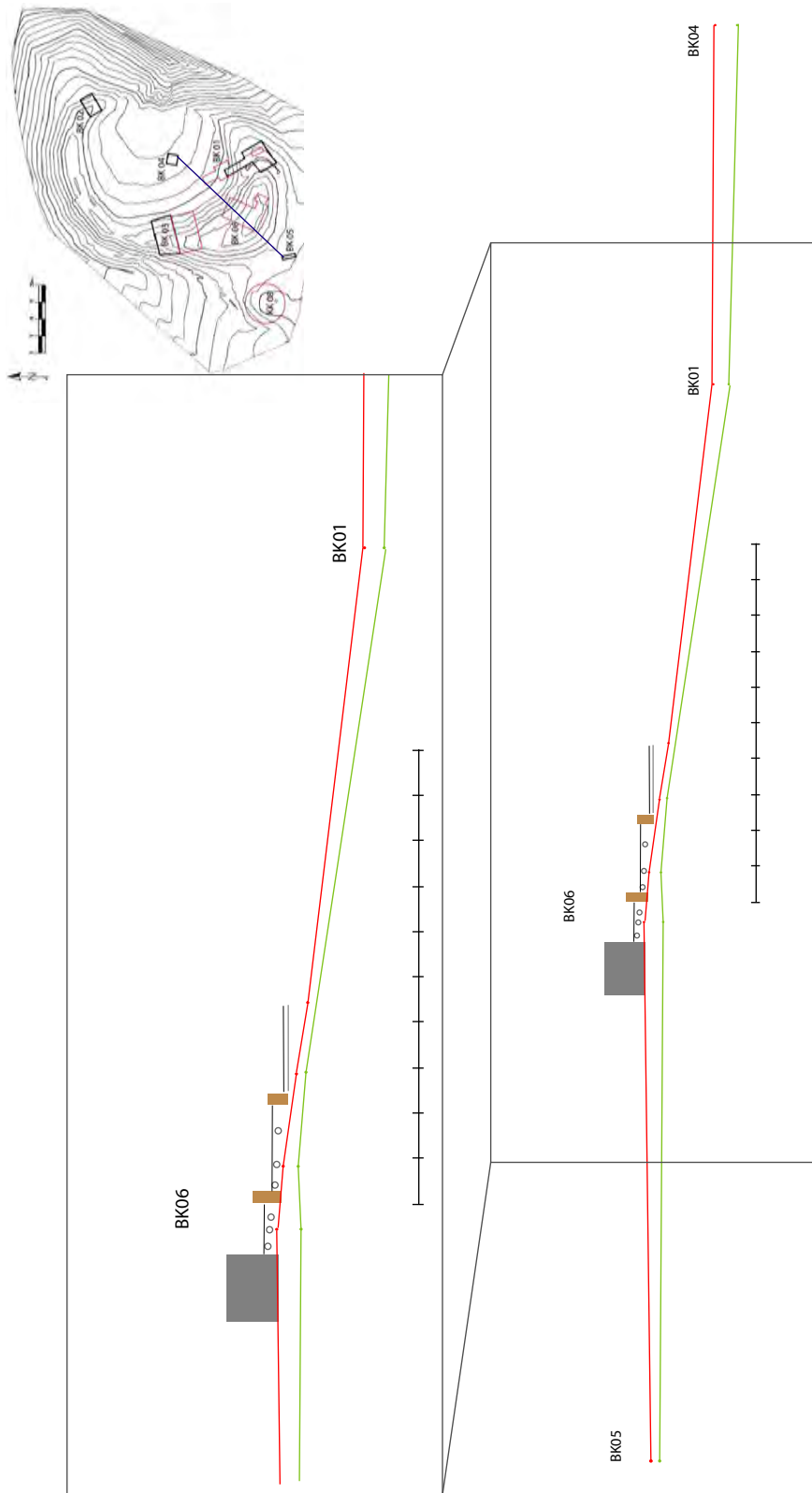
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Pl. 3/1: Approximate reconstruction of the natural relief in the site of Burgut Kurgan. Green line - reconstructed level of virgin soil; red line - reconstructed level on which the Iron Age settlement was established. Drawing J. Kysela.