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IMPACT OF TAPI PIPELINE PROJECT ON  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN AFGHANISTAN

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IMPACT OF TAPI PIPELINE PROJECT ON  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN AFGHANISTAN

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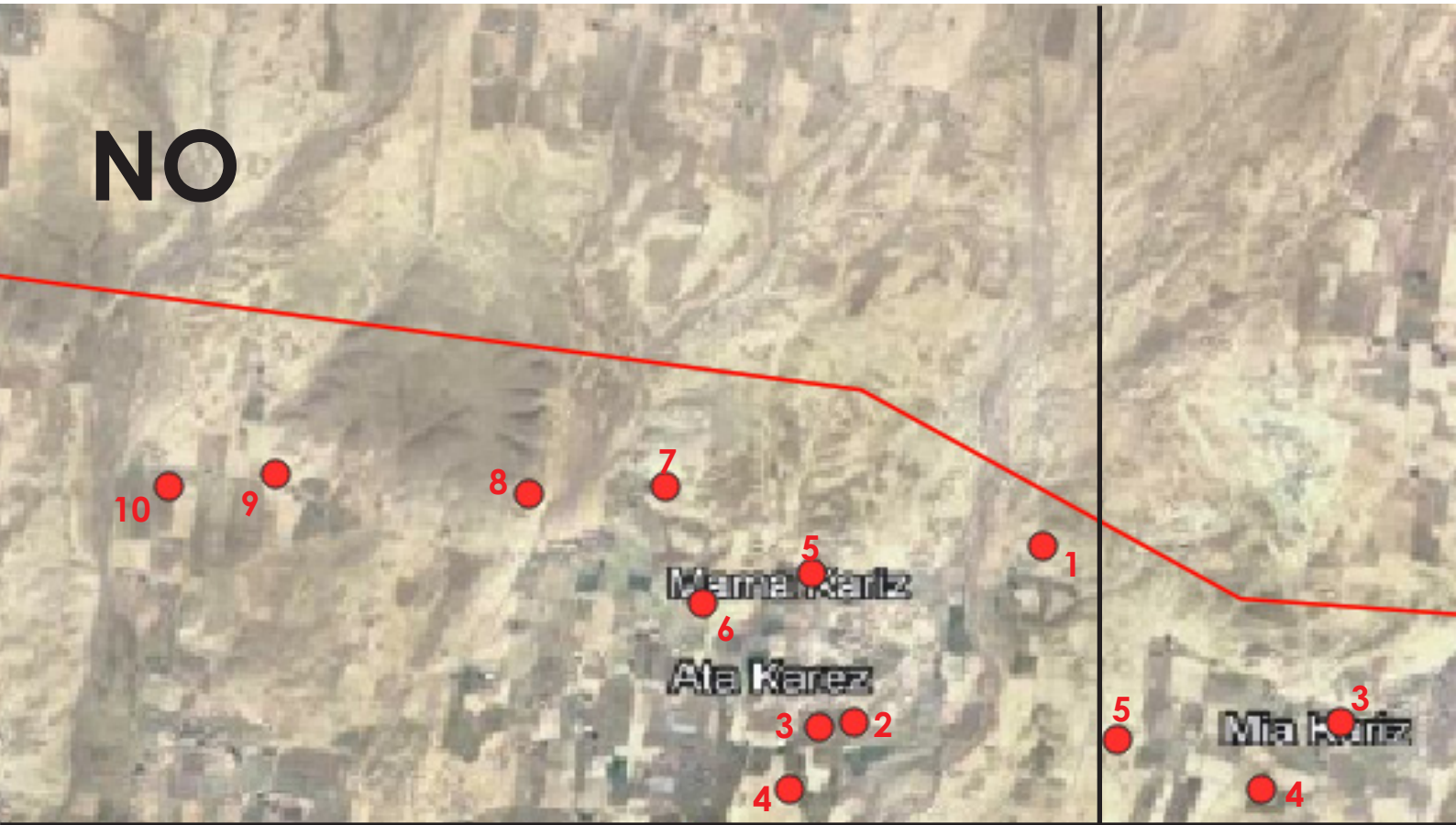
**Lynn Jabri**

Conservation Architect

with the support of

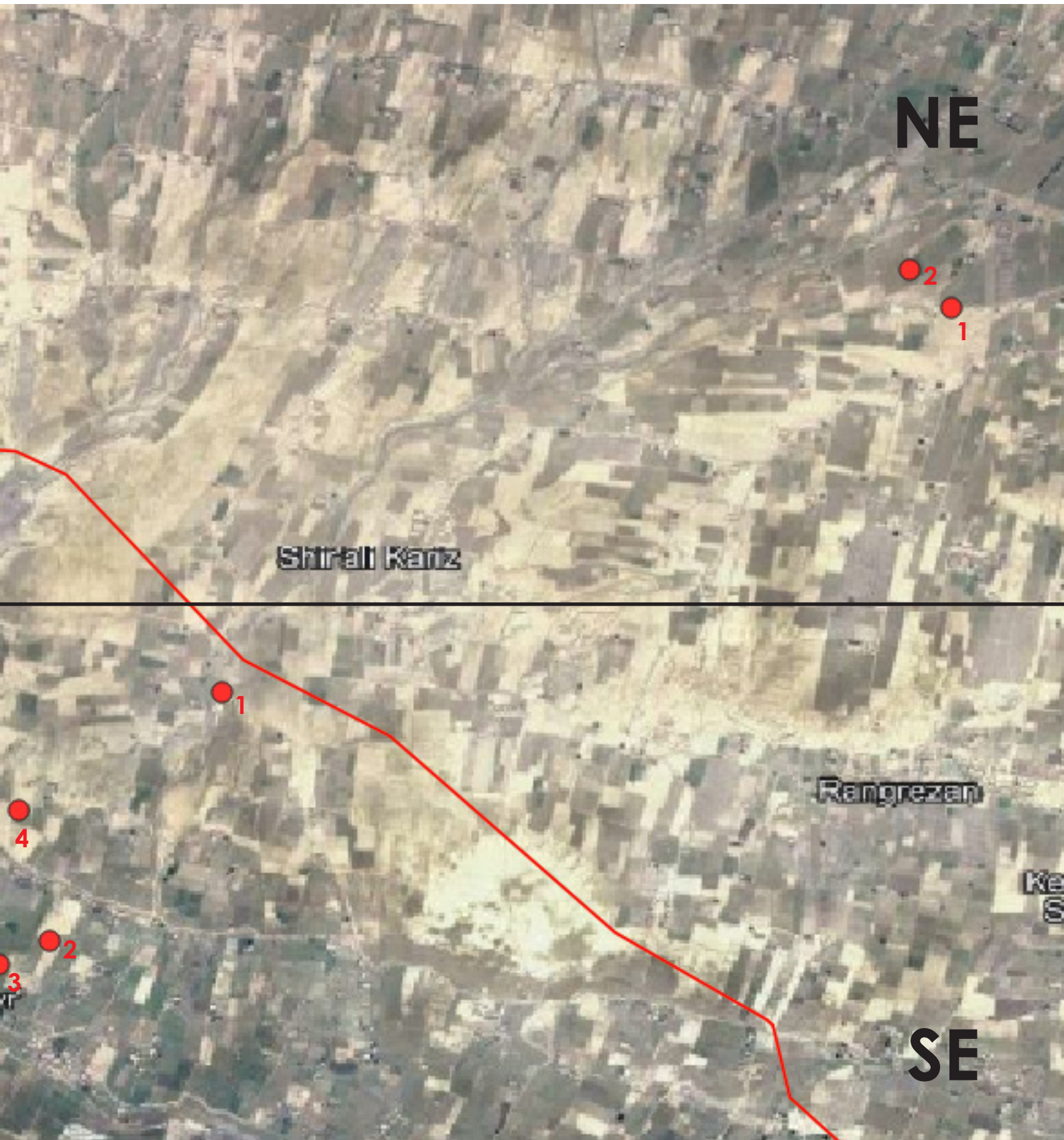
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NO



SO





NE1 31°32'28.06"N, 65°13'38.74"E

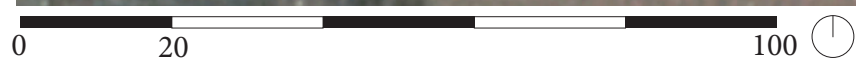
TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe

AREA (2002) 769 m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 3000m



2004



2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in the middle of agricultural land. A stream of water on the northern side of the site can be seen expanding between 2004 and 2022. There is little evidence suggesting looting or transformation to the site.



0 20 100 ⌚

2012



0 20 100 ⌚

2022

NE2 31°32'33.93"N; 65°13'31.96"E

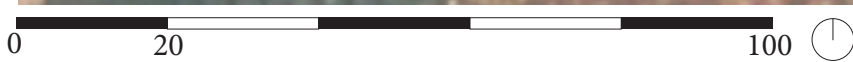
TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe

AREA (2004) 372 m<sup>2</sup> + 566m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 3100m



2004



2019



## OBSERVATION

The site is located in the middle of agricultural land and is comprised of two mounds approximately 100 meters apart. Between 2012 and 2019, the western tepe bears a new construction. The eastern tepe has been completely transformed into agricultural land.



2012



2022

NE2\* 31°32'32.05"N; 65°13'21.45"E

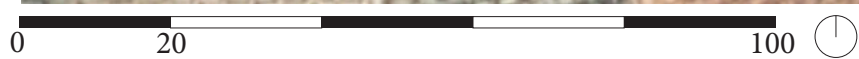
TYPOLOGY Traces of ruins

AREA (2004) 905 m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 3200m



2004



2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located 130 meters west of the previous site. We can observe the remains of a rectangular structure until 2012. New constructions have appeared between 2012 & 2019 and the land became segmented for agricultural use.



0 20 100



2012



0 20 100



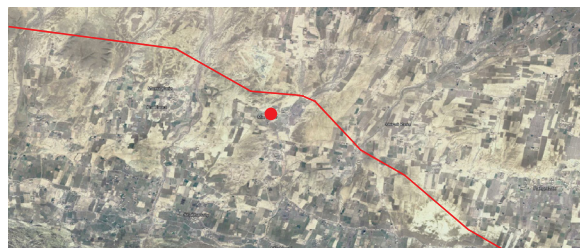
2022

NE2\* 31°32'32.05"N; 65°13'21.45"E

TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe

AREA (2022) 1550 m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 390 m



0 20 100



2004



0 20 100



2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in the middle of agricultural land, and is crossed by a road. There is little evidence suggesting looting or transformation to the site.



0 20 100



2012



0 20 100



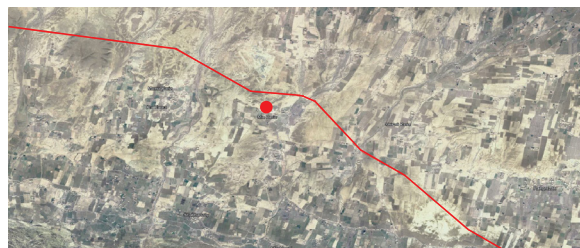
2022

NE3\* 31°32'0.79"N; 65°10'55.86"E

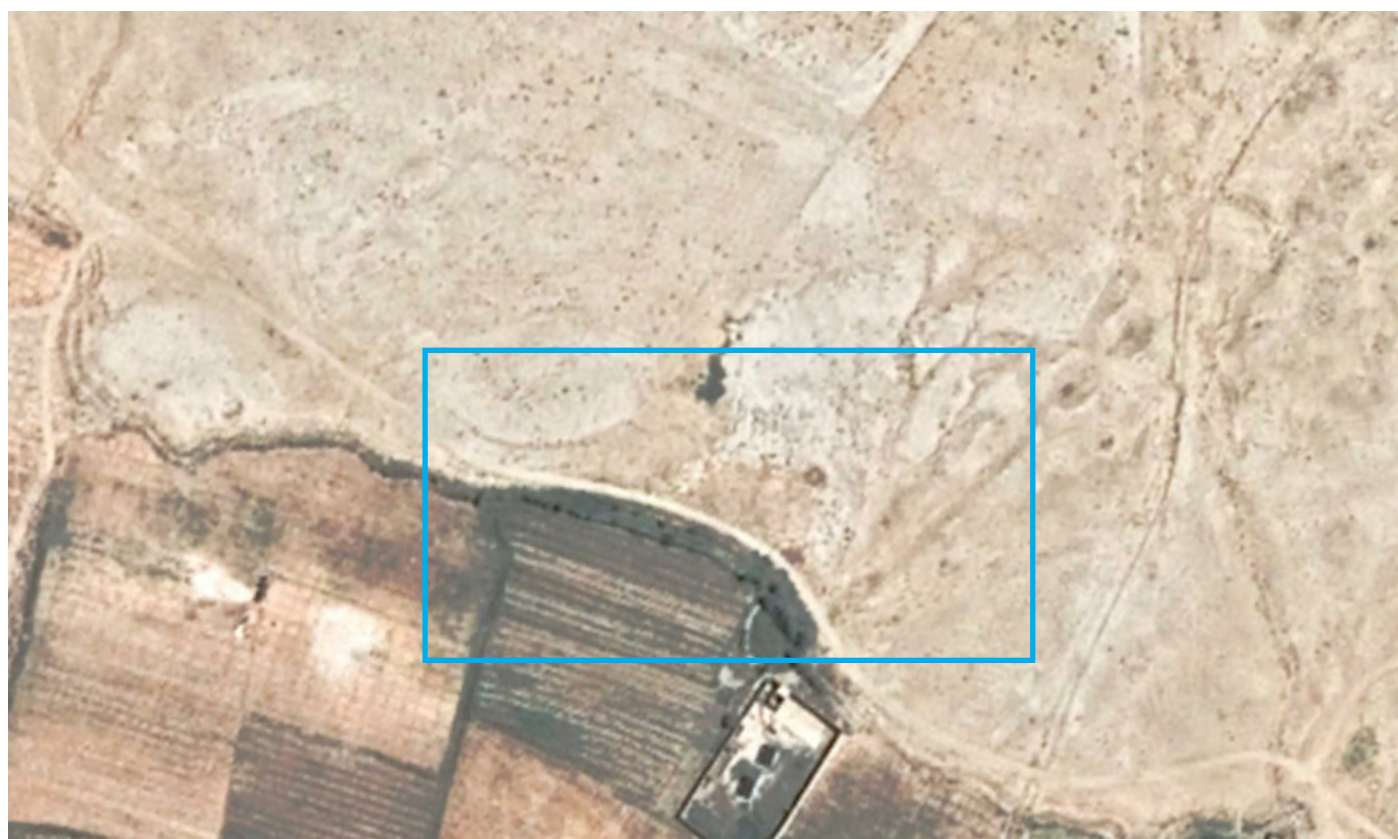
TYPOLOGY Unknown

AREA (2022) 1550 m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 230 m



0 20 100 2004



0 20 100 2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in proximity to agricultural fields. In 2004 we can observe several holes which seem to have disappeared in more recent images disproving the theory of a cemetery. A watercourse can be seen south of the site as well as major pits east of the site.



0 20 100 ⌚ 2012



0 20 100 ⌚ 2022

NE4 31°31'47.22"N; 65°10'54.10"E

TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe

AREA (2022) 7213 m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 566 m



0 20 100 ⌚

2004



0 20 100 ⌚

2019



## OBSERVATION

The site is located in the middle of agricultural land. Faint traces of vehicle tracks can be seen as of 2012. There is little evidence suggesting looting or transformation to the site.



2012



2022

NE5 31°31'53.38"N; 65°10'38.36"E

TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe

AREA (2022) 4100 m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 540 m



0 20 100 (clock icon) 2004



0 20 100 (clock icon) 2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in proximity agricultural fields & appears to be remains of a fortified structure. In 2012, a road leading up to the site is visible as well as trenches. In 2019, traces of mechanic looting are visible, the towers have disappeared, larger and additional roads can be seen. In 2022, more extensive looting can be identified: mechanic on the outside of the walls and manual inside.



0 20 100



2012

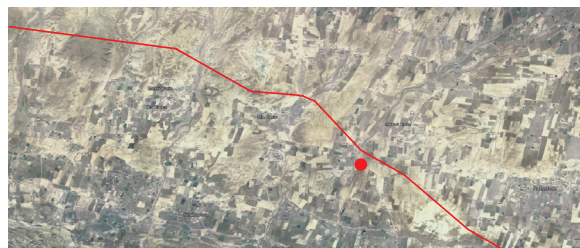


0 20 100



2022

SE1 31°31'29.77"N; 65°11'48.91"E  
TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe  
AREA (2022) 4238 m<sup>2</sup>  
DIST FROM PIPELINE 130 m



0 20 100  2004



0 20 100  2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located between a riverbed and agricultural land. There is little transformation to the site itself up until 2022, where we can observe what appears to be a ramp on the southern side of the mound which could imply heavy machinery tracks as well as small excavation pits.



0 20 100



2012



0 20 100



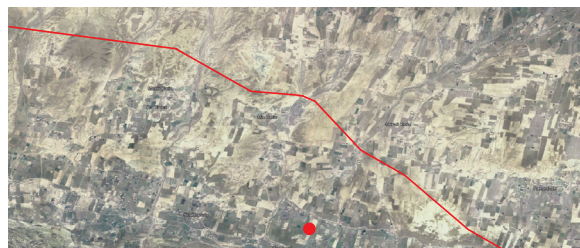
2022

SE2 31°30'52.45"N; 65°11'23.32"E

TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe

AREA (2022) 1924 m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 146 m



0 20 100 (clock icon)

2004



0 20 100 (clock icon)

2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in the middle of agricultural land. There is a narrow watercourse on its eastern side. We can observe holes that could be excavation pits. There is little evidence suggesting big scale looting or transformation to the site.



2012



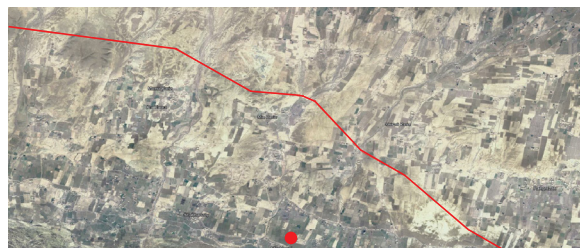
2022

SE3 31°30'49.54"N; 65°11'15.21"E

TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe

AREA (2022) 9474 m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 1621 m



0 20 100 (clock icon)

2004



0 20 100 (clock icon)

2019



## OBSERVATION

The site is located in the middle of agricultural land. it has an oblong irregular shape. In 2004 we can already observe many holes which only grow in number through time. This is a distinctive feature of afghan cemeteries.



2012



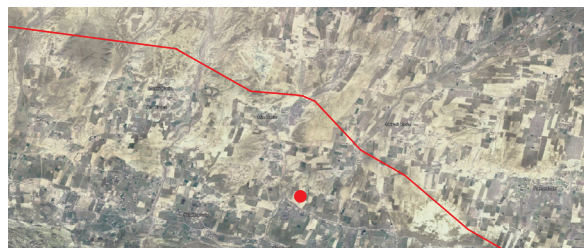
2022

SE4 31°31'12.87"N; 65°11'18.16"E

TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe

AREA (2022) 1828 m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 1084 m



2004



2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in what appears to be a non-agricultural area transformed into fields with time. Between 2012 and 2019, the site appears to have been levelled out to make way for a rectangular construction, traces of vehicle tracks can also be seen clearly in 2022.



2012



2022

SE5 31°31'38.5''N; 65°11'8.32''E  
 TYPOLOGY Unknown  
 AREA (2022) Unknown  
 DIST FROM PIPELINE 816 m



0 20 100 (clock icon)

2004



0 20 100 (clock icon)

2019

## OBSERVATION

This site is located in the middle of agricultural fields. It is unclear whether this location bears traces of historic/archaeological remains which could have been transformed into agricultural land.



0 20 100

2012



0 20 100

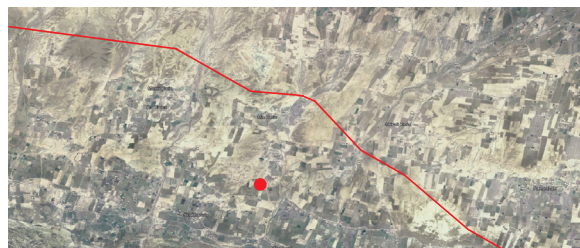
2022

SE6 31°31'16.29"N; 65°10'56.59"E

TYPOLOGY Mound + Ruins

AREA (2022) 3418m<sup>2</sup> + 5839m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 1384 m



0 20 100 

2004



0 20 100 

2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in proximity to agricultural land. We can observe remains of a fortification in 2004 which has been transformed into agricultural land by 2012, we observe a larger site near the first. By 2019 both sites are excavated, we can see multiple roads as well as trenches (irrigation systems?). In 2022 traces of mechanic looting can be seen around and south of the main structure. The second structure has been levelled, traces of manual looting can also be seen.



0 20 100 ⌚ 2012



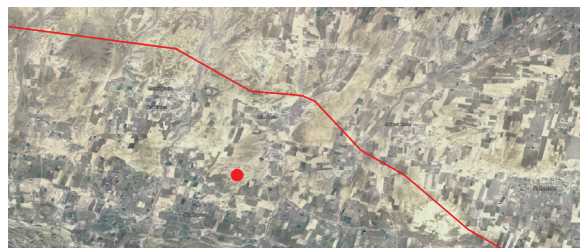
0 20 100 ⌚ 2022

SE6\* 31°31'23.28"N; 65°10'43.48"E

TYPOLOGY Structure

AREA (2022) 43 830m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 1242 m



2004



2019



## OBSERVATION

The site is located in a non agricultural area. It has an irregular rectangle shape with two structures within its walls. In 2004 the site was undiscovered, by 2012, substantial traces of excavation can be seen. In 2019 vehicle tracks and mechanic looting traces can be seen. By 2022, holes and trenches all over the site are visible.



0 40 200 ⊕

2012



0 40 200 ⊕

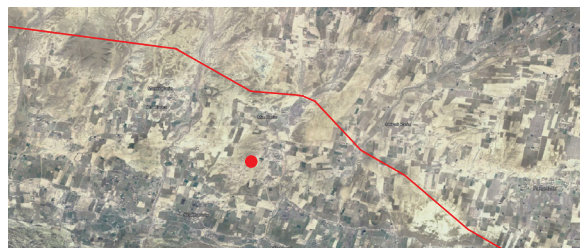
2022

SE6\*\*31°31'31.61"N; 65°10'51.19"E

TYPOLOGY Structure

AREA (2022) 3643m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 1106m



0 20 100

2004



0 20 100

2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in a non agricultural area. it is situated approximately 130 meters north east of the previous site, in 2012, the site had not been identified yet, but as of 2019, it bares similar activity to the previous site with mechanic and manual looting traces.



0 20 100



2012



0 20 100



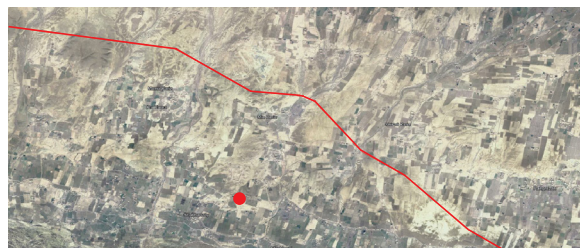
2022

SE7 31°31'9.04''N; 65°10'45.08''E

TYPOLOGY Unknown

AREA (2022) 5724m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 1808m



0 20 100



2004



0 20 100



2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in proximity to agricultural land and can be seen by 2012. There is little evidence suggesting looting or transformation to the site.



0 20 100



2012



0 20 100



2022

SO1 31°31'14.55"N; 65°10'32.81"E  
TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe  
AREA (2004) 1255m<sup>2</sup>  
DIST FROM PIPELINE 1705m



0 20 100 (clock icon) 2004



0 20 100 (clock icon) 2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in an agricultural field, next to a water stream. In 2012 a previously unrecorded road parallel to the stream can be seen, eating away a portion of the site. There is little evidence suggesting looting or transformation to the site.



0 20 100



2012



0 20 100



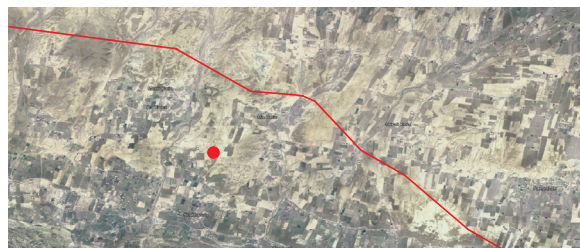
2022

SO2 31°31'34.58"N; 65°10'28.69"E

TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe

AREA (2012) 2374m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 1169m



0 20 100



2004



0 20 100



2019



## OBSERVATION

The site is located in a non agricultural area & has an irregular shape. In 2012, we start observing the development of agricultural fields south west of the site, and by 2022, traces of vehicle tracks and construction can be seen.



2012



2022

SO3 31°31'41.61"N; 65° 9'50.80"E

TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe

AREA (2004) 2369m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 1500m



0 20 100



2004



0 20 100



2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in proximity to agricultural fields. Irregular shapes seem to be emerging from the site, and vehicle tracks can be seen as early as 2012 but their number grows significantly in 2022. There is little indication to support looting or transformation to the site.



0 20 100



2012



0 20 100



2022

SO4 31°31'35.80"N; 65° 9'48.76"E

TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe

AREA (2022) 555m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 1680m



0 20

100



2004



0 20

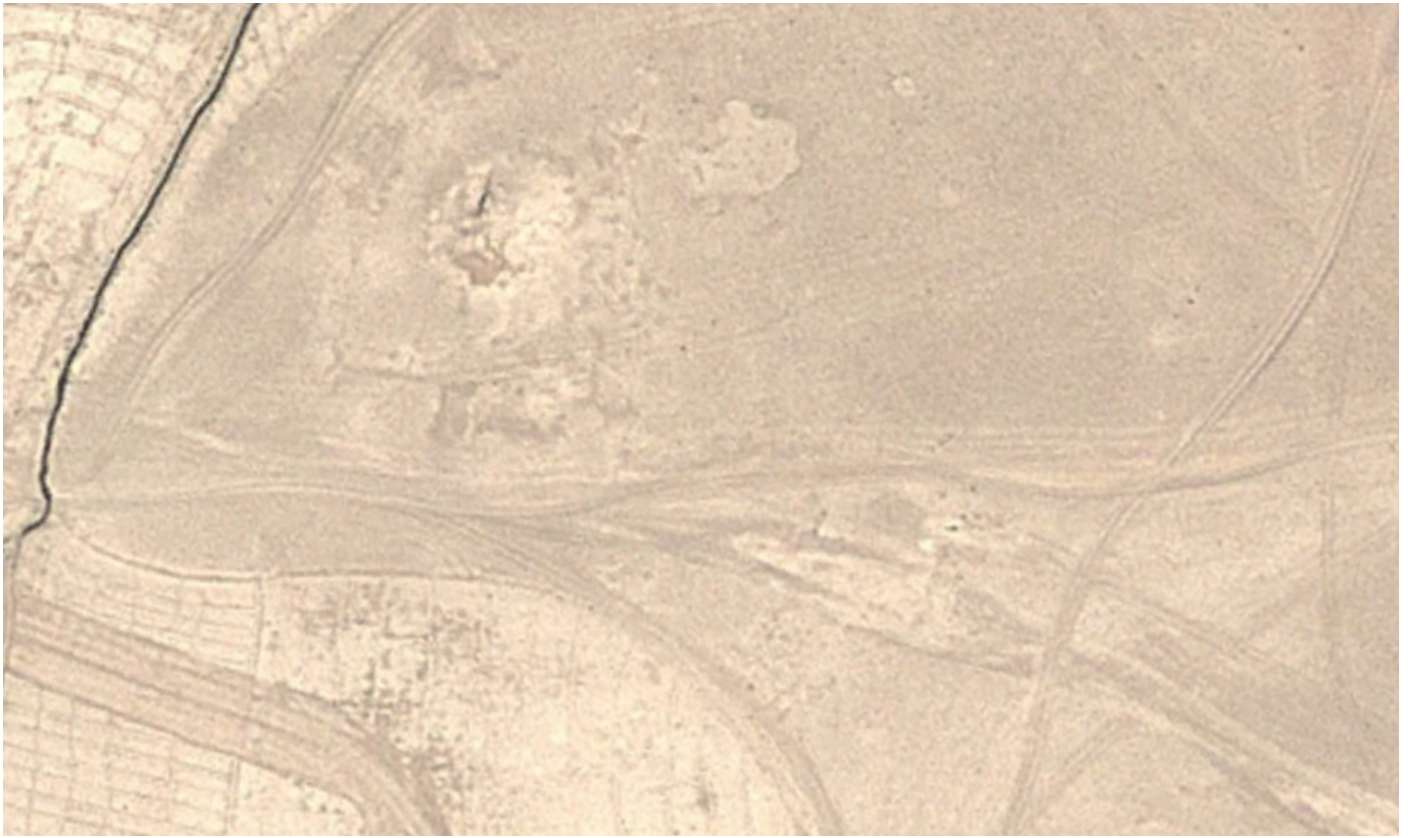
100



2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in proximity to agricultural fields close to the previous one. We can observe vehicle tracks as early as 2004 around the site and by 2022, they are greater in number.



2012



2022

SO4\* 31°31'39.39''N; 65°10'6.14''E

TYPOLOGY Structure

AREA (2022) 40769m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 1704m



0 40 200



2004



0 40 200



2019

## OBSERVATION

The area seems to encompass several sites on each side of the watercourse. It is located in close proximity to the previous site. A large construction can be seen as of 2012 resembling a factory or a military complex. By 2022, extensive manual and mechanic excavation pits can be seen in the whole area.



0 40 200



2012



0 40 200



2022

SO4\*\* 31°31'26.51''N; 65° 9'54.13''E

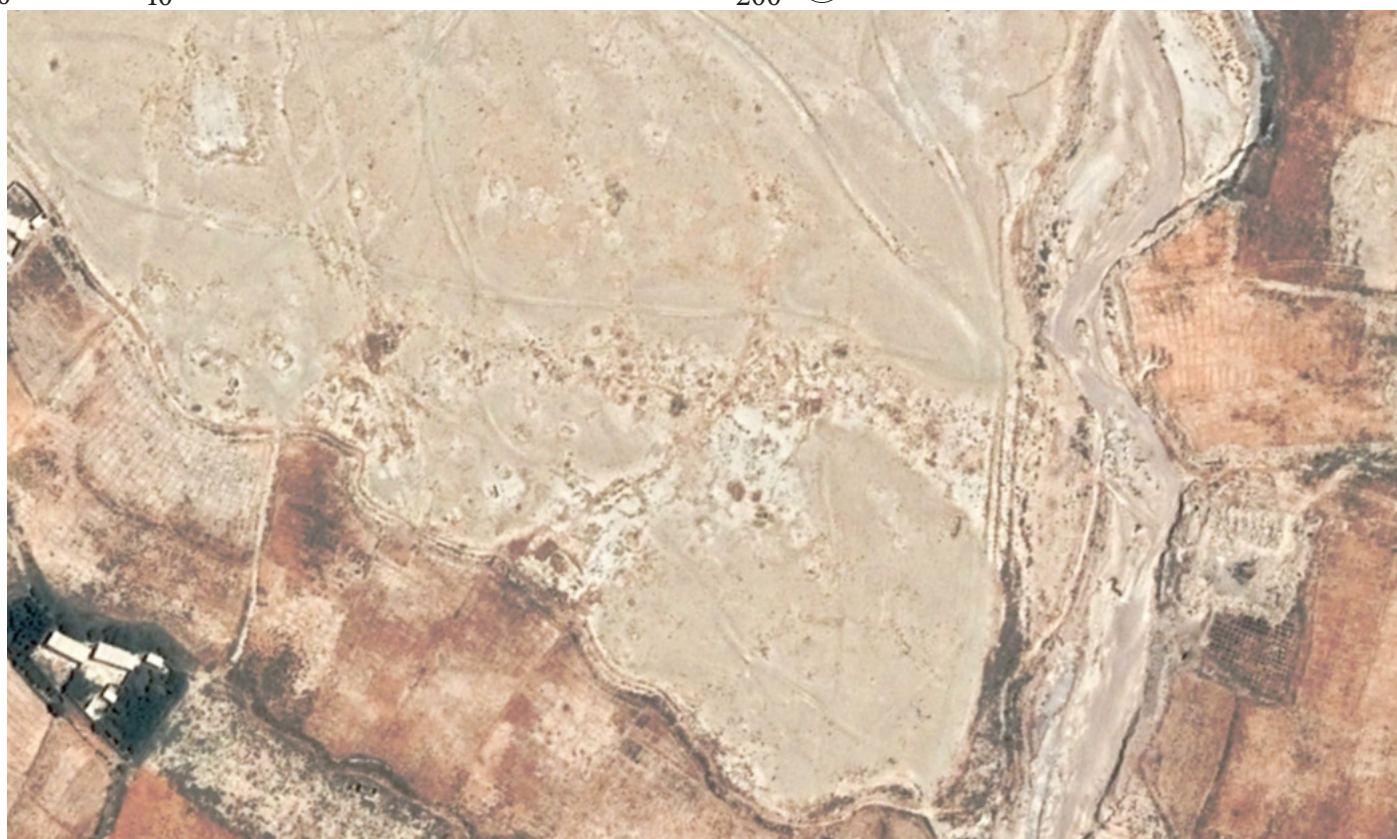
TYPOLOGY Settlements

AREA (2022) 56954m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 1828m



2004



2019



## OBSERVATION

The area seems to encompass several sites expanding over 200 meters, and is also located in close proximity to the previous sites, suggesting the area is rich in historical sites. In 2004, we can observe several aggregated structures, implying the existence of settlements. Faint traces of vehicle tracks can also be seen as of 2004. Another structure east of the river bears traces of manual excavations.



2012



2022

SO5 31°31'42.39"N; 65° 9'4.63"E

TYPOLOGY Traces of ruins

AREA (2022) 1151m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 1742m



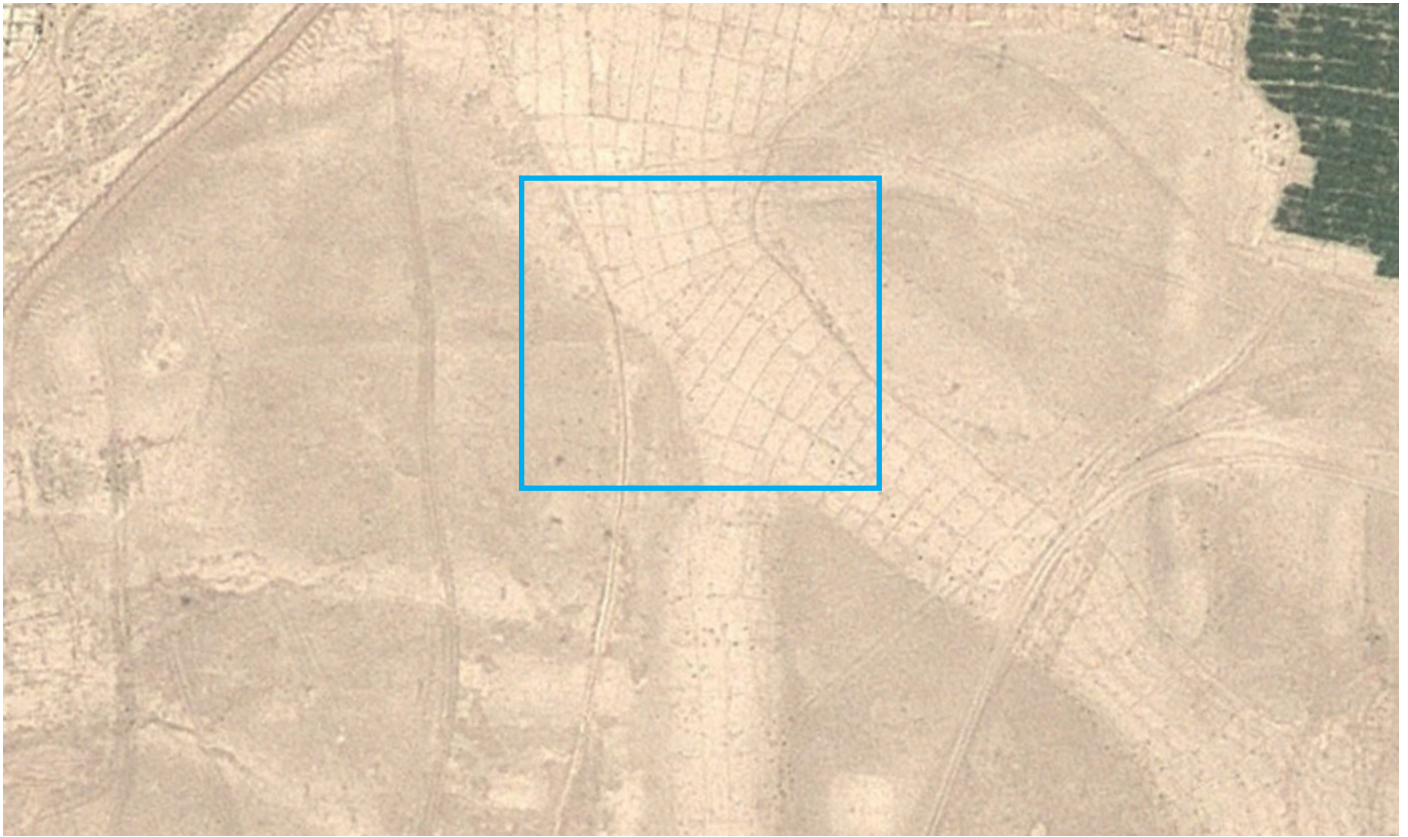
0 20 100 2004



0 20 100 2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in an arid area transformed into agricultural land and becomes visible between 2012 and 2019. It has an irregular triangle shape. As of 2019, we can already observe traces of excavation pits. By 2022, an enclosed agricultural area appears north of the site.



0 20

100



2012



0 20

100



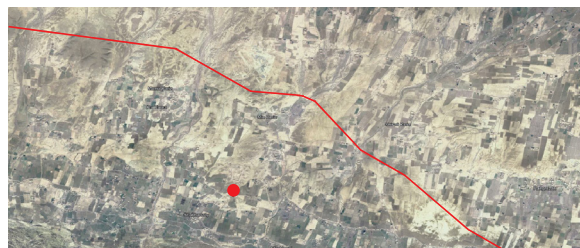
2022

SO5\* 31°32'3.28''N; 65° 8'57.65''E

TYPOLOGY Structure

AREA (2022) 6072m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 1100m



0 20 100



2004



0 20 100



2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in proximity to agricultural fields. In 2004 we can observe traces of ruins as well as a construction in an enclosed space. In 2012, another ruin can be seen just outside the irrigation route. By 2022, we observe an evolution in the site: the apparent structure seems to have lost its roofs and more ruins can be defined. It is unclear whether this site has been looted or not.



0 20 100



2012



0 20 100



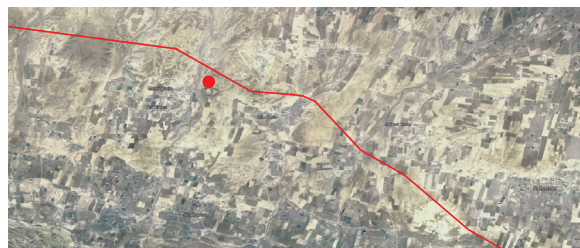
2022

NO1 31°32'14.42"N; 65°10'29.88"E

TYPOLOGY Traces of ruins

AREA (2012) 13770m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 80m



2004



2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in a non agricultural area. It is a multi structure complex distinguishable as of 2004 suggesting the presence of small settlements. There is little evidence suggesting looting or transformation.



2012



2022

NO2	31°31'54.86"N; 65°10'9.47"E
NO3	31°31'54.15"N; 65°10'5.56"E
TYPOLOGY	Mound/Tepe + Unknown
AREA (2022)	1326m <sup>2</sup> + 5204m <sup>2</sup>
TYPOLOGY	1005m + 905m



0 20 100 (clock icon) 2004



0 20 100 (clock icon) 2019



## OBSERVATION

The two sites are located in an agricultural area, with one mound and one undefined area. Small traces of activity can be seen as early as 2004 for the mound. There is little evidence suggesting looting or transformation.



0 20 100



2012



0 20 100



2022

NO4 31°31'47.22''N; 65°10'2.36''E

TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe

AREA (2012) 2053m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 1233m



2004



2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in an agricultural area. There are no apparent structures showing. In 2012, we can observe subtle traces of pits in the southern and south-eastern parts of the site. In 2022, faint vehicle tracks can be seen across the mound. There is little evidence suggesting looting or transformation to the site.



0 20 100



2012



0 20 100



2022

NO5 31°32'11.23''N; 65°10'4.56''E

TYPOLOGY Traces of ruins

AREA (2004) 3166m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 566m



2004



2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in an agricultural area. Remains of a rectangular structure can be identified in 2004, with what appears to be an enclosure expanding to the east. As of 2012, a contemporary structure can be seen, expanding until 2022. A small mound can also be seen east of the structure. There is little evidence supporting looting of the area.



2012



2022

NO6 31°32'8.10"N; 65° 9'52.46"E

TYPOLOGY Traces of ruins

AREA (2022) 4017m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 742m



0 20 100



2004



0 20 100



2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in an agricultural area. We can observe the presence of an irrigation system south east of the site. It is composed of several mounds. There is little evidence of looting or transformation to the site.



2012



2022

NO7 31°32'20.77''N; 65° 9'48.76''E

TYPOLOGY Traces of ruins

AREA (2022) 7477m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 348m



2004



2019



## OBSERVATION

The site is located in proximity to agricultural land. It has an irregular rectangle shape. In 2004, we can observe a smaller site with manual excavation pits as well as lighter areas suggesting the existence of unexcavated ruins. In 2012, vehicle tracks are more defined, passing through the main site, the smaller site now bears a enclosure on the previously excavated ruins. There are no traces of heavy looting or transformation to the site.



2012



2022

NO8 31°32'25.60''N; 65° 9'36.07''E

TYPOLOGY Settlements


AREA (2022) 71399m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 20m



0 40 200  2004



0 40 200  2019

## OBSERVATION

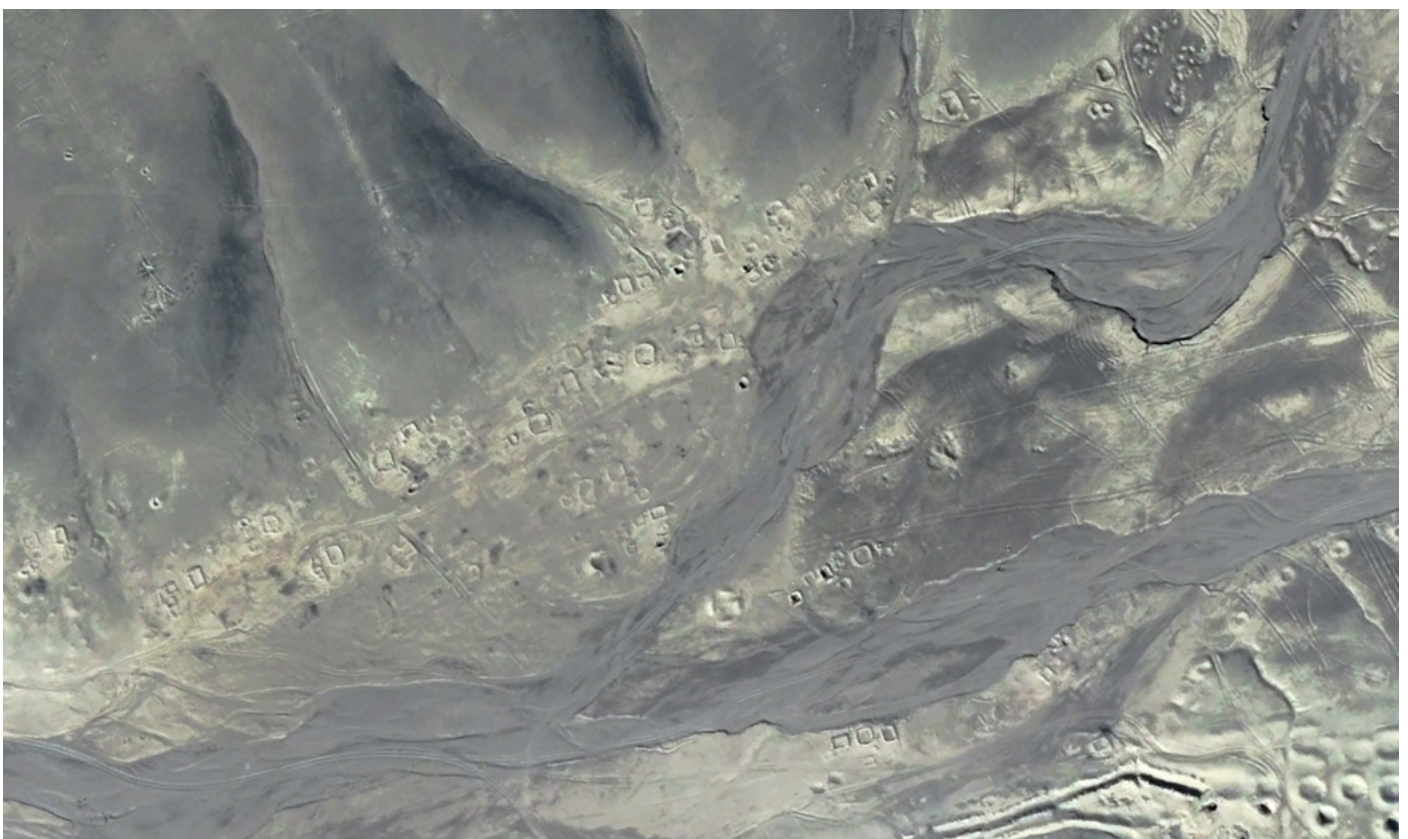
The site is located in proximity to a large watercourse, it extends over a large area and is composed of several small rectangular structures implying the presence of settlements. In 2012, the site appears to be inhabited. It is unclear to which extent the site has been looted.



0 40 200



2012



0 40 200



2022

NO9 31°32'22.16"N; 65° 9'5.66"E

TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe

AREA (2022) 2523m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 515m



2004



2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in proximity to agricultural land. In 2004, we can observe an unexcavated rectangular shaped structure alongside a longitudinal mound. By 2019, an enclosed structure appears very close to the site and an undetermined pit can be seen north west of the structure. Faint traces of vehicle tracks can also be observed as early as 2012. There is little evidence of looting or transformation of the site.



2012



2022

NO10 31°32'20.73''N; 65° 8'53.84''E

TYPOLOGY Mound/Tepe

AREA (2022) 2567m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 590m



2004



2019

## OBSERVATION

The site is located in the middle of agricultural fields, in proximity to a small body of water. It has an irregular rerectangle shape with a lowered central portion which appears to have been transformed into a small field in 2019. By 2022, we can observe traces of mechanic excavations in the elevated parts of the site.



0 20 100

2012



0 20 100

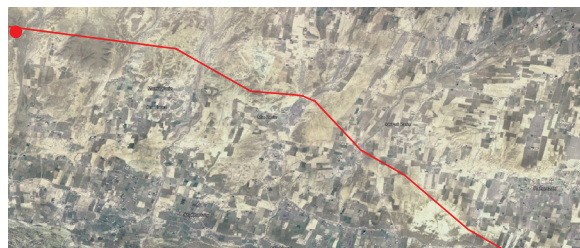
2022

NO10\* 31°32'46.56''N; 65° 8'6.54''E

TYPOLOGY Structure

AREA (2022) 2980m<sup>2</sup>

DIST FROM PIPELINE 20m



2004

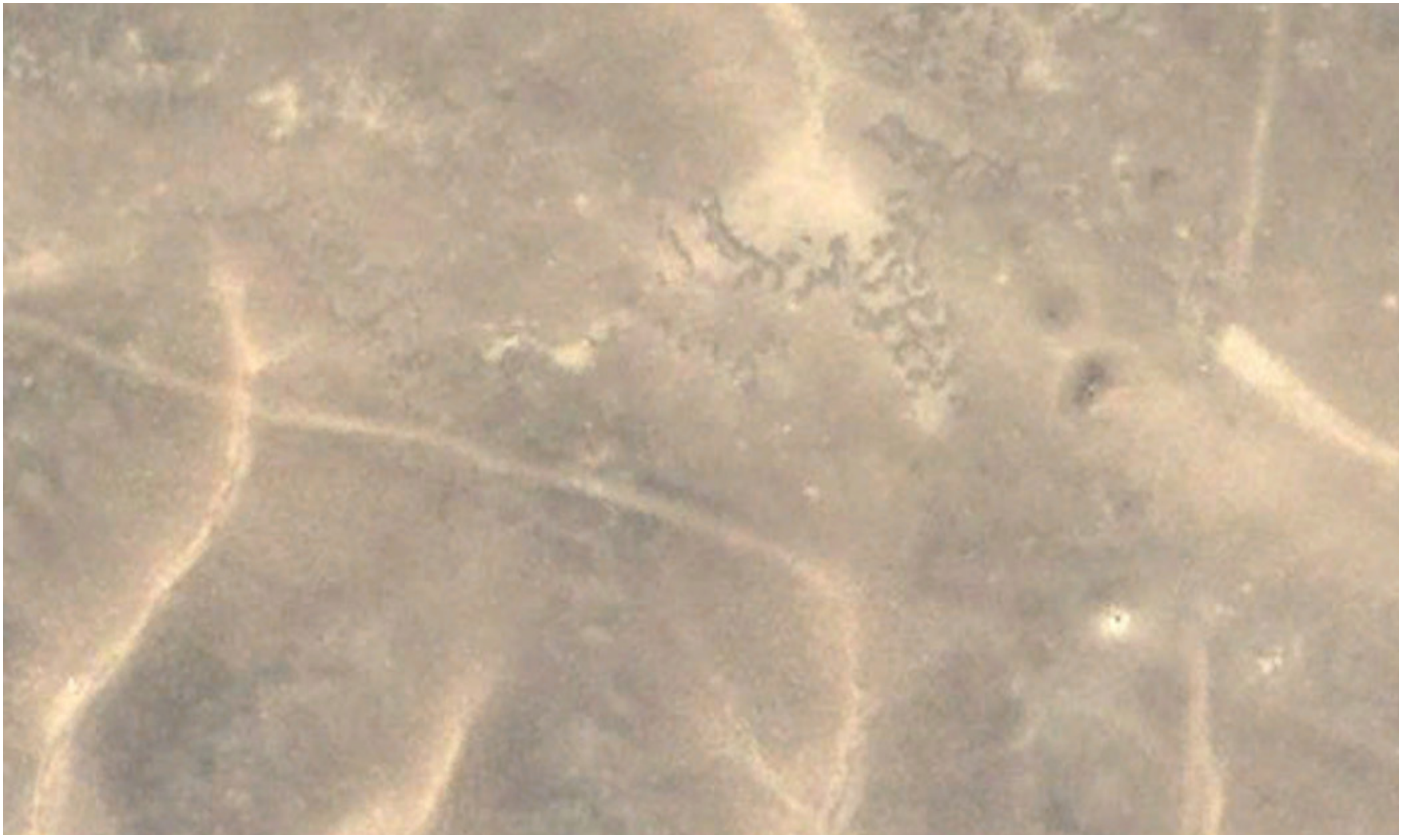


2019



## OBSERVATION

The site is located less than 50 meters from the centreline of the pipeline. Up until 2019, the site does not appear to have been excavated, but by 2022 traces of manual and mechanic excavation can be clearly observed. It is not clear whether this site is ancient with a contemporary construction.



0 20 100 ⌚

2012



0 20 100 ⌚

2022

## CONCLUSION

This report aims to underline the impact of the construction of a pipeline on the historical/ archaeological sites in the Southwestern plateau of Afghanistan. We used the DAFA (French Archaeological Delegation in Afghanistan) database and our own satellite investigation to identify 35 sites, in close proximity to the centreline of the pipeline.

Most of these sites have the distinguishable typology of a tepe, some show traces of ruins, and a couple correspond to cemeteries.

We have observed transformation to some of the sites, mainly conversion into agricultural land, but also surface and subsurface looting using manual and mechanic excavation techniques.

We would like to highlight that this document serves as a preliminary report designed as a foundation for subsequent analyses, rather than presenting expert statements on the subject.

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