Koilyk and Surrounding Area Interviews Summary (Fall, 2018)

Kazakhstan National Academy of Science

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Total cost: 40,600 KZT (approx. $110 USD)

(see appendix A for full breakdown)
Site Summaries

Note: GPS coordinates may vary slightly from those dictated in previous documentation, but map pictures and explanations will help with orientation.

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Site 1 (South side of Taskudyk, northeast of Bakaly)  
45.7025, 80.1362

First contact at **Site 1 (45.7025, 80.1362)** led to a local who knew the area well and helped us navigate to the location of the brother of a gentleman with whom we’ve had previous phone contact. This led us to another site (Site 2), where we would be the rest of the day speaking with the brother (see Site 2 for summary).

On return to Site 1 the next day, we spoke with multiple residents. Most people simply pointed to Site 1, and confirmed that things were probably found there over the years. One older gentleman
enthusiastically confirmed finding things like bowls, including metal bowls. However, he suggested that in the past, if anyone had anything of value (especially metal wares), they were sold off during the collapse of the Soviet Union and its economy.

He took us to another site at the east end of Taskudyk, “Site 1-B” (45.7067, 80.1424) (see below), currently a burial site; but it looks to be an old city structure like previous sites of interest. Along the way, he recruited other gentlemen from the village who were equal in their enthusiasm and confirmation of childhood stories of finding things.

While at Site 1-B, we were shown bricks, some animal bones, etc. All similar to foundational pieces at the original Koilyk site closest to the main road. The men recalled that in childhood, the hill was actually high enough to ski. They are unsure of the exact reason for the hill being levelled, but currently there is a graveyard in its place.
We looked around the site more; brick and pottery pieces were a common find. The men called another local person over the phone, asking him to bring us pieces of pottery he had found while digging an irrigation trench in his field, closer to original Site 1 (coordinates on the next page). We drove back into the village to meet him; he had a sizeable collection of old pottery pieces, at least one of which had signs of significant burning (see top left of picture below).
Location of irrigation trench near Site 1 (45.7008, 80.1389), runs along the south of the structure:

*trench next to Site 1 - 45.7008, 80.1389*

We were taken to the trench site, where more searching led to additional pottery pieces (and in some cases bones) such as a rim and a base:
Site 2 (north of Bakaly, centrally located amid multiple sites of interest)
45.7722, 80.0896
(Site 2 – 45.7722, 80.0896)
(zoomed; note other surrounding structures particularly in the south – one of which has been previously recorded as the “swastika” at 45.7557, 80.0901)

(zoomed more; note the two small structures southeast of the coordinate)
(also note the convergence of rivers northwest; waterfall apparently somewhere in that area)
This site was particularly interesting considering its location amid multiple structures of varying shapes and sizes, water sources, etc. Local gentleman offered to let teams camp on the premises during digs and exploratory trips. Farmhouse is not too far away with kitchen, water, and limited accommodation. At the coordinates, inside the corner of the structure, he found human remains.

Some remains were relocated about 10m away, roughly 70°NE at 45.7722, 80.0898.
This is the site across from where one gentleman was spoken to (during the Woodbury trip of Summer 2018) about things he found. He talked of a small horse figurine he found as a child, but no longer has possession of (lost or likely sold). This particular time around, we met two shepherds tending near the structure across the street, one of whom is the aforementioned gentleman’s son.

On speaking with these two shepherds, they also confirmed that during childhood, they found many old things, but they are no longer in possession of. They did point us to speak with a village elder in Bakaly, with whom we then drove to and spoke with. He was not born there, so he pointed us to another gentleman in the village. That led only to the same accounts of maybe finding things but no longer recall anything or anyone who may have found something of note.

After returning to and walking through Qazybaev more, one lady customer at the corner store by the main road was very open about the children digging around and finding things all the time like old spoons or coins. She said that usually the families will check to see if the item is gold. If it’s not of gold, then they are left with the children and subsequently lost.

Of note, when in Bakaly, Tyler had located a structure that - if not previously explored - may be of interest. Found at the following coordinates: **45.6908, 80.1142** (see visual map on next).
Site 4 (Koilyk neighborhoods near old dig sites)
On the previous page, note the small marker in the middle (45.6641, 80.2579) for rough location reference only. Time was spent looking for willing interviewees along the two neighborhoods on either side of this marker.

On the southern side of the marker, there were not many willing; simple mentions of helping “Maxim” with a dig some years ago. This was notably a predominantly Russian neighborhood. The two gentlemen with whom we talked the most simply recalled the same things about possibilities of finding stuff, but no specific leads. Some would simply point in the direction of the dig sites and say “go look, you will find stuff.”

On looking directly at one of the dig sites (45.6631, 80.2605) at the end of this neighborhood, we did find the usual glazed pieces of pottery. The next two pictures are of the same pieces, with the piece on the right flipped to see the difference in glazing on the front and back:
In the northern neighborhood (north of marker), however, people were more willing to talk.

Some even specifically mentioned Dr. Baipakov’s name, referencing the digs that had taken place in the area under his supervision.

In talking with only a few locals in the neighborhood, we were directed to the family of a boy who had found a lot of pottery pieces and a coin. Pottery pieces were of significant size, and the coin contained symbols and some kind of script which was recorded by hand since it is difficult to see without direct sunlight. See pictures on the next few pages.

(pottery pieces of significant size, including a base, trim, and some handles)

Next page contains documentation of the coin:
Hand-drawn extraction of script on next page.
Of note, the family seemed to think there is much more to be found. A reasonable conclusion considering the sheer size of this total area explored over the last few trips, the consistent appearance of pottery and other wares, and the few true digs that have taken place.

As concluded before, this is likely a massive city.
Appendix A

Breakdown of trip costs (in Tenge):

10/11/18
Hotel 8,500
Snack 1,000
Lunch 2,400
Gas 10,000

10/12/18
Breakfast 2,300
Lunch 3,400
Gas station (Fuel and snack) 10,000
Gas 3,000

Total: 40,600 Tenge