

Archaeological Survey of Sarsinai (Sirsinai) and Galoch Villages in Tehsil Kabal, Swat

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Abstract

This paper deals with the survey and documentation of archaeological sites, carried out from 2013 to 2017, in the Sirsinai and Galoch villages of Nikpi Khel on the right bank of River Swat¹. During the survey fifty six archaeological sites, not known previously, were documented. Some of the sites are in a bad state, while the others can yield sufficient material for the reconstruction of the archaeological profile of the Swat valley. However, all these sites are under serious threat of human vandalism because of their location in private property. An attempt has been made here to highlight the significance of some of the newly documented sites in the village of Sirsinai and Galoch of Tehsil Kabal.

Keywords: Swat, Archaeological Survey, Tehsil Kabal

1. Introduction

Nikpe-khel valley (hence after NK valley)² of Tehsil Kabal, is a mountainous, relatively open, sub-valley of the Swat District on the right bank of the River Swat. Geographically it is bounded by the River Swat from the south which also separate it from Tehsil Babuzai, on west and

¹ The survey was carried out for the partial fulfillment of the MSc and MPhil research of the present author with the kind permission of the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan.

² In a personal communication, Abdul Qayyum Balala, a well-known scholar and researcher, suggested that the area included in the present Tehsil Kabal was formerly known as Nikpe-khel Valley owing to settlement of one of the Yousafzai branch Nikpe or Nikpe-khel. He further explained that in Swat State, which included modern-day Swat district, Buner district, Shangla district, and Kohistan district, there were eight Hakimai, an administrative unit under Hakim, or high official appointed by the state. These Hakimai were sub-divide into 32 Tehsils, among them, 7 tehsils, namely: Barikot Tehsil, Babozai Tehsil, Kabal Tehsil, Charbagh Tehsil, Khwazakhela Tehsil, Matta Tehsil and Behrain Tehsil are still situated in the Swat District.

northwest it is bordered by the mountainous watershed between Swat and Dir, and on the east its limits reaches to Ningolai village, whereas Tehsil Matta is situated to the southwest (see the map I³).

Tehsil Kabal is bisected by a perennial *Khwar* known as Nikpe-khel *Khwar* (hence after NK *Khwar*) or Manrai-khwar⁴ which divides the whole valley into two main halves, i. e. western and the eastern half. The western half has been joined by several tributaries of which the Aspanay-khwar falls to the NK *Khwar* near Araf Serai area of the Galoch village; and Loe-khwar, at the Bela village.

The Aspanay-khwar is fed by several small streamlets issuing from Asbanr, Sarbala and Totano-bandai whereas the Loe-khwar is joined by small water channels coming from the hills slopes of Qalagay, Kulalai and Manja hamlets. There are also other small streamlets coming from Mian-bela and Jrendo-bela which empty into the main NK *Khwar* near Langanr and below Kemai respectively.

The eastern half is divided into extreme north and north-eastern tributaries. The extreme-north tributaries are emanating from relatively small glens from Kandao, Drad, Tarano, Shabeka, Shar-banr and Taghma while the north-eastern tributaries are coming from Tarkano, Muhammad beg, and Mahak. All these small streamlets open into Mahak-khwar which in turn opens into the main NK *lakhwar* below Kalakakaly near Galoch area. There are also other seasonal *khwars* in the south and east of Tehsil Kabal known as Dadahara-khwar (south), Kotlai-khwar (south), and Sigram-khwar (east), but these do not join the NK *khwar*, instead directly join the Swat River (see Map II).⁵

The Nikpi Khel area can be approached through the main metallic road from Mingora, after passing the Ayub Bridge northwards, enters into the NK valley, where it bifurcates at the Kanju junction to left and leads to Kabal Chowk where a branch goes to the north, and reaches to Sarsinai. At the Sarsinai Chowk, the road once again split into two branches, of which the one leads to Totano-bandai and proceeds further to Manja,

³ The map I and Map II are edited. For the source of the maps see Matteo De Chiara, *Toponym of the Swat Valley: Linguistic Archaeology* (Lahore: Sange-e-Meel, 2020), fig. 3, 32 respectively.

⁴ Nikep-khel khwar is also known as Deolai-khwar, Shaderai-khwar, or Manrai-khwar, etc. But, according to my observation (and also referred to by Abdul Qayyum Balala) that in the olden days people mostly called it Manrai-khwar because its primary sources (small valleys, glens, and pastures) are from Manrai areas.

⁵ Personal communication with Abdul Qayyum Balala

Qalagay until reaches to the top of Manja-kandao that also separate Swat from district Dir. From the Totano-bandai road, another narrow road issues to Teghako and Ghakhe-bandai and the top of Asbanr or Hus-banr, the administrative border between Dir and Swat districts. The second main branch from the Sirsinai Chowk goes northward and reaches the Kalakalay *Bazar*. Here it gives a small substituent to Mahak (and also a route to Girbanr), and a little next to it, another substituent to Nasrat and Taghma⁶ (then to Matta Tehsil through Biakan-kandao) while the main road from Kalakalay *Bazar* then proceeds northwards crossing Deoloi, Shah-dherai and reaches to Langanr where it is again bisected into two main branches. The western branch goes to Tal, Mian-bela and the eastern branch goes to Manrai and Goda. Both the eastern and western branches are connected through Dardiyal and Kamyarai bypass (see Map III⁷).

2. Previous Research

Though the archaeological activities by Pakistani and foreign institutions have been conducted in the Swat valley, their focus was mainly confined to the left side of the River Swat, whereas the right side drew less attention, despite that the rich archaeological heritage of small sub-valleys having.

In the post-independence of Pakistan, the first archaeological survey in Tehsil Kabal (NK valley) was carried by Giuseppe Tucci in 1956. He stated about the archaeological sites in Totano-banadi, Manjahei⁸, and Pakkadherai located on the main Totano bandai road in the western half (right side area of NK *khwar*) of the NK valley while in the eastern half (left side areas of the NK *khwar*) he mentioned the archaeological remains of Girban (Manago sar), Arkot Qila and Nazabeai (Tucci 1958:318-320). Then in 1995 M. F. Swati, of the Department of Archaeology, University of Peshawar, made a cursory survey in the NK Valley and mentioned a Buddhist site in Bataka near Shah-Dherai(Swati 2008: 98). Similarly Muhammad Ashraf Khan of the Department of Archaeology and Museum, Government of Pakistan, conducted a survey in the south and southwestern part of Tehsil Kabal and explored the archaeological sites in Dadahara, Suigalai, Aligrama, and Totano-bandai

⁶ A branch from Taghma also leads to Drad, Tarano, and Kandao.

⁷ <https://www.visitswatvalley.com/swat-map/>

⁸ The Modern name of the village is Manja.

(Khan 1996: 82-84). But as the area is very rich in terms of archaeological sites, and most of which are located in remote villages and private ownership, therefore, the previous explorers could not cover it in a single exploration. In this regards, the present author directed his attention to explore and document new sites not yet enlisted. With these objectives, a detailed survey campaign was initiated in 2013 that continued until 2017, in which several proto-historic, and Buddhist period remains were discovered in the NK area (Qayum 2013 and 2017s)⁹.

Many excavation campaigns have been carried out in NK Valley in the past few decades by the Italian Archaeological Mission to Pakistan, and the Department of Archaeology, University of Peshawar and as well as by the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan. The first scientific excavation was conducted at the Proto-historic sites of Aligrama, Nazakae and Arkot by members of the Italian Archaeological Mission (see Stacul and Tusa 1975 & 1977, Tusa 1981: 102-105), for knowing the cultural sequence of the Swat valley. Similarly, the Department of Archaeology, University of Peshawar excavated the Buddhist period sites at Khimdara and Marjanai (Khan S. N. 1995: 1-74), whereas the sites of Sakha-China, Sisaka and Kandaro-Patay in Dadahara were excavated by the Federal Department of Archaeology and Museums, Pakistan (Khan 1996: 83- 90).

3. Serious Threats

Unfortunately all the archaeological sites either excavated or explored in the NK area are located in private property and no serious attempt has been carried out for its conservation and currently most of these were found deteriorated and in bad state of preservation. Some the previously known sites such as Pataka and Marjanai have been converted into agricultural fields and the other have been plundered by antique seekers. Moreover, the rapid increase in constructional activities has also washed away the remains of ancient sites and monuments. In the recent past, the most important archaeological sites of Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-II)

⁹ While the present author was surveying the NK area, he also came to know that another scholar, Mr. Sarfaraz Khan of the Taxila institute of Asian Civilizations; Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad was also revisiting those archaeological sites which were previously documented by G. Tucci (see Khan. 2015).

Loi Gujar-Banr I (monastery) (fig. 22), Loi Gujar-banr II (fig. 26) in Galoch village were destroyed by the construction of new houses.

4. Current Survey and its Methodology

The previous explorations and excavations have been carried out in the southern part of the NK area, whereas a large part of the valley remained unexplored till the current survey was conducted from 2013 to 2017 (Qayum 2013 and 2017). It was a type of intrusive intensive survey, concentrated both on the plain areas in the close proximities of the NK *khwar* and also on the faraway deep mountainous glens located in the central and northern areas of the NK valley. For the convenience of documentation, the NK area was divided into three zones (or areas), A, B, and C.¹⁰

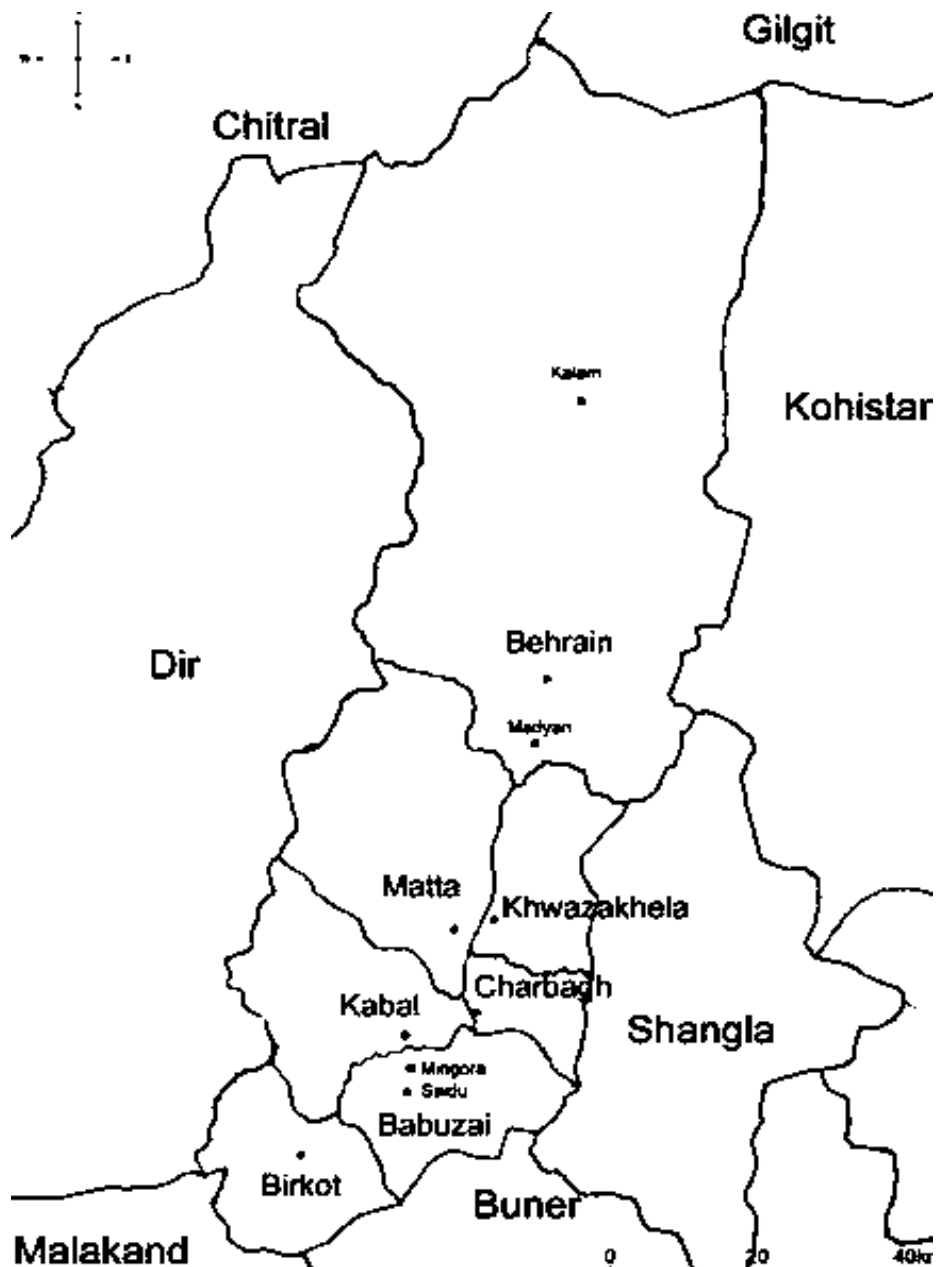
The main focus of the first season survey in the area A was the Union Councils of Bar Aba-Khel, Kalakalay, Totano-bandai and Hazara of Tehsil Kabal.¹¹ Later on the survey was further extended to Dardiyal of Kabal Tehsil, and some areas of Matta Tehsil.¹²

Information regarding the old traditions and legends associated to the sites were obtained from the local inhabitants and preliminary notes such as the nature of the site, location, GPS coordinates and photographs were taken on the spot. Potsherds, stone implements and other noteworthy objects scattered on the surface were collected for the future research.

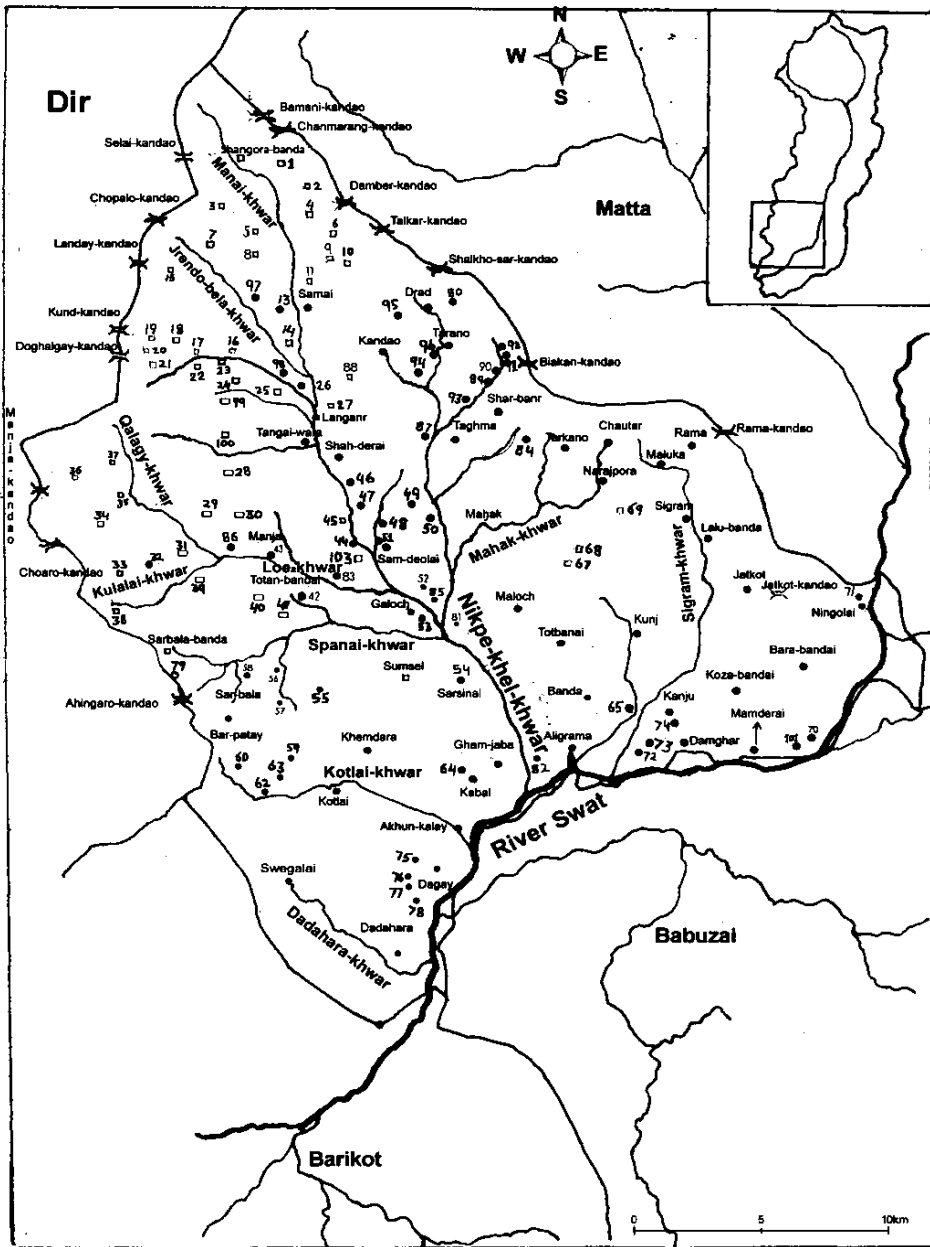
¹⁰ This classification of Tehsil Kabal is made by the author for simplification purposes. Area A consists of union councils of Bar Abakhel, Koz Abakhel, Kalakalay, and Totano-bandai and is designated as units A1, A2, A3, and A4 respectively. Area B has the union council of Deowlai, Shah Dherai Qalagay, and Dardiyal and is designated as units B1, B2, B3 and B4 respectively. Similarly, area C has Hazara, Kanju, Bara-bandai and Kuza-bandai union councils and designated as units C1, C2, C3, and C4 respectively. The union council's name and corresponding designation will be used interchangeably.

¹¹ In the Union Council of Bar Abakhel two main villages, Kabal(Chinda-khwara) and Sirsinai, were surveyed and documented. In Kalakalay Union Council four main villages (Galoch, Kalakalay, Taghma, and Shalhand) were visited in which the sites in Galoch were almost completely documented with some sites in Shalhand. Although many sites were found in Totano-bandai and Hazara Union Councils, only a single site in Bela (Union Council Totano-bandai) and a single site in Maloch (Union Council Hazara) were documented respectively.

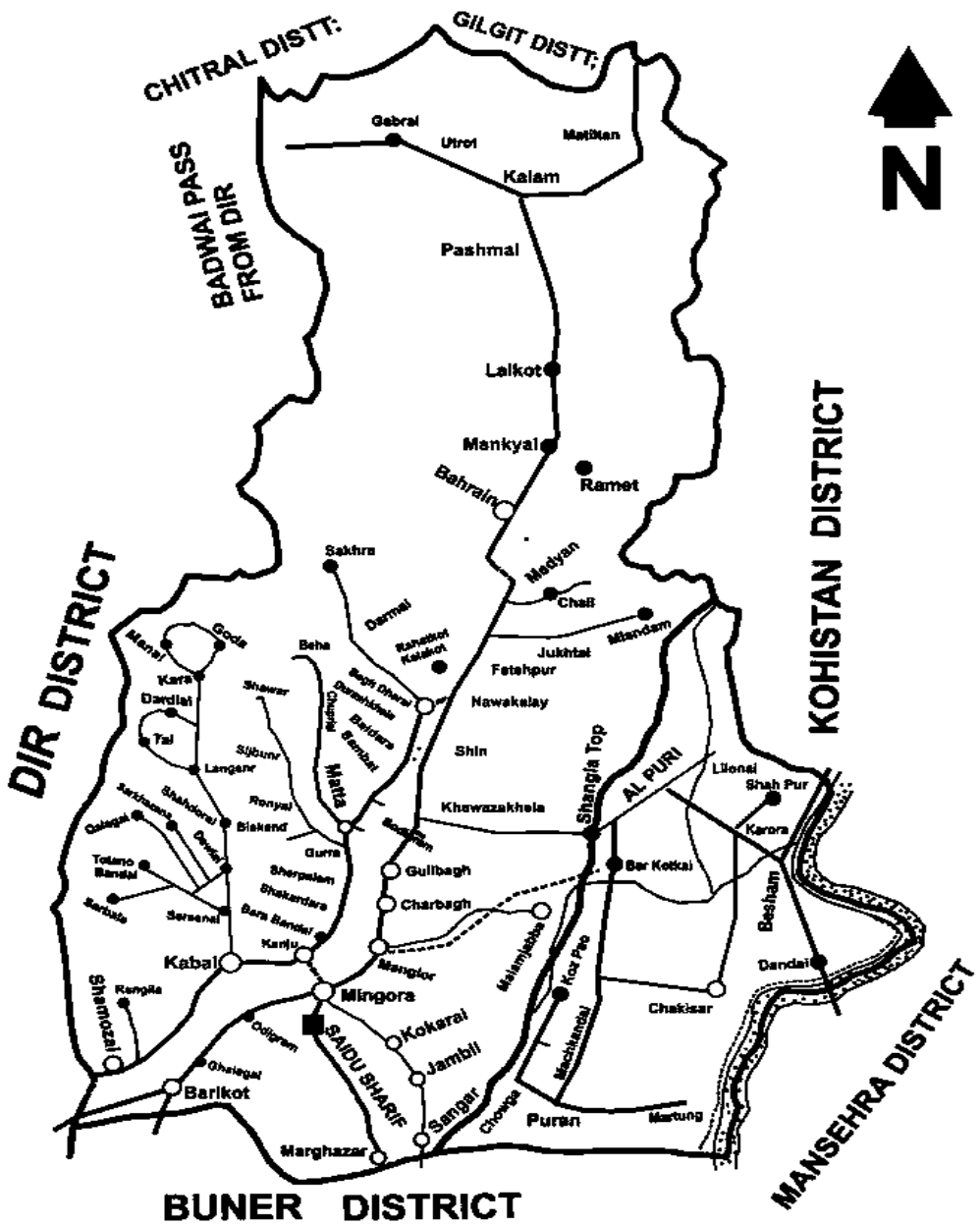
¹² . In Dardiyal Union Council, some parts of Mian-Bela village and the top of Chongialai Mountain were surveyed. And in Kalakalay Union Council the village of Mahak was surveyed. In the Matta Tehsil, a new Buddhist site was documented in Sarikop.



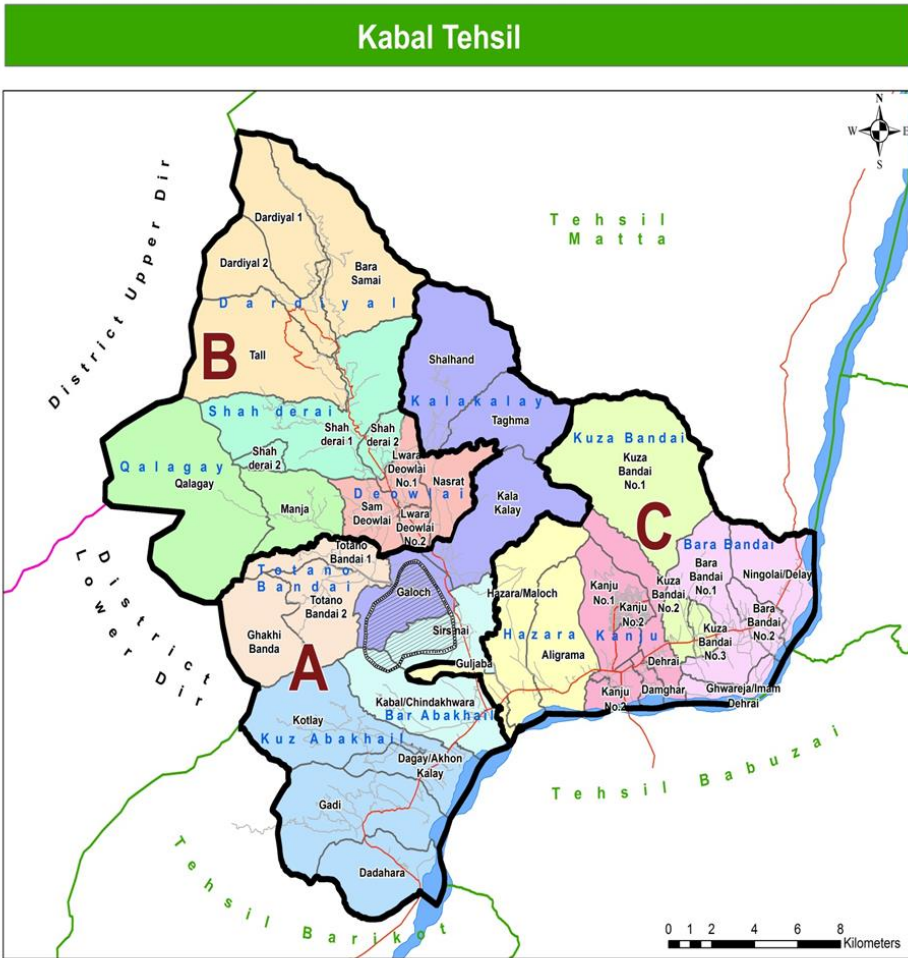
Map I - Tehsils in Swat.



Map II - Nikpe-khel khwar and its Tributaries.



Map III - Roads Network in Tehsil Kabal (Nikpe-khel).



Map IV - Here A, B, C represents each area (zone) surrounded by bold lines and the irregular circle with horizontal lines shows the surveyed area.

As a complete report of the documented sites could not be published in a single research paper, therefore it was decided to share the information in series publications. The present paper is, therefore, confined to the thirteen sites documented in the western portion of Sirsinai and Galoch villages. Hence this paper is part one in the series of the upcoming reports dealing with the fresh survey and documentation carried out in the NK area of tehsil Kabal, district Swat.

Inventory list of the surveyed sites in the NK area					
Sr. No	Site Name	Abbreviations	Area Name		Village Name
1	Warukay Gujar-banr (graveyard)	WGB (S-I),	Warukay banr	Gujar-	Galoch
2	Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-I)	WGB (S-I)			
3	Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-II)	WGB (S-II)			
4	Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-III)	WGB (S-III)			
5	Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-IV)	WGB (S-IV)			
6	Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-V)	WGB (S-V)			
7	Loe Gujar-banr I	LGB-I	Loe Gujar-banr		
8	Loe Gujar-banr II	LGB-II			
9	Dukat	–	Dukat-tangay		
10	Dherai		Juga-tangay	Sarsinai	
11	Shana-dherai				
12	Shana-dherai 2				
13	Asif khan-karin				

Tab. I - Inventory list.

5. Galoch Village

Galoach¹³ is situated to the north of the Kabal Chowk at a distance of about 6km.¹⁴ In Galoch village, the Gujar-banr area, located in the western

¹³ Abdul Qayyum Balala is of the view that the name Galoch is the combination of Gal", (means lump), and "och", (means dry), so Galoch means dry lumps, and It was named so because some people fought here with pelting dry lumps on one another. Another view is

part of the village in the foothill of the Dukat ranges, is very important. Locally the area of Gujar-banr is divided into Loi Gujar-banr (big Gujar-banr) and Warukay Gujar-banr (small Gujar-banr).

Warukay Gujar-banr

The Warukay Gujar-banr (hereafter WGB)¹⁵ is bordered on the southern side by the Sumseel hilly spurs and on the northern side by the Loi Gujar-banr. The area has many archaeological sites ranging from the Proto-historic graveyard to small settlement sites. The graveyard is named here as Warukay Gujar-banr (graveyard) (hereafter WGB (g)) whereas the settlement sites are five in number and are discussed below.

Warukay Gujar-banr (graveyard)

Latitude 34°49'34.78" N Longitude 72°16'00.56" E

Elevation 3287ft

It is a large Proto-historic graveyard that extends from the border of Sirsinai Village to Loi Gujar-banr and covering an area of about 300m. The sites can be approached through the Sumseel road. .

The graveyard is locally known as *Hinduanu Muqbara* (the graveyard of Hindus of infidels). However, during the bulldozing of the land for agricultural purpose, large number of skeletons along with gray and red ware pottery came into light. On my request L. M. Oliveri and M. Vidale, of the Italian Archaeological Mission inspected the site and proclaimed that the site is approximately datable to the 1st millennium BC.

General features of these graves and their (general) comparisons with other proto-historic graveyards in Swat (also with Timargara) are given below¹⁶: These graves have varied size and shapes, either 2 or 3 m deep (fig. 2) from the surface, with red, black and wheel turned potteries (fig. 3). The Architecture of the graves, in most cases, consists of two cavities like those of Katelai, Loe-banr, and Butkara II (Antonini 1973:

that “Gal” is derived from “Galey” which means hailstone and “och” means dry (see De Chiara 2020: 112).

¹⁴ (Personal Communication with Abdul Qayyum Balala)

¹⁵ Translated as the forest of the Gujar tribe

¹⁶ All this information was collected by the researcher at the time when the owners were preparing the land for cultivation. The comparison of WGB with the other sites is just cursory and not in detail. All the objects of which the photographs have been given here were shown by the local children and people except few pots which the author collected.

236). WGB graves like the distinctive stone walls inside the lower cavity (S. Tusa 1981: 99), while, this feature is common in Gogdara, Udegram (Vidale, Micheli and Olivieri 2016: 59, 61), Timargarha (Dani 1967: 32) and grave 2 of Aligrama¹⁷. The distinguishing characteristics of the Timargarha graves of having a circle of stone over the graves (Dani 1967: 62) and that of Gogdara graves of having posts holes were not observed in WGB (graveyard) (Vidale, Micheli and Olivieri 2016: 63). In general, the burials system observed in WGB, including inhumations, cremation, and fractional burial, is similar to the graveyards of Katelai, Loe-banr and Butkara (Antonini 1973: 237), Aligrama (Stacul and Tusa 1975: 307), Gogdara and Udegram (Vidale, Micheli and Olivieri 2016: 61,63) and Timargarha (Dani 1967: 31,33). The difference is that the skeletons in these graves were oriented in the west-east direction (with the head towards the west) and laid on the right side in a flexed position with face towards the south. Two boxes like graves, having a large single slab on four sides of the cavity wall were observed in WGB (g), similar to the children graveyard of Timargarha (Dani 1967: 63; Antonini 1973: 236). Like Udegram graves, the cluster of pottery in these graves mostly rest near the feet (Vidale, Micheli and Olivieri 2016: 69). Almost all graves have been roofed by 4 to 5 slabs (fig. 4).¹⁸

Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-I), Galoch

Latitude 34°49'32.7" N Longitude 72°15'57.85" E

Elevation 3464ft

The site of Warukay Gujar-banr (Settlement-I) (hereafter WGB (S-I)) is located to the west of Warukay Gujar-banr (graveyard), on the top of the adjacent mound at a distance of some 300ft. It seems to be a settlement site. Remains of walls can be seen on the top of the mound. The site is 300ft long and 200ft wide.

The site contains broken walls and foundations, like a fort, with diaper masonry (fig. 5). A number of potsherds and grinding stones were found scattered in adjacent fields. The pottery is red-ware, wheel-turned, and engraved. Hand-made and grey pottery is very rare on the surface of

¹⁷ But grave 2 of Aligrama had no upper cavity.

¹⁸ In Udegram graves the roofs of the lower cavities were covered by huge schist stones, called "megalithic" (see footnote 4, Vidale, Micheli and Olivieri 2016: 59); in Warukay Gujar-banr graves huge elongated sandstone were used for roofing. Probably, these huge elongated stones were brought to the area by the collective effort of many individuals or through animals, etc.

the site (fig. 6). Painted pottery is not available at all. The grinding stones are round in shape (fig. 7). Recently the owner has constructed a house over the site and the ancient structures were used as a quarry.

Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-II), Galoch

Latitude 34°49'36.78" N Longitude 72°15'56.69" E

Elevation 3329ft

Warukay Gujar-banr (Settlement-II) (hereafter WGB (S-II)) lies in the north of Warukay Gujar-banr (Settlement-I). Both the sites are separated by a small natural deep cut which measures about 100 to 200ft. WGB(s-II) is a settlement site.

Exposed features of the site include large wide walls with rough masonry. Potteries collected are red, grey, and mostly engraved. Hand-made potsherds were also collected in small amounts (fig. 8-9). Grinding stones and pieces of irons were also observed over the surface (fig. 10).

Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-III), Galoch

Latitude 34°49'37.07" N Longitude 72°16'01.98" E

Elevation 3299ft

Warukay Gujar-banr (Settlement-III) (hereafter WGB (S-III)) occupies the northeastern portion of WGB (g). Evidences show that the site was built over the graveyard. A rough measurement of the exposed features reaches to about 300ft long and 240ft wide. The exposed part of the site has been destroyed for cultivation purposes but the underground portion is still intact.

The amount of potsherds and other features suggested that the site is settlement site, probably, belongs to the earliest Buddhist period.

Large portion of the site is under the thick deposit of cultivable soil but part of a wall of about 150ft long and four feet high (fig. 12) is visible on the eastern side. Other exposed features include potsherds (fig. 13), grinding stones (fig. 14), large elongated stones slabs¹⁹, and ruins of walls. The majority of grinding stones found around the site (fig. 14) are similar in structure to those recovered from Kalako-deray (Stacul 1993: 90)²⁰.

¹⁹ As stated earlier the site has been built over the WGB (g) so it is clear that the slabs belong to the graveyard.

²⁰ The stone recovered from Kalako-deray are similar in structure to those recovered from WGB (S-III), (see Stacul 1993 fig. 25 and fig. 26).

Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-IV), Galoch

Latitude 34°49'43.60" N Longitude 72°15'49.58" E

Elevation 3372ft

Warukay Gujar-banr (Settlement-IV) (hereafter WGB (S-IV)) is located to the north of WGB (g) at a distance of about 300m. The amount of potsherds and three storage pit structures suggests that it is a settlement site belongs to the late historic period. The site measures in length as 400ft and width as 200ft.

Foundations and pit structures were exposed in 2012 when the owner was converting the land into cultivable fields (fig. 16). Each pit was about one meter deep and 2-3ft wide. All the pits were made in series which have been refilled by the owners.

The potsherds are handmade, wheel turned, engraved, and plain (fig. 17). Small pores bearing potsherds were also found (fig. 18).

A total of six grinding stone pieces were observed. These include a broken piece of circular grinding stone having a central hole; an elongated broken stone; one small flat stone having a cavity in its center; one small cylindrical grinding stone; and an unknown stone piece.

Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-V), Galoch

Latitude 34°49'39.70" N Longitude 72°15'43.58" E

Elevation 3523ft

Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-V) (hereafter WGB (S-V))(fig. 19) is situated in the west of WGB (S-IV) on the top of the same mound which contains WGB (S-IV) and is separated from each other by a distance of about 250ft²¹. It is a settlement site that shows evidences of the latest Hindu period in Swat. The central part of the site has been destroyed by the illegal diggers while the remaining part is buried deep in the soil.

Ruined walls and foundations can be seen on the surface (fig. 20). On the east of the site, one pit structure was also noticed. The potsherds collected from the site were plain engraved, hand-made and the wheel turned (fig. 21). No painted potsherd has been found on the surface. Grinding stones in good conditions have also been observed. The majority of these grinding stones include saddle stone and circular stone with central hole.

²¹ The WGB (s-IV) lies below the top while WGB (S-V) lies on the top of that mound.

Loe Gujar-banr, Galoch

Loi Gujar-banr lies to the northwest of the Warukay Gujar-banr at a distance of about 5 km from Kabal Chowk. In the area of Loe Gujar-banr, two sites were identified which are named Loi Gujar-banr I (LGB I) and Loi Gujar-banr II (LGB II).

Loe Gujar-banr I, Galoch

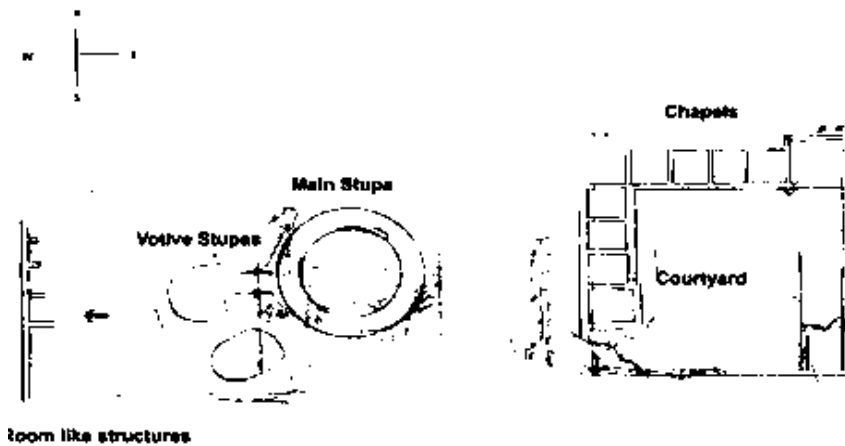
Latitude 34°49'40.57" N Longitude 72°15'26.44" E

Elevation 3459ft

Loe Gujar-banr I is an important Buddhist establishment in the area. It consists of a monastery and stupa. Topographically the area is suitable for the Buddhist sacred area as it comprises small valleys. There are glens and small mounds in a seriate. Such a panorama makes an ideal location for Buddhist establishment. The site is 400ft long and 150-200ft wide.

Prominent features of the complex comprise a main stupa (fig. 22), chapels (fig. 23), courtyard and grinding stones.

The square bath is surrounded on four sides by chapels. The chapels of the southern side have been destroyed while those of the other three sides are intact. On the four corners of the bath, there are four large room-like structures. There are structures in the west of the main stupa that seems like votive stupas. Further search, especially excavation, may bring other votive stupas to the fore (Map V).



Map V - Plan of Loe Gujar-banr I (Monastery).

Illegal digging was carried out at the center of the main stupa, probably, for searching the relic casket. The upper part of the stupa is destroyed while the lower portion is intact.²² Pottery includes red and rarely grey-ware, mostly wheel turned, plain and engraved, (fig. 24). Painted potsherds were found as rare.

Fragments of different kinds of grinding stones and stucco (see (b) in fig. 25) were also observed which the local children were collecting. Pieces of bones, schist stones and several corroded human teeth were also found (See (a) fig. 25).

Loe Gujar-banr II, Galoch

Latitude 34°49'51.62" N Longitude 72°15'27.29" E

Elevation 3468ft

Loe Gujar-banr II is situated on the top of a wide mound, standing to the northeast of Loe Gujar-banr I at a distance of about 600ft. A rough estimate of the size of the site gives the length of 400ft and width as 300ft. Observing the site, its material, and the surrounding features it is suggested that it is a large settlement site that probably belongs to the 3rd or 4th century AD.

There are no traces of walls or foundations on the surface of the site. Grinding stone pieces (Fig. 29) and potsherds scattered are all around the site. The potsherds are mostly plain and engraved, wheel-turned, both gray and red and rarely painted (fig. 27-28).

Dukat-tangay, Galoch

The western part of Galoch Village (modern Khair-abad) is called Dukat. It is a large area comprised of a series of small glens and one of these is known as Dukat-tangay. It is a long narrow glen the eastern end of which commences from Khair-abad village running westward to the top and is hammed on both the southern and northern side by the Loe Gujar-banr and Tangai-china spurs. It lies on the western side of the main Tutano-bandai road. In this area, the present author explored one site which measures 600ft long and 400ft as wide and given the name as Dukat site.

²² When recently (i. e in 2021) the author, for this article, revisited the site, it was completely wiped off by the owner and the site was completely absent.

Dukat site, Galoch

Latitude 34°49'15.54" N Longitude 72°14'47.08" E

Elevation 4621ft

The Dukat site is located on the top of Duckat-tangay. The site is to be approached by Dando Road. It is a small size settlement site and the potsherds are mostly belonging to the Hindu period (Hindu-shahi). A small size silver coin was found by the owner that bears Arabic words, probably the name of a Muslim ruler, on one side.²³ On the bases of the above characteristics the site can be dated to the Hindu Shahi period and the immediately following Islamic period in Swat. The site is about 250ft long and 200ft wide.

Parts of walls (fig. 33), foundations, pits structures (fig. 30)²⁴, and different kind of potsherds, including red-ware, engraved plain, and wheel turned, were observed (fig. 31, 32). No painted pottery was found.

6. Sirsinai Village

Sirsinai village²⁵ is located towards the north of the Kabal Chowk at a distance of 3km. To the north of Sirsinai are situated Kala-kalay and

²³ The owner was feeling uncomfortable of taking pictures of the coin. The name of the site owner is Kaki Jan. His son Shaokat told this author about the site and he also showed the coin recovered from the site, (Interview with Shaokat, owner of the land, 05/12/2012, at the site)

²⁴ The site is now partially disturbed. According to the owner, the illegal diggers have recovered from the site terracotta oil lamp, pottery, grinding stones, a black schist slab with a hole at the center, and coins of the Islamic period. Two pit structures were also exposed during converting the site into cultivated land. One pit was refilled while the other is still present (fig. 31).

²⁵ According to Abdul Qayyum Balala (a resident of Sirsinai village and author of *The Charming Swat* and several other books on Swat); the name "Sirsinai" is comparatively a recent name. In the olden days, there was no Sirsinai village, and the south-eastern part of this area (which is now known as Sirsinai) was known as Tazagram (modern Tezogam), and the north-east area was known as Sumseel which are still present.

There are various views about the origin of Sirsinai's name. According to Abdul Qayyum Balala, the name Sirsinai or Sarsinai has been derived from its original form "Sarey-senaye or nae", a compound of "Sarey" (means top or beginning) "Se" (means from) and "Nae or Naye" (means new) which collectively means a new village from the top or beginning or start. Matteo de Chiara gives explanation about the name of Sirsinai like; "Sar", means a god, "sena", means army, with the resulting meaning of 'place of the army of god. Other explanations of the name are lake, head of bed, pillow, etc. For

Galoch, to the west Dukat Mountain, to the south Kabal, to the east Maloch and Spalmai Mountain and, to the south-east Aligrama and Hazara villages.

G. Tucci had visited the area in 1958 but he has not mentioned anything about Sarsinai (Tucci 1958: 318-320.). Prof. M. Farooq Swati has mentioned the name of Sirsinai in his survey report (Swati 2008: 98) but he neither surveyed nor mentioned archaeological sites in the area. The village of Sirsinai is divided into right and left halves by the NK *khwar*. The right side of Sarsinai village comprises of two important areas, namely Juga-tangay and Sumseel-tangay.

Juga-tangay, Sarsinai

Juga-tangay is located in the Juga area of Sirsinai village which, comprises of a narrow glen extending from the foothill to the top of the Dukat Mountain covering an area about 2 km. In this area the researcher has identified more than 10 sites including evidences of Pre-Buddhist²⁶, Buddhist and Islamic period. The names of these sites are:

1. Dherai, Juga, (Sarsinai)
2. Shana-dherai I, Juga (Sarsinai)
3. Shana-dherai II, Juga (Sarsinai)
4. Asif khan-karin, Juga (Sarsinai)

Dherai, Juga (Sirsinai)

Latitude 34°48'42.52" N Longitude 72°16'08.87" E

Elevation 3364ft

This site lies on the top of a mound on the right side of the Juga-tangay at a distance of about 400ft high from the bed of the Juga seasonal stream and to the south of Juga-baba graveyard (a Muslim graveyard). The site measures 300to 400ft long and 300ft as wide.

The amount of potsherds and structural features shows that the site of Dherai is a large settlement site covering not only the top of the mound but

further detail see Matteo de Chaira, *Toponymy of the Swat Valley: Linguistic Archaeology*, p. 214.

²⁶ Evidence of proto-historic graves has been reported from this area and the author has also observed scanty proto-historic potsherds.

also extending down to its foot. A large portion of the site has been destroyed as it was transformed to cultivable land.

Parts of walls (fig. 35), foundations, pit structures (fig. 36), and a large number of potsherds were observed. Evidence of several pit structures was noticed at the foot of this mound and one pit structure (probably storage pit) is still present in good condition (fig. 36). It is one meter deep and a meter wide. It becomes narrow at its mouth and bottom and wide at the middle with the mouth covered by a circular stone which has recently been removed, as was reported to this researcher.

Shana-dherai I, Juga (Sirsinai)

Latitude 34°48'42.32" N Longitude 72°15'59.14" E

Elevation 3464ft

Shana-dherai I (hereafter SD I) occupies the western part of the same mound on which Dherai site is located. It is a small size settlement site probably an extension of the previously stated site which is now destroyed. Pottery from the site belongs to the Buddhist period.

Buried walls and potsherds were witnessed during the survey.

Shana-dherai II, Juga (Sirsinai)

Latitude 34°48'47.15" N Longitude 72°16'03.86" E

Elevation 3356ft

Shana-dherai II (hereafter SD II) is one of the largest archaeological sites in the Juga area of Sirsinai village. This site occupies the right bank of Juga-tangay seasonal stream and lies in due north of the Dherai site, separated from it by a short distance of about 400 to 600ft. The site extends from the middle of a mound down up to the adjacent plain area. The site approximately measures 500 to 600 feet long and 300 to 400 feet wide.

SD II is a large settlement site that has been badly destroyed both by local people and by illegal diggers. It seems that the site had been occupied successively since proto-historic times. This assumption is based on the evidence of animal bones, teeth, and potsherds found as more than 3m deep in an artificial cliff (fig. 38).

Exposed features of the site include buried walls foundations, stone implements in large numbers, potsherds, bones, heaps of stones of walls. At some points, the portions of walls are more than two meters deep in the soil (fig. 39), while at other places the walls and foundations now make heaps of stones as the result of illegal digging.

The potsherds are mostly large in size and thick (fig. 40). These include both red and gray, wheel turned and hand-made, plain simple, engraved, and some amount of painted pottery (fig. 41).

One of the most prominent features of the site is its stone implements. These are scattered in a quite large number in the surrounding area and can be found in many shapes and structures either broken or complete. The stone implements include grinding stones, a circular shape having a central hole, elongated flat with an irregular shape, triangular, cylindrical, oval, rectangular, round core like (fig. 42) with their size reaching from 3 inches up to 1m (fig. 43). Some of these implements (fig. 44-45) show close similarities with Kalako-dherai (see fig 24, 25, and 26 Stacul 1993: 90). Besides, many types of broken hones (see fig. 46) and bones of animals were observed about 2m deep in the soil cliff.

Asif khan-karin, Juga (Sirsinai)

Latitude 34°48'40.81" N Longitude 72°15'28.36" E

Elevation 3689ft

Asif khan-karin is located in the west of SD II, at a distance of about 1km, on the left side of the Juga-tangay. The site is to be approached by a non-metallic road that branched off from the Sirsinai road at Khonagay *Bazar*. The length of the site is approximately 300-400ft and its width is about 300-350ft.

Asif Khan-Karin site has received great dangers, a fact which presents us to know the exact nature of the site. However, two important findings from the site, a Kushan period coin and a small engraved fragment of the schist stone (see (a) in fig. 52)²⁷, help us to declare the site as a Buddhist sacred area belonging to the Kushan period. This author was also reported by the local people that a good number of sculptures have been recovered from the site by the illegal diggers.

Prominent features include walls (fig. 52), foundations and small room-like structures (probably chapels and a bath), potsherds, grinding stones, stucco, and a fragment of black schist.

The potteries include are, red (fig. 53) and gray (fig. 54), wheel turned and rarely hand-made, rarely painted and engraved (fig. 55), and mostly thin. One glazed potsherd was also found (fig. 56). Besides potteries few

²⁷ This author showed this piece to Massimo Vidale which he recognized as part of the Buddhist Establishment (Interview with Olivieri and Vidale, Italian Archaeological Mission, 2011, Sirsinai, Swat)

grinding stones (fig.57), bones(fig. 50-51), two broken arrowheads (see (d) in fig. 58), a broken knife head (see (b) in fig. 58), small unknown pieces of copper (see (c) in fig. 58), stucco fragments (fig. 59) parts of figurines (fig. 60) and unidentified objects (fig. 61) were noticed.

A human leg bone (probably), having the head of an arrow inside (fig. 50-51), was also found which points to some battle and fighting in the area.

List of the surveyed sites

Sr.No	Site Name	Abbreviations	Area Name	Village Name
1	Warukay Gujar-banr (graveyard)	WGB (S-I),	Warukay Gujar-banr (WGB)	Galoch
2	Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-I)	WGB (S-I)		
3	Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-II)	WGB (S-II)		
4	Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-III)	WGB (S-III)		
5	Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-IV)	WGB (S-IV)		
6	Warukay Gujar-banr (settlement-V)	WGB (S-V)		
7	Loe Gujar-banr I	LGB-I	Loe Gujar-banr	
8	Loe Gujar-banr II	LGB-II		
9	Dukat	—	Dukat-tangay	
10	Dherai		Juga-tangay	Sarsinai
11	Shana-dherai			
12	Shana-dherai 2			
13	Asif khan-karin			

Tab. II - list of explored sites.

Key for Reading Map II

1. Dhob-banda	35. Qalagay-banda	71. Ningulai-ghundai
2. Manrai-banda	36. Qalagay-banda	72. Kuz-kanju
3. Torosata-banda	37. Qalagay-banda	73. Bar-kanju
4. Goda-banda	38. Chapray-banda	74. Dherai
5. Pachakalay-banda	39. Pirpatay-banda	75. Nasapai
----	40. Manzghundai-banda	76. Suaray
6. Mianwara-banda	41. Tighak-banda	77. Manyar
7. Gachkor-banda	42. Totano-bandai	78. Garay
8. Pachakalay-banda-	43. Manja	79. Shagai-banda
----	44. Arkot-qila	80. Manai
9. Archalai-banda	45. Malakana-banda	81. Khat-kotay
10. Bela-banda	46. Kitaya (Kityar)	82. Hazara
11. Batul-banda	47. Chinaklay	83. Bela -----102
12. Dardyal	48. Dherai	84. Muhammad beg
13. Churpunarai	49. Gampora	85. Kalakalay
14. Maira-banda	50. Nasrat	86. Kodaro-dherai
15. Pinorai-banda	51. Lwar-deolai	87. Shalhand
16. Dakko-banda	52. Landi-choya	88. Faqiran-banda
17. Mianbela-banda	53. Lakai-kalay	89. War-patay (Awar patay)
18. Chotar-banda	54. Sarsinai	90. Mulla-pata (Mulla patay)
19. Tangu-banda	55. Amluk-tangay	91. Nimakay
20. Makat-banda	56. Sharifay-banda	92. Shabeka
21. Kabal-banda	57. Murdar-banda	93. Biakor
22. Kolanda-banda	58. Sarbala	94. Baragat
23. Manzarai-banda	59. Painsdashah-patay	95. Bhoka
24. Bandi-banda	60. Kasay	96. Serai
25. Mian-baba-banda	61. Nnnnoo	97. Dardiyal
26. Komyati	62. Mailaga	98. Tal
27. Amluktal-banda	63. Urwana-kotlai	99. Shahjehan-banda
28. Binwar-banda	64. Chinda Khwara	100. Asharai-banda
29. Korai-banda	65. Gharib-abad	101. Sun-dherai
30. Khazanay-banda	66. Banda	102. Bela
31. Qalagay	67. Patbast	103. Ghodhano-banda
32. Kwend-banda	68. Spalmai-banda	
33. Inzaro-banda	69. Chingai-banda	
34. Qalagay-banda	70. Ghurejo	

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Fig. 1 - General View of Warokay Gujar-banr.



Fig. 2 - Graves in the vertical Cliff.



Fig. 3 - Pottery from WGB (g).



Fig. 4 - Roof covering slabs.



Fig. 3a - General view of WGB (S-I).



Fig. 5- wall remains in dilapidate condition.



Fig. 6 - potsherds, WGB (S-I).



Fig. 7 - pistols, WGB (S-I).



Fig. 6a - General view of WGB (S-II).



Fig. 8 - Red-ware rims, WGB (S-II).

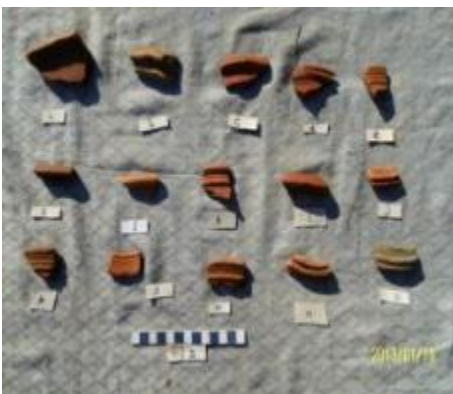


Fig. 9 - Types of rims, WGB (S-II).



Fig. 10 - Broken parts of stone artifact, WGB (S-II).



Fig. 11- closed view of WGB (s-III).



Fig. 12 - Portion of the wall, WGB (S-III).



Fig. 13 - Obverse view of red sherds bases, WGB (S-III).



Fig. 14 - Pistols, WGB (S-III).



Fig. 15 - General view of WGB (s-IV) after bulldozing.



Fig. 16 - Exposed remains, WGB (S-IV).



Fig. 17 - Rims, WGB (S-IV).



Fig. 18 - A piece of perforated pot, WGB (S-IV).



Fig. 19 - General View of the WGB (s-V).



Fig. 20 - Remains of wall, WGB (S-V).



Fig. 21 - An artificial terrace shows potsherds, WGB (S-V).



Fig. 22 - View of the main Stupa, LGB-I.



Fig. 23 - Square Chapel, LGB-I, exposed by robbers.



Fig. 24 - Rims from LGB-I.



Fig. 25. - (a) bones (b) stucco (c) unknown pot sherd, LGB-I.



Fig. 26 - Top of the Mound, LGB-II.



Fig. 27 - Rims, LGB-II.



Fig. 28 - Pot sherds; (c) with engraved designed, LGB 2.



Fig. 29 - Broken Saddle quern, LGB 2.



Fig. 30 - Partially refilled pit structure, Dukat, Galoch.



Fig. 31 - Rims, Dukat, Galoch.



Fig. 32 - Exposed potsherd in the section of soil, Dukat, Galoch.



Fig. 33 - Traces of wall, Dukat, Galoch.



Fig. 34 - General view of Dherai, Juga-tangay.



Fig. 35 - Wall Portion Dherai, Juga-Tangay (Sirsinai).



Fig. 36 - Pit, dug by robbers Dherai, Juga-Tangay (Sirsinai)



Fig. 37 - General view of Shana-dherai 1, Juga, Sirsinai.



Fig. 38 - In the picture umbrella indicates the depth of the site, Shana-dherai 2, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig. 39 - View of the bulldozed section, Shana-Dherai 2, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig.40 - Types of rims , Shana-Dherai 2, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig.41 - Painted sherd Shana-dherai 2, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig.42 - Probably a lid, ventrals view Shana -dherai, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig. 43 - Lower part of a quern, Shana-dherai 2, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig. 44 - A category of stone implements, Shana-dherai 2, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig.45 - various types of pistols, Shana-dherai 2, Juga-Tangai (Sirsina).



Fig. 46 - Stone implements , Shana-dherai 2, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig.47 - A large stone with unknown incised signs, Shana-dherai 2, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig.48 - Illegally excavated deep pit Asif Khan-Karin, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig. 49 - Engraved schist fragments Asif Khan-Karin, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig.50 - Bone with arrow head inside it AsifKhan-Karin, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig. 51 - (a) Arrow head (b) human leg bone Asif Khan-Karin, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig. 52 - Wall structure Asif Khan-Karin, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig. 53 - Types of rims Asif Khan-Karin, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig.54 - black and gray ware pot sherds Asif Khan-Karin, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig.55 - Engraved rims Asif Khan-Karin, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig. 56 - A shining glazed potsherd Asif Khan-Karin Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig. 57 - A rectangular mortar Asif Khan-Karin, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig.58 - Iron objects Asif Khan-Karin, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig. 59 - Fragment of stucco Asif Khan-Karin, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig. 60 - d,e,g and h are broken figurines, other are pot sherds Asif Khan-Karin, Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Fig. 61 - Terracotta and stone objects Asif Khan-Karin Juga-Tangai (Sirsinai).



Map VI - A general view of all six WGB Sites; the sites enclosed in circles are settlement sites while the large elongated curved line is enclosing WGB (graveyard). (Google Earth).



Map VII - Close view of WGB (graveyard), WGB (S-I), WGB (S-II), WGB (S-III).



Map VIII - Close view of WGB (S-IV) and WGB (S-V).



Map IX - View of Loe Gujar-banr I (monastery) and Loe Guja-banr II.



Map X - Dukat site.



Map XI - A general view of all four sites of Juga-tangay i. e Dherai, SD I, SD II and Asif Khan Karin. The downward arrow indicates over all view of Juga-tangay.



Map XII - Close view of Dherai, Shana-dherai I and Shana-dherai II.



Map XIII - Close view of Asif Khan Karin (Buddhist site).