

Maps of the Xiongnu Cemetery at *Tamiryn Ulaan Khoshuu*, Ogii nuur, Arkhangai Aimag, Mongolia

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During the 2005 Silkroad Arkhangai Excavation Project (Purcell and Spurr 2006), students of the field school used handheld GPS units to map three enigmatic earthen structures (Tamir 2 Site) and an extensive Xiongnu cemetery (Tamir 1 Site). The project excavated five graves in the cemetery, and 18 small test excavation units were opened at Tamir 2. Maps of the Tamir 2 site were drawn in the field, and two drafted versions were published in *The Silk Road* journal (Purcell and Spurr 2006, pp. 27, 29). Two maps of the cemetery were drawn in the field: a plan map of the entire cemetery, and a more detailed map of the portion of the site with the greatest concentration of visible graves. The detail map was intended to show the ring-shaped grave mounds to scale, with the overall map showing just center points to indicate grave location. While preparing our report summarizing the field season for *The Silk Road*, I discovered discrepancies between the depicted dimensions of the detail map graves, and a log of their UTM locations and dimensions. This resulted from having had many students logging information and drawing the map. Although necessary as a means of instructing our students in field methodology, this approach unfortunately introduced error into the map. Pressed for time during the preparation of our field season report in 2006, I was unable to revise the Tamir 1 maps in time to resolve these discrepancies. Furthermore, in subsequent discussions with Dr. Jan Bemmman of the University of Bonn, we learned that Tamir 1 is the only Xiongnu cemetery in Mongolia that has been completely mapped to scale. Therefore, at the request of Dr. Daniel Waugh and Dr. Bemmman, I redrafted the Tamir 1 maps from the GPS data logs to create an overall site plan with all of the graves shown to scale, and a revised detail map with all graves shown to the documented size and in the correct location. These have just been published (along with republication of the Tamir 2 maps) by Dr. Bemmman to accompany his discussion of Xiongnu occupation of the Orkhon valley (Bemmman 2011, Fig. 2). At the request of Dr. Waugh, we have reproduced these maps for *The Silk Road*.

About the author

David E. Purcell is Principal Investigator and Projects Manager for Four Corners Research of Tularosa, New Mexico. He was a co-director of the Tamiryn Ulaan Khoshuu excavation in 2005.

References

Bemmman 2011

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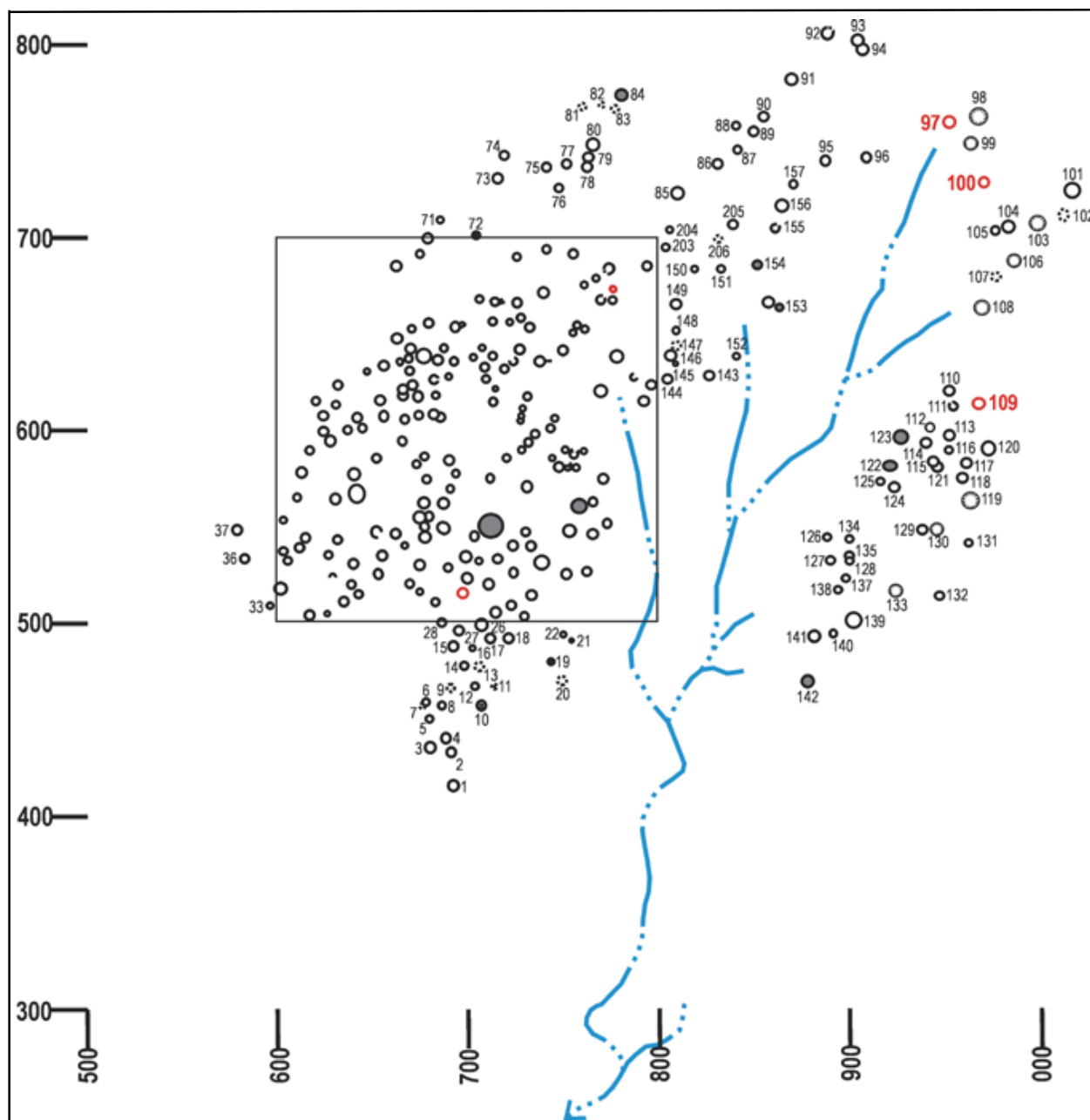


Fig. 1. Plan of the cemetery at Tamiryn Ulaan Khoshuu (drawn by David E. Purcell).

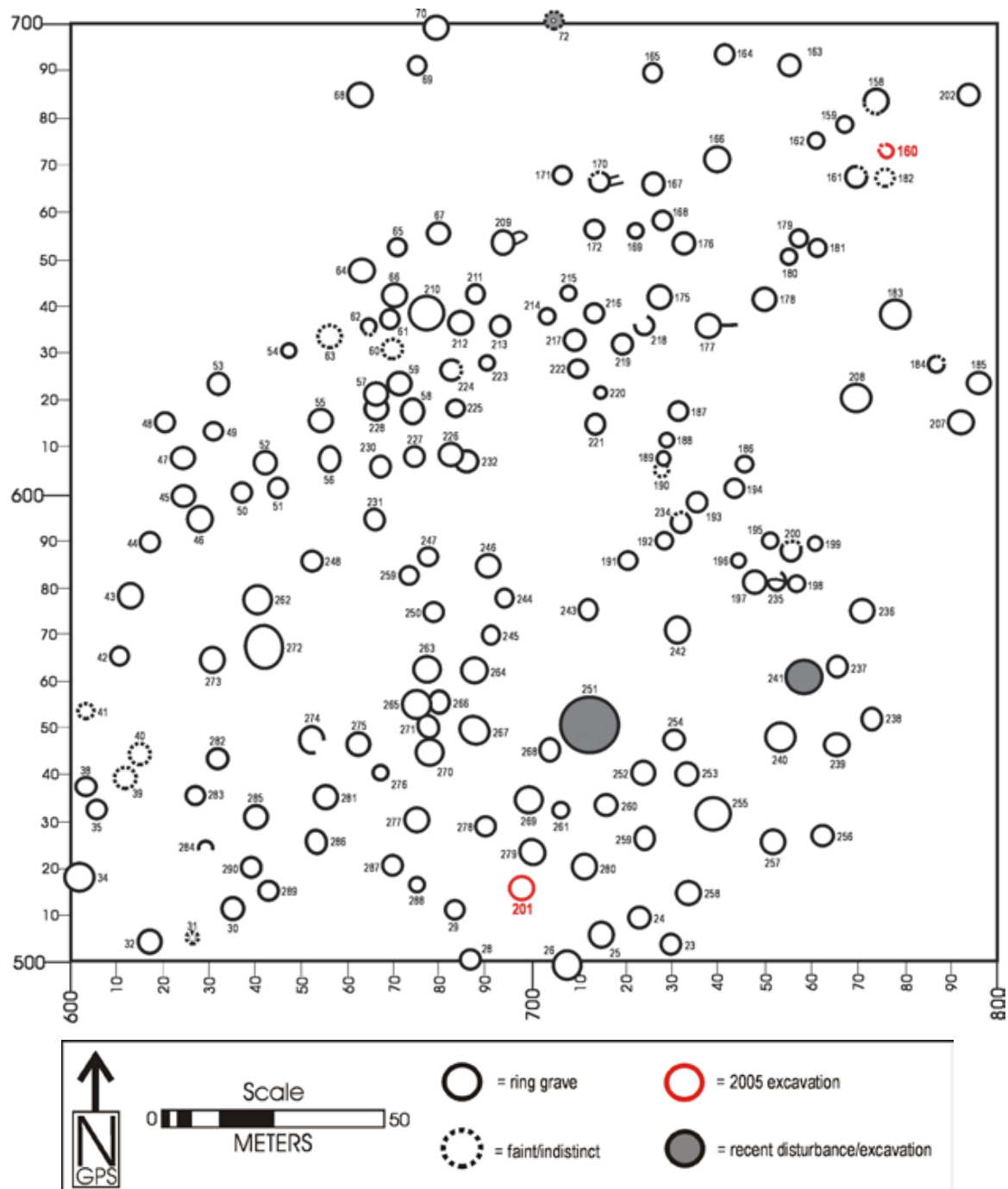


Fig. 2. Detail of the area of the cemetery with the highest density of graves (drawn by David E. Purcell). The graves excavated in 2005 were nos. 97, 100, 109 (on the map in Fig. 1) and 160 and 201 shown here.