

## **Butho Daro an Indus Period Archaeological Site of Lower Sindh**

### ***Abstract:***

*The site of Butho Daro is recently accidentally discovered during digging of drain which cut the site North-south to east-west, initially it was assumed that the site has small area which was dug and the cultural material was left in debris after digging drain but later on careful field survey was carried out in result discovered site in debris expands to south approximately minimum 100 X 200 meters.*

*The artifacts found in debris on clay dune have large number of plain and painted pottery, shell objects, bones, animal figurines, burnt bricks, semi-precious stones, copper objects and other material which suggest preliminary the presence of Early, Mature, Late and post Indus periods, geographical location of the site suggests that it might be transitional site for trade between Indus and Baluchistan and then may to Iranian regions.*

**Key terms:** Early Indus, Mature Indus, Late Indus, Mature Indus, Post Indus, Butho Daro.

### **Introduction:**

The name of Butho Daro to the site is given behind the name of village. It is in administrative modern Taluka “Manjhand” the Taluka head quarter of District Jamshoro. This town is in north almost 65 km away from Jamshoro town on the west bank of river Indus and on the right side of National High way from Jamshoro to Sehwan. The site is located in modern administrative district Jamshoro, on left side of RBOD, having map coordinates of 25° 51' 30" North, 68° 13' 0" East.

### **Butho Daro**

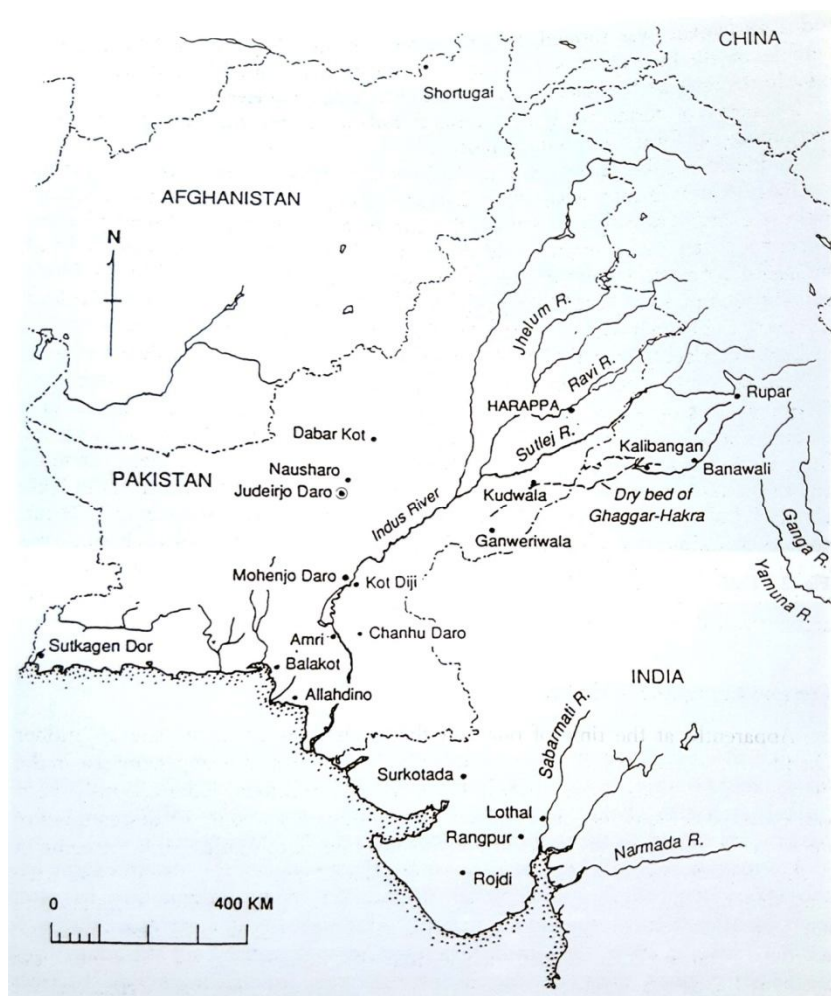
The Butho Daro site discovered accidentally in year 2018 during digging for a drain by Government the site is buried under five meter alluvial slit deposition. The huge amount of clay containing archaeological material is dumped on the bank of RBOD canal in the form of mounds along with National highway.

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A preliminary visit has been made to site where the required information including small collection of artifacts consisting various size and texture of broken bangles, pot sherd of various types, stone blades of chert and flint materials, copper objects and shell bangles were collected and photographs were taken.



**Fig No. 01** Site location map  
Source: G.M SHAR and M VIDALE  
EAST AND WEST, Vol.51-Nos 1-2 (June 2001)

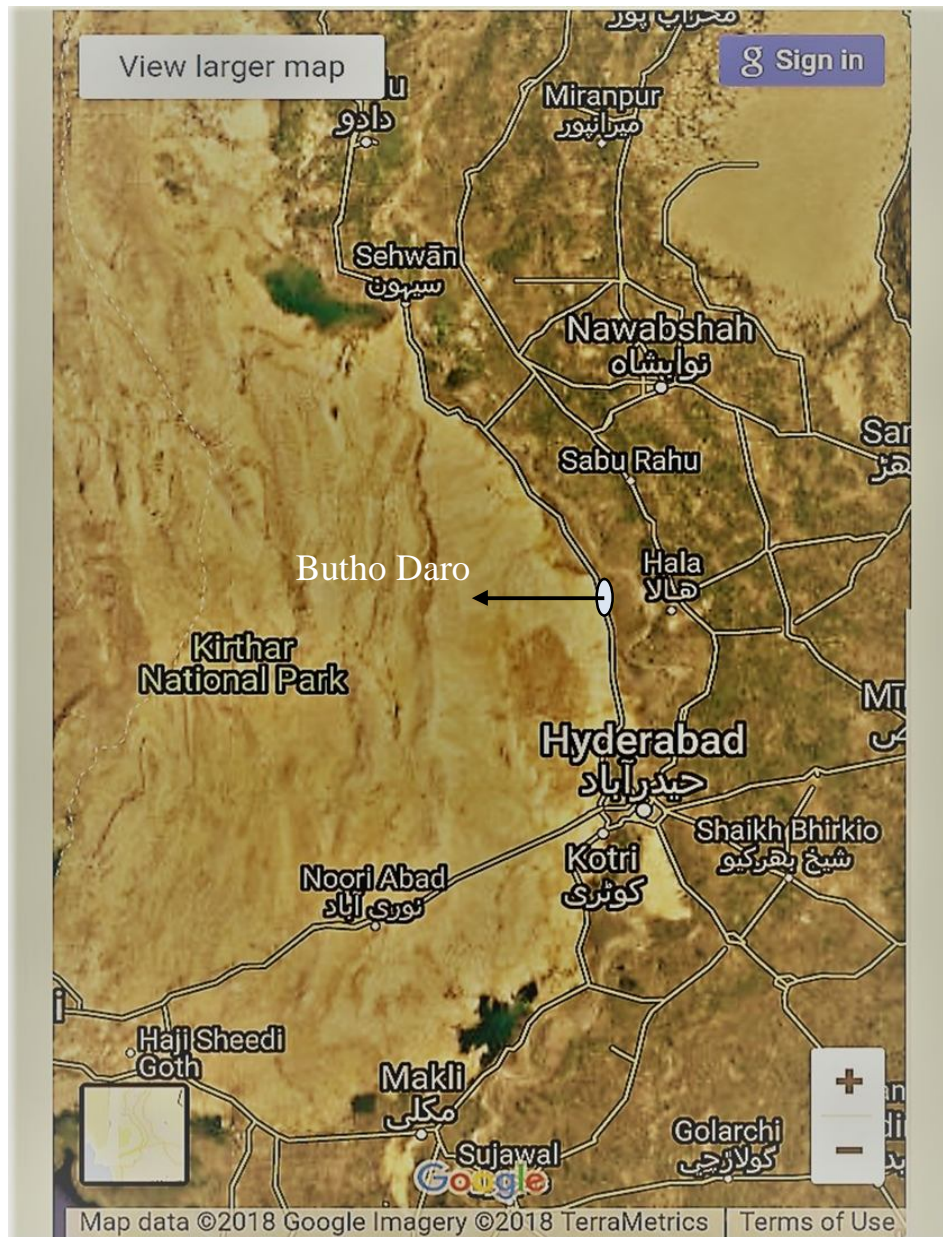
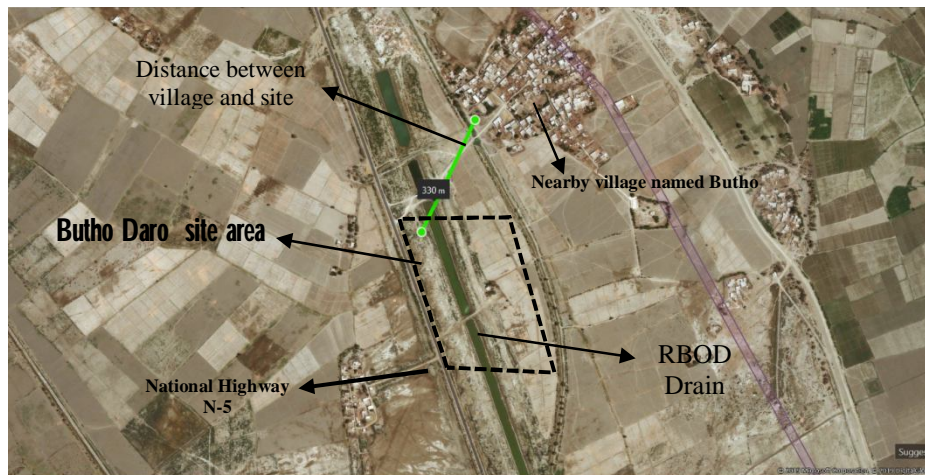


Fig No-0 .location map of Site with modern towns, geographical location on map  
the oval marked site is Butho Daro  
Source: Google map.



**Fig No-03** Satellite image with important locations, site is marked.  
(Source: Author)

This region contains fertile alluvial plain the dried river bed of Indus surrounded with Khirthar Mountain with hot climate in summer and moderate in winters. In modern times the mountains are barren.

The River Indus collecting waters from rains of Himalayas range starting from china crossing Kashmir and bordering between provinces Khyber Pakhtoon Khaw and Punjab with its torrential flow it is below ground there. Whereas when it enter reaches of Panjnad it collects waters of three rivers of Punjab. Entering in Sindh it flows slows and its silt deposition form alluvial plain of Sindh it flows above ground level thus it irrigates lands of Sindh easily. The river has been means of transportation of peoples and goods as highways.

The archaeological site of Butho Daro is situated in Piedmonts of Khirthar range discovered material of early to post Indus period. So it seems the settlement exploited mountain areas as well as alluvial plain. In Baluchistan and western Sind such sites are dated back to Early Indus period Such as Amri, Mehrgarh.

The site has two geographical zones mountain and alluvial plain the site is near to active Indus flood plain which offer crop cultivation as well as pastures for herds of pastoralists.

Rains make Khirthar (meaning cream of milk) very much green and attracts nomads with their herds of Goats and sheep and milk hides supply for nutrition to the people of area.

#### **Findings from the Butho Daro site.**

**Terracotta bangles: Fig No 4:1.** Terracotta bangles of various thickness and sizes are collected from the surface of site. The small percentage of terracotta

bangles are made of fine clay, the maximum number of bangles are made of normal clay which were made for masses.



**Fig No-04** Broken TC bangles of various texture and size  
Source: Author

The fine clay bangles have traces of red, ocher and dark red colors. The radius and thickness vary from 4cm to 9cm, the diameter of bangles starts from 3 cm to 6cm which show the bangles were wore by different age from child to adult.

**Stone ware bangles: Fig No.04:2.** Five pieces of stone ware bangles are among the collection of bangle ornaments, the bangles has similar firing technology as found from Muneer south area of Mohen jo Daro (Massimo: 1983). The bangles were burnt in close container or having traces of vitreous, fused to each other. The stone ware bangles as per previous archaeological reports and experiments carried out by Mark Knoyer and Massimo Vidale the laterite stone was powdered and mixed in clay burnt in close container. The Laterite stone contains iron and its source area is nearby hills of Khirthar which is not far away from the site, it seems from the technology of stone ware bangles that these were the early stage of manufacturing of stone ware bangles. The stone ware bangles were used to wear on special occasions by rich or elite classpeoples as their symbolic honor.

**Over burnt bangles fig No-04:3.** Mostly the discarded due non functionality and theusage of the bangles found in large number indicates used by masses,

the bangles seems became over fired because of different fuels used in pottery kilns uncontrolled firing.

**Shell bangles Fig-05: 1.** Similar to other Indus period sites the shell objects are found from the debris surface, these are the pieces of shell raw material and finished shell bangles. The measurement of shell bangles resemble to other sites of mature Indus period site already excavated and dated.



Fig No -05  
Shell Objects of Butho Daro site.  
Source: Author

**Fig No-05 2.** Fresh water shells which are mostly found from the fresh river water, the use of these shells in modern times is medicinal and for ornamentation shell are in large number in debris of the site.

### Pottery

The maximum antiquity found from the site are painted, plain, decorated incised pottery, the pots of various designs, styles and sizes of early, mature, late and post Indus periods are collected and documented. The majority of potsherds are painted, plane pottery which the second quantitative percentage is with incised and engraved decoration. The painted potsherds are found in reasonable number, the painted pottery has weathering effects other sherds indicate the early Indus period with characteristics such as dark red band on neck which resembles to Kot Dijian period and short averted rim with dark red band on neck and other pots with rope impression are resembling to Early Indus period of Kot Diji. The form of the pots shows different functional

purpose such as water pots, bowls, plates, beakers and small narrow mouth jar and miniature jar pots are also resembling to Kot Dijian level objects, Mohen jo Daro and Chanhru Daro. The large numbers of objects have measurement similar to the finds from Chanhru Daro this site is located 30 kilo meters in the east of Butho Darosite.

**Fig No-06:1.** Resembles to hatch leaf enclosed in the pattern of intersecting circles is known since the end of 4<sup>th</sup> millennium B.C. found from Judier jo Daro (Massimo: 1983)

**Fig No-06:2.** Body pot sherd painted net design in black color, incised, tapping tool used resembles to the late Indus period.

**Fig No-06:3.** The Stem cylinder of dish on stand painted black on red slip resembles to dish on stand found in mature Indus period at Mohen jo Daro.

**Fig No-06:4,5.** The short rim and body part of a Jar with rim painted dark red, and painted interior and exterior of rim and body on dark red slip. The body is painted with three bands of zig zag lines around the neck. It belongs to Kot Dijian period of Early Indus.

**Fig No-6.** The body sherd of pot exterior dark red slip painted with net design in vertical. It resembles to early Indus. this pot sherd is 5.6 cm in thickness, 09 mm in thickness with weight of 16 grams.

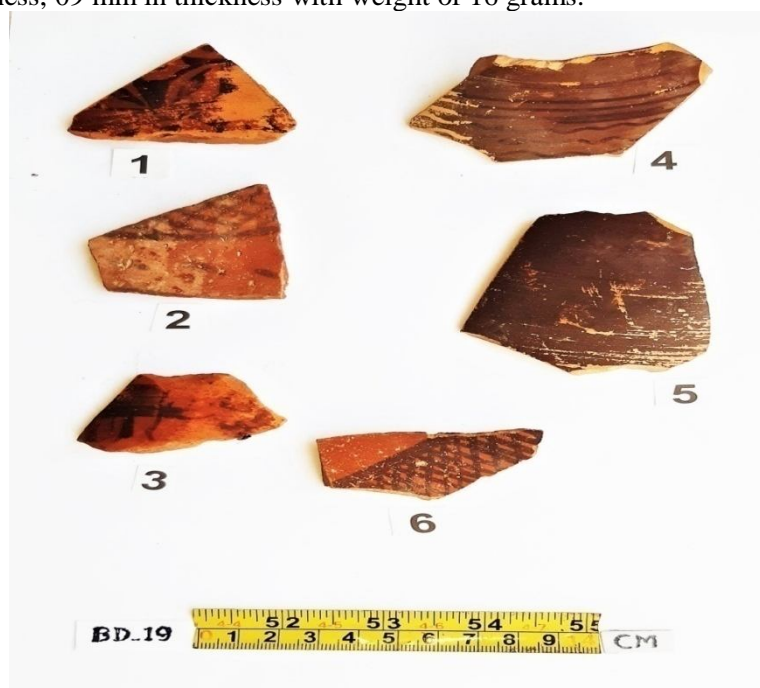


Fig No-06  
Butho Daro: Painted Potsherds of various designs.  
Source: Author

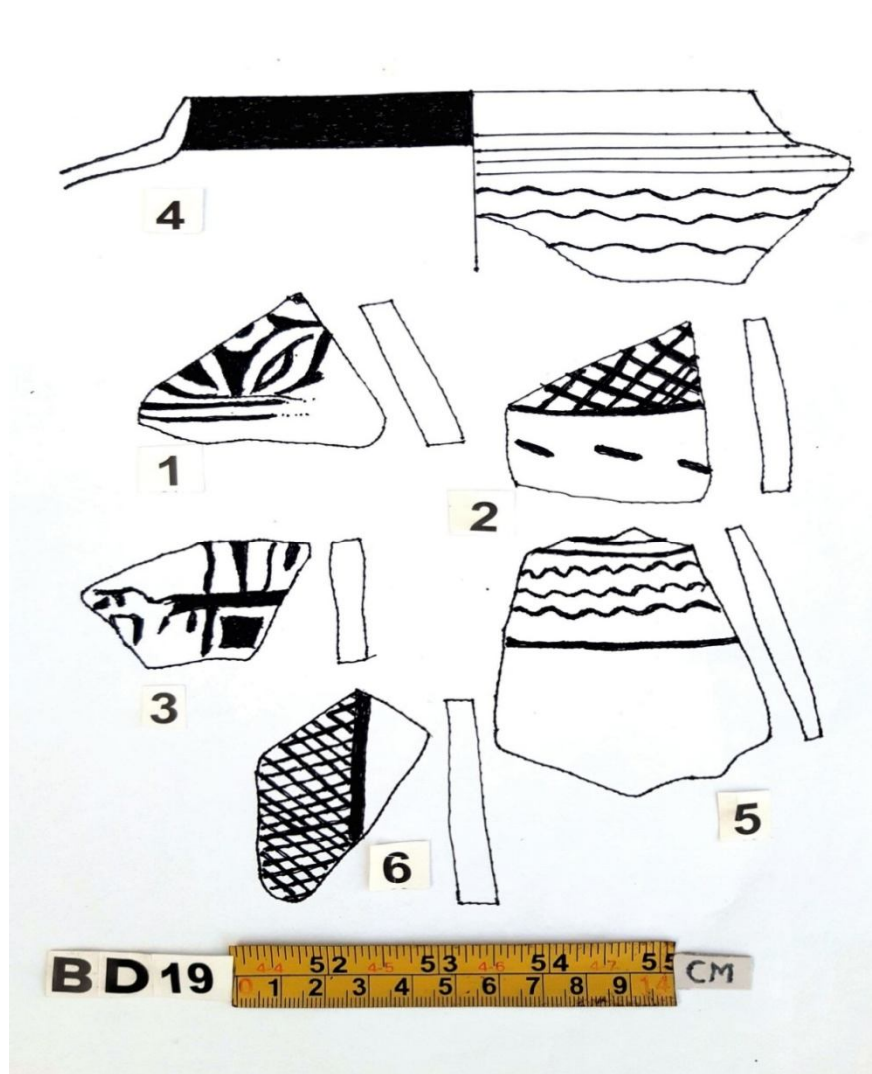


Fig No-06-A  
 Drawings of Painted Potsherds of various designs of Butho Daro site.  
 Source: Author

**Bull figurine Fig No-07:1.** The terracotta humped bull figurine made of fine clay is the similar to the bull figurine described as children toys from Harappa, Chanhudaro, Mohenjodaro. The bull figurine was familiar in mature Indus period as found in large number.



Fig No-07 TC Bull figurine and piece of bullock cart frame  
Source: Researcher

**Fig No-07:2** Terracotta toy frames of different sizes made of fine and normal clay, they have holes which are reported as bullock cart frame from Lakhen jo Daro, Chanhru Daro, Mohen Jo Daro and other sites. Solid flat concave bullock cart frames from Butho Daro is similar to, Harrapa, Chanhru Daro is relatively dated back to half of 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium B.C.

Bullock cart frames specimen continue in mature and late Indus periods, the mature Indus period of Mohen jo Daro, Chanhru Daro and specimen from

Rang Pur India in 1962( in Lal et al 1962,1963 )and late Harappan site of Daiwala in Cholesthan ( Mughal 1997 PL.83) .



Fig No-08 Copper chisel  
Source: Researcher

**Fig No-08:1.** Chisel having 7.7cm in size. 10mm in thickness with 85 grams in weight.

**Fig-08:2.** Copper chisel having size, measurement 5.6 cm, thickness 4 mm and 4 grams in weight is found from the dumped debris of the site. The copper chisels has thick green copper oxide layer. The wide lower tip is sharpen and its upper tip is narrow and thick which may had been for hafting in wood. Its sharp edges were being used for cutting purpose .These chisels are reported in Mature Indus sites Mohen jo Daro. (Marshall 1931, Mackay 1938, PL CXXXIX)

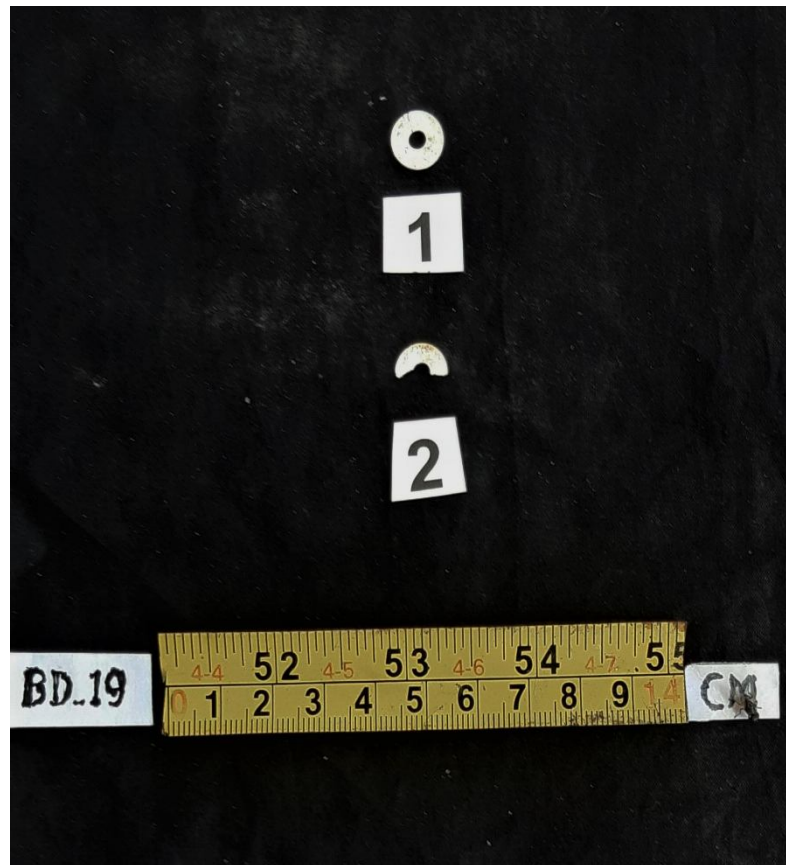


Fig No- 09  
Steatite Disk beads

**Fig No-09:1.** Complete steatite disk bead discovered on the surface of Butho Daro site specimen measuring 0.50 cm in radius, 1 cm in length and 0.75 mm in thickness.

**Fig No-09:2.** The another broken steatite disk bead had been found near by the above mentioned disk bead both specimen having same measurement.

**Fig No-10:1 Stone blades** has been remained the oldest companion of ancient human since long, the two kinds of stones chert and flint had been used to manufacture the stone blades, 1. Long blades belongs to early Indus period of different sites in Sindh and in India.

**Fig No-10:2.** The different Sizes of blade were produced during the mature Indus period in Sindh, many blades found from the Mohen jo Daro resembles with Number 2 Category which are found from Butho Daro site. The hammer stone and Chert cores indicating the local manufacturing of Chert/flint stone tools.



Fig No- 10  
Complete stone blades  
Buttho Daro site

### Conclusion

In initial stage of research and material collected, the material is thoroughly documented and analyzed. The occupation of site is during period cultures such as Early Indus, Mature Indus, Late and Post Indus periods. The site has its locational importance being in piedmonts, on the bank of River Indus as in networking of famous major Indus sites of Amri and Chanhru Daro, the later is which are in 30 km in radius to the east of the site and Amri 30 km in north. The site yields rich archaeological material and influence by nearest Chanhru Daro and Amri sites.

The detailed research could put this site in central place theory either Amri or Chanhru Daro. It is obvious the subsistence of the people of site was by exploiting two geographical zones, alluvial plain of river Indus and mountains.

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