Supplementary selection record

This record explains how sites and publications were selected for the obsidian evidence audit. It preserves the recorded searches and decisions from 12 September 2026 and adds a targeted source check made on 14 September. The resulting local register contains 24 cases: one published comparison of groups of artefacts, two reported analyses without independently checkable artefact-level data and 21 cases with obsidian presence but no source attribution.

Selection record files

- selection_record.json contains the dated search and candidate record in its selection_record section. It contains 40 candidate entries, nine alias decisions and 15 reconstructed query families. The 40 candidates are localities considered for addition or separate treatment; they are not a count of all publications screened or all sites in the final register.
- The assessment_addendum section records the selection criteria, documented source hosts and the targeted Çakmaktepe check.

Selection and geographical scope

The audit covers selected cases on the Şanlıurfa plateau and in the adjoining Taş Tepeler research landscape, identified through published site descriptions; Euphrates-valley cases were recorded separately. No inclusion polygon or fixed distance threshold is documented. The audit is not exhaustive.

A retained local case required a distinct locality, an explicit obsidian report and a reported Pre-Pottery Neolithic (PPN) component. Verified coordinates and geochemical source assignments were not required. A PPN attribution to a site does not securely date obsidian recovered from its surface. Broadly Neolithic survey material was not automatically assigned to the PPN, and shared modern village names were not sufficient to merge archaeological localities.

Akarçay Tepe and Mezraa-Teleilat were treated as Middle Euphrates valley cases outside the local plateau count despite published PPN obsidian. Nevalı Çori was also recorded separately as a valley case. Boncuklu Tarla lies outside the Şanlıurfa study area. The selection record gives the individual reasons for these decisions and for other exclusions or unresolved cases. It also distinguishes the three Yusuf Harabesi localities and records aliases including Besta Faki/Tahtari and Çakmak Harabesi/Harbetsuvan.

Source discovery and recorded search terms

The search began with the indexed project corpus and bibliography, followed by bilingual web searches, citation chaining and checks of journal, author, conference and official project records. The query list was reconstructed from the search families used. It is not a complete contemporaneous search log: result counts, the exact order of every query and a full record of search-engine settings were not retained. We do not claim to have searched a bibliographic database or every source host exhaustively.

Documented source hosts include DergiPark; the Documenta Praehistorica publisher archive; ResearchGate and Academia.edu author deposits; official Taş Tepeler pages; Şanlıurfa municipal museum and governorship records; Turkish Ministry of Culture publications; SAA, ASOR and World Neolithic Congress records; Persée; ex oriente; and the University of Chicago archive. Linked sources are preserved in selection_record.json and the evidence and coordinate registers. Access to a source on one of these hosts does not establish an exhaustive search of that host.

The following 15 query families are copied verbatim from the 12 September record. Accented and unaccented names, joined and separated forms, and English/Turkish material terms reflect the recorded searches; the list has not been supplemented retrospectively.

Query family 1 · 2026-09-12

- Şanlıurfa obsidyen Çanak Çömleksiz Neolitik yüzey araştırması
- Urfa obsidian Pre-Pottery Neolithic survey

Query family 2 · 2026-09-12

- "İkizce Güney Höyüğü" obsidyen
- "İkizce" "Güler" "2015"

Query family 3 · 2026-09-12

- "Besta Faki" obsidyen
- "Sumaklı" "Tahtari"
- "Şanlıurfa İli Yüzey Araştırması" "Çelik" "2015"

Query family 4 · 2026-09-12

- "Çakmaktepe" obsidian
- "Çakmaktepe" obsidyen
- "Çakmaktepe" "Şahin" "Miyake"

Query family 5 · 2026-09-12

- "Mendik" obsidian
- "Mendiktepe" obsidyen
- "Mendik" Neolithic BIAA

Query family 6 · 2026-09-12

- "Yoğunburç" obsidyen
- "Yoğunburç" obsidian
- "Kepır" Neolitik

Query family 7 · 2026-09-12

- "Sefertepe" obsidyen
- "Sefer Tepe" obsidian

Query family 8 · 2026-09-12

- "Tepehan" obsidyen
- "Gümüştaş" "Tapan" obsidyen

Query family 9 · 2026-09-12

- "Nevalı Çori" obsidyen
- "Nevali Cori" obsidian Schmidt

Query family 10 · 2026-09-12

- "Biris Mezarlığı" obsidian
- "Biris Mezarlığı" obsidyen
- "Söğüt Tarlası" obsidian
- "Söğüt Tarlası" obsidyen

Query family 11 · 2026-09-12

- Arimura A New Neolithic settlement in the Urfa region Akarçay Tepe 1999 Anatolia Antiqua 2000 obsidian
- Mezraa Teleilat Coşkunsu 2011 flint obsidian industry pdf

Query family 12 · 2026-09-12

- "Boncuklu Tarla" obsidian 2025
- "Boncuklu Tarla" workshop 503

Query family 13 · 2026-09-12

- "Çakmak Harabesi" "Harbetsuvan"
- "Cura Henzir"
- "Vari Nebi" "Nebi Tarlası"

Query family 14 · 2026-09-12

- "Mınzilit" obsidyen
- "Mınzıle" obsidyen
- "Eğerkıran" obsidyen
- "Sarpdere" obsidyen

Query family 15 · 2026-09-12

- Şanlıurfa Neolitik Çağ Araştırmaları Projesi Taş Tepeler Son Çalışmalar Yeni Sonuçlar 2025
- Taş Tepeler Şanlıurfa arkeoloji müzesi 2024 2025

Çakmaktepe: targeted check on 14 September 2026

Çakmaktepe is included in the paper's regional overview but remains outside the obsidian register. In the reviewed excavation report, Şahin and Miyake (2025: 9) describe the chipped-stone industry as consisting entirely of flint: "Yontmataş endüstrisinin tamamı çakmaktaşından oluşmaktadır." The following sentences discuss two nearby flint sources. No obsidian identification was found in the extracted report. This supports exclusion from the register on the basis of the published assemblage reviewed; it does not establish an absence of obsidian from unpublished collections, every excavation season or future finds.

This check used the indexed local primary report and a direct reading of its lithic and dating sections. The journal landing page was opened to verify the citation. It did not involve a new broad literature search. The 2025 report's PPNA attribution is typological, and the authors state on p. 10 that radiocarbon dating was not then available.

The Şanlıurfa site is distinct from Çakmaktepe in Adana/Karaisalı/Nergislik. Obsidian findings from that Cilician locality must not be transferred to this excavation. Çakmak Harabesi is separately recorded as an alias of Harbetsuvan Tepesi.

Reference: Şahin, F. and Miyake, Y. 2025. Çakmaktepe'den avcı-toplayıcı yerleşiklere dair yeni veriler. *Arkeoloji Dergisi* 34: 1–28. Journal record; DOI.

Limits of the source checks

The selection record identifies several incomplete retrievals. The direct KST44 volume 2 PDF request failed during connection; relevant search-indexed text was read, but the volume was not checked in full. Original Nevalı Çori lithic passages and Özdoğan 1994 on Biris Mezarlığı were not obtained. These gaps limit the corresponding records. Failure to locate an obsidian statement in a report does not by itself establish archaeological absence.

The original midpoint coordinate for Biris Mezarlığı and Söğüt Tarlası was not treated as an independent coordinate for either locality. Site coordinates and obsidian evidence are assessed separately; an unresolved coordinate does not remove a qualifying site from the evidence register.

The source check on 14 September clarified Çakmaktepe's documented assemblage. It did not alter the 24 local cases, add a provenance assignment or extend the documented search period. The evidence categories remain descriptions of the available reports, not rankings of archaeological importance.