

Cultural heritage

Current situation

Fieldwork in the Amulsar project area has identified **487** potential cultural heritage sites, confirmed archaeological sites or living heritage sites.

Sites include: earth and stone mounds that may have been tombs from various periods, potentially dating back to the Bronze Age; cemeteries identified by stone markers, dating back to the Middle Ages; potential settlement sites dated to the late Middle Ages; prehistoric campsites and activity areas of pre-Bronze Age peoples; and living heritage sites including 20th century shepherd's camps.

What are the potential impacts and issues?

- Mining activities have the potential to damage or destroy archaeological artefacts.
- **81** archaeological sites are likely to be impacted by the project development, although none of the known artefacts are considered by cultural heritage experts (Armenian and international) of high archaeological significant importance.
- It is possible important artefacts may be discovered during construction and operation.



What will Lydian do to manage these potential impacts and issues?

- Known cultural sites are being avoided wherever possible.
- Archaeological evaluation through surface reconnaissance and archaeological excavations of sites inside the project footprint, and excavation of sites of medium to very high importance that cannot be avoided through project design.
- A Chance Finds procedure will be implemented.

What potential impacts might remain?

- Constructing the project will result in impacts to cultural heritage sites.
- Implementing the measures described above, however, will also result in positive impacts to Armenian cultural heritage through contributing to scientific and cultural understanding of Armenia's past.