

A Moderized Look at Historic Quarries in the Gobi Desert

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Introduction

- During the early to mid 1900's, USA, Russia, and Poland lead paleontological expeditions into the Gobi Desert in Mongolia.⁴
- During these expeditions, the palaeontologists found numerous full skeletons, countless bones, and other specimens indicating species that once lived there.⁴

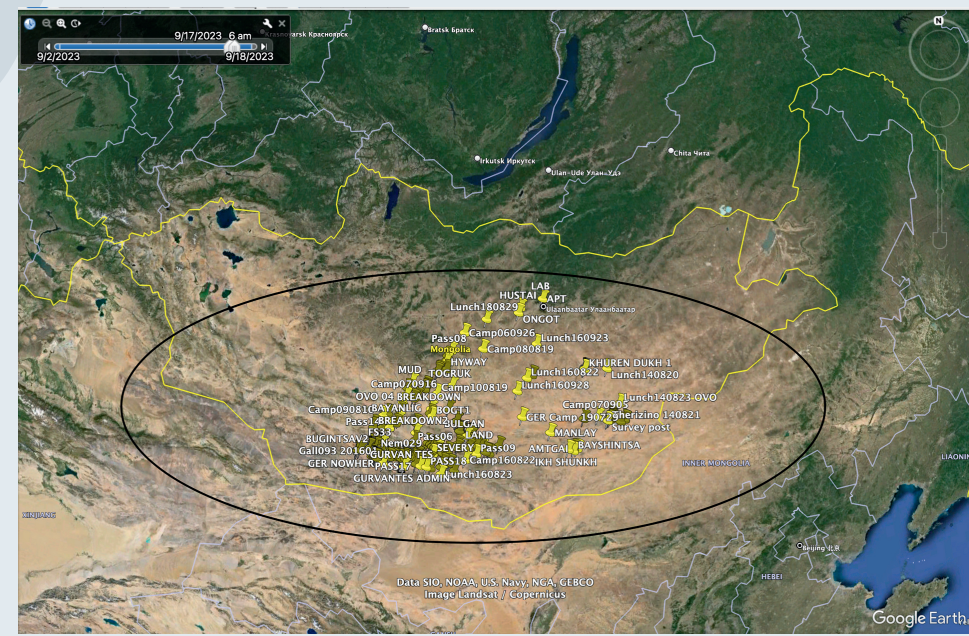


Figure 1. The Gobi Desert with the GPS co-ordinants in place⁵



Figure 2. The Gobi Desert landscape.⁶

Purpose

- Old quarries have been found in the Gobi Desert and the dino lab is trying to identify if they were dug during the US, Russian or Polish expeditions to Mongolia since 1920 or if they were dug by poachers, illegally digging the bones to sell.⁴
- By comparing the hand draws maps to the GPS co-ordinants we can gain a better understanding of the localities these dinosaur skeletons were found.



Figure 3. Large sauropod pelvis that was not collected in 1970 during the Polish-Mongolian expedition.⁶

Using Google Earth Pro, I plotted ~1200 GPS coordinates to show where different camps, quarries, and other miscellaneous items are in the Gobi Desert.

- 1) Translate the multiple types of files to one common data base
- 2) Copy and paste the GPS co-ordinants into Google Earth.
- 3) Save and rename each individual plot. (figure 4)
- 4) Compare the GPS co-ordinants plotted to the hand drawn maps from the 1940-1950's (figure 5 & 6)

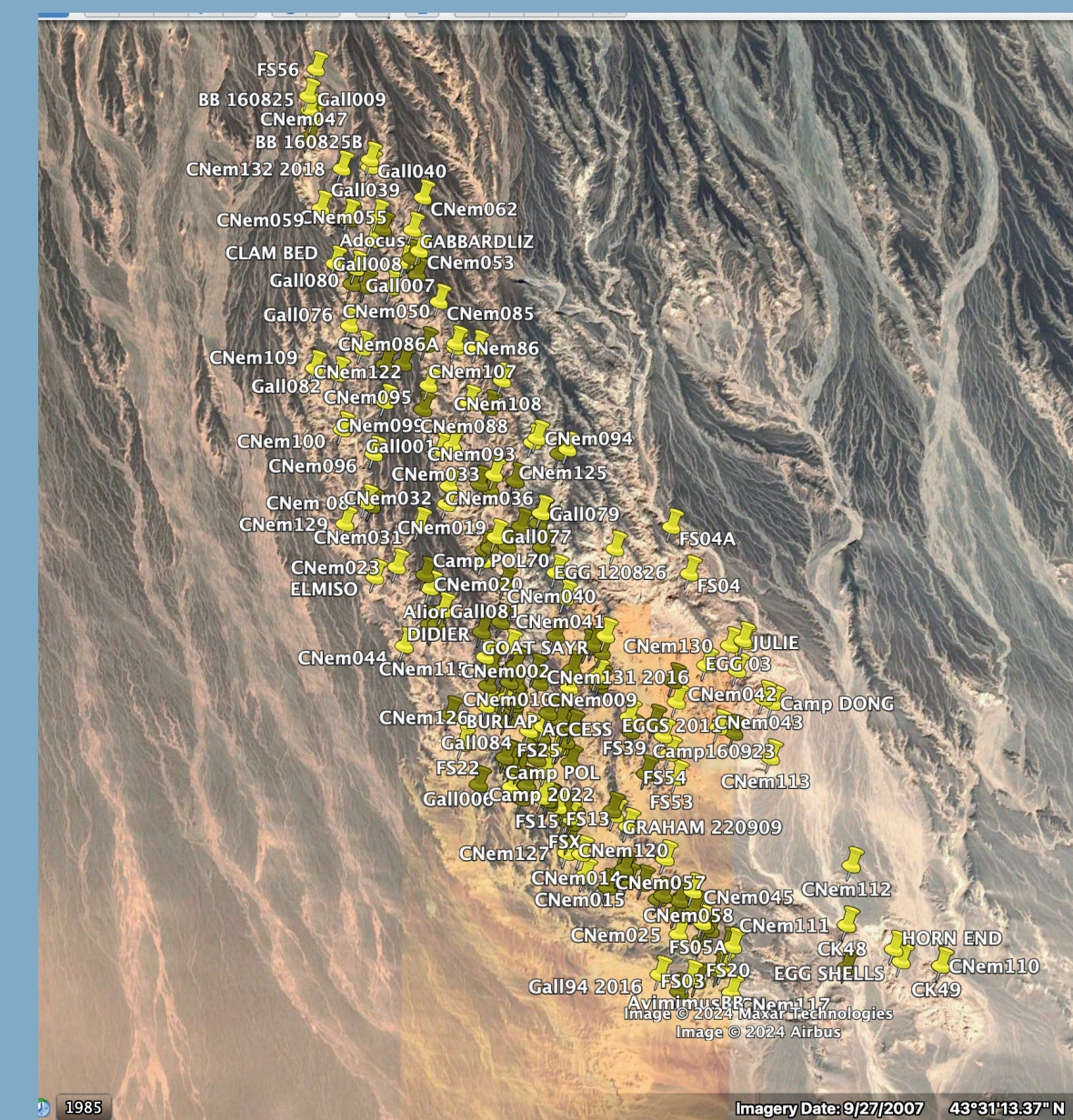


Figure 4. A section of the more densely populated quarry areas.⁷

Methods

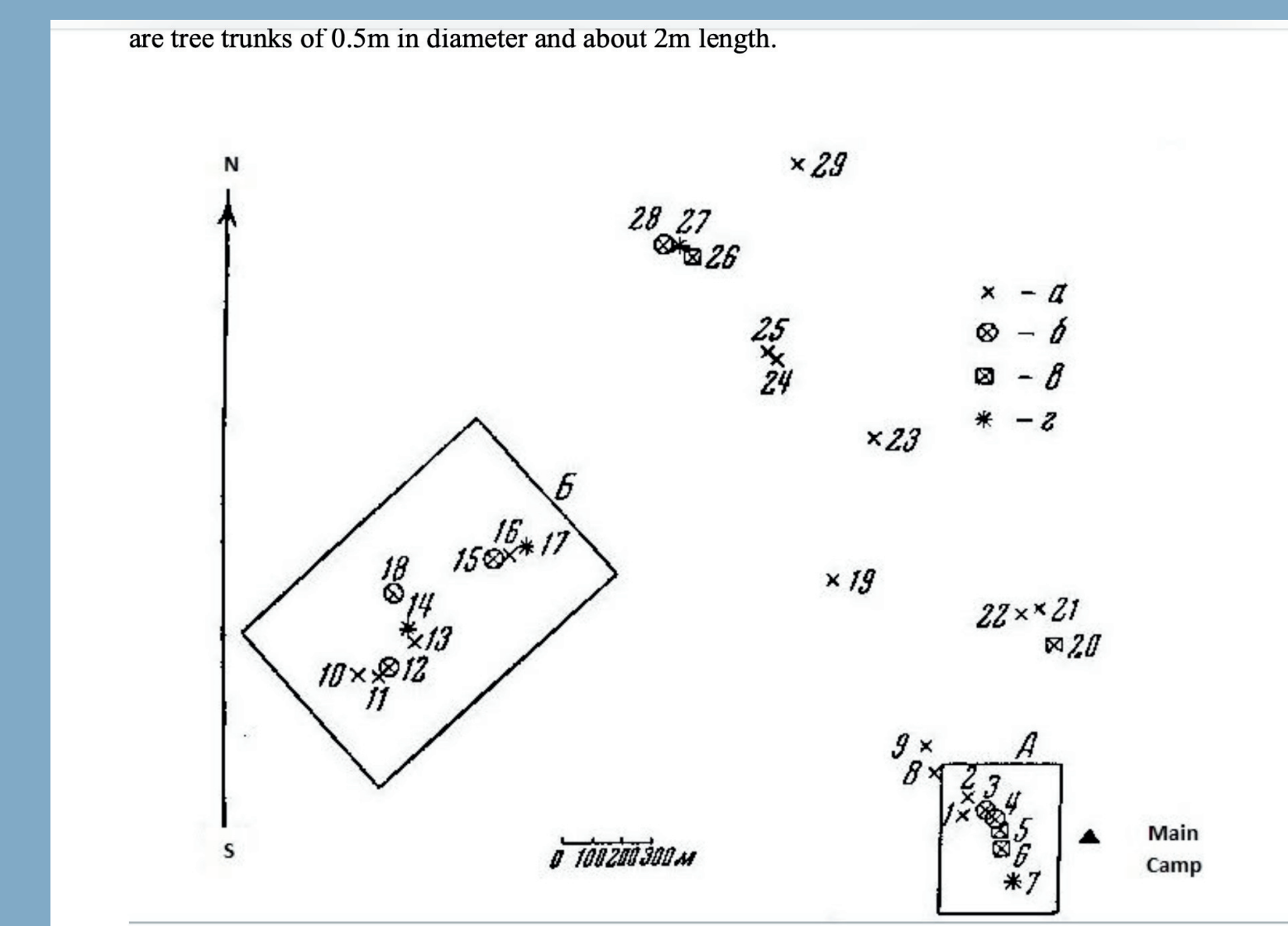


Figure 5. A hand drawn map of one of the dig areas in Mongolia. It was drawn by I.A. Efremov of Russia.⁷

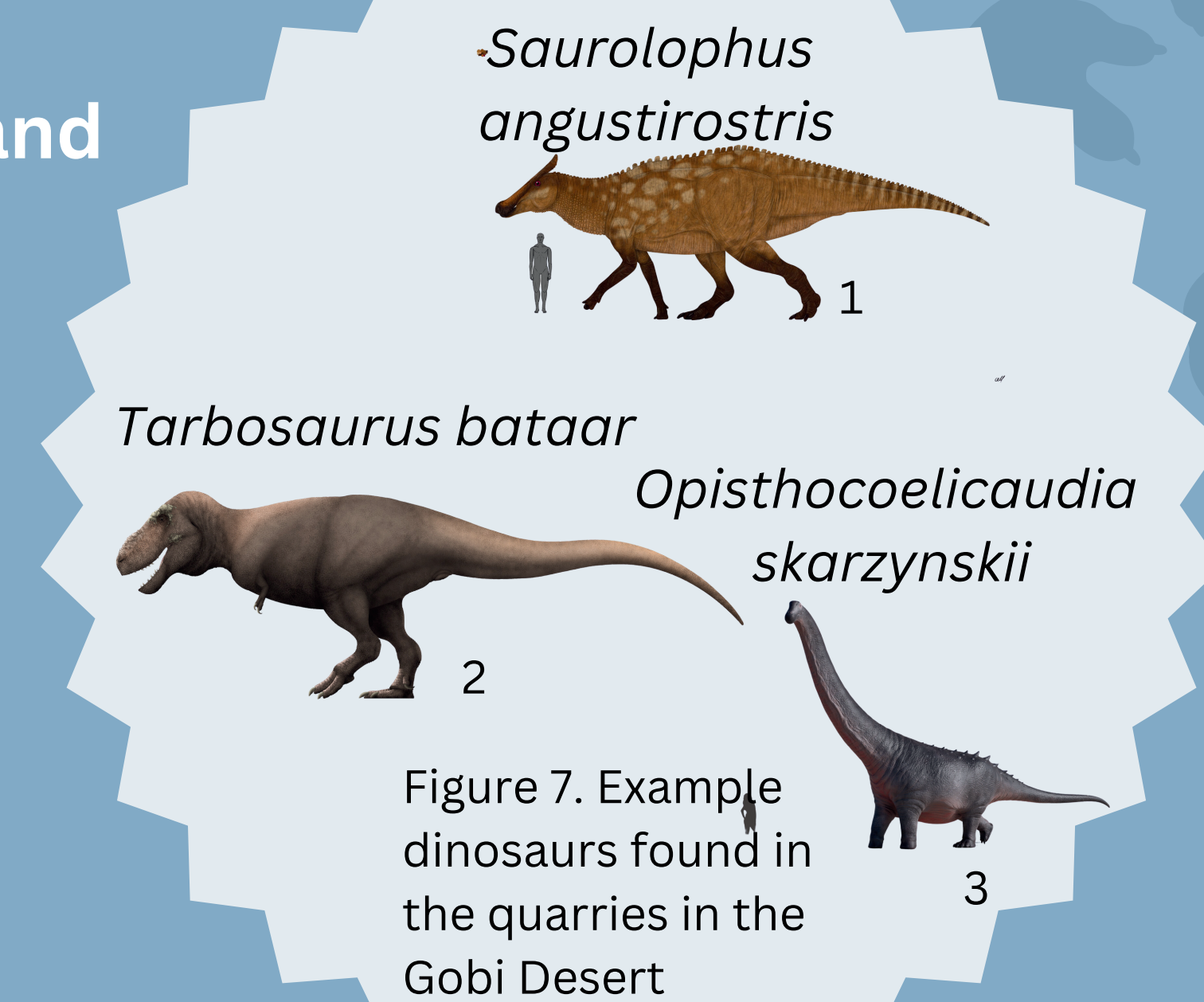


Figure 7. Example dinosaurs found in the quarries in the Gobi Desert

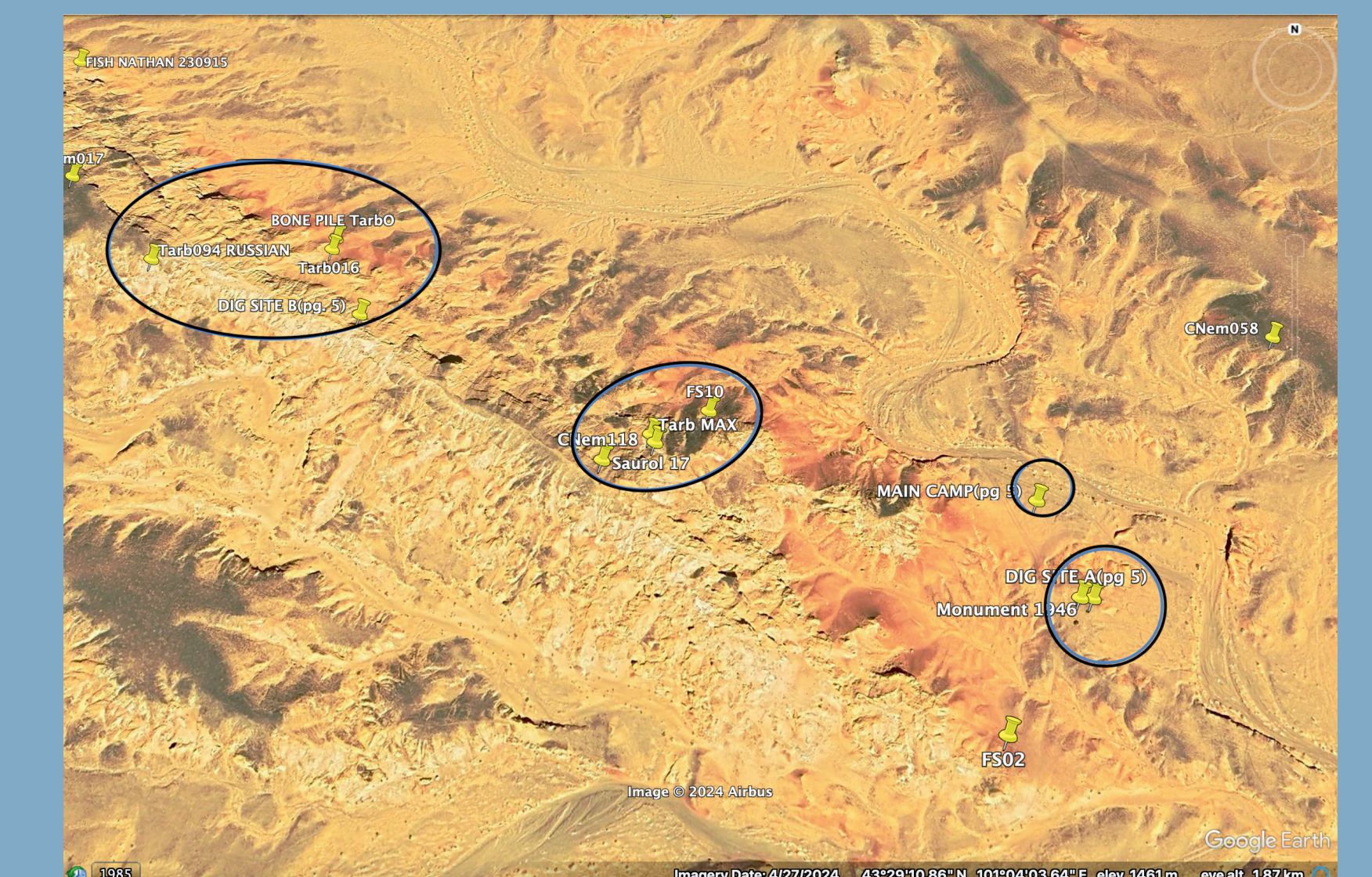


Figure 6. The corresponding GPS co-ordinants to the 1940's hand draws map in figure 5.⁷

Conclusions

- Through the work of locating the Russian quarries, a better understanding of the environment and time the dinosaurs lived in.
- Having a common form of data for this historic form of data allows it to be more accessible for future uses.



Figure 8. a piece of wood by a dig site (possibly Russian). Palaeontologists had to make large crates to transport the bones out of the Gobi Desert.

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References

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5. Figure 1, 4-6 photos supplied by myself
6. Figure 2, 3 & 8. photos supplied by Khoi Nguyen

