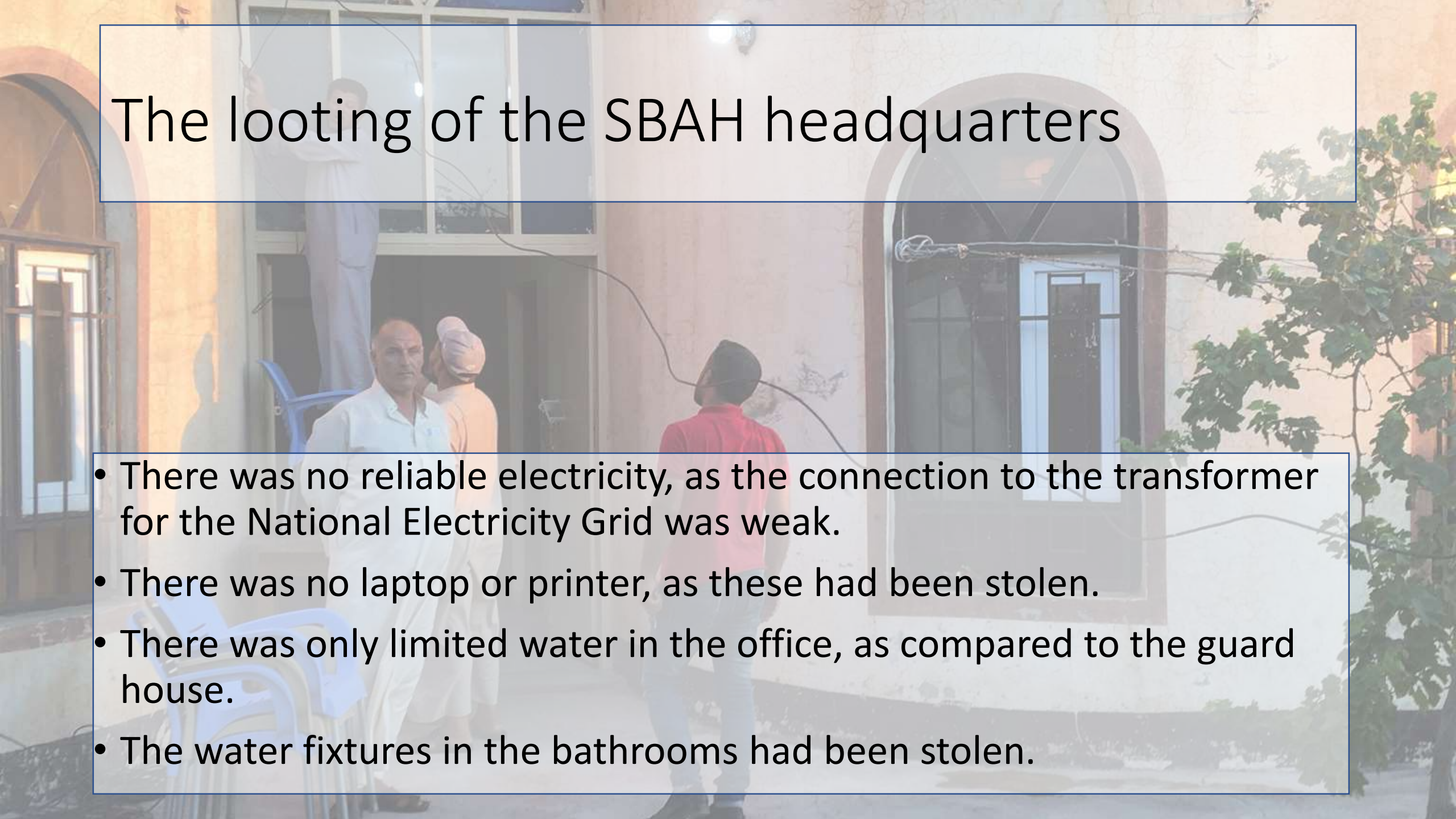
The Future of Ashur

List of ISIS Destruction at Ashur

- Attempted explosion of the Tabira Gate
- Destruction of the SBAH viewing platform for the royal tombs.
- Destruction of the on-site museum.
- Destruction of Walter Andrae's original excavation house that served as administrative offices for SBAH.

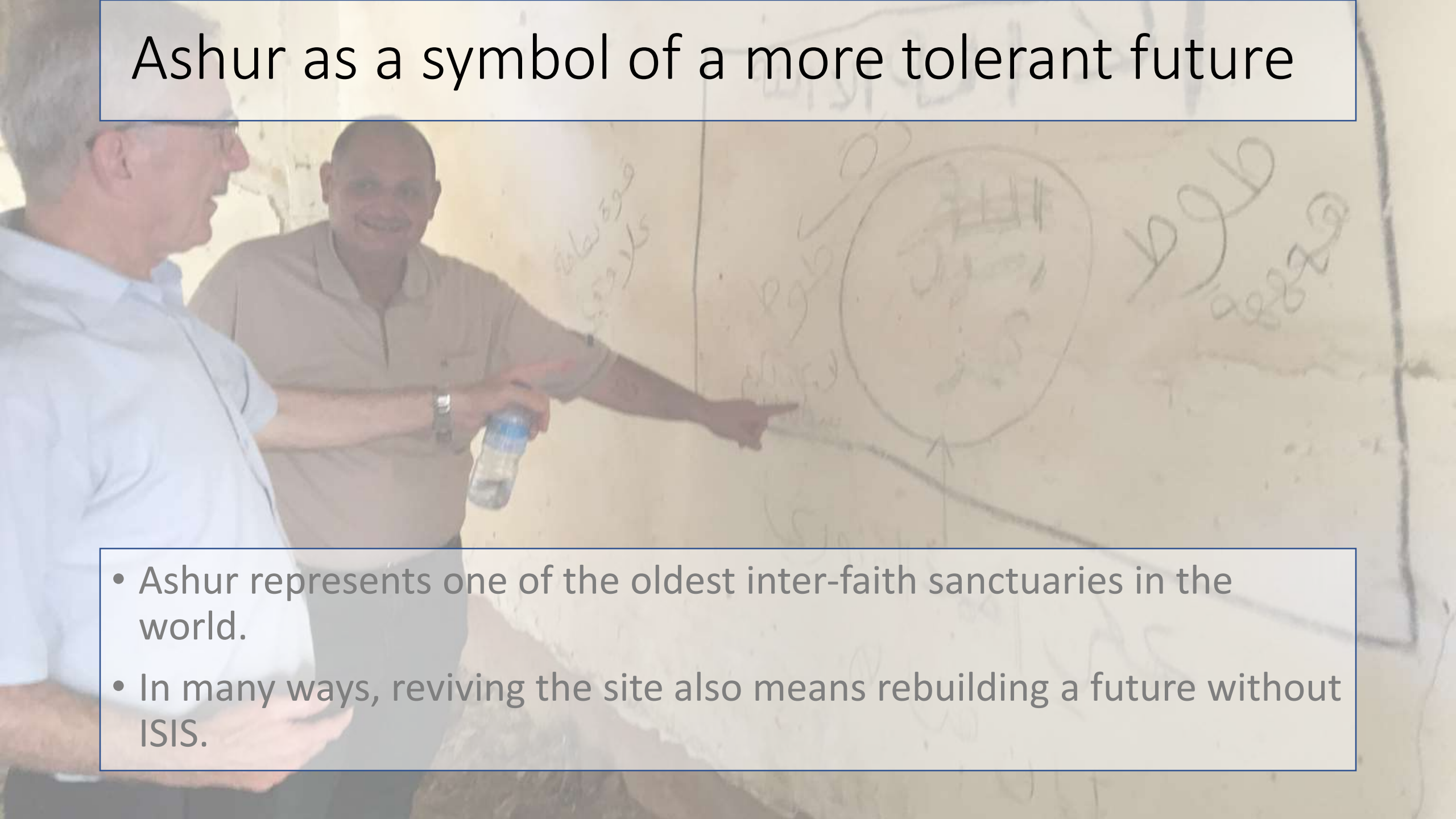
The looting of the SBAH headquarters



- There was no reliable electricity, as the connection to the transformer for the National Electricity Grid was weak.
- There was no laptop or printer, as these had been stolen.
- There was only limited water in the office, as compared to the guard house.
- The water fixtures in the bathrooms had been stolen.

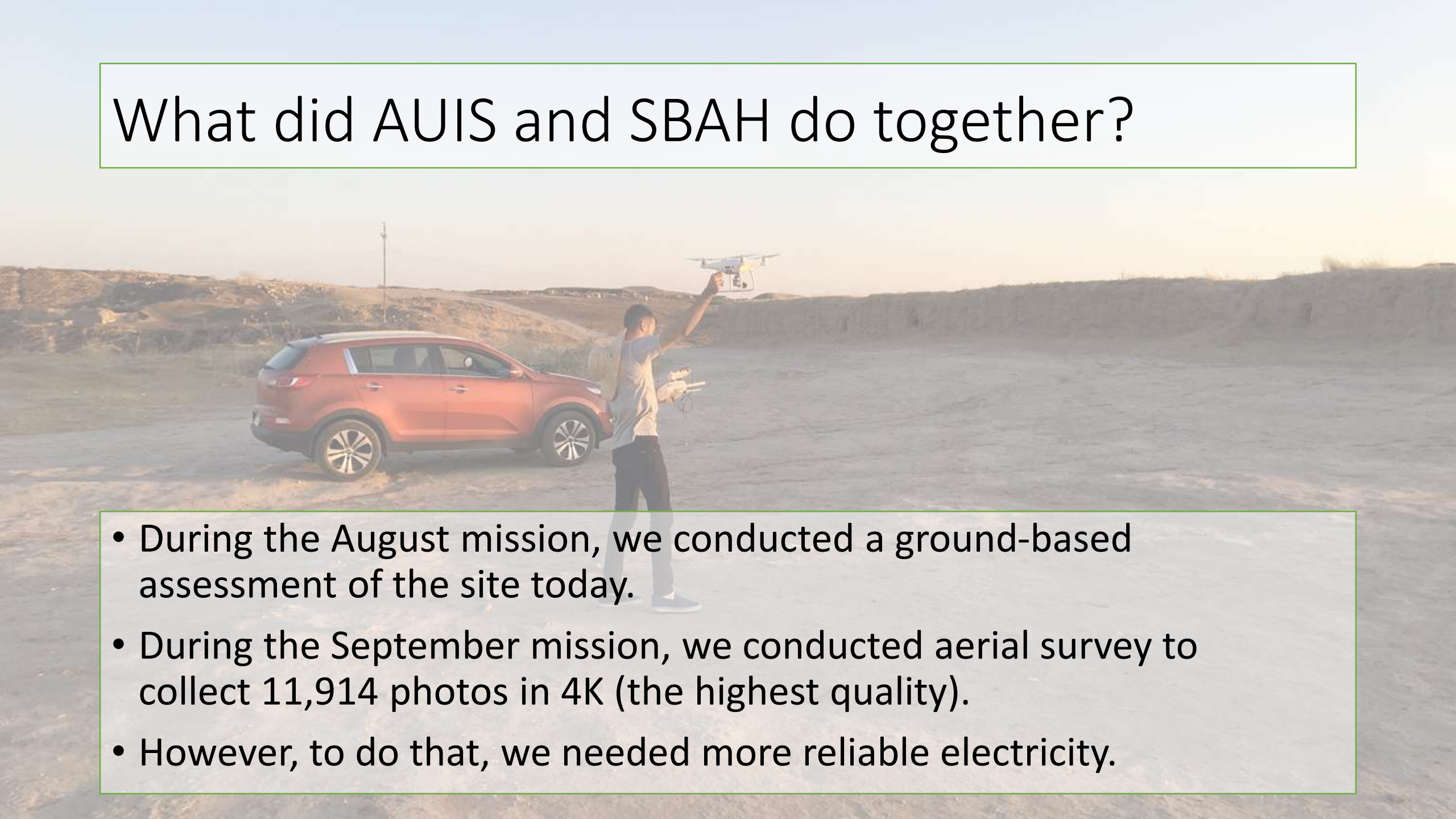
Destruction of the BRC Fence that protects Ashur

Ashur as a symbol of a more tolerant future



- Ashur represents one of the oldest inter-faith sanctuaries in the world.
- In many ways, reviving the site also means rebuilding a future without ISIS.

What did AUIS and SBAH do together?



- During the August mission, we conducted a ground-based assessment of the site today.
- During the September mission, we conducted aerial survey to collect 11,914 photos in 4K (the highest quality).
- However, to do that, we needed more reliable electricity.

Improving the SBAH Office at Sherqat

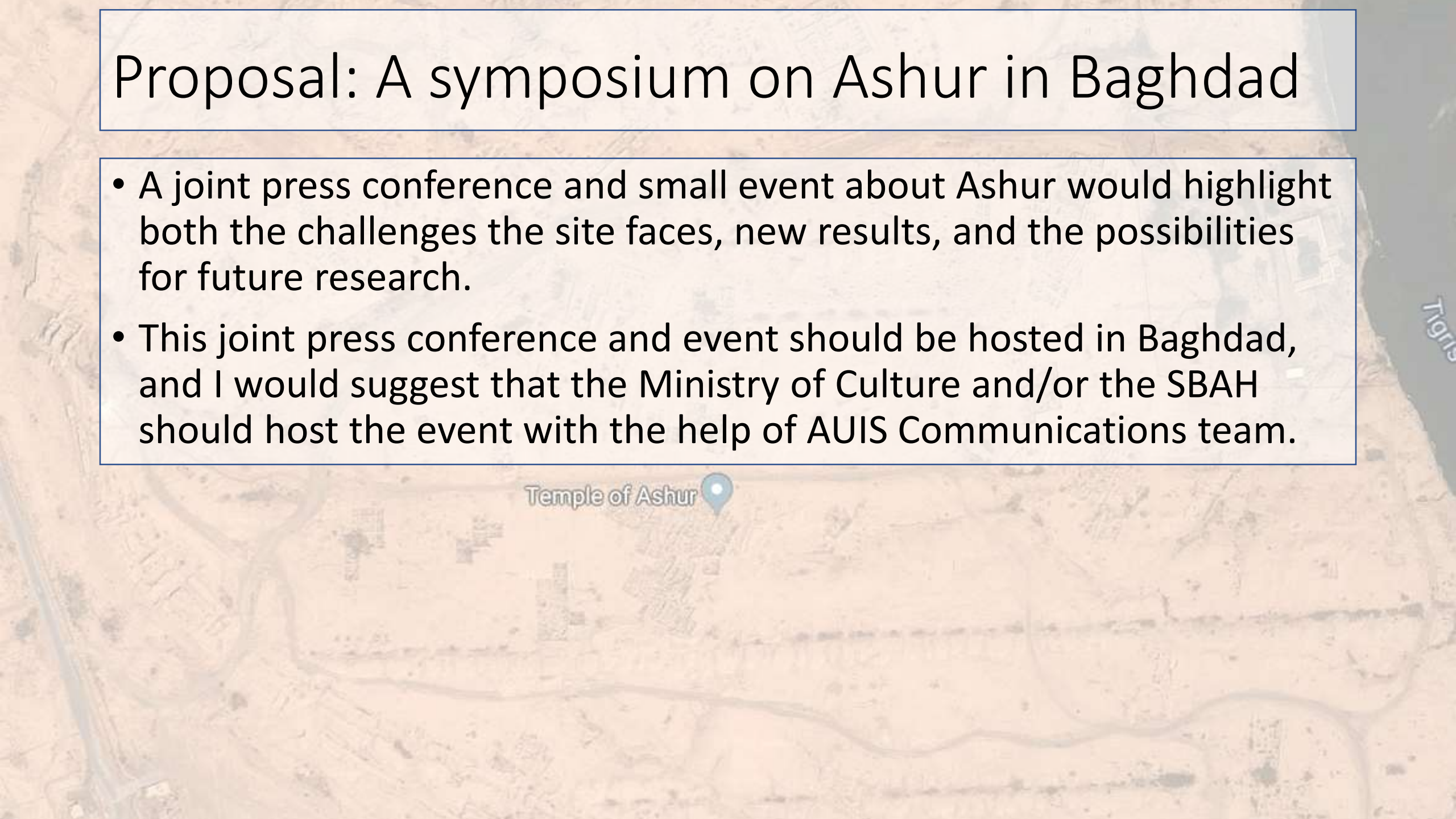
- We also donated a laptop and a printer to SBAH Sherqat, so that it is easier for them to administer the site and stay in touch with stakeholders.

Coming Soon: A new map of Ashur

- Our 11,914 photos will create a high-definition 3D map of Ashur.
- We will then use Artificial Intelligence to map the structures visible on the surface of Ashur, in order to produce a more accurate map of the post-Assyrian remains.

Proposal: A symposium on Ashur in Baghdad

- A joint press conference and small event about Ashur would highlight both the challenges the site faces, new results, and the possibilities for future research.
- This joint press conference and event should be hosted in Baghdad, and I would suggest that the Ministry of Culture and/or the SBAH should host the event with the help of AUIS Communications team.

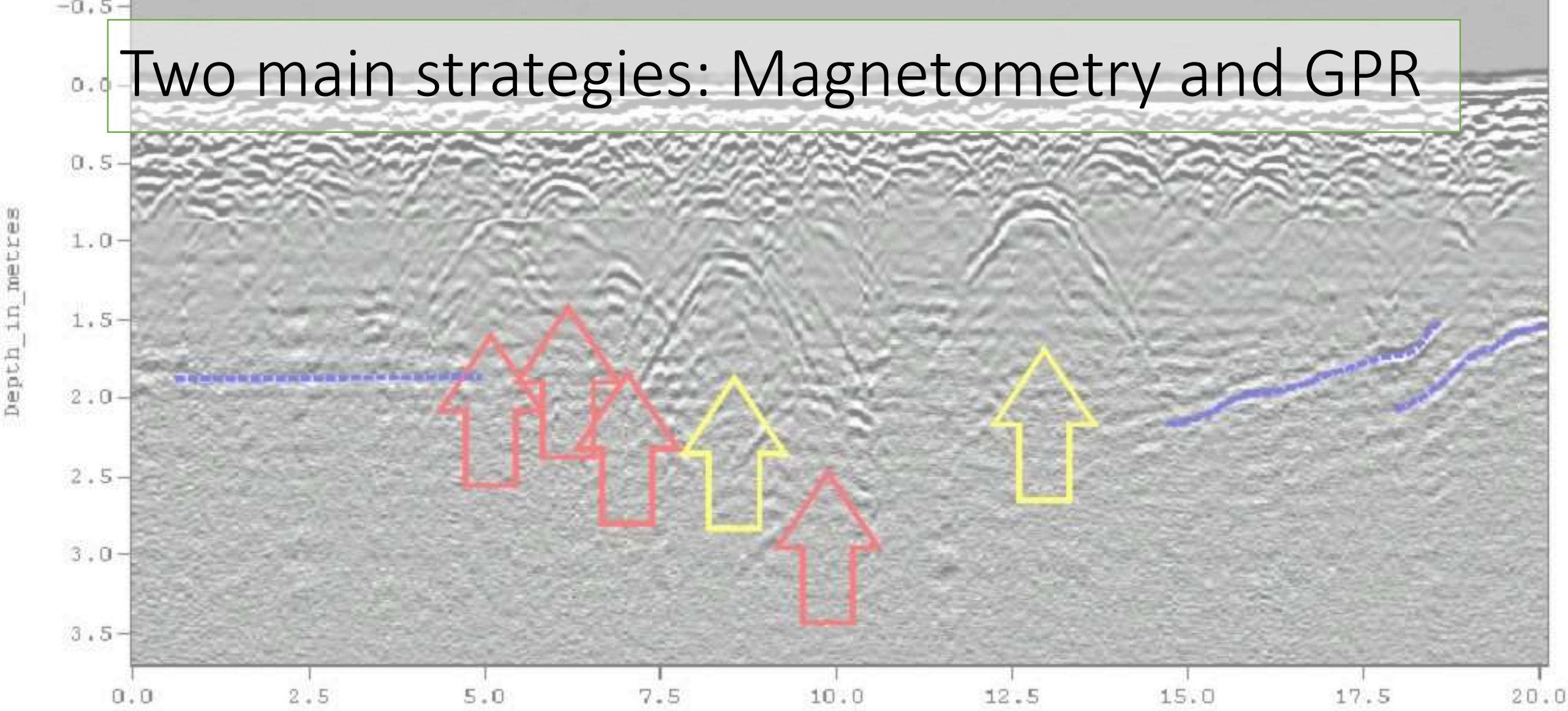


What comes next? Geophysics by drone …

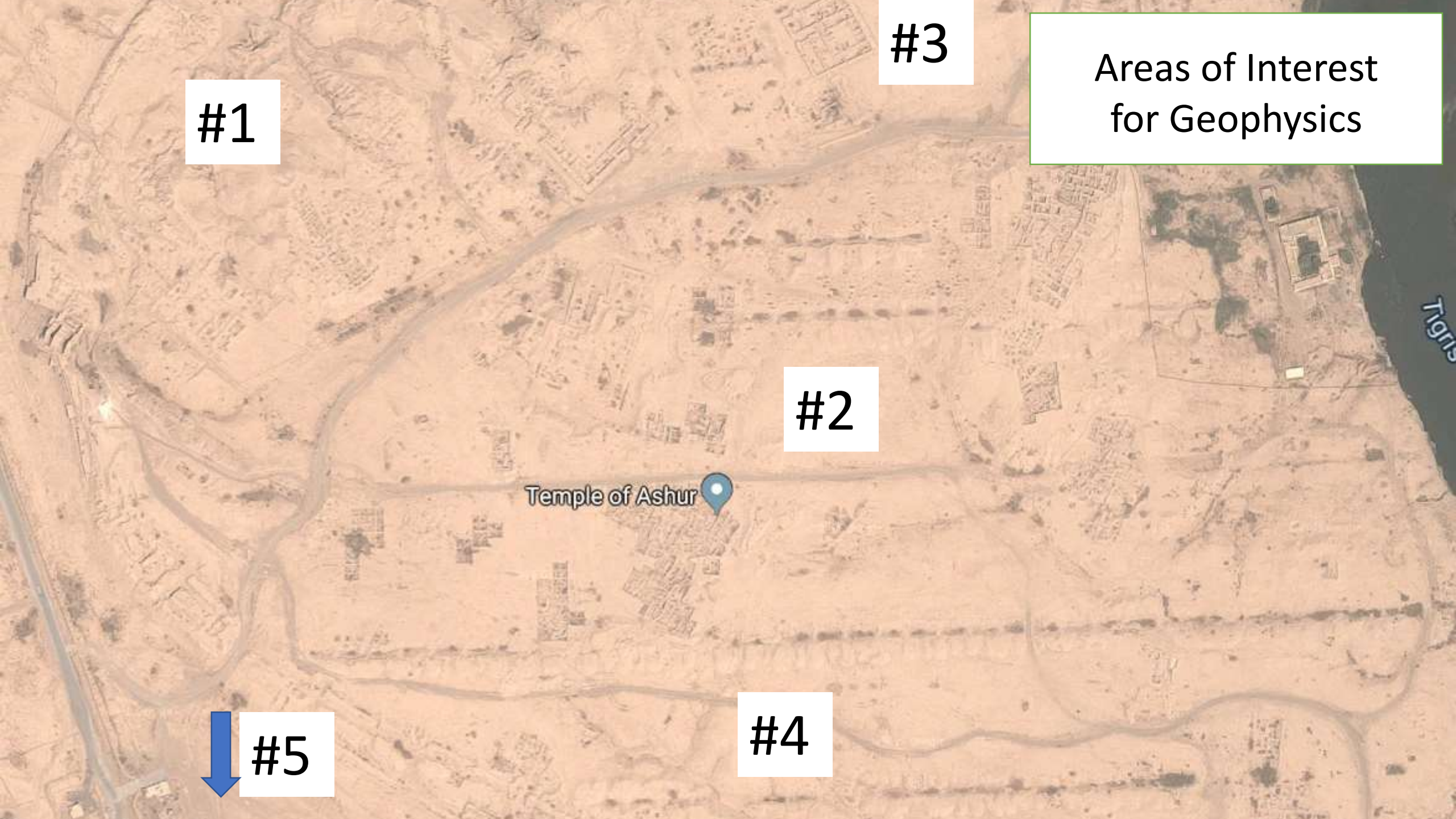
Two main strategies: Magnetometry and GPR

Magnetometry will reveal the last phase of construction down to 1.5 m.

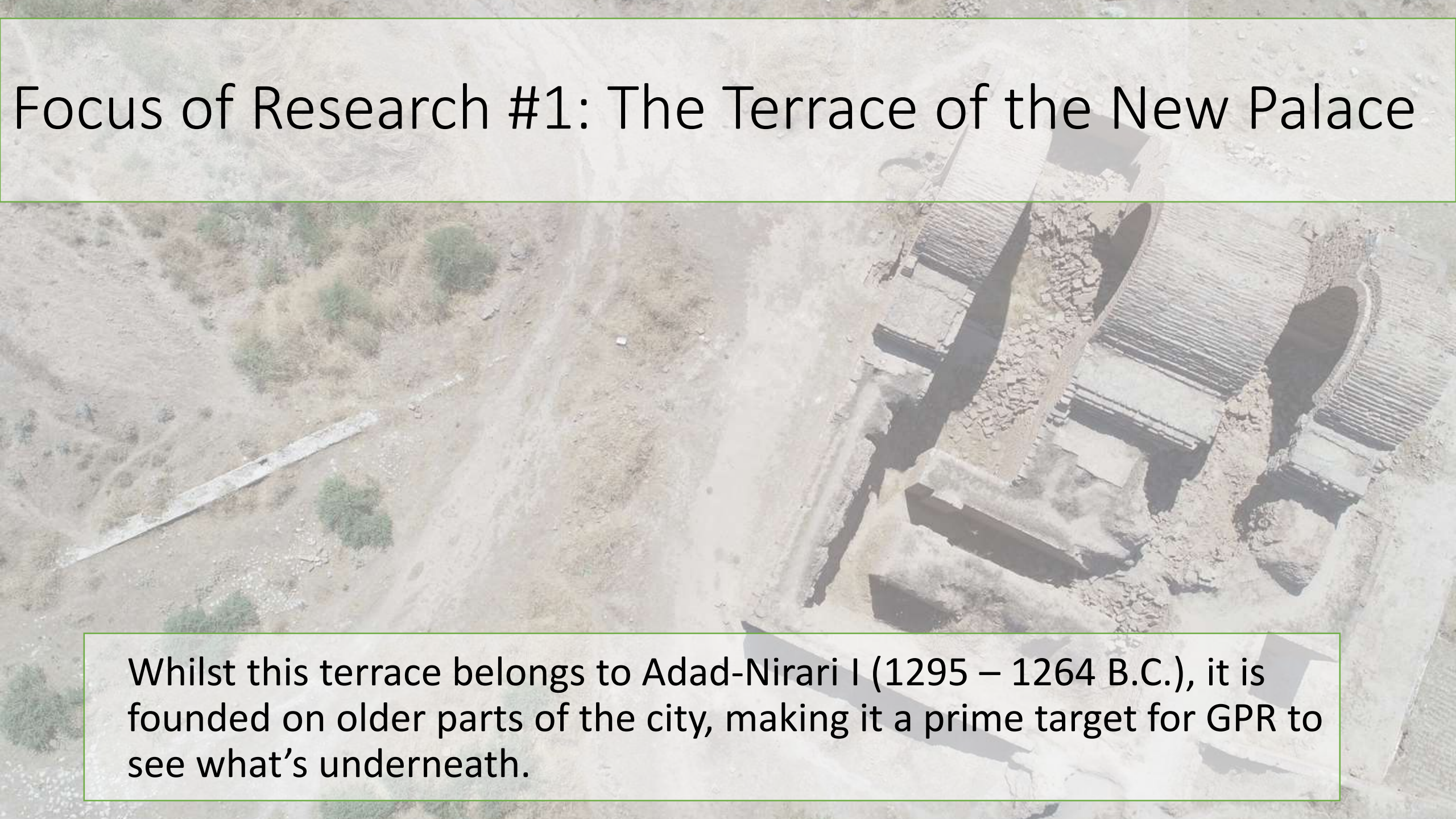
Two main strategies: Magnetometry and GPR



Advanced GPR can reveal structures up to 15m down with 10 cm accuracy. Thus, the historical build-up of Ashur is accessible through GPR.

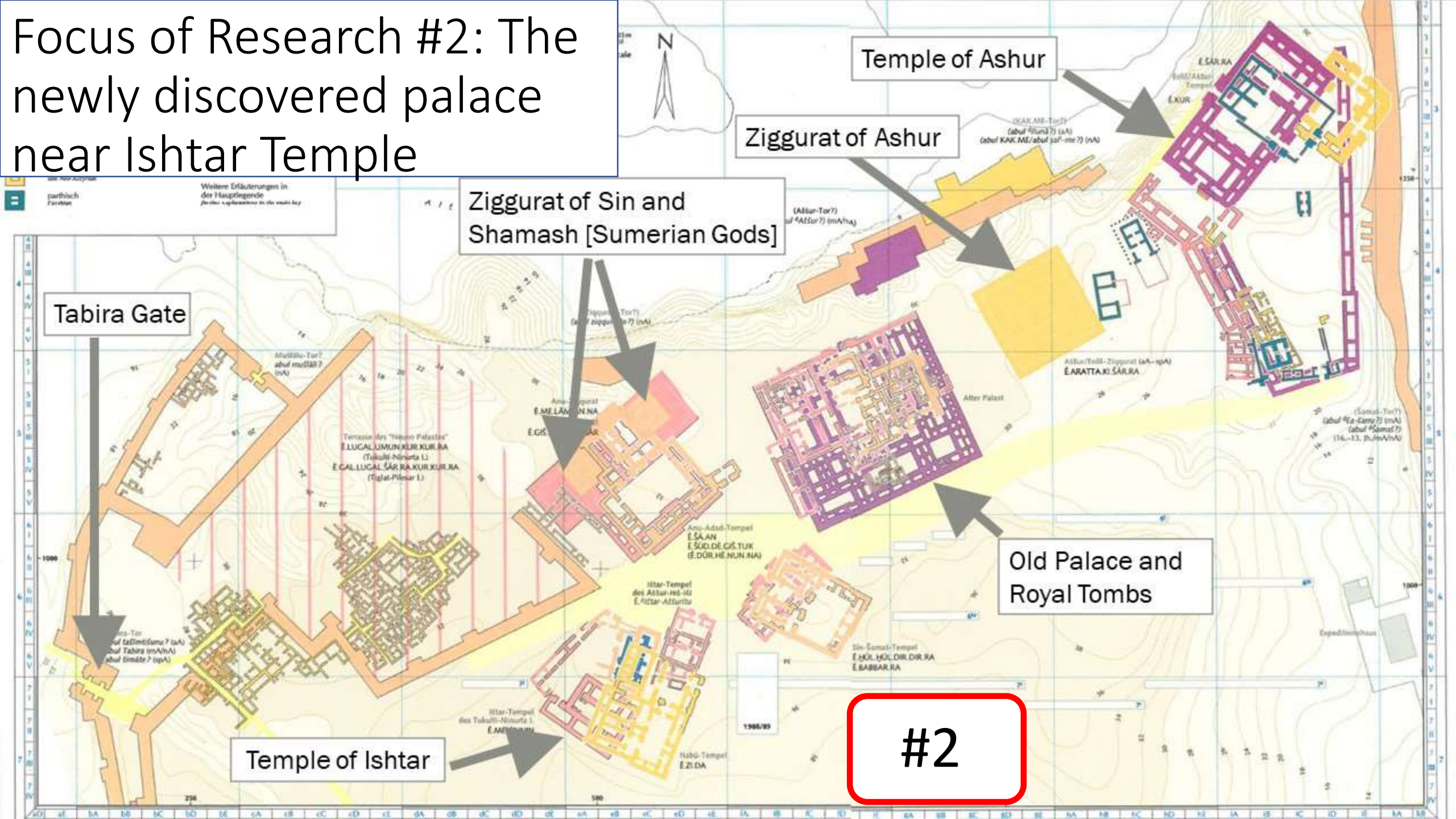

#3
Areas of Interest
for Geophysics
#1
#2
Temple of Ashur
#4
#5

Focus of Research #1: The Terrace of the New Palace

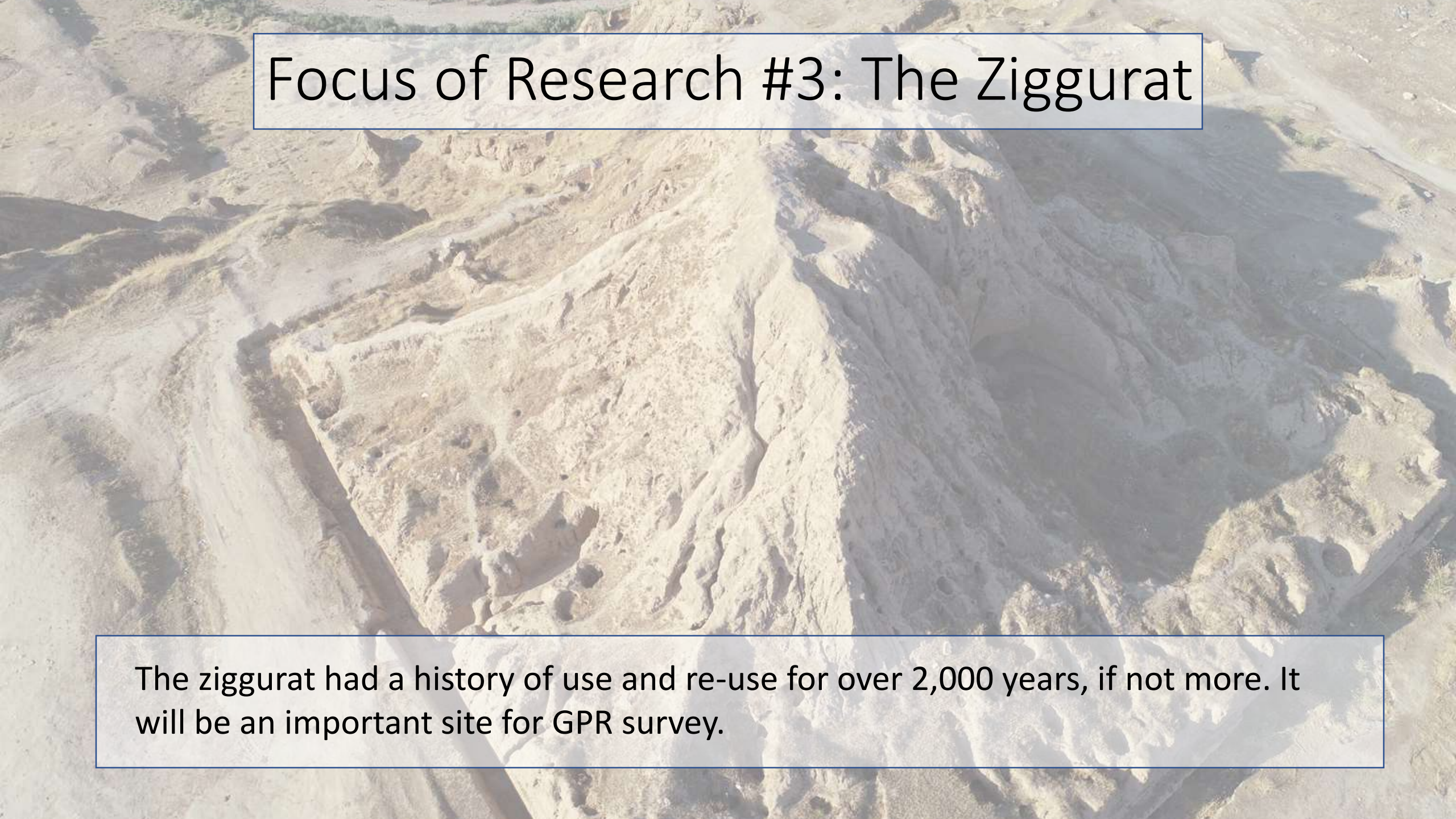


Whilst this terrace belongs to Adad-Nirari I (1295 – 1264 B.C.), it is founded on older parts of the city, making it a prime target for GPR to see what's underneath.

Focus of Research #2: The newly discovered palace near Ishtar Temple



Focus of Research #3: The Ziggurat



The ziggurat had a history of use and re-use for over 2,000 years, if not more. It will be an important site for GPR survey.

Focus of Research #4: Beside the infant's cemetery near the People's Gate

Focus of Interest #5 – the Buffer Zone

- Our team believes that the original city included an outer city, making it much larger than currently recognized.
- Using geophysics, it is now possible to study the buffer zone quickly and relatively cheaply to document the outer city for the first time.

Future Needs: Dating the Walls of Ashur

- Over the next three years, our project would like to systematically section the walls of Ashur.
- These sections would be designed to collect samples for dating the construction of the walls.
- In this way, we can write a new history of Ashur based on its phases of expansion and rebuilding.

Recommendation #1: Extend the Buffer Zone to include the possible Outer City until we can assess the site further.

- According to UNESCO: “the State Party plans to submit a proposal for a minor boundary modification of the buffer zone with the aim of better protecting the property.”
- Based on the emerging evidence for an outer city, it is best to extend the buffer zone up to the BRC fence, until the geophysics survey is completed.

Recommendation #2: Preventing further erosion of the Ziggurat

- The ziggurat is eroding from the inside out with every rainy season.
- The mud brick core currently stands at 17m, whereas original estimates were much higher.
- SBAH Sherqat formulated a plan for stabilizing the ziggurat with work on the foundation and the main points of erosion.

Recommendation #3: Smart Signage

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SCAN
ME

Proposal: Continue the partnership between AUIS and SBAH into the foreseeable future

Thank you for supporting our work at Ashur.

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Funding for our work was provided by the Australian Embassy in Baghdad.